

Question Number	Question	Response
1	Do you accept that anthropogenic climate change is happening and is a major threat to our standard of living?	Yes.
2	Do you accept that the burning of fossil fuels is the number one cause of climate change?	According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and industrial processes are the number one cause of climate change.
3	How do you justify your government approving a massive expansion of coal mining?	All projects are assessed on merit in accordance with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act
4	How long will we be mining thermal coal for in NSW?	The mining of thermal coal in NSW in the future will be determined by licensing and development consent.
5	By what volume has production and export of thermal coal in NSW increased since 2010?	For the period ending 30 June 2017, thermal coal exports have increased by around 63M tonnes.
6	How much public money has been spent since 2010 on projects, research and infrastructure to further the expansion in the volume of coal being produced and exported from New South Wales?	The NSW Department of Planning and Environment does not have any programs designed to “expand production” or “exports” of coal from NSW.
7	Does the NSW Government have any plan for transitioning the workforce away from coal mining?	The Government is not the employer of the workforce for coal mining
8	What is the NSW Government plan for people in regional NSW affected by the closure of coal fired power stations?	<p>The NSW Government, through the NSW Energy and Resources Knowledge Hub, has supported the establishment of the Hunter Energy Transition Alliance (Alliance). The Alliance has been formed to help identify opportunities for future economic growth and skills development in the Hunter region, helping smooth the transition for local communities associated with the anticipated closure of the power stations. The NSW Government has also released the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, which provides a blueprint for the development of the Hunter region. The Regional Plan includes an Action (5.1) to prepare for the diversification and innovation of the economy in response to long term industry restructuring in coal and power generation and the growth in new high-technology primary industry and associated specialist knowledge-based industries and rural tourism.</p> <p>Further information on the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 can be found at: http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-Your-Area/Regional-Plans/Hunter</p>
9	What steps does Shenhua need to take before they can begin mining at the Watermark site?	Shenhua must comply with any pre-commencement conditions of its development consent, including the approval of various management plans by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment; including, water management, biodiversity and environmental management. They must also apply for, and be granted, a Mining Lease under the Mining Act. Further, if granted, they must comply with the terms of any Mining Lease and the Act.
10	Was a review of whether Shenhua had met the conditions for a full EL renewal or only a partial EL renewal undertaken before the NSW Government bought back 50% of their Exploration License?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
11	How was the decision to buy back 50% of the EL determined?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
	(a) Did the Government ever consider buying back a different percentage of the license?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
12	Did the Government ever consider buying back 100% of the license?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
	(a) If so why did you not go through with this?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
13	What due diligence was conducted before the 50% buy-back of Shenhua’s EL?	This is Cabinet in Confidence
14	What volume of gas has been produced at PEL238 and PAL2 and being sent to the Wilga Park power station for electricity production?	2,500 tj of gas have been recovered from prospecting activities from PAL 2 since June 2014, all of which is sent to Wilga Park power station.

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15	How does the Minister and the Department determine whether Santos is still “exploring and assessing” gas, or whether they are conducting a CSG production project by stealth in the Pilliga?	Santos is permitted to beneficially use a limited amount of gas in accordance with its current approvals. Compliance and enforcement in relation to gas activities are regulated by the NSW EPA.
16	Can the Minister outline what assessment or analysis was undertaken to satisfy the government that this gas would otherwise have been vented or flared?	Under the Petroleum Onshore Act 1991, gas recovered during exploration and assessment can be beneficially used subject to relevant approvals. Gas which is not beneficially used must be flared or vented.
17	How can the Minister be assured and assure the public that Santos is not undertaking CSG production without a licence to do so?	Compliance and enforcement in relation to gas activities is regulated by the NSW EPA.
18	How much water is diverted from the drinking water catchment and is accumulating in the mine workings in or beneath the Special Areas of Sydney’s drinking water catchment per annum?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Minister for Planning.
19	What is the dollar value per ML that the NSW Government currently uses in cost-benefit analysis of major projects inside the state’s drinking water catchment?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Minister for Planning.
20	Is the Narrabri Underground mine classified as “Underground” or “Deep Underground” and what royalty rate is Whitehaven Coal paying for that mine?	Narrabri is classified as an underground operation for royalty purposes, i.e. extraction occurs from surface to 400m in depth.
21	Has the Maules Creek mine been assessed against the Department’s new cost calculation tool to ensure that the Rehabilitation Security Deposit covers all works needed for rehabilitation and closure?	No. The current MOP expires 30 Nov 2017 - a Rehabilitation Cost Estimate is required at the submission of the new MOP. For further information see http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/rules-and-forms/pgf/environmental-guidelines .
22	Has the Tarrawonga mine been assessed against the Department’s new cost calculation tool to ensure that the Rehabilitation Security Deposit covers all works needed for rehabilitation and closure?	No. The amended MOP is due for Tarrawonga Mine on 31 December 2017 – a Rehabilitation Cost Estimate is required at the submission of the revised MOP. For further information see http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/rules-and-forms/pgf/environmental-guidelines
23	How many mining operators are currently being investigated as to whether they meet to the fit and proper person test?	Three
24	Is the Department currently looking into whether the Salim Group which owns Mach Energy which owns the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine meets the fit and proper person test given there are allegations they have been involved in corruption, illegal palm oil operations and human rights abuses, including child slave labour and the shooting of 14 people in West Bengal?	The Resources Regulator is undertaking a preliminary assessment of the matter.
25	Will the NSW Government rule out unconventional gas mining in the Riverina?	There are no petroleum titles in the Riverina. Under legislative reforms introduced in 2015/16, any new potential exploration areas anywhere in NSW could only be released by the Government after geological, environmental, social and economic factors have been considered by the Advisory Body on Strategic Release and the community has had an opportunity to be engaged. The Government has no plans to consider the release of potential exploration areas in the Riverina
	(a) If not, why not?	

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26	Has the Government had any applications for exploration licenses since the recent strategic release for far-Western NSW?	No new areas of the State have been released for gas exploration in far-Western NSW. The Advisory Body for Strategic Release is in the process of assessing the suitability of two areas for potential release. As such no applications can be made.
	(a) If so, how many and from who?	
	(b) When is a decision expected to be made?	
27	Given that the risk ranking for nationally threatened swamps due to longwall mining has been increased to high by Centennial Coal, but the Independent Monitoring Panel for the Springvale Mine believes that it could be increased to extreme; will the Minister call an immediate halt to longwall mining under swamps on Newnes Plateau?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Minister for Planning.
28	The Independent Monitoring Panel, whose role under the 2015 development consent extends to advice on swamp impact avoidance, believes the termination of mining at the end of Centennial Coal's longwall 421 may still not be enough to minimise impacts on Gang Gang East Swamp. Will the Minister prevent or terminate the mining of longwall 421 to prevent far-field impacts, such as the loss of flows over Gang Gang Falls?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Minister for Planning.
29	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:	As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience.
	* 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	
30	What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?	
31	What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?	
32	What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?	
33	If the Santos Narrabri CSG project is approved, do you guarantee that the gas extracted will be sold only in NSW to NSW household and business customers?	The NSW Government does not support a reservation policy. The Commonwealth's Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism is designed to ensure gas is available for the domestic market including the households and businesses of NSW.
34	If not, why not?	
35	There is already a proposed gas pipeline which has regulatory and planning approval – from Narrabri to Newcastle. This would pretty much guarantee that any gas would be sold and used here in NSW. Why not make that a condition of approval?	Consent conditions for the Narrabri project are a matter for the Minister for Planning.
36	Why is Santos proposing the construction of a different pipeline, one that can pump the gas to Queensland for liquification and export, if they claim it will “supply up to 50 % of NSW gas needs”?	APA group have submitted a major project development assessment for the Western Slopes Pipeline which if approved through the planning process would connect the Santos Narrabri project to the Moomba, Sydney Pipeline (MSP). The MSP is a major pipeline supplying the east coast gas market. NSW receives around 20% of its gas from the MSP.
37	What are NSW gas needs?	According to the latest National Gas Forecasting Report released in December 2016 by the Australian Energy Market Operator the total gas consumption in NSW was 144.8 Peta Joules (PJ) in 2015 calendar year.

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38	How much gas will Narrabri produce?	It has been estimated that if the project is approved, over 1500 petajoules (PJ) of gas would be able to be economically extracted from the Narrabri Gas Project over a 22 years period. The maximum rate of extraction would be 200TJ/day of gas. Over the project lifetime, there would be periods when maximum production is not being achieved, such as during the initial drilling phase and in the later decommissioning phase.
39	How much in total is held in mining rehabilitation bonds now?	\$2,325,873,316
40	What is the total assessed value of rehabilitation works required to be performed in total across NSW?	The assessed value of rehabilitation works to be performed across NSW is \$2,325,848,492.
41	How much is held in mining rehabilitation bonds, by mining title?	The information per title is available on Titles Administration System (TAS) database.
42	What is the assessed value of rehabilitation works required to be performed, by mining title?	The information per title is available on Titles Administration System (TAS) database.
43	Will you provide a complete list of mining offsets, by mining title, including all relevant information for those offsets such as locations and maps?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Minister for Environment.
44	Will you implement all the recommendations made by the NSW Audit Office in its Report "Mining Rehabilitation Security Deposits"?	The NSW Government's Response to the NSW Audit Office recommendations can be viewed at http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/993/05_Mining_Rehabilitation_Security_Deposits_Appendix_One.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y
45	What is the timeframe for implementation of the recommendations made by the NSW Audit Office in its Report "Mining Rehabilitation Security Deposits"?	Commitments under the Rehabilitation Reform Project will continued to be delivered throughout 2017 and 2018.
46	What amount of money is your Government investing this year in implementation of the recommendations made by the NSW Audit Office in its Report "Mining Rehabilitation Security Deposits"?	The Government will be allocating approximately \$1M of resources from the Environmental Sustainability Unit within the Department of Planning and Environment on the implementation of the recommendations from the NSW Audit Office report.
47	When will your government take action to address the risks to current workers' compensation arrangements in the NSW coal industry identified in the Supreme Court decision of Kuypers v Ashton Coal Operations?	The matter is currently under consideration by Government
48	Which Budget line item does the \$262 million refund for Shenhua come from, or can be found in? If not found in the Budget Papers, where does this money come from?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Treasurer.
49	What date was this money paid?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Treasurer.
50	How was this money paid?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Treasurer.
51	If the money has not been paid, when is it to be paid and how will it be paid?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Treasurer.
52	Are you the Minister authorising the payment? If so, pursuant to what legal authority are you engaging in this payment?	No
53	If you are not the Minister authorising the payment, who is the Minister? Pursuant to what legal authority did that Minister authorise the payment, or will authorise the payment?	This question would be more appropriately referred to the Treasurer.
54	While you say "the exploration license has not yet been renewed" (emphasis added), does this mean you have reached a decision about whether you will renew the balance of EL 7223 but have just not carried it out?	The renewal application remains under assessment and as such no determination has been made.
55	If you have decided you will renew the balance of the exploration not being bought back or refunded by the NSW Government, when did you reach that view? Who have you communicated that view to? In what form have you made that communication, or those communications if more than one (conversation, letter, emails, text message etc)? When did each of those communications take place? Please provide dates, or your best approximation of dates, for each communication.	The renewal application remains under assessment and as such no determination has been made.

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56	Other than the decision to refund or buy back 51.4 per cent of the Watermark exploration license, have you or the NSW Government reached any other agreement (whether formally or informally) with Shenhua, whether verbal or written?	As announced, the NSW Government entered into and concluded negotiations relating to the relinquishment of the 51.4% of EL 7223. No agreements with Shenhua have been reached in relation to any other titles.
57	On what date did Shenhua make its application to renew exploration license 7223?	5/02/2016
58	Was that application to renew all or only part of EL 7223?	The renewal application submitted on 5 of February 2016 was for the full area (100% renewal) of EL 7223.
59	Did that application comply with each and every requirement of s113 of the Mining Act 1992, in particular 113(3)?	The renewal application remains under assessment and as such, no determination has been made.
60	How many staff are in your ministerial office?	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
	(a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?	
	(b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?	
61	How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?	There were 240 smart phones allocated across the Ministerial Offices in 2016-17. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$269,644, a 53.4% 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?	
	(i) What is the cost of replacing those phones?	
62	How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?	There were 139 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2016-17. 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?	
	(i) What was the cost of replacing these devices?	
63	Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Artwork in my office includes art donated at no cost and artwork on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW for which the Gallery charges a nominal subscription fee.
	(a) What is the cost of this?	
64	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	

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65	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	
66	What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?	My office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.
	(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?	
	(i) Who is the subscriber for each of these?	
67	What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?	Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).
68	What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?	Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.
	(a) What were the gifts purchased?	
	(i) Who were they gifted to?	
69	Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?	No.
	(a) What is the monthly cost of this?	
70	What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?	Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2016-17 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.
	(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?	
71	What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:	Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$82,771, down from \$99,463 last year. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.
	(a) Taxi hire	
	(b) Limousine hire	
	(c) Private hire care	
	(d) Hire car rental	
	(e) Ridesharing services	
72	Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?	Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$6,921 in 2016-17, down from \$28,706 last year. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.
	(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?	
73	How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.
74	How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

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75	Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2016-17:	The Department of Planning and Environment 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.
	(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	
76	How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?	DPE staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.
77	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?	DPE staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.
78	What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?	The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.
79	By how much has the number of media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	This information is unavailable.
80	By how much has the expenditure on media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	Expenditure for media or public relations advisers are included within employee related expenses in the financial statements to the annual report.
81	Have you had media training or speech training?	No.
	(a) If yes, who paid for it?	
	(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?	
82	How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.
83	How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication.
84	Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?	
85	Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?	
	(b) Who paid for these trips?	

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86	What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on: (a) Taxi hire (b) Limousine/private car hire (c) Hire car rental (d) Ridesharing services	All Departments' travel in 2015-16 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. The total expenditure for the Department of Planning and Environment was: Taxi Hire \$91,024 Private Car Hire \$0 Car Rental \$96,191 Ride Share \$- Total \$187,214 This includes expenditure associated with the Planning, Resources, Energy and Utilities, and Arts portfolio.
87	Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?	No.
	(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?	
88	How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?	
89	Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(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	
90	What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of each agency.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
91	What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) remuneration is reported in the Annual Reports of each agency.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
92	What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
93	What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	

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94	How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17? (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: (i) Voluntary (ii) Forced	3 voluntary redundancies were processed by agencies within the Resources and Energy and Utilities portfolios.
	(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?	Financial statements, including redundancy expenditure, are available in the agency annual reports.
95	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?	Consistent with the NSW Managing Excess Employee Policy, employees who accept a voluntary redundancy in the Environment and Heritage portfolio cannot be re-employed or re-engaged in any capacity in any NSW public sector agency within the period covered by their severance payment, without first repaying the relevant portion of their severance pay. This requirement applies to employment or engagement in any capacity as staff members, contractors, consultants or employees or principals of companies engaged in contracting to a public sector agency.
96	Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?	No.
97	How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?	Matters or inquiries of employee misconduct or underperformance are managed in accordance with the relevant employing legislation, Awards, policies and procedures. The Government Sector Employment Act 2013 provides the mechanisms for management of such matters under Section 68 and Section 69. Matters in relation to Fitness for Duty are managed pursuant to Regulation 15 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.
	(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?	It is not appropriate to disclose or make comment on any individual matter/s that could potentially identify and party or staff member subject to or a witness in such matters. The outcomes of these types of inquiries are and must remain confidential.
98	What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?	Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.
99	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
100	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?	
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on Android?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.
101	What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	
102	What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

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103	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.	All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. DPE 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.
104	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.	
105	What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?	
106	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.	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 including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.
107	Why are only 7 per cent of New South Wales' street lights LEDs compared to 16 per cent in Victoria and what you are doing to facilitate greater and faster uptake?	Financial incentives for the installation of energy efficient public lights can be accessed under the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS). In 2016, the NSW Government amended the ESS Rule to introduced a new method, called the 'Public Lighting Energy Savings Formula', to make energy efficient public lighting upgrades more accessible to Councils. The Department has also been working with councils and distributors to review the voluntary NSW Public Lighting Code including examining options for supporting the uptake of energy efficiency lights.
108	What are the main barriers to greater uptake of LED lighting?	The review of the Public Lighting Code has been looking at barriers and options for addressing these barriers with the goal of facilitating the accelerated uptake of energy efficient public lighting.
109	Will you consider using the public lighting code to make LEDs the default light for all new installations?	The review of the NSW Public Lighting Code is considering changes that may facilitate the accelerated uptake of energy efficient street lighting.
110	Does the NSW Government have any targets around uptake of LED lighting?	The review of the NSW Public Lighting Code is considering changes that may facilitate the accelerated uptake of energy efficient street lighting.

Question Number	Question	Response
111	NSW is responsible for 39% of total energy consumption in Australia but only about 21% of the total new build renewables across the mainland States. How do you explain NSW lagging so far behind?	<p>NSW is a leader in renewable energy. According to the Clean Energy Council (Clean Energy Australia Report 2016), NSW is building an unprecedented 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy capacity this year. This represents more than any other state and over 30 per cent of the new large-scale renewables in Australia. NSW projects currently under construction include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Rock Wind Farm and Sapphire Wind Farm in the New England Region; • Silverton Wind Farm near Broken Hill; • Bodangora Wind Farm, Griffith Solar Farm, Parkes Solar Farm and the Dubbo Solar Hub in the Central West; • Gullen Solar Farm near Goulburn – the first in Australia to be co-located with a major wind farm; and • Jemalong Solar Thermal Plant near Forbes, which uses concentrated solar thermal and storage technology. <p>In addition, NSW has a further 10,000 megawatts of large-scale renewable energy projects that are either approved or progressing through the NSW planning system. These projects represent around \$13.5 billion in potential investment.</p> <p>Over the past five years, the share of renewable energy generation in NSW has more than doubled. In 2016, 19.6 per cent of the state's energy generation came from renewable sources.</p>
112	Considering that NSW has good solar resources why is NSW responsible for just 6% of the total PV under development?	<p>NSW remains the national leader in large-scale solar, with Australia's three largest operational solar plants at Nyngan, Broken Hill and Moree. Over the past two years, generation from small and large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) systems has increased by around 87 per cent in NSW.</p> <p>There are 190 megawatts of solar farms under construction across regional NSW at Parkes, Dubbo, Griffith, Goulburn, Glen Innes and Forbes. When complete, these projects will almost double NSW's current large-scale solar capacity.</p> <p>This year alone, a further seven new solar farms have received planning approval, representing the next wave of solar farm investment and jobs for the state.</p> <p>As at September 2017, NSW has around 3,500 megawatts of solar farm projects either with approval or moving through the NSW planning system. If built, these solar farms would drive over \$4.7 billion in investment, support over 4,000 construction jobs and produce enough clean energy to power over one million NSW homes.</p> <p>In addition, NSW has highest installed capacity of commercial solar of any state at around 250 megawatts.</p>

Question Number	Question	Response
113	Why do only 15% of houses in NSW have roof top solar, as opposed to 32% in Queensland, 31% in WA and 25% in SA?	<p>Solar technology has had mixed levels of uptake across Australian states. This is largely due to differences in solar irradiation and dwelling types. All of these factors affect the attractiveness of installing rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.</p> <p>NSW has the highest amount of households living in apartments, and higher rates of people renting rather than owner-occupying houses. These reduces levels of solar uptake.</p> <p>NSW households have made a significant contribution to renewable energy generation, with more than 350,000 homes adopting rooftop solar. Small-scale solar capacity of over 1,200 megawatts is now installed across the state. In addition, NSW has highest installed capacity of commercial solar of any state at around 250 megawatts.</p>
	(a) What are you doing to increase uptake in roof top solar?	<p>The government asked the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal to identify a 'fair and reasonable' benchmark range for feed-in tariffs for electricity exported by small-scale solar generators to the grid.</p> <p>The recommended benchmark range for the 2017-18 financial year is 11.9 to 15 cents per kilowatt hour (c/kWh) – more than double the previous year's range of 5.5 to 7.2 c/kWh.</p> <p>Also to help electricity customers who are considering supplementing their solar system with battery storage, the government recently launched the NSW Home Solar Battery Guide.</p> <p>This complements initiatives such as the Australian Government's Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme.</p> <p>Many NSW home owners recognise the financial benefits of solar with over 220,000 households and businesses installing solar systems without a subsidised feed-in tariff. This is in addition to the more than 140,000 homes and business that installed solar PV under the now completed Solar Bonus Scheme.</p>
114	Would you support a mandatory requirement for all new buildings to have a percentage of their roof area dedicated to solar power?	<p>The NSW Government sets energy and water saving performance requirements for residential buildings through the BASIX planning tool. This tool provides for flexibility on how to achieve these requirements. It does not prescribe solar panels, but solar panels can be installed to help meet BASIX targets.</p>
115	When Liddell closes in 2022, will NSW have the 5-6GW of renewable energy required to be built to replace its generation capacity?	<p>As at September 2017, NSW has almost 10 gigawatts of large-scale renewable energy projects that are either approved or progressing through the NSW planning system. These projects represent around \$13.5 billion in potential investment. This is in addition to the over 1 GW of new renewable energy projects that are already under construction.</p> <p>In addition, the Commonwealth Government has commenced a feasibility study on the potential Snowy 2.0 project, which would be a major new source of additional reliable power if approved.</p> <p>NSW supports reform of the national electricity market in order to boost investor confidence to unlock additional investment.</p>

Question Number	Question	Response
116	Is there a looming crisis of transmission capacity which will hamper the growth of renewable energy in NSW?	NSW is prioritising those Finkel report recommendations that will have the greatest benefits for NSW including a strategic approach to transmission planning to unlock new energy zones. TransGrid has made investments in transmission capacity in recent years and proposed projects such as Snowy 2.0 provide substantial potential opportunity for connecting renewable energy.
117	Are you concerned that Transgrid only has capacity at present to connect 5GW of new renewables across its grid?	See response the question 116.
118	What are you doing to ensure the early stage transmission investment required to capitalise on the renewable resource potential in NSW?	See response the question 116.
119	Transgrid has announced it has 3 GW of transmission connection agreements from various project proponents, but as yet none of those are proceeding. Similar projects are proceeding in every other state except NSW, why isn't Transgrid making the investment in NSW?	TransGrid is the transmission network service provider for around one gigawatt of solar and wind farms that are currently under construction across NSW.
	(a) Is it because the grid has been privatised?	TransGrid has sought to connect renewable energy projects since the long-term lease arrangement was announced. Almost all current projects began construction after the company was leased. TransGrid was the first Australian transmission network operator to publish information on opportunities for renewable energy projects to connect to their network in 2016.
120	If the Federal Government buys NSW out of its 58% ownership of Snowy Hydro, will you commit to use the \$3.5 billion to improve our renewable energy infrastructure in NSW?	This is a matter for the Treasurer.
121	Why has the deadline for completed works been pushed back again?	Snowy 2.0 is currently the subject of a feasibility study, which is due for completion in December 2017. The study will inform the completion date.
122	What confidence do you have in the new deadline?	See answer to Q121
123	Why do consumers have to pay \$85.51 per year for it to be in "water security mode" for more than 3 years when it is clearly inoperable?	The Sydney Desalination Plant operates as part of a portfolio of bulk water supply sources in the Sydney catchment, and is the only bulk water supply source in Sydney that is non-reliant on rainwater. In order to be available as a drought response mechanism for consumers, there is a cost to the water system. The Desalination Plant operates when dam levels reach 60%, something which hasn't occurred over the last three years. It is currently being repaired under its insurance.
124	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:	As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience
	* 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	
125	What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?	
126	What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?	
127	What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?	
128	How much money is currently allocated to raising the Warragamba Dam wall?	This question should be referred to the Premier

Question Number	Question	Response
129	What is the cost prediction for the entire project?	This question should be referred to the Premier
	(a) Please provide cost breakdowns	This question should be referred to the Premier
130	How much of this money will be sourced from the Climate Change Fund to raise the wall?	This question should be referred to the Premier
131	What is the main justification for raising the Warragamba Dam wall?	This question should be referred to the Premier
132	For the purposes of planning assessment, will the proposal be considered critical state significant infrastructure?	Yes.
133	How many hectares of urban land in the North West Sector Growth Area that are being developed by the NSW Government are on flood prone land?	2,355 hectares
134	Has any, and if so, how much money has been allocated for high-level escape routes and flood preparedness for flood prone urban expansion areas in the North West Sector?	This question should be referred to the Premier
135	Lowering the full supply level to achieve flood management and also avoid the damage to the national parks upstream may produce a net benefit to ecosystems and species if presently inundated habitat could be restored. Levees are also considered cost effective flood solutions:	This question should be referred to the Premier
	(a) Please provide justification that there are no alternative time frames, locations or activities to its proposed raising of the Warragamba dam wall?	This question should be referred to the Premier
136	The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Management Taskforce is reported as acknowledging that Full Supply Level lowering options would reduce risk to life but the Taskforce claims there are water quality and supply costs that make these alternatives less cost effective than the proposed raising the dam wall by 14 metres for flood mitigation:	This question should be referred to the Premier
	(a) Why doesn't the NSW Government undertake an independent assessment of the cost and environmental savings of alternatives compared against the damage to World Heritage listed wilderness national parks caused by the dam wall raising?	This question should be referred to the Premier
137	Will Water NSW investigate flood mitigation alternatives to save the White Gum, the wilderness and wild rivers of the southern Blue Mountains World Heritage Area?	An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the project in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000. With regards to alternatives, the EIS must include an analysis of any feasible alternatives to the project and the options within the project. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements outline what must be investigated and are available on the Department of Planning and Environment website.
138	What guarantees can the NSW Government offer to ensure that the dam wall raising is to be used for flood mitigation and not water storage?	This question should be referred to the Premier
139	How will the high perimeter to area ratio of raising flood storage behind the proposed raised wall of Warragamba Dam be assessed for environmental impacts?	WaterNSW is consulting with agencies, such as the Office of Environment and Heritage, on methods of assessment that will form part of the work being undertaken for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS will be prepared in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements are available on the Department of Planning and Environment website.
140	Will the inundation following the raising of Warragamba Dam wall constitute a 40 per cent reduction in the Camden White Gum? If not, what level of reduction is predicted?	The matter of how Camden White Gum will be impacted by temporary inundation in the event of a flood has not yet been determined and is a part of the environmental impact assessment

Question Number	Question	Response
141	How much water has been produced by the desalination plant to date? Please provide amount per year since 2012.	157,886 million Litres. 2012 = 18,114 million Litres 2013 = 0 2014 = 0 2015 = 0 2016 = 0 2017 = 0
142	How much is the NSW Government spending per year, directly or indirectly through arrangements with Sydney Desalination Plan Pty Ltd, on the desalination plant, in terms of:	Prices to cover the prudent and efficient costs of the Sydney Desalination Plant P/L were determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal on 1 July 2017. Information on all costs is available at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au . Costs are recovered via Sydney Water water bills.
	(a) Annual lease arrangement	
	(b) Availability charge	
	(c) Administrative costs	
	(d) Maintenance costs	
	(e) Insurance costs	
	(f) Any other costs	
143	Will the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall result in any changes to the contract with the desalination plant operator?	No.
144	In terms of the damage to the desalination plant:	
	(a) Who is paying for the construction costs for repairs?	The cost of repairs to the plant are being met by their insurers.
	(b) How much is the repair expected to cost?	That information is commercial-in-confidence and is a matter between SDP and the insurer.
	(c) When is the repair expected to commence	The repair has already commenced.
	(d) When is the repair expected to be completed by?	The Sydney Desalination Plant is scheduled to be fully repaired by December 2018.
	(e) What is the reason for the delay in repair?	The process for reinstating the plant has been complex including detailed damage assessment, consultation with the insurers and procurement of a qualified contractor before the repair work could commence.
145	Please provide justification for return on investment for Government considering the facility will be owned by operators by the end of the lease? Please refer to any reports that have been conducted.	The long term lease of the Desalination Plant is a matter for the Treasurer
146	Considering the costs to the consumer, will the Government consider closing the desalination plant?	The desalination plant is a key component of Sydney's water supply and is the only non-rainfall dependent bulk water source for Sydney.
147	Is it true that Andrew Willicott was appointed General Manager of Customer Delivery for Sydney Water in April 2017?	No - Mr Willicott commenced paid employment at Sydney Water in March 2017.
148	Is it true that since then Mr Willicott has travelled to the United Kingdom on four occasions?	No. He has visited the UK on 3 occasions. To facilitate Mr Willicott's transition to Sydney from overseas, it was agreed there would be a period of 6 weeks broken intermittently in the first 6 months where he could work flexibly and remotely.
149	Was this personal leave?	Partly. To facilitate Mr Willicott's transition to Sydney from overseas, it was agreed there would be a period of 6 weeks broken intermittently in the first 6 months where he could work flexibly and remotely.

Question Number	Question	Response
150	If so, was recreation leave taken?	Partly. To facilitate Mr Willcott's transition to Sydney from overseas, it was agreed there would be a period of 6 weeks broken intermittently in the first 6 months where he could work flexibly and remotely.
151	Do you accept that in its published Budget paper No. 3 the NSW Government is proposing to spend less on assisting customers with the cost of energy bills in 2017-18 than it proposed to spend in the 2016-17 Budget year?	The amount allocated for energy rebates in 2017/18 is higher than the final spend on rebate programs in 2016/17.
152	If you do not agree, can you explain how \$257 million in 2017-18 is more than \$259 million in 2016-17?	See answer to 151
	For the 2016-17 Budget year:	
153	What was the dollar amount provided for each form of rebate or assistance available for eligible households?	See Attachment A
154	When was each form of rebate or assistance available for eligible households most recently increased, prior to the 2016-17 Budget? Please provide the information by each rebate or form of assistance and indicate when that was increased and from what previous amount?	See Attachment A
155	At the time of the Budget being delivered on 21 June 2016, what was the estimate of how many households would take-up the assistance available? Please list the number of households estimated to take up each rebate or form of assistance?	See Attachment A
156	How many eligible households actually took up the assistance available? Please list the number of households by each rebate or form of assistance, and by postcode or electorate	See Attachment A
	For the current 2017-18 Budget year, as at the day the Budget was delivered on 20 June 2017:	
157	What was the dollar amount provided for each form of rebate or assistance available for eligible households?	See Attachment A
158	What was the estimate of how many households would take-up the assistance available? Please list the number of households estimated to take up each rebate or form of assistance	See Attachment A
	On Sunday 3 September, you and the Premier made an announcement about increasing government rebates by 20 per cent and support for energy efficient appliances	
159	Which rebates or forms of assistance are being increased? Please provide a full list.	See Attachment A
160	What was the amount of each rebate or form of assistance before the announcement?	See Attachment A
161	What is the new amount for each rebate or form of assistance?	See Attachment A
162	When will these new amounts be available from?	See Attachment A
163	What is the total value of this package?	See Attachment A
164	Is it part of the \$257 million in Budget Paper No. 3, p8-18 or is it additional money?	See Attachment A
165	If it is additional to the \$257 million in Budget Paper No. 3, p8-18, where does this money come from?	See Attachment A
166	If it is additional to the \$257 million in Budget Paper No. 3, p8-18, please indicate where in the Budget Papers this money can be found?	See Attachment A

Question Number	Question	Response
167	Is the Sydney Desalination Plant open and could it produce water if required?	The Sydney Desalination Plant is not currently required to produce water as dam levels are at 90%. Under the 2017 Metropolitan Water Plan the Desalination Plant is not required to produce water until dam levels reach 60%.
168	When will the Desalination plant be operational and available if required?	The Sydney Desalination Plant will be in operation when dam levels reach 60%, in accordance with the 2017 Metropolitan Water Plan.
169	Are you aware that the owners of the desalination plant have previously advised IPART that it would be available in October 2017 and are now saying December 2018 - have you or your office or your Department made any contact with the owners of the desalination plant about the three year delay in repairing their operation?	The Department is in contact with the owners of the desalination plant as they are a key stakeholder along with other public and private water utilities.
170	What is the reason for the three year delay in repairing the damage to the operation of the desalination plant?	The process for reinstating the plant has been complex including detailed damage assessment, consultation with insurers and the procurement of a qualified contractor before the repair work could commence. The timeframe represents due diligence by the owners of the plant.
171	How much is each Sydney household is paying each year to the owners of the desalination plant to have it available for emergency water supplies?	A typical Sydney Water customer will pay \$85 a year - a reduction of \$10 on 2016-17 prices.
172	Do you consider it reasonable to have a three year delay in the operation of the desalination plant when Sydney-siders are paying \$96 a year in insurance to have the plant available?	There has been no delay in the operation of the plant as the plant is only required to become operable when dam levels reach 60% (as per the 2017 Metropolitan Water Plan).
173	Will you guarantee that the desalination plant will be available, if required, to produce water in December 2018?	The owners of the desalination plant have advised the department that repairs will be completed by December 2018.
174	Do you have a view on the decision of IPART to delay the imposition of an abatement clause on the owners of the desalination plant until December 2018 - a full 3 years after the plant was damaged in a storm?	These are matters for IPART to determine as the independent pricing tribunal.
175	Isn't it true that the owners of the plant dragged their feet on repairs because under the terms of your Government's privatisation deal Sydney water customers had to pay the availability charge - whether the plant was available or not?	See response to Q170.
176	Considering that the desal plant will not be available until December 2018 (a full three years since it was damaged in a storm) and in that time Sydney families have paid \$277 each in "availability" fees - Have you personally made contact with the owners of the desalination plant and demanded that they repair it?	The Department is in contact with the owners of the desalination plant as they are a key stakeholder along with other public and private water utilities.
177	What is Sydney Water's credit rating today?	Sydney Water's credit rating today is Aa3 (Moody's).
178	Will you guarantee that Sydney Water's credit rating will not drop?	<p>Ratings agencies, such as Moody's, consider a range of factors in assessing Sydney Water's credit ratings. Some of these factors are outside Sydney Water and the Government's control, such as the stability and predictability of the regulatory environment.</p> <p>As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices.</p> <p>The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.</p>

Question Number	Question	Response
179	Is the Minister aware why Sydney Water's credit rating has had such a dramatic reduction?	<p>Sydney Water's credit rating has not changed since being upgraded to Aa3 in March 2015</p> <p>As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices.</p> <p>The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.</p>
180	How much revenue does Sydney Water give the NSW Treasury by way of dividend, tax equivalent payments and T-Corp fees - This year and next year?	<p>Details that are not commercial-in-confidence are published annually in Sydney Water's Statement of Corporate Intent.</p> <p>As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices.</p> <p>The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.</p>
181	Will you guarantee that Sydney Water will not face a credit event over the forward estimates as a result of this lower credit rating?	<p>Sydney Water's credit rating has not changed since being upgraded to Aa3 in March 2015.</p> <p>As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices.</p> <p>The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.</p>
182	How can you assert that Sydney Water is just as safe from a credit event today as it was in 2015 when the credit rating then was the second highest available and now Treasury has mandated that it will sit two notches above junk bond status?	<p>Sydney Water's credit rating has not changed since being upgraded to Aa3 in March 2015</p> <p>As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices.</p> <p>The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.</p>
183	Given Moody's downgraded Sydney Water's Credit Rating one notch in 2015 and given that a one notch downgrade on Sydney Water rating this year would see the company become a junk bond investment - how do you guarantee that Sydney Water will not face a credit event?	Sydney Water's credit rating has not changed since being upgraded to Aa3 in March 2015
184	Is the Minister aware what the credit rating is for Melbourne Water?	The credit rating for Melbourne Water is not publicly available.
185	Why does the Government consider it appropriate to have a significantly lower credit rating than other comparable businesses?	

Question Number	Question	Response
186	Sydney Water's Credit Rating destined to sit two notches below Melbourne Water's?	As a State- owned Corporation, Sydney Water is subject to the NSW Government Commercial Policy Framework. This framework aims to replicate in Government businesses the disciplines and incentives that lead private sector businesses towards efficient commercial practices. The Commercial Policy Framework is a matter for the Treasurer.
187	How many staff are in your ministerial office?	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
	(a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?	
	(b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?	
188	How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?	There were 240 smart phones allocated across the Ministerial Offices in 2016-17. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$269,644, a 53.4% 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?	
	(i) What is the cost of replacing those phones?	
189	How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?	There were 139 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2016-17. 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?	
	(i) What was the cost of replacing these devices?	
190	Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Artwork in my office includes art donated at no cost and artwork on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW for which the Gallery charges a nominal subscription fee.
	(a) What is the cost of this?	
191	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	
192	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

Question Number	Question	Response
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	
193	What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?	My office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.
	(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?	
	(i) Who is the subscriber for each of these?	
194	What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?	Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).
195	What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?	Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.
	(a) What were the gifts purchased?	
	(i) Who were they gifted to?	
196	Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?	No.
	(a) What is the monthly cost of this?	
197	What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?	Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2016-17 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.
	(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?	
198	What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:	Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$82,771, down from \$99,463 last year. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.
	(a) Taxi hire	
	(b) Limousine hire	
	(c) Private hire care	
	(d) Hire car rental	
	(e) Ridesharing services	
199	Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?	Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$6,921 in 2016-17, down from \$28,706 last year. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.
	(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?	
200	How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.
201	How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.
202	Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2016-17:	The Department of Planning and Environment 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.
	(a) The names of the firms utilised	

Question Number	Question	Response
	(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	
203	How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?	DPE staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.
204	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?	DPE staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.
205	What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?	The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.
206	By how much has the number of media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	This information is unavailable.
207	By how much has the expenditure on media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	Expenditure for media or public relations advisers are included within employee related expenses in the financial statements to the Annual Report.
208	Have you had media training or speech training?	No.
	(a) If yes, who paid for it?	
	(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?	
209	How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.
210	How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication
211	Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?	
212	Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?	
	(b) Who paid for these trips?	
213	What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on: (a) Taxi hire (b) Limousine/private car hire (c) Hire car rental (d) Ridesharing services	All Departments' travel in 2015-16 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. The total expenditure for the Department of Planning and Environment was: Taxi Hire \$91,024 Private Car Hire \$0 Car Rental \$96,191 Ride Share \$- Total \$187,214 This includes expenditure associated with the Planning, Resources, Energy and Utilities, and Arts portfolio.

Question Number	Question	Response
214	Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?	No.
	(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?	
215	How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?	
216	Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(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	
217	What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of each agency.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
218	What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) remuneration is reported in the Annual Reports of each agency.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
219	What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
220	What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
221	How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17? (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: (i) Voluntary (ii) Forced (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?	See question 94

Question Number	Question	Response
222	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?	Consistent with the NSW Managing Excess Employee Policy, employees who accept a voluntary redundancy in the Environment and Heritage portfolio cannot be re-employed or re-engaged in any capacity in any NSW public sector agency within the period covered by their severance payment, without first repaying the relevant portion of their severance pay. This requirement applies to employment or engagement in any capacity as staff members, contractors, consultants or employees or principals of companies engaged in contracting to a public sector agency.
223	Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?	No.
224	How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?	Matters or inquiries of employee misconduct or underperformance are managed in accordance with the relevant employing legislation, Awards, policies and procedures. The Government Sector Employment Act 2013 provides the mechanisms for management of such matters under Section 68 and Section 69. Matters in relation to Fitness for Duty are managed pursuant to Regulation 15 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.
	(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?	It is not appropriate to disclose or make comment on any individual matter/s that could potentially identify and party or staff member subject to or a witness in such matters. The outcomes of these types of inquiries are and must remain confidential.
225	What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?	Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.
226	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?	
227	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on Android?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?	
228	What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.
229	What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

Question Number	Question	Response
230	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.	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.
231	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.	
232	What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?	
233	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.	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 including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.
234	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	As outlined in the Digital Government Strategy, the NSW Government will continue to explore the use of cognitive and machine learning, and related Artificial Intelligence technologies, to simplify processes, eliminate duplication, and improve customer experience
235	What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?	
236	What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?	

Question Number	Question	Response
237	What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?	
238	Liz Ann McGregor was appointed as the cultural ambassador in June 2014, have you reappointed her to this role?	The appointment of Ms Macgregor is ongoing.
239	Does Liz Ann McGregor receive any financial support for her activities as cultural ambassador?	No
240	Does she receive any secretariat support in her role as cultural ambassador?	No
241	Has there been any consideration of replacing her with someone who is located in Western Sydney?	No
242	How many times has she gone to Western Sydney in her capacity as cultural ambassador in the period July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017?	Seven
243	How many times has she gone to Western Sydney in her capacity as cultural ambassador in the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016?	10
244	How many times has she gone to Western Sydney in her capacity as cultural ambassador in the period July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015?	Nine
245	How many expressions of interest have been received for the regional cultural fund for each of the following councils/islands/unincorporated territories?	As at 1 September 2017, there were no applications processed or considered so a figure could not be given.
	(a) Ballina Shire Council	
	(b) Bathurst Regional Council	
	(c) Bega Valley Shire Council	
	(d) Blayney Shire Council	
	(e) Byron Shire Council	
	(f) Cabonne Council	
	(g) Central Coast	
	(h) Cessnock	
	(i) Coolamon Shire Council	
	(j) Cowra Shire Council	
	(k) Forbes Shire Council	
	(l) Greater Hume Shire	
	(m) Griffith City Council	
	(n) Junee Shire Council	
	(o) Kempsey Shire Council	
	(p) Lachlan Shire Council	
	(q) Lake Macquarie	
	(r) Leeton Shire Council	
	(s) Lismore City Council	
	(t) Lockhart Shire Council	
	(u) Maitland	
	(v) Mid-Western Regional	
	(w) Narrabri Shire Council	
	(x) Narrandera Shire Council	

Question Number	Question	Response
	(y) Narromine Shire Council	
	(z) Oberon Shire Council	
	(aa) Orange City Council	
	(bb) Parkes Shire Council	
	(cc) Port Macquarie - Hastings Council	
	(dd) Port Stephens	
	(ee) Tamworth Regional Council	
	(ff) Weddin	
	(gg) Albury City Council	
	(hh) Armidale Regional Council	
	(ii) Balranald	
	(jj) Bellingen Shire Council	
	(kk) Berrigan	
	(ll) Bland	
	(mm) Carrathool Shire Council	
	(nn) Coffs Harbour City Council	
	(oo) Dubbo Regional Council	
	(pp) Edward River Council	
	(qq) Eurobodalla Shire Council	
	(rr) Federation Council	
	(ss) Glen Innes Severn	
	(tt) Goulburn-Mulwaree Council	
	(uu) Gwydir Shire Council	
	(vv) Inverell	
	(ww) Kyogle Council	
	(xx) Lithgow	
	(yy) Liverpool Plains Shire Council	
	(zz) Lord Howe Island	
	(aaa) MidCoast Council	
	(bbb) Moree Plains Shire Council	
	(ccc) Murray River Council	
	(ddd) Murrumbidgee Shire Council	
	eee) Queanbeyan-Palerang	
	(fff) Richmond Valley Council	
	(ggg) Singleton	
	(hhh) Snowy Monaro	
	(iii) Snowy-Valleys	
	(jjj) Tenterfield	
	(kkk) Tweed	
	(lll) Unincorporated Far West	
	(mmm) Upper Lachlan Shire Council	
	(nnn) Uralla Shire Council	
	(ooo) Wagga Wagga City Council	
	(ppp) Walgett	
	(qqq) Warrumbungle Shire	

Question Number	Question	Response
	(rrr) Wentworth	
	(sss) Wingecarribee Council	
	(ttt) Yass Valley Council	
	(uuu) Bogan	
	(vvv) Bourke	
	(www) Brewarrina	
	(xxx) Broken Hill	
	(yyy) Central Darling	
	(zzz) Clarence Valley	
	(aaaa) Cobar	
	(bbbb) Coonamble	
	(cccc) Cootamundra-Gundagai	
	(dddd) Dungog	
	(eeee) Gilgandra	
	(ffff) Gunnedah	
	(gggg) Hay	
	(hhhh) Hilltops	
	(iiii) Kiama	
	(jjjj) Muswellbrook	
	(kkkk) Nambucca	
	(llll) Shoalhaven	
	(mmmm) Temora	
	(nnnn) Upper Hunter Shire	
	(oooo) Walcha	
	(pppp) Warren	
246	What is the total value of expressions of interest for the regional cultural fund for each of the following councils/islands/unincorporated territories?	As at 1 September 2017, there were no applications processed or considered so a figure could not be given.
	(a) Ballina Shire Council	
	(b) Bathurst Regional Council	
	(c) Bega Valley Shire Council	
	(d) Blayney Shire Council	
	(e) Byron Shire Council	
	(f) Cabonne Council	
	(g) Central Coast	
	(h) Cessnock	
	(i) Coolamon Shire Council	
	(j) Cowra Shire Council	
	(k) Forbes Shire Council	
	(l) Greater Hume Shire	
	(m) Griffith City Council	
	(n) Junee Shire Council	
	(o) Kempsey Shire Council	
	(p) Lachlan Shire Council	
	(q) Lake Macquarie	
	(r) Leeton Shire Council	

Question Number	Question	Response
	(s) Lismore City Council	
	(t) Lockhart Shire Council	
	(u) Maitland	
	(v) Mid-Western Regional	
	(w) Narrabri Shire Council	
	(x) Narrandera Shire Council	
	(y) Narromine Shire Council	
	(z) Oberon Shire Council	
	(aa) Orange City Council	
	(bb) Parkes Shire Council	
	(cc) Port Macquarie - Hastings Council	
	(dd) Port Stephens	
	(ee) Tamworth Regional Council	
	(ff) Weddin	
	(gg) Albury City Council	
	(hh) Armidale Regional Council	
	(ii) Balranald	
	(jj) Bellingen Shire Council	
	(kk) Berrigan	
	(ll) Bland	
	(mm) Carrathool Shire Council	
	(nn) Coffs Harbour City Council	
	(oo) Dubbo Regional Council	
	(pp) Edward River Council	
	(qq) Eurobodalla Shire Council	
	(rr) Federation Council	
	(ss) Glen Innes Severn	
	(tt) Goulburn-Mulwaree Council	
	(uu) Gwydir Shire Council	
	(vv) Inverell	
	(ww) Kyogle Council	
	(xx) Lithgow	
	(yy) Liverpool Plains Shire Council	
	(zz) Lord Howe Island	
	(aaa) MidCoast Council	
	(bbb) Moree Plains Shire Council	
	(ccc) Murray River Council	
	(ddd) Murrumbidgee Shire Council	
	(eee) Queanbeyan-Palerang	
	(fff) Richmond Valley Council	
	(ggg) Singleton	
	(hhh) Snowy Monaro	
	(iii) Snowy-Valleys	
	(jjj) Tenterfield	
	(kkk) Tweed	

Question Number	Question	Response
	(lll) Unincorporated Far West	
	(mmm) Upper Lachlan Shire Council	
	(nnn) Uralla Shire Council	
	(ooo) Wagga Wagga City Council	
	(ppp) Walgett	
	(qqq) Warrumbungle Shire	
	(rrr) Wentworth	
	(sss) Wingecarribee Council	
	(ttt) Yass Valley Council	
	(uuu) Bogan	
	(vvv) Bourke	
	(www) Brewarrina	
	(xxx) Broken Hill	
	(yyy) Central Darling	
	(zzz) Clarence Valley	
	(aaaa) Cobar	
	(bbbb) Coonamble	
	(cccc) Cootamundra-Gundagai	
	(dddd) Dungog	
	(eeee) Gilgandra	
	(ffff) Gunnedah	
	(gggg) Hay	
	(hhhh) Hilltops	
	(iiii) Kiama	
	(jjjj) Muswellbrook	
	(kkkk) Nambucca	
	(llll) Shoalhaven	
	(mmmm) Temora	
	(nnnn) Upper Hunter Shire	
	(oooo) Walcha	
	(pppp) Warren	
247	How much does the State government spend on attracting international film production to NSW?	The Government committed \$20 million over two years (2016/17 - 2017/18) through its Made in NSW fund to attracting international and high end TV drama production to NSW.
248	Who are we competing with?	NSW competes globally to attract screen projects, with other countries (and states within countries) offering incentives to attract production to their jurisdictions. In addition, NSW competes with other Australian states and territories for these productions.
249	What do we do to win those productions?	On 8 June 2016, NSW announced the Made in NSW fund. The fund provides \$20M over two years, from July 2016, to attract international feature films and television projects to NSW and to support the production of major new Australian television drama series. Sydney has excellent studio facilities and is home to almost 60% of all Australians employed in the screen production industry. Create NSW assists with information on locations, technical and creative talent, studio space, post production and visual effects facilities and on all aspects of filming in NSW. Create NSW facilitates in-bound visits from producers, directors and other creative practitioners, both international and Australian. Create NSW markets NSW as the production destination of choice through its locations database, communications and attendance at key industry events.

Question Number	Question	Response
250	Are you confident that you do enough to attract international films to NSW to create jobs in the local industry?	Yes. On 8 June 2016, NSW announced the Made in NSW fund. The fund provides \$20M over two years, from July 2016, to attract international feature films and television projects to NSW and to support the production of major new Australian television drama series. This fund is included in this year's State Budget and will double existing NSW Government funding for the screen industry to almost \$40 million over 2016/17 and 2017/18.
251	How many films have we lost to other jurisdictions under your Government?	Film negotiations are commercial-in-confidence. The reasons for filmmakers choosing a particular jurisdiction vary, but can include the availability of specialist infrastructure, or the level of incentives available.
252	Have you been following the controversy over the \$160 million Aqua Man – featuring Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe and Nicole Kidman — at Hastings Point on the Tweed Coast?	Yes
253	Do you think the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's opposition to the project has hurt NSW as a filming destination internationally?	No.
254	Do you think companies will be reluctant to film here?	No.
255	What steps do you consider necessary to protect and attract the industry – in light of these attacks?	I would not characterise those as attacks.
256	Has the NSW Government allocated any financial support to the proposed Bondi Pavilion?	No.
257	Has Create NSW provided any advice on the Bondi Pavilion plans?	No
258	Under the plan, are you aware of how much cultural space will be retained and how much will go towards restaurant and retail activity?	No
259	Do you support Waverley Liberal-dominated Council's plans to privatise the facility?	This is a matter for Waverley Council.
260	Given the Save Bondi Pavilion group has asked lead candidates for Waverley Council to sign a pledge to guarantee that the Bondi Pavilion will not be privatised, what is your response to the Mayor Sally Betts and her Liberal colleagues refusing to sign the pledge?	This is a matter for Waverley Council.
261	Do you support the privatisation of our national icon? Yes or No?	The Bondi Pavilion is owned and managed by the Council.
262	Are you aware of the National Film Theatre concept?	Yes
263	It is where theatrical performances are recorded with multi-cameras and shown in cinemas so that residents can have access to international theatre?	Yes
264	Have you ever seen a performance?	Not to my knowledge.
265	Are you aware that the Federal Government through its Catalyst program provided financial support for the concept to Australian Filmed Theatre Live – which was founded in 2010 by Grant Dodwell, Raj Sidhu and Peter Hiscock?	Yes.
266	They want to take Australian filmed theatre to rural NSW. Do you support those plans?	Yes.
267	You may not be aware but I wrote to your predecessor and suggested that the NSW Government accept it as a new version of entertainment in its funding streams. What has been the response to those representations?	There is support for this medium.
268	Have you held any discussions with ANT Live – as they want to take their productions to rural and regional NSW?	I have not met with them personally but am interested and open to all ideas that expose arts, culture and screen to more of the NSW population.
269	Have you had any consideration of extending the Regional Cultural Fund to the ANT Live?	As at September 1 applications had not closed.

Question Number	Question	Response
270	Has the Member for Wollindilly made any representations on behalf of Wingecarribee Shire Council on its plans to upgrade the Bowral Arts Centre or the Mittagong Playhouse?	The Member for Wollondilly contacts my office regularly regarding a whole range of issues across my portfolios.
271	As Arts Minister, what is your response to community calls for additional plaques to be added which denote the historical context of the figure memorialised?	Most statues are the property of individual councils.
272	Given on April 6 in State Parliament, you announced the Government is investing \$800,000 over four years into the new National Theatre of Parramatta, have you given consideration to supporting other smaller theatre groups such as Redline Productions at the Old Fitz, Old 505 Theatre in Newtown, the Hayes Theatre or Sport for Jove at the Seymour Centre?	All applications for funding are done through a competitive process.
273	How many staff are in your ministerial office?	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
	(a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2016-17?	
	(b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2017-18 based on current appointments?	
274	How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?	There were 240 smart phones allocated across the Ministerial Offices in 2016-17. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$269,644, a 53.4% 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?	
	(i) What is the cost of replacing those phones?	
275	How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?	There were 139 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2016-17. 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, Corporate and Ministerial Services.
	(a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2016-17?	
	(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2016-17?	
	(i) What was the cost of replacing these devices?	
276	Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Artwork in my office includes art donated at no cost and artwork on loan from the Art Gallery of NSW for which the Gallery charges a nominal subscription fee.
	(a) What is the cost of this?	

Question Number	Question	Response
277	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	
278	Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?	Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.
	(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?	
279	What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2016-17?	My office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.
	(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?	
	(i) Who is the subscriber for each of these?	
280	What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?	Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).
281	What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2016-17?	
	(a) What were the gifts purchased?	Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.
	(i) Who were they gifted to?	
282	Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?	No.
	(a) What is the monthly cost of this?	
283	What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?	Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2016-17 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.
	(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?	
284	What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:	Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$82,771, down from \$99,463 last year. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.
	(a) Taxi hire	
	(b) Limousine hire	
	(c) Private hire care	
	(d) Hire car rental	
	(e) Ridesharing services	
285	Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?	Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$6,921 in 2016-17, down from \$28,706 last year. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.
	(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?	
286	How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.
287	How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?	Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

Question Number	Question	Response
288	Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2016-17: (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	The Department of Planning and Environment 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.
289	How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?	DPE staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.
290	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?	DPE staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.
291	What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?	The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.
292	By how much has the number of media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	Arts, Screen and Culture 0 * Australian Museum + 1 Art Gallery of NSW 0 MAAS 0 however + 0.4 in FTE State Library + 1 Sydney Living Museums 0 Sydney Opera House + 1 Total increase since 11/12: 3 * The Cultural Infrastructure Program Management team did not exist in 2011-12. Screen NSW had one external Public Relations Advisor in 2011/12 and media advice for Arts NSW was sourced through the former Department of Trade and Investment – 1 internal Media Adviser (grade 9/10) and 1 internal Media Manager (grade 11/12) were available to support Arts NSW as required. Overall the number of positions have not changed.
293	By how much has the expenditure on media or public relations advisers employed for each of your portfolio agencies increased since 2011-12 to the current date?	Expenditure for media or public relations advisers are included within employee related expenses in the financial statements to the annual report.
294	Have you had media training or speech training?	No.
	(a) If yes, who paid for it?	
	(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?	No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.
295	How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	
296	How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?	Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication.
297	Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?	

Question Number	Question	Response
298	Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?	Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.
	(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?	
	(b) Who paid for these trips?	
299	What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on: (a) Taxi hire (b) Limousine/private car hire (c) Hire car rental (d) Ridesharing services	All Departments' travel in 2015-16 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. The total expenditure for the Department of Planning and Environment was: Taxi Hire \$91,024 Private Car Hire \$0 Car Rental \$96,191 Ride Share \$- Total \$187,214 This includes expenditure associated with the Planning, Resources, Energy and Utilities, and Arts portfolio.
300	Do any senior executive service employees in your Departments/agencies have a driver that is paid for by the Departments/agencies? If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver and which senior executive service employees have a driver?	No.
	(a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?	
301	How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?	
302	Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:	Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.
	(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	
303	What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of each agency
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
304	What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) remuneration is reported in the Annual Reports of each agency.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
305	What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	

Question Number	Question	Response
306	What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?	Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.
	(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?	
307	How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2016-17? (a) Of these redundancies, how many were: (i) Voluntary (ii) Forced	45 voluntary redundancies were processed by agencies within the Arts portfolio.
	(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?	Financial statements, including redundancy expenditure, are available in the agency annual reports.
308	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?	Consistent with the NSW Managing Excess Employee Policy, employees who accept a voluntary redundancy in the Environment and Heritage portfolio cannot be re-employed or re-engaged in any capacity in any NSW public sector agency within the period covered by their severance payment, without first repaying the relevant portion of their severance pay. This requirement applies to employment or engagement in any capacity as staff members, contractors, consultants or employees or principals of companies engaged in contracting to a public sector agency.
309	Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?	No.
310	How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?	Matters or inquiries of employee misconduct or underperformance are managed in accordance with the relevant employing legislation, Awards, policies and procedures. The Government Sector Employment Act 2013 provides the mechanisms for management of such matters under Section 68 and Section 69. Matters in relation to Fitness for Duty are managed pursuant to Regulation 15 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.
	(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?	It is not appropriate to disclose or make comment on any individual matter/s that could potentially identify and party or staff member subject to or a witness in such matters. The outcomes of these types of inquiries are and must remain confidential.
311	What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?	Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.
312	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?	
313	Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?	IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.
	(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on Android?	
	(i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?	
314	What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.
315	What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your Ministerial office this year?	The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

Question Number	Question	Response
316	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	<p>All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. DPE does not accept payment for goods and services, so we do not impose merchant fees on our customers.</p> <p>DPE 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.</p>
317	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	
318	What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?	
319	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.	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 including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.