

Department of Finance, Services and Innovation

Estimates Committee hearing, Monday 4 September 2017

Responses to Questions taken on Notice

Cladding (page 10)

1. QUESTION:

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: *Which building products have been identified as non-compliant? Can you give us a list now so we can tell the people of New South Wales what building products are non-complaint, and that they should not put them on their properties?*

Mr HOFFMAN: *I am happy to take on notice that question about a list of specific products.*

ANSWER:

The NSW Fair Trading website (www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au) contains a range of important information about building, product safety and fire safety. As part of the Government's ongoing reforms related to unsafe building products, a new page has been launched on the Fair Trading website to provide information about non-conforming and non-compliant building products. There is also a page dedicated to the Government's 10-point plan for fire safety and external wall cladding.

Fair Trading's information regarding recalls can be located at:
http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/ftw/Businesses/Product_safety/Product_recalls.page

The Fair Trading website also contains information links to any product safety alerts or other compliance action taken by Fair Trading or other regulators, such as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (www.productsafety.gov.au).

Links are also available to the Australian Building Codes Board website and its product certification regimes – 'Codemark' for building products and materials; and 'Watermark' for plumbing.

External wall cladding can be a safe and compliant product when selected and installed in accordance with the National Construction Code, and local laws and standards. A specific product needs to be considered and determined to be fit-for-purpose given the nature of the building being constructed and the way in which it is being used. For this reason it is not practicable to provide a list of compliant or non-compliant products.

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2. QUESTION:

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: *Thank you. How many times has the task force met?*

Mr MATT KEAN: *The task force has not met to date.*

Mr HOFFMAN: *No, we have.*

Mr MATT KEAN: *It has met?*

Mr HOFFMAN: *Absolutely. The task force has met. I can take on notice the exact number of times. Basically it has met weekly or fortnightly since June.*

ANSWER:

The Taskforce has met 11 times between 21 June 2017 and 14 September 2017.

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3. QUESTION:

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: *Mr Secretary, on notice, are you able to provide us the agencies that are represented on that task force and the frequency of its meetings? I will not ask for the officials because it will probably breach privacy, but at least tell us on notice the agencies that are there.*

Mr HOFFMAN: *Certainly, Mr Mookhey, I can do that.*

ANSWER:

The Taskforce is comprised of representatives from:

- The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (including NSW Fair Trading and the Data Analytics Centre)
- The Department of Planning and Environment
- Fire & Rescue NSW
- The Office of Local Government
- NSW Treasury
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Taskforce first met on 21 June 2017 and continued to meet each week until 3 August 2017. The Taskforce now meets fortnightly.

4. QUESTION:

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *Minister, how many exemptions have you granted out of those 179 applications?*

Mr MATT KEAN: *Can I say that I take recommendations from the expert panel that reviews all the exemptions, in line with the legislation. They make recommendations as to whether or not businesses meet the criteria to gain an exemption. I then will take the advice of the expert panel, as I am required to do, and will grant the exemption.*

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *How many of those 179 have been granted?*

Mr HOFFMAN: *All of them were granted.*

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *How many of those were because it is uneconomic for their business to comply with the minimum biofuels requirement? I understand that is one of the options when they make an application.*

Mr HOFFMAN: *That is one of the criteria, yes.*

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *How many of those 179 were granted on that basis?*

Mr HOFFMAN: *We do have that analysis, and I am happy to provide that on notice.*

ANSWER:

179 applications for exemption that have been granted, of these 40 were on the basis that it was uneconomical for them to comply with the minimum biofuel requirements. The term 'uneconomical' includes a variety of reasons, including infrastructure upgrades, installation costs, transport costs, etc.

Ethanol mandate (Page 20)

5. QUESTION:

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *I do not know the components of your E10 Fuel for Thought advertising campaign. If you are happy to provide the information broken down, that would be great.*

Mr MATT KEAN: *As you know, the community awareness campaign debunking the myths surrounding E10 was part of the Biofuels Amendment Bill announced by Minister Dominello in his second reading speech in 2016. You are probably aware that there was an Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART] report, which supported a number of ways that the Government could increase the uptake of ethanol or E10 in New South Wales.*

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: *Minister, given that time has run out, will you take on notice my question regarding how much has been spent on that ad campaign?*

Mr MATT KEAN: *I am happy to come back to you on the media buy, yes.*

ANSWER:

As at 4 September 2017, a total of \$2,919,906 has been spent on the E10 Fuel for Thought public education campaign. This amount comprises:

- \$1,226,238 on media advertising across a range of mass media channels including two bursts of TV advertising, online video, radio, billboards, digital search, digital display and social media
- \$238,454 on access to and hosting of an online tool providing consumers with information sourced from manufacturers regarding vehicle compatibility with ethanol blended fuel
- \$1,026,420 on the design, development and production of all campaign assets including a bespoke website and content; 3 television commercials in English and subtitled in 4 community languages; 5 videos; translation and recording of a radio ad in 4 community languages; large format billboards and various digital ads for a range of electronic communication platforms
- \$301,479 on research, testing and evaluation including a pre-campaign study; market testing of creative concepts; and 2 online surveys at the conclusion of both bursts of television advertising
- \$127,315 on services including media planning.