

TREASURY

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Funding of projects

1. Are Government agencies that borrow from the NSW Government's Infrastructure Fund required to pay any form of interest during construction?
 - (a) If yes, what is that interest?

Answer: Agencies do not borrow from the NSW Government Infrastructure Fund

2. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Sydney Metro North West Project.
3. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Sydney Metro City and South West Project.
4. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Sydney West Metro Project.
5. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the CBD and South East Light Rail Project.
6. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Parramatta Light Rail Project.
7. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Newcastle Light Rail Project.
8. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the WestConnex Project.
9. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the NorthConnex Project.
10. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the F6 Extension Project.
11. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Northern Beaches Tunnel project.

12. Please provide the budgeted capital expenditure (capex), the financing charges and the total project cost of the Second Harbour Crossing Project.

Answer 2-12: These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

13. 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

14. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?

15. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?

16. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

Answer 13-16: 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

<p>Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)</p>
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AASB1059

17. Have you or Treasury forecasted how the NSW budget and finances will be impacted by AASB1059?

(a) Can you please provide us with any updated forecasts of the forward estimates?

Answer: AASB1069 was not finalised at the time of the NSW Budget.

Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE)

18. What is the commercial rate of return the TAHE is expected to make? Please provide on notice.

19. Please provide the 10 year forecasts for the general rate of return for the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE). Please provide on notice.

20. Please provide the 10 year cash flow projections for Transport for NSW with the TAHE and without the TAHE. Please provide on notice.

Answer 18-20: Treasury, in consultation with Transport for NSW (TfNSW), have established a working team dedicated to developing the final operating model. At this stage, with structural, functional arrangements, legal and contractual decisions still under development.

21. What is the total difference over the forward estimates between pre-TAHE and post-TAHE reporting?

Answer: The impact of the creation of TAHE as a dedicated asset manager and the Australian Bureau of Statistics classifying TAHE as a commercial Public Non-Financial Corporation (PNFC) is documented in the 2015-16 Budget – Budget Paper No. 1.

Privatisations and Transaction Costs

22. Can you provide a breakdown of the transaction costs incurred in leasing Transgrid, Ausgrid and Endeavour itemised by strategic and financial advice, legal advice, public relations [PR], advertising, probity services—all the constituent parts that make up the total figure?

Answer: The NSW Government publishes all procurement activities in accordance with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework for NSW Government Agencies (July 2015 Version 4).

23. Can you provide a breakdown of the transaction costs incurred in leasing the LPI itemised by strategic and financial advice, legal advice, public relations [PR], advertising, probity services—all the constituent parts that make up the total figure?

Answer: The NSW Government publishes all procurement activities in accordance with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework for NSW Government Agencies.

24. How much were LPI's annual profit and revenue levels before it was privatised?

Answer: As Land and Information Property was formerly an administrative division of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

25. What are the forecasted/expected dividends to be received by the NSW Government from Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy over the forward estimates? Please provide a breakdown year by year and by network.

Answer: This information is commercial in confidence.

Commissioning and Contestability Unit

26. What policy work has been undertaken with NSW Health?
27. What policy work has been undertaken in Education?
28. What policy work has been undertaken in Justice?
29. What policy work has been undertaken in Industry?
30. What have been the total costs incurred by the Commissioning and Contestability Unit since its inception?

Answer 26-30: The Commissioning and Contestability Unit (CCU) has been established in NSW Treasury as a centre of excellence to implement a whole-of-government approach to commissioning. The CCU supports the Premiers priority of improving government services. Further information can be found at <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/projects-initiatives/commissioning-and-contestability/commissioning-and-contestability-unit>

Sydney Gateway

31. Was NSW Treasury made aware of the \$1-\$1.8 billion Estimates Total Cost of the Sydney Gateway prior to the 2017-18 Budget?

Answer: The question would be more appropriately addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

32. What is the total amount allocated to the Sydney Gateway?

Answer: The question would be more appropriately addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

Unfunded Projects

33. Please list the total funding commitments for the:

- (a) Sydney Metro CBD and Southwest
- (b) Sydney Metro West
- (c) Parramatta Light Rail
- (d) CBD and South East Light Rail
- (e) Newcastle Light Rail
- (f) Central Station Concourse

- (g) F6
- (h) Western Harbour Tunnel
- (i) Northern Beaches Tunnel

34. Is the NSW Governments Infrastructure program fully funded?

Answer 33-34: These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Sydney Stadiums

35. How much of the \$1.6 billion for stadiums will go towards stadiums outside of Sydney?
36. Will the upgrade of the ANZ Stadium, Allianz Stadium, Parramatta Stadium, Indoor Stadium, Spotless Stadium be fully funded for the \$1.6 billion?
- (a) If not, what is the total needed to fund these projects.

Answer 35-36: These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Sport.

Negative Gearing and Capital Gains tax

37. Does NSW Treasury advice support a review of capital gains tax discounts?
38. Does NSW Treasury advice support a review of negative gearing policies?

Answer 37-38: These policies fall into the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

Circular Quay

39. On the 28th of September 2015, Premier Mike Baird and the Minister for Finance Dominic Perrottet issued a media release titled, *Making It Happen At Circular Quay* in which said, “The \$200 million in funding for the upgrade will be reserved in the NSW Government’s infrastructure fund, Restart NSW.” Is the Circular Quay Wharf listed under the Restart NSW Reservations?
- (a) If so, where?
40. Under what line item in the 2017-18 budget is the Circular Quay upgrade?

Answer 39-40: Property sales from the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority are not yet completed. Once completed, proceeds will be deposited into Restart.

41. What is the total revenue that has been raised from the sale of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Assets?
- (a) Are these assets fully deposited into Restart NSW?
 - (b) Will these assets fully fund the Circular Quay upgrade?

Answer: This matter would be more suitably addressed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property

Centrally Held Contingency Budget

42. What is the Centrally Held contingency budget in:

- (a) Transport for NSW?
- (b) NSW Health?
- (c) NSW Department of Education?
- (d) FACS?

Answer 42:

(a) This question would be more appropriately directed to Minister for Transport.

(b) This question would be more appropriately directed to Minister for Health.

(c) This question would be more appropriately directed to Minister for Education.

(d) This question would be more appropriately directed to Minister for Family and Community Services.

Financial Management Transformation (FMT)

43. What is the estimated total cost of the FMT program?

44. What is the total dollar amount that has been spent on consultants that have assisted with the FMT program?

45. What was the peak number of staff working on the FMT program at the same time?

46. What is the current number of staff working on the FMT program?

Answer 43-46: The Financial Management Transformation (FMT), aims to improve financial governance across the NSW public sector. The program is currently on track and on budget. Further information is available at <https://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/budget-financial-management/financial-management-transformation>

Dividends for state-owned water utilities

47. What is the projected size of the regular annual dividends paid by:

- (a) State Water
- (b) Hunter Water
- (c) Sydney Water?

48. What is the projected size of the additional dividend paid by:

- (a) State Water
- (b) Hunter Water
- (c) Sydney Water?

49. In what financial years will these three utilities be required to pay the additional dividend?

Answer 47-49: Please refer to the 2017-18 NSW Budget Papers

50. Will the payment of these additional dividends affect the investments made by the three utilities in coming years?

Answer: No

51. Following the announcement of changes to the financial management of these state-owned water utilities, do you agree with the public criticism that suggests the changes are “irresponsible” and “short-sighted”?

Answer: No

52. What arguments do you put forward which rejects this criticism?

Answer: Please refer to the 2017-18 NSW Budget Papers

Property NSW – Agency Property Assets – Total Asset Management Plan

53. Can you confirm whether or not each Government agency has submitted a Total Asset Management (TAM) Plan as per Premiers Memorandum M2012-20?

- (a) Can you provide a list of the agencies that have submitted TAM plans?
- (b) Can you provide a list of the agencies that have not submitted TAM plans?
- (c) Are TAM plans publicly available and if so, where can they be found?
- (d) Who provided valuations for real property assets for each of the agencies in preparation for their TAM plans?
- (e) Can you provide a detailed list of each property sold, since June 2014, which was sold an amount in excess of its TAM valuation, by providing both the TAM valuation and the final sale price for each property?
- (f) Can you provide a detailed list of each property sold, since June 2014, which was sold for an amount lower than its TAM valuation, by providing both the TAM valuation and the final sale price for each property?

- (g) In each instance referred to in part (e) above, what happened to the proceeds of sale where the sale price was in excess of the TAM amount?
- (h) What happens to the proceeds of any sale for an agency that has not yet submitted a TAM plan?

Answer: This information is Cabinet-in-Confidence.

Property Asset Sale Proceeds

54. With regard to the mix of Policy details found in Premiers memorandum M2012-20 and the Property Asset Utilisation Taskforce Report, can you clarify in plain and easy to understand English language, what happens to the proceeds from the sale of real property assets?
- (a) Do the proceeds go back to the agency? Always?
 - (b) Does just a portion of the Proceeds go back to the agency?
 - (c) Do the proceeds go elsewhere in NSW Treasury or Restart NSW?
 - (d) Are there grounds on which the Expenditure Review Committee can choose where to direct the money, and if so, what are the terms conditions of this?
 - (e) Any other relevant information related to the directing of proceeds from real property asset sales?

Answer: This matter would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

Workers Compensation – Collection of outstanding Premiums and the role of Law firms

55. Prior to December 2016, how many law firms were employed by Scheme Agents to recover outstanding premiums from employers for the Workers Compensation Fund?
56. Did iCare have the power to determine which law firms Scheme Agents were permitted to utilise to undertake debt recovery and other legal work?

Answer 55-56: Scheme agents engaged directly with multiple third party service providers, including legal debt recovery services, under both Labor and Liberal governments.

icare (and the former WorkCover) had little control or oversight of the law firms that each scheme agent engaged for collections under the scheme and no insight into the effectiveness of each provider.

57. When was the decision made to appoint TurksLegal as the sole provider of legal work for Scheme Agents in the Workers Compensation Scheme?
58. What reason was provided to the law firms that their services were no longer required?

59. When were the law firms informed of this?
60. What decision-making process was implemented to appoint TurksLegal?
61. Was a tender process undertaken prior to the awarding of this work, exclusively to TurksLegal?
62. Who was directly involved in the decision-making process?
63. Were Scheme Agents invited to be involved in this decision-making process?
64. How were the law firms that had been previously utilised to provide legal work for Scheme Agents informed their services were no longer warranted?
 - (a) Did iCare advise them directly?
 - (b) Did the individual Scheme Agents advise them?

Answer 57-64: Provider procurement is an operational matter for the icare Board

Workers Compensation - Scheme agents

65. When you became Minister, how many Scheme Agents had a license with iCare to manage workers compensation claims?

Answer: icare had not yet been established when I was appointed as Minister in 2014

66. Upon your appointment as Minister for Finance, Services and Property, did you receive a briefing on the deed renewal process between iCare and Scheme Agents?

Answer: icare had not yet been established when I was appointed as Minister in 2014

67. Following the completion of the deed renewal process for the period 2018-2020, are you aware which Scheme Agents were granted a new licence to perform services on behalf of iCare?

Answer: The selection and appointment of scheme agents is an operational matter for the icare Board

68. Are you aware of the development process implemented to
69. What does this process involve?

Answer: There is insufficient information contained in questions 68-69 to enable a response.

70. On 26 April 2017, iCare issued a media release announcing that there would be greater “choice for employers and injured workers” through the decision to only appoint three Scheme Agents to perform services on behalf of iCare. Do you agree the reduction in the number of insurers in the Scheme offers workers greater choice?

Answer: icare is partnering with scheme agents in moving toward a service model that delivers more humancentred, empathetic and tailored services. This, coupled with the use of improved common technology platforms, means injured workers and employers will have the choice of how they want to lodge claims, access information and communicate with case managers.

71. Prior to their announcement to reduce the number of Scheme Agents, did you meet with the iCare leadership team to discuss their proposal?
72. If so, did you agree or offer your support to the leadership team to reduce the number of Scheme Agents?
73. What reasons were offered to not renew QBE's licence?
74. Why did CGU withdraw from the selection process?

Answer 71-74: The selection and appointment of scheme agents is an operational matter for the icare Board

75. Following intense media coverage of the announcement by iCare that three Scheme Agents would provide claims services, iCare issued a clarification that EML had been appointed as the sole Scheme Agent. GIO and Allianz had only been selected as "transition" agents. Minister, what is the role and responsibility of these "transition" agents?
76. Would you agree the media release issued by iCare on 26 April, was in fact misleading, as it failed to identify Allianz and GIO as "transition" agents?
77. When will the licence for these "transition" agents expire?
78. In the media release issued on 26 April, iCare claimed that customers of QBE and CGU would be required to transition to the "remaining partners".
 - (a) What does this transition process look like?
 - (b) How much will this transition cost?
 - (c) With what funds will these costs be covered?
 - (d) Will customers be transitioned to Allianz and GIO?
 - (e) If Allianz and GIO are only "transition" agents, will customers be forced to transition to EML
79. Once these licences have expired, will EML be the only sole Scheme Agent for the workers compensation scheme?
80. Minister, do you agree this contradicts the claim by iCare that their changes offer customers and injured workers greater "choice"?
81. Is the monopolisation of this role the most effective and efficient means of delivering customer-focused workers compensation?

Answer 75-81: The selection and appointment of scheme agents is an operational matter for the icare Board

Workers Compensation – Classification of Labour Hire employees in coal mines

82. Can a person be employed as casual under the National Employment Standards and the Black Coal Award, when they work 52.36 hrs per week and have a permanent set 4 panel roster, working 12.5 hr shifts - day and night shifts and weekends and public holidays in open cut mine?
83. Can an enterprise agreement be approved without the Fair Work Commission checking the enterprise agreement and applying the BOOT test and not checking the documents and information in the submitted documents as to it being truthful and factual?
84. Can an enterprise agreement be less than the Black Coal Award, and can the agreement allow casual employment in production and engineering when the Black Coal Award does not allow casual employment in production and engineering as ruled by a full bench hearing?
85. Can an employer refuse to pay accident pay, as per an agreement and the mining industry standard?
86. Can an employer dismiss an injured worker within 2 weeks of being injured at work, whilst on workers compensation and not notify the employee?
87. Can a supervisor ask an injured worker not to report a workplace injury, and then tell an injured worker that their job is not safe if they have time off work?
88. Can coal miners have workers compensation insurance with any other insurer, other than Coal Mines Insurance?
 - (a) If yes, which other insurers?
 - (b) If no, why is that?
89. Does the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 apply to all employers and employees and mine operators and owners working in the coal industry?
90. Does SIRA or iCare have the authority to enforce who employers must have workers compensation insurance with in the mining industry?
91. Can a coal miner be insured under the general NSW workers compensation scheme?
92. Does SIRA or iCare have to comply with and enforce NSW workers compensation legislation and the Workers Compensation Act?
93. Can SIRA or iCare ask an injured worker not to contact them because they don't want to answer questions with regards to workers compensation legislation enforcement and the compliance of workers compensation in NSW?

94. Do coal miners working in NSW coal mines have to be insured under the specialised insurer Coal Mines Insurance as per the Coal Industry Act 2001 and SIRA's own legislation and guidelines?
95. What processes do mining regulatory bodies, such as NSW Mines Safety, SIRA and iCare, implement to ensure adverse decisions or actions are not made in workplaces that are detrimental to injured and non-injured workers in the coal mining industry?
96. Do you believe these processes have been successful in assisting workers?

Answer 82-96: Workers compensation regulatory matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Finance, Services and Property, and the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and *Coal Industry Act 2001* fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Resources.

Workers Compensation – iCare auditing of company payrolls

97. Who is responsible for conducting audits into company payrolls to ensure that the companies are paying the correct amount of workers compensation insurance?
 - (a) Which external companies are used for the auditing?
 - (b) How many FTE's does each external company engage to perform this work
 - i. 2012/13
 - ii. 2013/14
 - iii. 2014/15
 - iv. 2015/16
 - v. 2016/17
98. Does iCare undertake any of the auditing work, to investigate company payrolls to ensure that the correct contribution is being made to the workers compensation scheme?
99. Is there any plan to cut back or reduce the number of companies being used, or the number of FTE staff that each company employs, for the purpose of payroll audits?

Answer 97-99: icare conducts wage audits through the use of a number of third party service providers. The current agreements with providers were established under the former WorkCover, and when they expire at the end of 2017 icare will engage audit companies via the relevant NSW Government prequalification scheme. icare has invited all audit companies with which it has current agreements to apply to join the prequalification scheme while it assesses the most effective options for future wage audits. icare does not maintain or request the records of how many staff external service providers employ.

100. What is the total amount spent in each financial year, for the purpose of payroll auditing?
 - (a) 2012/13

- (b) 2013/14
- (c) 2014/15
- (d) 2015/16
- (e) 2016/17

101. Does the funding, for payroll audits, come from the workers compensation scheme?

102. How much money is budgeted to be sent on payroll auditing in 2017/18?

Answer 100-102: icare's spend on wage audit fees is/will be included in its Annual Reports

103. With regard to company payroll auditing and the rate of accuracy or error, how frequently, as a percentage of audits conducted, are variances found in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012/13
- (b) 2013/14
- (c) 2014/15
- (d) 2015/16
- (e) 2016/17

104. Of the variances found, what percentage were an under-declaration of wages, meaning that the company did not pay enough into the workers compensation scheme in the financial years:

- (a) 2012/13
- (b) 2013/14
- (c) 2014/15
- (d) 2015/16
- (e) 2016/17

Answer: icare was established as an entity on 1 September 2015, and therefore 2016-17 is the first full FY it has been in existence. Please refer to my answer to Question 99.

105. Is iCare aware of companies that repeatedly and regularly under-declare their wages and subsequently have to be investigated or pursued for appropriate payment?

- (a) If so, does iCare deliberately and typically target these same companies for follow up in following years?

Answer: icare uses risk-based targeted data analytics to identify employers who are at risk of under declaring wages

106. Does iCare have the capacity to fine companies that under-declare?

- (a) If so, how many fines have been issued each year over the last 5 financial years and what is the size of the average fine?

Answer: icare does not have legislative authority to issue fines or penalties.

107. If businesses currently under-declare, with considerable frequency, what evidence or research would underpin a decision to allow companies to do more self-assessment and why would iCare expect a better outcome from these same companies that at the moment, knowingly, under-declare?

Answer: Part of icare's work to improve service delivery through the implementation of a new operating model includes offering more customer-centric tools to help employers meet their workers compensation compliance obligations around employer wage declaration. In line with this goal, icare is transforming its Employer Compliance Program by introducing more tools and assistance, including better employer education, self-assessment, data analytics, desktop reviews, as well as audits.

108. Is there an estimated dollar figure as to the amount of money lost to the workers compensation scheme as a result of under-declaration, and if so, what is the amount?

Answer: icare is continuing to explore ways of working with key NSW Government agencies, such as Revenue NSW, to estimate the potential under declaration of wages.

109. Of the variances found, what percentage were an over-declaration of wages, meaning that the company was entitled to a refund from the workers compensation scheme in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012/13
- (b) 2013/14
- (c) 2014/15
- (d) 2015/16
- (e) 2016/17

Answer: I refer you to my earlier answer (question 103)

110. As at July 1, 2015, what was the likelihood that a company would actually be audited for the purpose of determining whether or not their workers compensation contribution matched their payroll (e.g.: Once every 10 years, or, once every 100 years)?
111. As at July 1, 2016, what was the likelihood that a company would actually be audited for the purpose of determining whether or not their workers compensation contribution matched their payroll (e.g.: Once every 10 years, or, once every 100 years)?

112. As at July 1, 2017, what was the likelihood that a company would actually be audited for the purpose of determining whether or not their workers compensation contribution matched their payroll (e.g.: Once every 10 years, or, once every 100 years)?

Answer 110-113: icare employs a risk-based compliance approach, in line with the market based practice of insurers.

113. As at January 1, 2018, what do you anticipate will be the likelihood that a company would actually be audited for the purpose of determining whether or not their workers compensation contribution matched their payroll (e.g.: Once every 100 years, or, once every 500 years)?

Workers Compensation – Funding of the Scheme and Persons to be Removed from the Scheme under S39 of the Act

114. What is the current surplus of the Workers Compensation Scheme?

Answer: The icare Nominal Insurer Liability Valuation is regularly published online.

115. What is the current funding ratio?

Answer: The icare Nominal Insurer Liability Valuation is regularly published online.

116. What is deemed to be the suitable funding ratio and does this figure, or its suitability, change at times and if so, who makes that decision based on what detail?

Answer: The icare Board has set the operating range for the net assets of the Nominal Insurer at between 120 and 140% of the liabilities assessed at 75% probability of adequacy. This range was set with reference to the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) capital requirements for general insurers and the specific circumstances of the Nominal Insurer.

117. What is the projected surplus and ratio over the next four financial years?

Answer: The Nominal Insurer's financial position is monitored by the icare Board in line with its Capital Management Policy in order to ensure support continues to be available for current and future injured workers

118. How many people, currently on the Scheme, will no longer be entitled to payments under S39 from:

- (a) September 2017?
- (b) October 2017?
- (c) November 2017?
- (d) December 2017?
- (e) January 2018?
- (f) February 2018?

Answer: Please refer to my answers given at the Budget Estimates Hearing.

119. What transitional arrangement or support has been organised or established to assist those whose weekly payments will end in the coming months?
- (a) What exactly does this program or support involve?
 - (b) Will mental health support be included in the program?
 - (c) What has been the total cost to initiate, establish and implement this program or support?
 - (d) What are the ongoing costs for this support?
 - (e) How will this program be funded?

Answer: Please refer to my answers given at the Budget Estimates Hearing.

120. Since 2012, how many workers have been cut off from receiving weekly payments even though they continue to be impacted by injury and unable to work?

Answer: This matter would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

121. How many workers that would have been affected by Section 39 in the coming months, have been rehabilitated during 2017, and have left the workers compensation scheme prior to the 5 year time expiry that looms?

Answer: Please refer to my answers given at the Budget Estimates Hearing.

122. What has iCare done in terms of decreasing the number of workers affected by the 5 year time expiry of S39?
- (a) What exact programs has iCare implemented/started in relation to efforts to decrease the number of workers affected by this 5year time limit under S39?
 - (b) Who have they partnered with if anyone?

Answer: This matter would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

123. How does iCare monitor the performance of self-insurers?
124. How does iCare monitor the performance specialised insurers?
125. What data is available in relation to the complaints and queries received with regard to performance of self-insurers and specialised insurers?

126. Does the Government have any legislated power to intervene, if necessary, in the performance of a self-insurer and/or a specialised insurer and if so, under what statutory power?

Answer 123-126: This matter would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property.

127. What factors led to the \$1B change in the financial position of the Workers Compensation scheme over the past 6 months?

Answer: Volatility in bond markets was a significant factor, and led to lower than expected growth in the invested assets backing the liabilities and investment returns low relative to long-term average experience

Emergency Services Levy – Expenses for Valuer General

128. What was the additional cost, additional funding necessary, for the Valuer General to conduct a whole of state valuation in a single year, in preparation for the Fire and Emergency Service Levy (FESL), given that the Valuer General is normally only funded to complete valuation 1/3 of all properties across the State in any given, single, Financial Year?

Answer: No additional funding was required in 2016-17.

129. Will funding to the Valuer General be affected in the current, or coming financial years, as a result of the additional funding provided for FESL preparation in 2016/17?

Answer: Timing of expenditure forecasts for future years were adjusted in line with the modified workload pattern.

Budget – Revenue Growth and Expenses Growth

130. Why did you tell Budget Estimates (p21 of Transcript) that long term revenue growth was at 5.6% when in fact, 2017/18 Budget Paper 1, Chart 2.2 shows the long term revenue growth 2011 – 2021, to be 3.9%?

Answer: The historical long-term average revenue growth rate is 5.6% and this is set out in the *Fiscal Responsibility Regulation 2013*. The historical long-term average revenue growth rate is different from the growth rates presented in Chart 2.2 of Budget Paper No.1, which shows the average annual revenue growth.

131. Do you accept that 2017/18 Budget Paper 1, Chart 2.2 shows revenue growth falling over the forward estimates from approximately 5% in 17/18 to 3.5% in 18/9, to 2.5% in 19/20 and to 1.8% in 20/21?

Answer: No. Please refer to Chart 2.2 in Budget Paper No.1.

Chart 2.2 in Budget Paper No.1 shows the estimated annual average revenue growth over four years

These figures are different to the annual revenue growth included in Table 2.1 of Budget Paper No.1, which represent the year on year revenue growth estimates.

132. What is the cause of the falling revenue growth as per Chart 2.2 in the 17/18 Budget Paper 1?

Answer: The causes of falling revenue growth are covered in detail in Budget Paper No.1 Chapter 5.

133. Do you accept that according to the 17/18 Budget Paper 1, Chart 2.3, that expenses growth over the forward estimates will be approximately 4.5% in 17/18, 4% in 18/19, 3.8% in 19/20 and 2.8% in 20/12?

Answer: Chart 2.2 in Budget Paper No.1 shows the estimated annual average expense growth over four years to:

2017-18 – 4.5% (i.e. 2014-15 to 2017-18)

2018-19 – 4.0% (i.e. 2015-16 to 2018-19)

2019-20 – 3.7% (i.e. 2016-17 to 2019-20)

2020-21 – 2.8% (i.e. 2017-18 to 2020-21).

These figures are different to the annual expense growth included in Table 2.1 of Budget Paper No.1, which represent the year on year expense growth estimates.

134. Do you agree that, as per 17/18 Budget Paper 1 Charts 2.2 & 2.3, it is highly likely that during 18/19 and for the estimates beyond, that the rate of expenses growth will be higher than revenue growth?

Answer: Lower annual average revenue growth is due to declining GST and Commonwealth payments. As set out in the Budget, annual (year to year) expense growth is expected to remain below long-term average revenue growth over the forward estimates.

135. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2011 was \$34.053B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

136. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2012 was \$50.921B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

137. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2013 was \$43.186B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

138. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2014 was \$51.040B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

139. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2015 was \$55.155B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

140. Can you confirm that the State's long term unfunded superannuation liability as at June 30, 2016 was \$71.159B and if this figure is incorrect, what was the correct figure?

Answer 135-140: The figures quoted in the questions are the figures that arise from using Australian Accounting Standards AASB 119. There are two methods of measuring superannuation liabilities under Australian Accounting Standards: AASB 119 (used for reporting purposes) and AASB 1056 (previously AAS 25) which is generally known as the actuarial funding basis. This accounting standard provides a more accurate statement on the State's unfunded superannuation liability. As per the 2015-16 Report on State Finances, the State's superannuation liability as 30 June 2016 was \$16.116B

141. Can you confirm what the State's actual long term unfunded superannuation liability was as at June 30, 2017?

Answer: The State's unfunded superannuation liability as at 30 June 2017 (based on both Accounting Standards) will be available in the 2016-17 Report on State Finances.

142. Given that the unfunded superannuation liability is now more than double what it was when your Government was elected in 2011, what is being done to actually start getting the unfunded superannuation liability to decline, instead of increase?

Answer: This is a misrepresentation of the Government's unfunded superannuation liability. When using the actuarial funding basis, which is the basis of the Government's plan to meet its unfunded superannuation liability, NSW is on track to meet its commitments. The most recent Triennial Review of the State Super schemes determined that the Government's current funding plan was on track to extinguish unfunded superannuation liabilities (measured on an actuarial funding basis) by 2030, in line with the State's Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012.

143. How much funding has been contributed to the unfunded superannuation liability each financial year for the past 5 financial years?

Answer: These figures are available in the respective Report on State Finances for the years in question

NSW Restart Infrastructure Fund and the Illawarra

144. How many of the 969 direct jobs and 647 construction jobs noted on the Infrastructure NSW website as part of the *Illawarra Infrastructure Fund* have been delivered as at 24 August 2017?

145. How have the estimates of jobs created in (1) been verified by Infrastructure NSW?

146. If the number of estimates jobs in (1) have not materialised, what action has the Government taken to ensure the deed of funding has been accurately acquitted?

147. Are all of the 12 projects approved completed?

148. If so, list the projects that are completed?

149. If not, what is the status of each project not completed?

150. When are the projects in (4) due for completion?
151. Has the Government made further funding contributions to any of the projects beyond the funding that was initially approved?
152. Has the approved funding under the NSW Restart Infrastructure Fund, Illawarra Infrastructure Fund, all been spent?
153. If not, how much remains to be spent?
154. When will the Government publish and make public the evaluation report into the NSW Restart Infrastructure Fund, *Illawarra Infrastructure Fund*?

Answer 144-154: The Illawarra Infrastructure Fund improves infrastructure in the Illawarra, using proceeds from the long-term lease of Port Kembla. Further information can be found online at <http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/restart-nsw/regional-programs/restart-illawarra.aspx>

Electricity assets

155. What are the total transaction costs to date for the sale of Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Transgrid?
- (a) Please provide a breakdown of total legal, financial advisers, PR and all other consultancies – breakdown to date?
- (b) Please also provide an estimate of the final total transaction costs?

Answer: Please refer to response provided in Q22.

156. Have any payments by NSW to the bidders for Ausgrid, Endeavour & Transgrid been made or agreed?

Answer: The State does not make any payments to bidders to cover their costs incurred for the transaction.

Economic Effects of Home Sharing

157. Do you accept the finding in the recent report by Deloitte's entitled 'Economic Effects of Airbnb in Australia' that Airbnb contributes \$512.5 million and 4,452 FTE jobs to the NSW economy?
158. Have regulations supporting home sharing been enacted in other Australian states?
- (a) If so, which ones?
159. Did a NSW parliamentary committee, chaired by Liberal MP Mark Coure examine at these issues for eighteen months and unanimously adopt twelve recommendations?
- (a) Why has the government decided not to act on these recommendations?

160. By avoiding making a regulatory decision on this issue is NSW now the state which is the least supportive of home sharing?

Answer 157-160: These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Planning.

Workers Compensation

161. How many ICare covered Injured Workers are expected to lose their weekly benefits between 26th September and 31st December 2017?

Answer: I refer you to my earlier answer (question 118).

162. Have these workers in many cases been diagnosed with an acquired lifetime disability as a result of a compensable injury, but have been assessed at below the 21 per cent required for ongoing weekly benefits?

Answer: NSW's threshold brings it into closer alignment with other jurisdictions. As I have noted, medical benefits will continue and a range of other support has been made available.

163. Is it the case that most of these workers will not have entitlements to disability benefits under the Commonwealth's social security system?

(a) If not, what is the estimated percentage of those who will not have such entitlements?

164. Is it the case that these workers will have a minimum waiting period of 13 weeks before they can access New Start Allowance?

Answer 163-164: icare is focused on ensuring any disruption for people is minimised and that they can continue to access the support services available, such as the Advisory Assistance Service and Community Support Service, after workers compensation payments have ceased.

165. Is it the case that two years after this cohort of Injured Workers lose their weekly benefits they will lose their entitlements to medical expenses pushing them onto the public system?

Answer: Please refer to my answers given at the Budget Estimates hearing.

166. Is it the case that following this cohort losing their weekly benefits there will be a large number of Injured Workers subjected to this same indignity due to the operation of the legislation?

Answer: The cap will also apply to new claims on an ongoing basis, similar to other states and territories.

167. Is it the case that ICare has done nothing to ensure that Injured Workers in this initial cohort have exhausted all their rights and entitlements?

168. Has there been any systematic review of Injury Management Plans by ICare's Scheme Agents to ensure that all treatment options and rehabilitation options have been exhausted maximising the opportunities these Injured Workers have of obtaining future employment?

- (a) Is it the case that ICare's only advice is to contact Beyond Blue if someone are contemplating committing suicide, and to contact Centrelink early?
- (b) If not, what advice is given?

Answer 167-168: icare has been working very closely with scheme agents to ensure workers receive their full entitlements as well as the treatment rehabilitation assistance and return to work support they need.

For further information on the proactive support icare is offering injured workers, I refer you to answers provided in the Budget Estimates hearing.

169. Do both SIRA & ICare acknowledge that there will be an increase in suicides from Injured Workers expected over this coming period?

- (a) If not, what is the estimated rate of suicide over the previous six months for Injured Workers?

170. What is the estimated number of Injured Workers who are now suffering varying degrees of mental illness?

Answer: As I have noted, medical benefits will continue and a range of other support has been made available. In particular, icare has partnered with NGOs and other organisations to offer help to people going through the transition.

171. Has ICare taken measures to control the reasonably necessary treatment that workers can access despite the rights of an Injured Worker to choose? For instance, is it the case that physiotherapists have been told they must sign an agreement with ICare with fees set below the market costs or they will not be eligible to provide workers compensation work?

- (a) Will this lead to workers only been able to access inexperienced physiotherapists, leading to poorer outcomes for injured workers and likely inflating the cost of claims due to prolonged durations on workers compensation?
- (b) What action has SIRA taken on this issue?
- (c) Has ICare been told that this behaviour is likely in breach of ACCC laws as ICare is a monopoly in NSW?

Answer: Physiotherapists are currently paid in accordance with regulations set by SIRA.

Office Administration

172. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (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?

Answer: 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

173. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (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?

Answer: 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.

174. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 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?

Answer: 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.

175. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

Answer: No

176. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
177. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

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

Answer 176-177: Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

178. 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?

- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

Answer: The Treasurer's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

179. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?

Answer: Expenditure on stationery in 2016-17 across the Ministry was \$146,596. This includes the cost of printed stationery (business cards and letterheads).

180. 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?
i. Who were they gifted to?

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

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

- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?

Answer: No

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

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

Answer: 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.

183. What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
(b) Limousine hire

- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

Answer: 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.

184. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?

- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Answer: 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.

Hospitality

185. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

Answer: Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$32,021 in 2016-17- which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries

186. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

Answer: Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

Labour Hire Firms

187. 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

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

Media and Public Relations

188. 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?

Answer: Treasury staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

189. 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?

Answer: Treasury staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.

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

Answer: The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.

191. 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?

Answer: A centralised media function was established for the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2015.

192. 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?

Answer: A centralised media function was not established for the Department of Premier and Cabinet until 2015.

193. Have you had media training or speech training?

(a) If yes, who paid for it?

(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?

Answer: No

Facebook

194. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

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

195. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

Answer: Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication.

Overseas Trips

196. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?

(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

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

(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?

(b) Who paid for these trips?

Answer: Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

Department/Agency Travel

198. 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

Answer: All Departments' travel in 2016-17 was accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. In addition, for Treasury, travel accords with the Department's Taxi Usage Policy.

Treasury travel costs for 2016/17 were \$116k on taxi hire, hire cars, care rental and ride share services.

199. 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?

- (a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?

Answer: No

Consulting

200. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?

- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

201. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:

- (a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Answer 200-201: Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

Department/Agency Staffing

202. What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer: Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of each agency within the Treasury Cluster.

203. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

- (a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer: Public Service Senior Executive (PSSE) numbers are reported in the Annual Reports of each agency within the Treasury Cluster.

204. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

205. What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer 204-205: Staff numbers and their cost are managed within the agency's Labour Expense Cap, as part of the sector's Budget Controls.

206. 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?

207. 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?

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

209. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?

(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Answer 206-209: Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2016/17 are anticipated to be in the order of 1,222, totalling 12,999 Since July 2011. The Labour Expenses Cap introduced in the 2012-13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

210. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

Answer: Stationary expenses are accounted for in agencies recurrent budgets.

Smart Phone Accounts

211. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?

i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

212. 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?

Answer 211-212: IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and are guided by NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

Websites Visited

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

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

Answer 213-214: The configuration of the Ministers' IT network infrastructure by our third party service providers does not allow the determination of such data.

Merchant fees

215. 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.

216. 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.

217. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?

Answer 215-217: All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. Treasury does not accept payment for goods and services, so we do not impose merchant fees on our customers. Treasury 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.

Probity Auditor

218. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

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

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

Stamp duty

219. In the budget estimates hearing, you stated that you expect \$1.1 billion in stamp duty discounts.

Please provide detail on:

- (a) How this figure was forecasted
- (b) What time period this forecast relates to
- (c) The ratio of the type of discounts that are expected to be relied upon, i.e. how much is expected to be claimed for the full stamp duty reduction for homes less than \$650,000 or how much is expected to be claimed for stamp duty discounts for homes up to \$800,000'

Answer 219: Please refer to Table 5.2: Revenue Measures Announced in the 2017-18 Budget Statement, Budget Paper No.1 (p. 5-3).

220. Has any modelling been done for the transition from stamp duty to land tax, as recommended in the Henry Tax Review?

- (a) Have the short-term costs and long-term benefits been costed? If so, please provide.

Answer 220: The Ken Henry Tax review was commissioned by the Rudd Government in 2008 and was delivered in 2010.

Climate change

221. Please provide a breakdown of how much money in the 2016-17 Budget is dedicated to the following:

- (a) Climate change programs
 - i. Please list the types of programs
 - ii. Please identify which programs are for the purposes of mitigation and which for the purpose of adaptation

Answer 221: The 2016-17 Budget provided \$203.8 million for climate change programs.

Warragamba Dam

222. How much of the Climate Change Fund will be designated to raising Warragamba Dam wall?

223. How much of the budget will be designated to raising Warragamba Dam wall?

224. What is the total predicted cost for raising the Warragamba Dam wall?

Answer 222-224: The 2016-17 Budget provided \$58.5 million over 4 years for the Phase One Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy, funded from the Climate Change Fund. More information can be found at <http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/news/currentnews/hawkesbury-nepean-flood-risk-management-strategy.aspx>

Snowy Hydro

225. If the Commonwealth Government buys the NSW share of the Snowy Hydro:

- (a) How much money is the Government expecting to receive from this sale?
 - i. What is the rationale behind this figure?

Answer 225: This information is commercial-in-confidence

Economic indicators

226. In reference to the article 'NSW Ministers will have to justify their program outcomes' in the Australian (<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/nsw-ministers-will-have-to-justify-their-program-outcomes/news-story/83788f1aae966cb8047e57bf249da33f>):

- (a) Have these benchmarks been released? If not, when will they be released?

227. In the article benchmarks such as hospital waiting times, school test results and homelessness rates were referred to as examples:

- (a) Are these to be included as benchmarks?
- (b) What is the full list of benchmarks?
- (c) Will the indicators include the following:
 - i. Inequality
 - ii. Concentration of wealth
 - iii. Closing the gap (Indigenous disadvantage)
 - iv. Intergenerational equity
 - v. Environmental sustainability

- vi. Climate change adaptability/preparedness
- vii. Local community resilience

Answer 226-227: As referenced on piii, Budget Paper 3, the Budget is transitioning towards outcomes.

Coal

228. Noting that several large new projects that could create the equivalent additional coal supply as the Adani mine are in the pipeline in New South Wales, has the Government conducted any research or analysis into the economic damage to NSW and mining regions of excessive further new thermal coal supply being approved in this state?
229. By what volume has production and export of thermal coal in NSW increased since 2010?
230. 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?

Answer 228 – 230: This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Resources

231. Was the contraction in coal imports to Asia now being forecast by the Commonwealth Office of the Chief Economist forecast by Treasury?

Answer 231: Please refer to the Budget Paper 1, section 5, page 18.

232. Has Treasury modelled or investigated the impact on the NSW coal industry and economy more broadly of the likely pathway for the world to limit global warming to below 2 degrees above pre-industrial temperatures, in line with Australia's and the world's commitments under the Paris Agreement?

Answer: No

233. Has any planning been undertaken to implement structural adjustment for mining-dominated regions to ensure this transition is smooth and equitable?

Answer: This question would be more appropriately directed to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional New South Wales.

Housing

234. How many homes are considered vacant homes in:
- (a) Rural NSW

- (b) Sydney metropolitan area
- (c) NSW

Answer 234. There is currently no reliable data on the number of vacant homes in NSW.

235. What is the mean and median prices for homes in:

- (a) NSW
- (b) Rural NSW
- (c) Sydney metropolitan area

Answer 235: The mean prices for homes in NSW are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). As at March 2017 it is \$886,800. Median data is not available. The ABS does not provide data for Rural NSW and the Sydney Metropolitan area.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Right to strike

236. Does the Minister support the right of workers to strike?

Answer: Yes. All industrial relations actions should take place in accordance with Australian Law.

Penalty rates

237. Does the Minister support penalty rates as fair and equitable recognition of work being done during sociable hours on the weekend?

Answer 237: Since New South Wales referred its industrial powers to the Commonwealth in January 2010 penalty rates for employees in the private sector have been determined by the Fair Work Commission. Employees who remained in the state's industrial relations system have their penalty rates determined by the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales.

Casual workers

238. What steps are being taken to implement stronger working conditions and rights for casual workers?

Answer: New South Wales referred its industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth in January 2010. Since that time, wages and conditions of employment, of private sector employees have been covered by federal legislation. Issues relating to conditions of employment for casual employees in the private sector should be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Employment.

239. Has any consideration been given to increasing the casual loading on hourly rates to recognise casual workers lack of paid annual leave, paid sick leave, paid public holidays or protection against unfair dismissal?

Answer: New South Wales referred its industrial relations powers to the Commonwealth in January 2010. Since that time, wages and conditions of employment, of private sector employees have been covered by federal legislation. Issues relating to conditions of employment for casual employees in the private sector should be referred to the Commonwealth Minister for Employment.

240. What are the current trends regarding the increasing casualization of workplaces in NSW? What research has been undertaken by your department about this?

Answer: Trends regarding the casualisation of workplace in New South Wales can be found on ABS website

Use of contract workers by the NSW Government

241. What proportion of the current NSW Government workforce is occupied by temporary contract workers?
242. If this data is not available, why not?
243. What monitoring do you undertake of the use of temporary contract workers?
244. Which employment agencies are currently utilised to produce temporary contract workers for NSW Government Agencies?
245. What consideration has been given to the fact that such arrangements essentially bypass the provisions and intention of Public Sector Management Act?
246. What assessment, if any, has been undertaken of the lost training, expertise and career development opportunities for NSW Public Sector workers related to the use of temporary contract workers within Government agencies?

Answer 241-246: These questions will be more appropriately directed to Minister for Finance.

Silicosis

247. What consultation has the Minister had with unions, the medical profession and workers within the manufacturing industry regarding the considerable increase in the number of workers with silicosis?
248. What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that workplace safety standards are being enforced and workers are not being exposed to dangerous chemicals without any dust suppression?

Answer 247-248: Please refer to my answer given at Budget Estimates hearing.

Changes to award for staff of Lower House MP's

249. Is the Minister aware that the recent changes to the award regarding the loss of relief cover in cross bench offices, mean that staff are effectively prevented from taking leave during sitting periods as with one staff member located in the parliament office, the electorate office will be left attended by only one person, if leave is taken. This has been recognized an OHS issue as this is not a safe or acceptable workplace environment for our office in a high traffic area with significant drop in constituent activity.

Answer: This is a matter for the NSW Parliament. The administration of the *Members' of Parliament Staff Act 2013* is a matter for the Presiding Officers of the Parliament. The management of Electorate Offices is a matter for the Legislative Assembly.

250. What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that electorate officers are not left alone in their electorate offices as a result of these changes, which is a breach of OHS?

Answer: Please refer to Answer 249

Industrial Relations Commission

251. How many cases has the Industrial Relations Commission heard since being transferred from the from the Industrial Court to the Common Law Division of the Supreme Court?

Answer 251: Since the Industrial Court was transferred to the Common Law Division of the Supreme Court there have been 673 matters filed before the Industrial Relations Commission.

Portable Long Service Leave

252. Is the review of the proposal to extend long service leave to industries beyond contract cleaning publicly available?

253. What steps are currently proposed in relation to Portable Long Service in NSW?

Answer 252-253: See:

http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au/biz_res/oirwww/pdfs/IRAC_Report_Final_June_2013.pdf

Use of artificial intelligence

254. 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

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

256. What planned uses does the department have for artificial intelligence?

257. What is the anticipated timeline for the expansion of existing AI uses or implementation of new technologies?

258. What policy guidelines, if any, guide the exploration and use of artificial intelligence by the department?

259. What research, if any, has the department undertaken regarding the use of AI in Government services?

Answer 254-259: Please refer to my answers to questions 13-16

Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Office of Industrial Relations

260. The following questions relate to information about the NSW Office of Industrial Relations which is not published in the NSW Treasury's Annual Report;

- (a) What is the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2017-2018?
- (b) What functions will be performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2017-2018?
- (c) What was the Budget for the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?
- (d) What was the expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?
- (e) What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017, by item?
- (f) What functions were performed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017?
- (g) How many complaints regarding breaches of industrial legislation were made to the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?
- (h) How much was recovered in wages in 2016-2017? How much was imposed and recovered in penalties against employers, by industry and by agency?
- (i) How many investigations regarding breaches of industrial legislation were undertaken by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?
- (j) How many investigations were completed by the Office of Industrial Relations in 2016-2017? What is the breakdown of those complaints by industry and by agency?

Answer 260: NSW Industrial Relations performs essential work for the NSW Government through monitoring wages, employment rights and obligations, and other employment conditions in NSW. It also investigates and resolves complaints regarding breaches of NSW industrial relations legislation.

NSW Industrial Relations also provides strategic public and private sector policy advice to the NSW Government, provides specialist support to public sector agencies regarding the

application of the Government's Wages Policy and implementation of Government reforms, participates as a partner in the Commonwealth's national workplace relations framework, and monitors and enforces compliance for the construction, entertainment, retail and taxi industries.

Further information about the activities of NSW Industrial Relations can be found at www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au.

Office Administration

261. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 172

262. How many blackberries/iphones/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 173

263. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 174

264. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 175

265. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

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

266. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or potplants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2016-17?

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

Answer 265-266: Please refer to my answer to Question 176-177

267. 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?

(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 178

268. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 179

269. 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?

i. Who were they gifted to?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 180

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

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 181

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

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

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 182

272. What was the total bill for your office in 2016-17 for:

(a) Taxi hire

(b) Limousine hire

(c) Private hire care

(d) Hire car rental

(e) Ridesharing services

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 183

273. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2016-17?

(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 184

Hospitality

274. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 185

275. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 186

Labour Hire Firms

276. 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

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 187

Media and Public Relations

277. 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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 188

278. 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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 189

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

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 190

280. 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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 191

281. 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?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 192

282. Have you had media training or speech training?

(a) If yes, who paid for it?

(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 193

Facebook

283. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 194

284. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 195

Overseas Trips

285. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?

(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

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

(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?

(b) Who paid for these trips?

Answer 285-286: Please refer to my answer to Question 196-197

Department/Agency Travel

287. 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

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 198

288. 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?

- (a) How much was spent on these drivers in 2016-17?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 199

Consulting

289. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2016-17?

- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

290. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2016-17:

- (a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
- (d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Answer 289-290: Please refer to my answer to Question 200-201

Department/Agency Staffing

291. What was the number of senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 202

292. What was the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 203

293. What was the number of internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

294. What was the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio in 2016-17?

(a) How much was this number in 2011-12?

Answer 293-294: Please refer to my answer to Question 204-205

295. 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?

296. 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?

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

298. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2016-17?

- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Answer 295-298: Please refer to my answer to Question 206-209

299. What was the total amount your Departments/agencies spent on stationery?

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 210

Smart Phone Accounts

300. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2016-17 on iTunes?
- i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

301. 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?

Answer 300-301: Please refer to my answer to Question 211-212

Websites Visited

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

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

Answer 302-303: Please refer to my answer to Question 213-214

Merchant fees

304. 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.

305. 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.

306. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2016-17?

Answer 304-306: Please refer to my answer to Question 215-217

Probity Auditor

307. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

Answer: Please refer to my answer to Question 218