



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018-2019 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment

ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HERITAGE

Hearing: Friday 7 September 2018

Answers due by: Wednesday 3 October 2018

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ENVIRONMENT

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Gap Bluff

1. Has the Minister considered the implications for emergency services should the Gap Bluff functions centre be approved?
 - (a) These include access for ambulances, fire and emergency vehicles which may be impeded as a result of increased traffic congestion at Gap Bluff during peak seasons?

The Minister will consider all matters relating to the Gap Bluff proposal following assessment and review of all public comments on the publicly exhibited Review of Environmental Factors.

2. Is the proposed lease to Mr Drivas transferrable?
 - (a) If so, what are the conditions for assigning the lease?
 - (b) Can it be assigned to foreign entities?
 - (c) Or only domestic corporations?
 - (d) How can the community be assured that any transfer would protect our public and national interest?

Any lease in national parks must be consistent with the *Conveyancing Act 1919*.

3. Why is OEH accepting a lease application from a nominee company (GBH) and not its substantial backer, the Dockside Group?

Security requirements for any approved lease will be consistent with standard requirements regardless of the entity.

Fire retardants

4. What monitoring is undertaken by the EPA to measure the impact of the PFAS used as part of fire-fighting efforts in NSW?

NSW Government firefighting services began phasing out the use of PFAS more than a decade ago.

5. What liaison if any has been undertaken with Emergency Services to obtain data about the volume of PFAS materials used, and the distribution around residential areas in particular?

See question 4.

6. What concerns if any have been raised with the Office of Environment and Heritage or the EPA about PFAS use in NSW?

The NSW Government established the NSW PFAS Taskforce in 2016, consisting of technical representatives from NSW agencies, including the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Questions from the Hon Paul Green MLC

Sydney Water Catchment

7. Dr Ian Wright at the University of Western Sydney found in his research at the Boral Berrima Colliery at Medway found the mine, in care and maintenance mode, was discharging 30 litres a second of heavy metal contaminated water directly into the Wingecarribee River.
- (a) What steps is Water NSW taking to protect the Wingecarribee River, given its critical role in being the main transfer for water pumped from the Shoalhaven River to the Sydney Drinking Catchment – as occurred in the 2000 drought?

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Energy and Utilities.

- (b) Does Water NSW hold concerns about this pollution event – given it occurs in the same river that is the transfer of emergency water supplies for Sydney?

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Energy and Utilities.

8. In 2016 the NSW Government was warned by the NSW Audit office of rising salinity in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment – linked to coal mining activity in the catchment. The Auditor General flagged salinity from coal mining having “a cumulative and possibly accelerated’ impact”.
- (a) the Auditor called on the government to investigate the source and implication of salinity” – what progress has been made?

The 2016 audit report does not identify a principal source of salinity or the relative contribution of sources.

The EPA regulates potential sources of water pollution under the strict conditions of environment protection licences.

9. How can the Government with any confidence approve expansion to existing mines and seek EOIs for new coal exploration licences within the Sydney Water Catchment when it fails to examine the risks highlighted in the Auditor General’s report?

The EPA accepts all the report recommendations and worked collaboratively with the Audit Office to provide relevant information and documentation to support the audit process. There is already work underway to make improvements to a number of areas identified in the report.

10. Dr Ian Wright is one of the leading experts on the closure of coal mines and has – and continues – to study coal mines, related pollution and their impacts on the Sydney Water Catchment. Recently he said in relation to coal mining in the drinking water catchment. "I'm just yet to see any mine that doesn't create considerable pollution problems," and ""We are in 'la la land' and we're heading for serious problems."

(a) Given his expertise and his record in this area, can you please outline the Governments response to his comments?

See responses to questions 7(a), 8 and 9.

The EPA continues to work closely with other agencies to ensure a whole of government approach to the protection of the Sydney drinking water catchment, in relation to activities where it is the appropriate regulatory authority.

11. Why isn't there a clear picture of what is happening across the entire Sydney Drinking Water Catchments in respect of coal mine discharges and impacts on ground water quantity, supply and safety?

The EPA regulates potential sources of water pollution under the strict conditions of environment protection licences. A copy of these licences and the actions taken by the EPA to address licence breaches are publicly recorded on the EPA Public Register.

The EPA requires monitoring data collected by licensees as a condition of an environment protection licence to be made publicly available.

The EPA regularly reviews environment protection licences to ensure adequate controls are in place.

Questions from the Hon Mark Pearson MLC

Environment– Kangaroos

Background

The 2018 Quota Report New South Wales Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan 2017–2021 provides for 15 kangaroo management zones in NSW, making up four regions: Western Plains, Northern Tablelands, South-East NSW and Central Tablelands. On page 4 of the Quota Report, there

is an explanation that the population estimates of Eastern Grey Kangaroos per zone are derived. The Appendices on p23, refers to correction factors being used of '100 metres' and '200 metres' for surveying densities in some western districts. The estimated number of kangaroos per zone, for each zone in tables 5, 6 and 7, are all very close to the estimated number of kangaroos per square kilometre multiplied by the number of square kilometres, but never quite exact, and usually higher.

12. Can the Minister confirm that the methodology for estimating kangaroo numbers in NSW is as follows:

- (a) actual aerial counts along a transect line crossing the zone (repeated where MRDS sampling is used);
- (b) these counts are used to derive an estimated density of kangaroos per square kilometre;
- (c) this density is multiplied by the number of square kilometres in the zone;
- (d) this figure is adjusted for 'correction factors.'

I am advised:

(a) Transects are only flown once using Mark-Recapture Distance Sampling (MRDS).

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) No correctional factors are used with MRDS.

13. Can the Minister explain how if two transect counts (using MRDS sampling) have been conducted in each zone, exactly how have any differences between the two counts been rationalised into the final estimated density per square kilometre?

I am advised MRDS combines two methods of surveying wildlife populations, line-transect sampling and mark-recapture. Mark-recapture estimates are derived from the aerial survey, where two observers independently count animals along the same transect at the same time. This is used to account for the bias in detection probability. The combination of mark-recapture and line transect sampling combines the strengths of both methods while reducing the influence of their potential biases.

14. Can the Minister explain how if two (or more) transect counts are undertaken in the same zone to derive a density of kangaroos per square kilometre, then

- (a) how close to each other in time are these flyovers, and
- (b) how, if at all, is double counting of kangaroos moving along the transect line avoided?

I am advised mark-recapture estimates are derived from the aerial survey, where two observers independently count animals along the same transect. Transect lines are flown once.

15. Can the Minister explain how the part of a zone which is used for the transect count is selected?

I am advised transects are systematically selected at 30 second intervals of latitude. All bioregions across the state are incorporated.

16. Can the Minister explain what measures (if any) are taken to ensure the area where the transect count is undertaken is representative of other parts of the zone?

I am advised because of the nature of the survey method and the ability of kangaroos to move around, the transect is assumed to be representative for estimating population size on a regional basis.

17. Can the Minister explain how

- (a) the number of square kilometres in a zone are adjusted to remove geographical areas within the zone where it should be expected that there are much lower numbers of kangaroos, or none, for example in urban areas, industrial areas, water bodies, burnt areas, farms where culling has recently occurred, and
- (b) other features that make the geography unsuitable for kangaroos?

I am advised the densities per square kilometre are an estimate for that particular zone. Methods vary slightly across the state due to differences in terrain and species habitat preferences.

18. Can the Minister explain how the transect count turned into a per square kilometre estimate?

I am advised when a population estimate is determined, the data is divided by the area of the zone to provide estimate per square kilometre.

19. Can the Minister explain how long before the population estimate is derived, are the transect counts undertaken (to ensure they are still accurate when the quota is announced)?

I am advised population estimates are made in the same year as the survey.

20. Can the Minister explain the basis for the correction factors and

- (a) what are the correction factors?
- (b) how are these correction factors applied to adjust the final estimate of kangaroos per zone?

I am advised correctional factors are not used and are not required under MRDS. Numbers are not adjusted by correctional factors.

21. Can the Minister explain given the long maturation period required by both male and female kangaroos, and the 18 months it takes for a kangaroo joey to be weaned,
- (a) what measures (if any) are used to establish the gender, size/age of the kangaroos counted during the aerial surveys, and
 - (b) how (if at all) are quota numbers adjusted to correspond to these factors?

I am advised population size is estimated on a regional basis and the quota is set on this basis.

Background

In the Western Plains zones, between 2015 and 2016, red kangaroos (Table 8) are estimated to have increased by 8.1%, and western greys (Table 13) by 7.2% . Eastern greys (Table 9) are reported to have decreased by 0.5 %. These changes are attributed to use of the MRDS (ie two transect flights instead of one).

22. Can the Minister advise whether the Red and Western Greys figures above were underestimates, or were Reds or Western Greys mistaken for Eastern Greys in the earlier surveys?

I am advised there are no known instances where Reds or Western Greys are mistaken for Eastern greys.

Background

In the Northern Tablelands zone, between 2015 and 2016 (Table 10), a 60% increase in Eastern Grey kangaroos is reported. This increase is attributed to immigration, and aspects of the survey design.

23. Can the Minister explain whether
- (a) the 60% increase in Eastern Grey kangaroos is due to immigration, and if so,
 - (b) identify the corresponding decline either elsewhere in the zone or in another zone.

I am advised movement and mortality contribute to dynamics of populations on a regional basis.

Background

In South-East NSW, between 2015 and 2016 (Table 11) an increase in Eastern Grey kangaroos of 50% is reported. This increase is attributed to a larger area being surveyed, but there seems to be no reference to any of the other areas of other zones, or within the zone, having been correspondingly decreased. On the Central Tablelands North and South between 2015 and 2016 (Table 12), there is an increase of 109% in Eastern Grey kangaroos reported, without any attempt at explanation. On the Northern Tablelands, a 100% increase in wallaroos is reported, again without explanation.

24. Can the Minister explain how the reported increased estimates of the following macropods was determined:

- (a) Eastern Grey Kangaroo populations in the Central Tablelands;
- (b) Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Wallaroos in the Northern Tablelands; and
- (c) Eastern Grey Kangaroos in South East NSW?

24a–c: I am advised population estimates are determined using line transect sampling from a helicopter and data is analysed using a program called Distance R. Increases are not unexpected given the 3 years between surveys and conditions during this time.

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

Land and vegetation clearing

25. Given that monthly calls reporting illegal clearing to the Environment Line phone number have jumped by approximately 25% since the new Biodiversity Conservation Act was introduced in August 2017:

- (a) Is the Government investigating all reported instances of illegal clearing?
- (b) What action is the Government taking in instances where there is suspected illegal clearing?
- (c) When will the Government make public information on rates of vegetation clearing under the new laws?
- (d) When will the Government make public information on compliance action under the new laws?

25a–d: OEH assesses all reports of alleged illegal clearing and determines an appropriate response in accordance with the OEH Compliance Policy and other relevant Government policies.

OEH uses a range of tools and approaches to respond to non-compliance including letters, stop work orders, remediation orders, penalty notices and prosecutions. Information on prosecutions is included in the OEH Annual Report.

26. When will the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map be finalised and commence operation?

Important parts of the map showing sensitive and vulnerable lands have already been in operation for over 12 months.

27. What is the reason for the delay of the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map being finalised?

The Government is informing and consulting with the community to ensure understanding of how to use the map as part of the new framework.

28. When will the Native Vegetation Panel be appointed?

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Primary Industries.

29. What is the reason for the delay of the Native Vegetation Panel being appointed?

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Primary Industries.

30. Of the \$240 million for the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and private land conservation, how much funding was spent in 2017-18?

The BCT expended \$10.3 million in 2017–18.

On 15 July 2018, the Minister for the Environment announced that the BCT has committed \$61.4 million to programs in 2018–19.

(a) Of this amount, how much was spent on private land conservation?

As at 30 June 2018, 15 conservation agreements had been signed with a total present value of \$11 million.

Forests

31. Did the Government undertake a thorough assessment of the adequacy of the protected area network at a regional (or at least sub-regional) scale in order to determine the conservation implications of the proposed new Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA), as recommended by Office of Environment and Heritage contributors to the Threatened Species Expert Panel examining the impacts of the proposed IFOA settings on threatened species?

(a) If so, when will the assessment be made public?

(b) If not, why not?

The Natural Resources Commission was engaged to provide independent advice on settings that would ensure the Coastal IFOA maintains environmental values. This report was publicly released on 15 May 2018 and is at <http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/ifo>

32. What steps did the Minister for the Environment take to investigate the likely impacts of the new IFOA on matters of national environmental significance, specifically the koala, greater glider, swift parrot and regent honeyeater?

The new IFOA proposes specific landscape or site-based protections for threatened species and communities listed in NSW under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Koalas

33. In light of the NSW Koala Strategy recommendation that ‘the Natural Resources Commission will deliver an independent research project to better understand how koalas are responding to regeneration harvesting on the North Coast of NSW’, what was the data or other information that was used to create the koala settings for the proposed ‘intensive harvesting zone’ in the new IFOA, including what advice was provided on the efficacy of the prescriptions?

The EPA undertook a comprehensive koala mapping program to provide accurate data and methods to inform the new IFOA koala settings. This information is at

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/mapping-research/koala-mapping-program>

The NSW Government sought independent advice from the Natural Resources Commission to design the specific settings to protect koalas. Their advice is at

<http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/ifo>

34. What was the method and technical criteria adopted for selecting the areas of state forest that are proposed to become ‘koala reserves’ and ‘koala parks’, as identified by NSW Koala Strategy?

This information is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/nsw-koala-strategy

35. What is the Government’s estimated cost for the administration, operation and upkeep of new reserves and other new protected areas announced as part of the transfer of 24,000 hectares of land from State Forests to NPWS for 12 koala reserves and parks as part of its Koala Strategy?

The cost of establishing and managing the new additions is being identified as part of implementation planning.

36. Will the Government direct the management of these koala reserves and parks within the current allocated budget for NPWS?

Following the transfer of the unproductive state forests to National Parks and Wildlife Service management, adequate resourcing will be provided to support the establishment and ongoing management of these areas.

37. How many of the proposed reserves and park parks have no current protection?

The majority of areas identified for transfer do not have protection and are not currently managed as part of the conservation estate.

38. How many of the proposed reserves and parks are already zoned as FMZ2 or FMZ3?

This information is available at <https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/edphome/home.aspx>

39. In what year was the most recent confirmed koala sighting for each of the areas covered by the following proposed reserves and parks:

- (a) Mount Lindesay koala reserve
- (b) Oakes koala park
- (c) Carrai koala park
- (d) Mount Boss koala park
- (e) Barrington Tops koala reserve
- (f) Corrabare koala reserve
- (g) Watagan koala reserve
- (h) Olney koala reserve
- (i) Comleroy koala reserve
- (j) Jellore koala reserve
- (k) Meryla koala reserve
- (l) Belanglo koala reserve

This information is available at <https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/edphome/home.aspx>

40. What proportion of the following proposed reserves and parks contains high quality koala habitat:

- (a) Mount Lindesay koala reserve
- (b) Oakes koala park
- (c) Carrai koala park
- (d) Mount Boss koala park
- (e) Barrington Tops koala reserve
- (f) Corrabare koala reserve

- (g) Watagan koala reserve
- (h) Olney koala reserve
- (i) Comleroy koala reserve
- (j) Jellore koala reserve
- (k) Meryla koala reserve
- (l) Belanglo koala reserve

Information on the koala habitat values of each of the areas is provided at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/establishing-new-parks-and-protected-areas/new-parks-and-changes-to-parks/new-areas-for-conservation-in-nsw>.

41. How does the Government designate koala habitat as high quality, as for example identified in the previous question? Please provide detailed specifications.

The EPA koala mapping program in native forestry areas was used to identify the koala habitat values of the proposed parks and reserves. Further information about the mapping program website is at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/mapping-research/koala-mapping-program>.

For the reserves outside of the mapping program area koala habitat values were identified using a range of inputs including local information, vegetation mapping, koala records at or near the sites, and opportunities to link areas of high quality habitat.

42. How many of the proposed koala reserves and parks are currently open to hunting?

Information about areas currently open to hunting is available on the Forestry Corporation of NSW interactive map:

<http://fcnsw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c5cb0595bb9742189da97049e334add8>.

43. How many of the proposed koala reserves and parks will remain open to hunting?

Legal recreational activities will continue in koala reserves where suitable. A working plan to direct the management of each new reserve will be prepared.

44. Given that Ewan Waller, the independent reviewer appointed by the NSW government to review the 10 and 15-year Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) implementation reports and submissions to those reports, recommended that: *“the parties conduct a contemporary review of the native forest timber*

industry considering the effect of climate change, the overall conservation status of the forest, the socio-economic position of relevant rural communities, and support for the industry“ and that “the parties ensure future RFAs fully consider the risks associated with climate change and agencies plan, monitor and report on changes made to forest management practice to adapt to the changing environment”, and that the NSW Natural Resources Commission identified in its advice on the IFOA that climate change and associated drought and fire would make timber resources increasingly uncertain, and that bell-miner associated dieback has already rendered 11,000 hectares of forests ‘impractical to manage for commercial purposes’, who made the decision not to consider climate change and bell-miner associated dieback as part of the RFA and IFOA reviews, and what was the rationale behind this decision?

The RFA review for the period 2004–2014 considered and reported on bell-miner associated dieback and climate change as part of monitoring of the ecologically sustainable forest management criteria and indicators.

The draft Coastal IFOA includes considerations for bell-miner associated dieback, including requiring risk assessments, mitigation actions and regeneration actions to be undertaken. Climate change impacts will be managed by the Coastal IFOA monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement program.

45. Can the Minister advise on progress by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in spending the \$20 million allocated to the purchase of private land for koalas, as committed to in the koala strategy?

Two properties have been purchased including 402 hectares located on the Wollondilly River, north of Canyonleigh in the Southern Highlands and 43 hectares located in the Tweed area southwest of Pottsville.

46. What information will OEH use to identify suitable properties for prioritisation and purchase under this program?

The process for assessing individual properties is at

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy/purchasing-land-with-priority-koala-habitat>

47. How will the identification process deal with threats posed by climate change, urban development and land clearing?

See answer to question 46.

National Parks

48. What advice has the Minister sought and received on the impacts of any changes to the Water Sharing Plan for the Murray on water-dependent National Parks such as the Murray Valley National Park?
49. What advice did the Minister receive from the Member for Murray on the Water Sharing Plan for the Murray, referenced on ABC News on 27 August 2018?

48–49: I regularly speak to the Member for Murray on issues in his electorate.

50. What was the actual expenditure for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2017-18?

In 2017–18 the NSW Government commenced outcome based budgeting which is outlined in Budget Paper Three.

51. Did the Government provide a budget allocation for the National Parks and Wildlife Service for 2018-19?
 - (a) If so, what is the budget allocation for 2018-19, broken down into recurrent and capital funding?

In 2017–18 the NSW Government commenced outcome based budgeting which is outlined in Budget Paper Three.

52. What is the current total FTE for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)?

NPWS currently has 1514.1 full-time equivalent employees. This figure is currently growing as recruitment activities roll out across the remainder of 2018.

53. What was the FTE for the NPWS at 30 June 2018?

At 30 June 2018, NPWS had 1459.86 full-time equivalent employees.

54. With the announcement of 34,759 hectares of new Flora Reserves managed by NPWS, how much money has been budgeted for extra resources to manage this area?
55. In relation to the Flora Reserves where management has been transferred to NPWS, was funding to manage these areas transferred from Forests NSW for each of these flora reserves or are they to be managed within existing NPWS resources?
 - (a) If any, how much additional funding was provided for each reserve?
56. Given that these reserves come with new management requirements for NPWS, such as shooting and illegal forestry, how were additional funding requirements established?

54-56. The cost of establishing and managing the new additions is being identified as part of implementation planning.

57. What is the budget for the Enhanced Bushfire Management Program in 2018-19?

58. What was the actual expenditure on the Enhanced Bushfire Management Program in 2017-18?

57-58. The NSW Government committed more than \$76 million from 2011 to 2017 to fund the program, including the employment of an additional 94 firefighters. The government has now extended the EBMP to 2022 and committed a further \$92.5 million over 5 years.

59. What is the budget for the Supplementary Pest Control Program in 2018-19?

\$1.6 million.

60. What was the actual expenditure on the Supplementary Pest Control Program in 2017-18?

An evaluation of the Supplementary Pest Control was considered during 2017/18 and the program will recommence in 2018/19.

61. How many individuals employed as national park rangers have ceased employment with the NPWS to date as a result of efficiency dividend measures since 2015?

None.

62. How many individuals employed as national park rangers are forecast to cease employment with the NPWS as a result of efficiency dividend measures by 30 June 2018?

None.

63. What were the gazetted additions to the NSW reserve system in the following financial years, listed by name and hectares added:

(a) 2015-16;

Reserve Name	Category*	Area (ha)	Addition or New Park
Brisbane Water	NP	59.65	A
Royal	NP	8.502	A
Blue Mountains	NP	81.26	A
Coffs Coast	RP	39.08	A
Nangar	NP	32.37	A
Glenrock	SCA	4.228	A
Culgoa	NP	2286	A
Tarlo River	NP	462.3	A
Brisbane Water	NP	2.4	A
South East Forests	NP	360.01	A

Hunter Wetlands	NP	31.87	A
Camerons Gorge	NR	17.29	A
Cumbebin Swamp	NR	0.6085	A
Lake Macquarie	SCA	329.2	A
Munmorah	SCA	521.3	A
Blue Mountains	NP	1.6468	A
Goolawah	NP	26.5	A
Goolawah	RP	8.7	A
Oxley Wild Rivers	NP	764.6	A
Cobaki	NR	70.237	N
Malabar Headland	NP	71.67	A
Capertee	NP	2733	A
Heathcote	NP	6.9	A

(b) 2016-17;

Reserve Name	Category*	Area (ha)	Addition or New Park
Morton	NP	16.66	A
Yellomundee	RP	60.67	A
Yellomundee	RP	122.18	A
Kybeyan	NR	1012.89	A
Kybeyan	SCA	5.1	A
Dangelong	NR	4.8	A
Mares Forest	NP	94.56	A
Mugii Murum-ban	SCA	274.2	A
Sugarloaf	SCA	304.6	A
Werakata	SCA	341.4	A
Wombat Creek	SCA	501.3	A
Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach)	NP	28.1	A
Kalyarr	NP	20240.7	A
Nattai	NP	350.1	A
Nightcap	NP	82.61	A
Jervis Bay	NP	229.1	A
Columbey	NP	422.18	A
Wolli Creek	RP	0.18	A
Ellerslie	NR	238.29	A

(c) 2017-18?

Reserve Name	Category*	Area (ha)	Addition or New Park
Horton Falls	CCAZ1	40.54	A

Crawney Pass	CCAZ1	61.81	A
Rawdon Creek	NR	5.117	A
Lane Cove	NP	28.36	A
Yabbra	NP	98.34	A
Kanangra Boyd	NP	231.5	A
Gardens of Stone	NP	145.41	A
Goulburn River	NP	236.48	A
Goulburn River	SCA	9.7	N
Murramarang	NP	30	A
Limeburners Creek	NP	920.91	A
Willi Willi	NP	468.4	A
Barwon	SCA	41.3	A
Barwon	NP	84.9	A
South West Woodland	NR	215.01	A
Bagul Waajaar	NR	258.6	A
Worimi	NP	0.8231	A

* NP = National Park; NR = Nature Reserve; SCA = State Conservation Area; RP = Regional Park; CCAZ1 = Community Conservation Area (Zone 1). See:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/conservation-and-heritage/different-parks-different-purposes>

64. How many new reserves (not additions to existing reserves) were created in the following financial years, including each reserve's name and size in hectares:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18?

All parks and reserves and their gazettal date can be found at -

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/establishing-new-parks-and-protected-areas/new-parks-and-changes-to-parks>

65. How many times did each of the state and regional advisory committees, which provide community input into how the NSW reserve system is managed, meet in the following years? Please list by committee name and number of meetings per year.

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;

(c) 2017-18?

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Blue Mountains RAC	3	5	7
Central Coast Hunter RAC	0	3	5
Far South Coast RAC	2	2	3
Far West RAC	3	4	4
Lower North Coast RAC	0	0	4
Metro North East RAC	7	6	9
Metro South West RAC	3	3	7
North Coast RAC	0	2	2
Northern Plains RAC	1	4	3
Northern Rivers RAC	2	5	3
Northern Tablelands RAC	0	3	3
South Coast RAC	4	6	5
Southern Ranges RAC	4	4	4
Western Rivers RAC	3	5	6
Hartley Historic Site Advisory Committee	3	3	4
National Parks & Wildlife Advisory Council	5	4	4

66. From June 2015 to July 2018 which of the above advisory committees required appointment or reappointment of their members?

- (a) What was the timeframe for each advisory committee to appoint or reappoint members from the time the appointment of previous committee members ended to the time when new or reappointed committee members were officially appointed?

Timeframes for all appointments varied depending on the statutory requirements of the vacant position and the nomination and appointment processes.

67. Given that a significant portion (\$770,740) of the \$1,050,000 fine imposed on Clarence Colliery for the 2015 mine waste collapse into the Wollangambe River is to be spent on activities such as track stabilisation which would usually be funded within the NPWS budget, were all the Clarence Colliery fine funds awarded provided to OEHL as additional expenditure?

Yes.

68. Given the community's concern about this spill, will the Minister agree to make public, through OEHL's website, information demonstrating that the fine monies will remain additional to Treasury allocation for OEHL?

This is accounted for separate to Treasury allocations as part of restricted funds in the annual accounts of OEHL.

69. How many full-time national parks senior rangers are currently employed?

- (a) Of these current senior ranger employees, how many are permanent/ongoing and how many are temporary/limited term positions?

70. How many full-time national parks rangers are currently employed?

- (a) Of these current ranger employees, how many are permanent/ongoing and how many are temporary/limited term positions?

69–70: NPWS currently has 206 full-time equivalent rangers (including ranger 1/2s, senior rangers and team leader rangers). 178 are ongoing and 28 are temporary/limited. This figure is currently growing as recruitment activities roll out across the remainder of 2018.

71. How many full-time field officers are currently employed? Please provide broken down into regular/senior positions.

- (a) Of these current field officer employees, how many are permanent/ongoing and how many are temporary/limited term positions?

At 17 September 2018, there are currently 637.58 full-time equivalent staff in the field officer classification employed by NPWS (excluding casual employees). 592.89 are ongoing and 44.69 are temporary. These figures are currently growing as recruitment activities roll out across the remainder of 2018.

72. How many Regional Managers are currently employed?

The position of Regional Manager was removed in December 2016.

73. How many Area Managers are currently employed?

NPWS currently has 37 full-time equivalent area managers.

74. Regarding reserves managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for which tickets are sold or an entry fee is charged to access areas to observe Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks:

- (a) What is the proposed ticket price for each ticketed/fee-restricted area in 2018? Please list each area separately.

This information is available at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do>

- (b) How many tickets are proposed to be available for each ticketed/fee-restricted area in 2018? Please list each area separately.

Venue	Capacity
Clark Island	480
Shark Island	780
Goat Island	780
Bradleys Head - Amphitheatre	800
Bradleys Head - Mast Precinct	1600
Bradleys Head - Athol Lawn	2500
Nielsen Park	450

75. How many licences to permit harm to native animals were issued; which species were subject of licenses issued; how many of each species were permitted to be harmed; and how many of each species were destroyed, in 2017-18? Please provide the full list in table form.

Species	No. of licences granted	No. of animals permitted to be harmed*	No. of animals reported harmed**
Australian White Ibis	6	1,115	0
Australian White Ibis - Eggs	9	3,460	361
Australian White Ibis - Nest & Eggs	2	250	0
Australian White Ibis - Nests	8	2,458	142
Bell Miner	1	50	0
Black Kite	1	5	0
Black Swan	1	10	0
Brush Turkey	2	8	2
Brushtail Possum	19	49	9
Common Wombat	80	429	66
Crested Pigeon	1	50	0
Currawong	4	15	1
Eastern Broad-nosed Bat	1	20	0
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	2,519	224,379	73,159
Emu	42	2,953	1,887
Eurasian Coot	1	30	0
Galah	18	2,589	111
Gould's Wattled Bat	1	20	0
Great Cormorant	4	255	8
Grey Butcherbird	8	12	3
Grey-headed Flying-fox	5	225	0
Kookaburra	1	3	0
Little Black Cormorant	3	235	2
Little Corella	38	6,362	911
Little Pied Cormorant	4	150	6
Long-billed Corella	14	1,538	32
Magpie	41	354	18
Magpie Lark	3	76	0
Masked Lapwing	9	76	0
Noisy Miner	6	842	2
Pacific Black Duck	6	180	10
Peregrine Falcon - Eggs	1	4	1
Peregrine Falcon - Nests	1	1	1
Pied Butcherbird	3	3	0
Rainbow Lorikeet	4	150	5
Raven	12	121	85
Red Kangaroo	262	55,673	34,921
Red-necked Wallaby	64	2,220	788
Ringtail Possum	3	6	0

South-eastern Free-tailed Bat	1	20	0
Straw neck Ibis	1	40	0
Sulphur crested Cockatoo	49	3,603	646
Swamp Wallaby	19	477	217
Wallaroo	202	7,169	2,851
Welcome Swallow	6	335	0
Welcome Swallow - Nests	1	5	1
Western Grey Kangaroo	155	21,750	12,901
White-faced Heron	1	10	0
Wood Duck	28	842	163
Total	2,855	340,402	129,310

* All licences to harm are included in this table. Some licences to harm authorise non-lethal methods of 'harm', such as catch and release.

* Table includes licences to harm native species issued by NPWS, which includes protected and Grey-headed Flying Fox (threatened species).

**The number of animals reported as harmed by licensees

Organisation

76. How many individual staff members across all areas of the Office of Environment and Heritage have lost their jobs to date as a result of efficiency dividend measures since 2015?

Savings have been delivered in the first instance through productivity measures and by identifying new revenue opportunities.

77. How many more individual staff members across all areas of the Office of Environment and Heritage are proposed to lose their jobs as a result of efficiency dividend measures by 30 June 2019?

Savings will be delivered in the first instance through productivity measures and by identifying new revenue opportunities.

78. How many contractors are currently engaged by the Office of Environment and Heritage and what is the budget forecast for expenditure on contractors in 2018-19?

Information on contractors is contained in the annual reports for each agency.

79. How many contractors were engaged by the Office of Environment and Heritage and what was the expenditure on those contractors each year for the past five financial years? Please provide separate figures for each financial year.

Information on contractors is contained in the annual reports for each agency.

80. How much did the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) spend on management conferences for staff in 2017-2018?

Management conference costs were managed within EPA's recurrent budget.

81. What was the expenditure for the EPA's management conference held in March 2018 at the Merewether Beach Surf Club?

Management conferences costs were managed within EPA's recurrent budget.

82. What is the budgeted cost of the relocation and transfer of Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) staff to the new centralised office hub at Parramatta?

The cost of the relocation and transfer is currently under Government consideration.

83. What will be the impact of this relocation and transfer on OEH staff numbers measured in FTE?

There will be no impact on OEH staff numbers in terms of FTE.

84. How many voluntary redundancies were granted within OEH in the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 financial years?

See answer to questions 176–179.

85. Of those voluntary redundancies, how many were granted to female staff, and how many were granted to male staff, in the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 financial years?

See answer to questions 176–179.

86. What was the average age of staff granted voluntary redundancies in OEH in the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 financial years?

See answer to questions 176–179.

87. Of those voluntary redundancies granted within OEH, how many were granted in the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 financial years to staff within the divisions of:

- (a) National Parks and Wildlife Service (Park Operations and Park Programs),
- (b) Regional Operations (Communities and Greater Sydney; Conservation and Regional Delivery),
- (c) Heritage,
- (d) Policy,
- (e) Science, and

(f) Strategy and Performance?

See answer to questions 176–179.

88. Of those voluntary redundancies granted in the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 financial years, how many were granted to staff within the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Park Operations and Park Programs) Division for each year, classified as:

- (a) Area Managers,
- (b) Staff previously classified as Regional Managers,
- (c) Rangers,
- (d) Senior Rangers,
- (e) Senior Field Officers,
- (f) Field Officers,
- (g) Specialist staff such as Pest Species Officers and Fire Management Officers,
- (h) Project Officers,
- (i) Senior Project Officers,
- (j) Policy Officers,
- (k) Senior Policer Officers?

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2017–18 are anticipated to be in the order of 736, totalling 13,075 since July 2011. The Labour Expense 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.

89. Given that as part of the OEH restructure the grading of many positions were assessed at lower pay grades, how many positions within the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Park Operations and Park Programs) Division have been assessed to a lower pay grade since 1 July 2015?

None. A new organisational structure is now in place.

Snowy Mountains rehabilitation program

90. What is the estimated cost of rehabilitation for each site in Kosciuszko National Park damaged by the construction of the original Snowy Hydro Scheme and identified within the Snowy

Mountains rehabilitation program for former snowy scheme sites? Please list each site and the corresponding cost estimate.

91. Which sites have now been repaired/rehabilitated under the program?
 - (a) What was the expenditure to repair/rehabilitate these sites?
92. Which sites have not yet been repaired/rehabilitated under the program?
 - (a) What is the estimated cost of repairing/rehabilitating each site?
93. How much total funding has been spent to date through the program?
94. How much total funding remains to be spent in future through the program?
95. What date is the program proposed to end, if any?
96. Has the Government undertaken any evaluation on the public benefits accruing from the repair of sites in Kosciusko National Park under the program?
 - (a) If so, when will this be made available to the public?

90-96. To date, \$42.4 million has been spent on rehabilitating approximately 125 sites. The program is set to end June 2023.

Saving Our Species

97. Has the entire amount of the \$100 million for the Saving Our Species program been allocated?
 - (a) If not, how much has been allocated to date?
 - (b) When will the remainder be allocated?
 - (c) What will happen to any surplus remaining funds?

97a-c: The NSW Government has committed to spend \$100 million on the Saving Our Species (SoS) program for 5 years from 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2021 and is on track to achieve this. To date, \$59.6 million has been allocated.

98. Is funding guaranteed for all identified projects?

Yes.

99. How much of the \$100 million has been allocated for actual on-ground activities compared to program administration costs?

The program allocates 80% of the budget to on-ground coordination and delivery of conservation projects and 20% to state wide program areas.

100. What analysis has been done on the effectiveness the program in terms of ecological outcomes and value for money?

An independent evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and legacy of the previously funded period was completed in 2016 and has informed the development of the expanded program. A further review is scheduled for 2021.

101. How many populations of species targeted under the program will be under threat of localised extinction due to areas of old-growth forest and rainforest now being made available for logging under revisions and re-mapping undertaken in the proposed changes to Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals and Regional Forest Agreements?

The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) and the Office of Environment and Heritage will design, and consult the public on, an environmental assessment framework to support a reassessment of old growth mapping. Areas identified with conservation value will continue to be protected from timber harvesting.

102. Does the Government plan to commit ongoing funding for the program beyond the initial allocation?

See answer 97.

Climate Change Fund

103. Why has the Government failed to deliver its Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan to date?

The NSW Government is spending \$1.4 billion from the Climate Change Fund over 2017 to 2022 to help the environment, reduce power bills and improve energy efficiency.

104. When will the Government deliver its Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan?

See answer to 103.

Paint disposal and recycling

105. How many Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) are currently in operation in NSW?

There are currently 87 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) in operation in NSW.

106. How many of these CRCs have industry-funded product stewardship schemes available through them?

Four CRCs have an arrangement with the industry-funded Paintback scheme. Several CRCs are co-located with collection points for other product stewardship schemes such as the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.

107. How many kilograms of household hazardous waste was collected through CRCs in 2017-18?

(a) How much of this amount was waste paint?

In 2017–18 the CRCs collected 2,171,374.4 kilograms of household problem waste, of this, 1,370,573 kilograms was waste paint.

108. How many kilograms of household hazardous waste are expected to be collected through CRCs in 2018-19?

(a) How much of this amount is expected to be waste paint?

Approximately 2,500,000 kilograms of household problem waste is expected to be collected through CRCs in 2018-19, with approximately 1,600,000 kilograms of this expected to be waste paint.

109. What expenditure is budgeted to support this collection?

(a) How much of this is estimated to be applied to dealing with waste paint?

Under the NSW Government's *Waste Less, Recycle More* program \$127 million has been allocated to 2021 for the Systems for Household Problem Waste Fund that includes funding the collection and processing of material collected through CRCs.

110. What is the reason New South Wales has only four CRCs offering the Paintback scheme, in comparison to other Australia states such as Victoria which has more than 30 such sites?

The EPA is working with Paintback to roll the scheme out further through the NSW CRC network based on site-by-site analysis.

111. Does the Government plan to incorporate Paintback and other industry product stewardship schemes into all existing CRCs?

(a) If yes, when will Paintback and other such schemes be incorporated into existing CRCs?

(b) If not, why not?

As and when other Product Stewardship schemes become available for materials collected by CRCs, the EPA will work to negotiate incorporation into the service.

Botanic Gardens

112. Regarding areas of the Botanic Gardens for which tickets are sold or an entry fee is charged to observe Sydney's New Year's Eve fireworks:

- (a) What is the proposed ticket price for each ticketed/fee-restricted area in 2018? Please list for each area separately.

The ticket prices are available online at

www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/whatson/newyearsevesydney2018

- (b) How many tickets are proposed to be available for each ticketed/fee-restricted area in 2018? Please list for each area separately.

Event	Type	Approximate capacity
Mrs Macquaries Point	Gold coin donation on entry. This free event is funded through ticket sales of the smaller events.	14,000
Lawn with a View	Ticketed	970
The Point	Ticketed	1100
Midnight at the Oasis	Ticketed	1500
Harbour Hoopla	Ticketed	3070
NYE at the Calyx	Ticketed	300

Centennial Park

113. What was the total construction cost for all aspects of the Ian Potter Wild Play Garden in Centennial Park?

\$4.2 million.

114. What was the stated budgeted amount for the Ian Potter Wild Play Garden?

The original project was based on a contribution from the Ian Potter Foundation of \$1.5 million.

115. What is the reason for any variance in these figures?

Through the Centennial Parklands Foundation, the project was able to leverage further philanthropic opportunities and increase the budget to \$4.2 million.

116. Given the State Heritage Register curtilage for the listing comprising 'Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park' includes all areas including roads and tracks within Centennial Park, how can

your statement in response to Question 23 in last year's Answers to Questions on Notice – 1 September 2017 for the 2017-18 Budget Estimates hearing into the Environment and Heritage Portfolio, that “the horse track is not a listed heritage item”, be correct?

- (a) Do you accept that the horse track in question is a part of the Centennial Park listing on the State Heritage Register?

The 2017 question said the horse track was “officially listed as exceptional heritage”. There is no separate listing for the horse track on the State Heritage Register nor is it described as “exceptional heritage” on the State Heritage Register. The answer given in 2017 is therefore correct.

Glenrock State Recreation Reserve

117. How much money was allocated to manage noxious weeds in Glenrock state recreation reserve in the following years:

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017; and
- (h) 2018?

National Parks and Wildlife Service takes an integrated approach to pest and weed management. Funding for Glenrock noxious weed management is within the budget for NPWS pest and weed management.

118. Will the Minister ban PFAS in NSW?

- (a) If not, why not?

The claims that PFAS has been banned in South Australia and Queensland are not accurate. South Australia and Queensland simply have plans to phase out the use of this class of chemicals in some circumstances.

NSW Government firefighting services began phasing out PFAS more than a decade ago.

The NSW Government has urged the Australian Government to sign the amendment to the Stockholm Convention that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS).

The NSW Government supports the coordination of a national framework by the Australian Government.

119. What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doing to reduce air pollution in Newcastle?

The Government has already delivered numerous actions to manage and improve air quality in New South Wales and expand the evidence base for and community access to information on air quality. These include:

- establishing an Interagency Taskforce on Air Quality which coordinates whole of government actions on air quality including action relating to the coal chain
- undertaking the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study to determine composition and sources of particle pollution (PM2.5 and PM10) in areas near the Port of Newcastle. These studies will guide future regulatory actions and priorities for the EPA.
- undertaking the Lower Hunter Dust Deposition Study to better understand the composition of coarse -dust particles in Newcastle around the rail corridor.
- establishing the three station Newcastle Local Air Quality Monitoring Network. Air quality data from both networks is available in near real time on the OEHL website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMSiaqi.htm. Seasonal air quality reports are available at: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/lower-hunter-and-central-coast-air-quality-reports>
- working closely with the Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment, to enable the community to identify air quality concerns associated with nearby industrial activities, and help government and local industry better understand community concerns.
- from 2012-2015, leading the national review and adoption of updated particle standards for PM2.5 and PM10, which resulted in the national adoption of the most health protective package of particle standards and long-term targets of any country in the world.

In addition, the EPA is targeting key sources of air pollution through legally enforceable Pollution Reduction Programs and strict environment protection licence conditions. Actions by the EPA include:

- Imposing strict emission limits for volatile organic compounds from the bulk fuel facilities around the Port of Newcastle;
- Requiring sophisticated dust suppression systems at coal loaders which operate according to real-time weather conditions and according to coal types being handled;
- Proactive regulatory action to ensure grain fumigation activities are conducted to mitigate risks associated with chemicals like methyl bromide;
- Regular and unannounced inspection of industrial operations and port activities to ensure that air pollution controls are being properly operated and air pollution is minimised.

120. What is the EPA doing to reduce coal dust in Newcastle?

The EPA requires the coal handling facilities to operate sophisticated dust suppression systems which use real-time weather data and information on coal type to ensure best practice dust control. The EPA undertakes regular and unannounced inspections of all coal handling and loading facilities to ensure that dust is controlled.

121. Does the EPA believe covering coal wagons would reduce coal dust pollution in Newcastle?

The EPA has undertaken extensive investigation into the potential impacts of coal dust from trains, including:

- directing the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to complete two monitoring studies on dust from coal trains. These studies and the independent reviews of the results provided the EPA, the community and industry with a better understanding of particle emissions from the Hunter rail corridor
- requiring ARTC to investigate the prevention and minimisation of coal loss from coal trains during transport in the Hunter
- working with the operators of the NSW coal shipping terminals, including those at Carrington and Kooragang Island, to develop a monitoring and reporting program on the condition of loaded coal wagons arriving at their facilities. This resulted in

the completion of environmental improvement programs aimed at reducing loss of coal from coal wagons as a part of these terminals' environment protection licences

- **conducting compliance audits focused on loading and unloading activities of 11 licensed coal loading premises and four coal terminals in 2014, representing all major coal fields and coal terminals in NSW including in the Hunter**

122. Why does the Minister support the use of single use plastic bags in NSW?

Major retailers, who account for around half of all plastic bags, have committed to phasing out single use plastic bags in New South Wales. The Government welcomes this proactive step.

The Government has also committed over \$800 million over nine years through the *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative to drive waste reduction and increased recycling.

123. Has the Minister considered banning plastic straws in NSW?

The NSW Government is undertaking several initiatives with respect to litter and plastic waste reduction. The NSW Government's anti-litter priorities are currently the container deposit scheme and the \$30 million litter prevention program.

124. Why won't the Minister ban single use plastic bags in NSW?

See answer to question 122.

125. What is the Minister doing to reduce the number of feral animals in NSW?

A significant component of the Saving our Species program is dedicated to protecting our threatened species from pest animals.

NPWS undertakes extensive pest animal management of pest animals such as wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and rabbits. NPWS conducts these cross-tenure activities in close collaboration with Local Lands Services and other stakeholders, as well as engaging with researchers from Universities, the Department of Primary Industries and other specialists to continually improve pest management techniques.

126. What damage do feral horses cause to the Environment?

Wild horses can degrade vegetation and habitat.

127. Why does the Minister support the protection of feral animals in Kosciuszko National Park that cause damage to the pristine alpine environment?

The wild horses of Kosciuszko National Park are part of our unique alpine heritage and are culturally significant to many Australians. The *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*

provides the appropriate framework to protect the unique environmental values of the national park and the important heritage values of the wild horses.

128. Does the Minister acknowledge that coastal erosion is occurring at Stockton Beach?

Newcastle City Council is responsible for managing coastal erosion at Stockton Beach. OEH continues to provide technical and policy advice to help Council develop a viable long-term response to coastal erosion.

129. Will the Minister visit Stockton Beach to see first-hand the erosion problems?

The NSW Government has consistently supported Newcastle City Council in the work they are required to do to manage coastal erosion at Stockton Beach, including through the Stockton Coastal Interagency Advisory Committee.

130. What preparations has the Minister made to ensure that the Stockton Childcare centre will not wash into the ocean when Stockton next experiences large and powerful surf conditions?

See answer to question 128.

On 15 August 2018, I certified Newcastle City Council's Coastal Zone Management Plan under the Coastal Protection Act 1979. The plan includes actions to mitigate the risk to the former North Stockton Surf Life Saving Club building which houses the childcare centre.

131. Will the Minister consider allowing offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes?

This is a matter for the Hon Don Harwin, Minister for Resources, who administers the *Offshore Minerals Act 1999*.

132. Will the Minister match Labor's \$270,000 commitment to identify long term solutions to address erosion at Stockton Beach?

On 24 August 2018, Newcastle City Council was awarded \$147,500 under the NSW Government's Coast and Estuary Management Grants program for the first stages in the development of a coastal management program for the Newcastle coastline.

Newcastle City Council is matching this funding and will use it to develop practical and viable long-term strategies to manage coastal risks on the Stockton peninsula.

Newcastle City Council can apply for additional funds under the Coast and Estuary Management Grants program to implement actions in their certified Coastal Zone Management Plan.

133. Are there any plans to upgrade the mountain bike trails in the Glenrock State Recreation area?

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is upgrading and repairing some existing mountain bike trails in Glenrock State Conservation Area, with the assistance from the Glenrock Trail Alliance volunteer group.

134. What action is being taken to reduce feral animals in the Glenrock State recreation area?

Feral animals in Glenrock State Conservation Area are managed in accordance with the Hunter Central Coast Regional Pest Management Strategy.

135. What strategies are in place to improve water quality in flaggy creek and little flaggy creek?

The issues affecting water quality in these catchments are the responsibility of Hunter Water and Lake Macquarie Council.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service conducts routine maintenance of the road and track network in Glenrock State Conservation Area which reduces erosion and improves the water quality in Flaggy and Little Flaggy Creeks.

136. How is aboriginal heritage in the Glenrock State Recreation area being protected?

Aboriginal heritage in Glenrock State Conservation Area is protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Efficiency dividends

137. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?

138. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?

139. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?

140. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?

141. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

137–141: Savings from the NSW Government’s efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance

142. How many nights’ travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?

143. How many nights’ travel were claimed by the Minister’s spouse during the 2017-18 period?

144. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

145. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

142–145. In 2017/18, total expenditure by the Ministry on domestic travel was \$676,372 – compared with \$852,187 in 2009/10 under Labor. This is 20% less than under Labor.

Office Administration

146. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

Ministers' Office staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website. Refer to:

<https://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/premiers-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

147. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

There were 303 smart phones allocated across the Ministers' IT Network in 2017–18. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$236,984, a 46% per cent reduction on the 2009-10 expenditure of \$434,854. There were 3 devices lost/stolen across the Ministerial Offices during the 2017/2018. 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.

148. 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 2017-18?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

There were 135 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2017–18. 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.

149. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

(a) What is the cost of this?

Artwork in the Minister's office includes photographic artwork on loan from OEH.

150. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

151. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

Floral arrangements purchased by the Ministry are managed within the office's budgets.

152. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?

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

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

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

153. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?

(a) What were the gifts purchased?

i. Who were they gifted to?

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

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

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

No.

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

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

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2017–18 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

156. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2017–18 across the Ministry was \$89,496. This compares with 2009–10 expenditure of \$175,776.

157. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?

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

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$18,695 in 2017–18. This compares with expenditure in 2009–10 of \$281,567.

Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking

158. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?

- (a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19?

Agencies provide mobile workplace resources to staff who need to travel for work as required.

Work place practices include hot desking where necessary.

159. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

Costs are managed within each agency’s recurrent budget.

Hospitality

160. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$25,350 in 2017–18 – which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.

161. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

Labour Hire Firms

162. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

163. If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:

- (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

162–163. The Environment, Heritage and Local Government portfolio agencies use labour hire firms in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. Such arrangements are subject to relevant approvals and the overall labour expense cap.

Media and Public Relations

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

Agency staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

165. 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?

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

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

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

167. 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 2017-18?

No.

Facebook

168. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

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

169. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

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

Overseas Trips

170. 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?

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

171. 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?

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

Department/Agency Travel

172. What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine/private car hire
- (c) Hire car rental
- (d) Ridesharing services

Environment, Heritage and Local Government portfolio travel in 2017–18 was in accordance with NSW Treasury and Finance Circular OFS-2014-07. Expenditure on taxis and hire cars across the Environment, Heritage and Local Government cluster in 2017–18 was \$268,585. The Portfolio includes Office of Environment and Heritage, Office of Local Government, Environmental Protection Authority, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Centennial Parklands Trust, Western Sydney Parklands and Parramatta Parklands Trust.

Drivers

173. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant Department provided drivers?

- (a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?
- (b) In total, how many drivers are used by senior executives in the Department?
- (c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the Department?

No.

Consulting

174. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2017-18?

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

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

175. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2017-18:

- (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

175a–d: The Financial Statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

Department/Agency Staffing

176. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2017-18?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
177. 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?
178. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
179. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2017-18?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

176–179: Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures across the sector for 2017–18 are anticipated to be in the order of 736, totalling 13,075 since July 2011. The Labour Expense 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.

Smart Phone Accounts

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

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on iTunes?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

181. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on Android?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

180–181: IT costs are managed within each agency’s budget and in accordance with NSW Government’s ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

Merchant fees

182. 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.

183. 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.

184. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2017-18?

182–184: All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13.

This data is not available – Merchant fees are consolidated to revenue.

Probity Auditor

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

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board’s Direction (PBD-2013-05), agencies in the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Portfolio have internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in their procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. Each agency’s Annual Report includes all consultancies including those involving probity advisers valued more than \$50,000.

Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage

186. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister’s portfolio please report:

- (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;

Section 6.18 of the Public Service Industrial Relations Guide provides guidance to staff and management on appropriate strategies for supporting a staff member experiencing domestic violence. This guidance further references Section 84A of the Award (leave for matters arising from domestic violence) and Treasury Circular 14-16 Support for Employees Experiencing Domestic Violence.

- (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;

Section 84A was added to the Award in 2011.

- (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;

All staff members employed under the Award in a cluster agency are entitled to be absent from the workplace due to an incident of domestic violence if required. Similar clauses apply to agencies covered by their own negotiated agreements.

- (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;

It is not a separate leave type.

- (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;

- (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;

- (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;

186e–g: Data is not available for days of domestic violence leave or days of other personal leave taken, as all special leave is processed as a single leave category.

- (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

All staff have access to Employee Assistance Programs. Contractors are not employed by DPE, however the department will work with the contractor's agency to facilitate access to appropriate services.

187. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?

- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
- (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

Ongoing support and guidance is provided to cluster agencies on best practice approaches to supporting staff who are experiencing domestic violence.

188. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

Training on supporting staff is provided through various channels and training programs, and support is available to managers from human resources professionals across the cluster.

189. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

The cluster is working to ensure that staff are informed about services and entitlements to support them.

190. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

Agencies in the Planning and Environment Cluster comply with the highest levels of document and privacy management consistent with the *Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998* (NSW).

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

191. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs and a copy of such documentation.
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?

- i. How?

Staff across all portfolio agencies undertake compulsory anti-bullying and harassment training. In 2016 the Planning and Environment Cluster introduced a cluster-wide policy on bullying and harassment and compulsory online training. The online training takes a minimum 30 minutes to complete and includes specific CALD, ATSI and LGBTQ modules.

192. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

Participation in these programs is mandatory.

193. How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:

- (a) Sexual harassment
- (b) Bullying
- (c) Workplace violence

All complaints relating to sexual harassment, bullying and workplace violence are managed in accordance with portfolio agencies' policies.

Participation of women in Government

194. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the agency?
- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?

194a–d: This information is publicly available in each agency's Annual Report.

- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?

All agencies use gender balance on interview panels as well as offering flexible working arrangements to allow better management of work and home commitments. Agencies

continue to promote diversity and inclusion strategies which promote a workplace free from social biases of any kind.

(f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?

All equivalent positions determined by an objective assessment of their work value are paid the same salary within all agencies. The relevant distribution of women in each classification of work across the sector is reported by the Public Service Commission (PSC) but is also available in the agency's Annual Report.

(g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

The workforce profile data collected by the PSC is made available to Women NSW.

Energy

195. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:

- (a) 2014-15?
- (b) 2015-16?
- (c) 2016-17?
- (d) 2017-18?

196. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.

197. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

198. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?

199. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in:

- (a) 2018-19?
- (b) 2019-20?
- (c) 2020-21?
- (d) 2021-22?

200. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?
201. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?
202. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
 - (d) 2021-22?

195–202: NSW Government Agencies procure their energy supplies under whole of government Contracts 776 (small sites under 100,000 kwh per annum) and 777.

Under these contracts the following suppliers are mandated:

- **776 – Origin Energy Electricity Limited**
- **777 – ERMPower Retail Pty Ltd**

The NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy was introduced in 2014 to reduce the NSW Government’s operating costs and lead by example in increasing the efficiency of the resources it uses.

This policy ensures NSW Government agencies:

- **meet the challenge of rising costs for energy, water, clean air and waste management**
- **use purchasing power to drive down the cost of resource-efficient technologies and services**
- **show leadership by incorporating resource efficiency in decision-making**

The Policy’s energy measures, targets and standards include:

- E1: Targets to undertake energy efficiency projects**
- E2: Minimum NABERS Energy ratings for offices and data centres**
- E3: Minimum standards for new electrical appliances and equipment**
- E4: Minimum standards for new buildings**
- E5: Identify and enable solar leasing opportunities**

E6: Minimum fuel efficiency standards for new light vehicles

E7: Purchase 6% GreenPower

NSW Government agencies are required to report on energy use under the Government Resource Efficiency Policy. The Office of Environment and Heritage publishes progress reports on compliance with the policy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Ratings report

203. When will the Government release the Local Government ratings report?

The Government is carefully reviewing the final report and each of its recommendations and will respond in due course.

Medium density housing

204. Was the Office of Local Government consulted on the date until which some councils will be exempt from the medium density housing code?

The date that the medium density housing codes applies in each local government area is specified in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 Part 3B Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code*.

205. Given the large number of councils seeking exemptions from the code what has the Minister or Office done to raise concerns about the code with the Minister for Planning?

Amendments to the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 Part 3B Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code* are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

Loss of public open space – bowling clubs across Sydney

206. What consideration has been given to the impact across councils in NSW of the number of bowling clubs in NSW that have been converted to seniors living/retirement villages since 2011?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

207. Has the Planning Minister been approached for changes to the Seniors Living SEPP to prevent bowling greens being built on for seniors living?

(a) If not, why not?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

Infrastructure

208. What is the impact of Government signalling rezoning for greater development on land prices generally?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

209. What was the impact on land prices of the announced rezoning around the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

210. What is the anticipated cost impact on required infrastructure of these land price increases?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

Parramatta Planning Agreements

211. Why was the Special Infrastructure Contribution Levy not charged in Parramatta at the same time as the reduced 20% public value share rate and how much public revenue has been lost to the benefit of developers and land owners due to this delay?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

212. How much revenue has been lost due to the delay in implementation of this SIC Levy in other areas of NSW and was all foregone SIC revenue included incorrectly in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Budget Income statements?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

213. When will this SIC Levy now be imposed and how much loss of SIC revenue has been provided for in the 2018/19 Budget Estimates due to ongoing delay in charging the Levy?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

Library funding

214. Of the announced increased library funding, how will the funding be allocated?

215. What social indicators will be used to determine the funding allocation?

216. What funding increase is anticipated for each council area by year until -2022-23?

217. How much of the funding will be recurrent funding and how much will be capital funding?

214–217: These are matters for the Minister for the Arts.

Questions from the Hon Paul Green MLC

Local Government

218. We found from the Local Government Inquiry that Councils were concerned cost shifting is hurting their bottom line and that the State Government needs to bring an end to this practice which is corroding council finances. Given there is about \$6 million in cost shifting in NSW:

- (a) Will the Government transfer responsibility for providing services, assets (such as regional roads), concessions, or other regulatory functions to local government, and provide full cost recovery?

The NSW Government is proud of its record of investment and support for local government and looks forward to working with the local government sector into the future.

The NSW Government is always mindful when considering services and infrastructure to ensure adequate funding and support for these activities. This is the case for services operated by State Government agencies, non-Government organisations, the private sector or local councils.

- (b) In regards to Section 94, will the Government allow councils access to their interest so they can clear the backlog of maintenance?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.

219. Currently Local Councils are restricted when it comes to investing council funds, following the Global Financial Crisis. For example Councils are restricted to investing in low-risk low return investments such government bonds and term deposits.

- (a) Would the NSW Government consider easing the restrictions of how Councils can invest or increasing the sectors that councils can invest in?

Councils across NSW are estimated to hold over \$11 billion in cash and investments on behalf of their ratepayers. It is important that the NSW Government puts in place robust frameworks to ensure adequate management of the associated risk by local councils.

220. Joint Organisations (JOs) were announced after successful trials of the model in 5 regions during 2015 as a way on increasing the collaboration of councils, state agencies and other parties with shared interests. Last year the House passed legislation to enable the creation of the joint organisations of councils.

- (a) Minister can you update the Committee on how Joint Organisations are progressing?

Following the voluntary membership process prescribed in the legislation, 85 councils are now members of joint organisations across regional NSW. Joint organisations have been establishing their governance arrangements and have commenced the process of identifying the strategic regional priorities that they will focus on. They will transform the way State and local governments' works together for the benefit of communities across regional NSW.

The chairpersons of joint organisations recently met in Parliament House and were addressed by the NSW Premier, Deputy Premier, and the Minister for Local Government, and the Secretaries of the Departments of Premier and Cabinet and Planning and Environment.

- (b) Minister to date how many JO's have been established and what is the total value of financial support that has been provided Joint Organisations to date?

13 joint organisations have been proclaimed under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The NSW Government has committed \$3.3 million to joint organisations, with an additional \$20 million committed to Far West joint organisations.

- (c) In the future will Joint Organisations be granted powers and resources to develop and implement regional transport plans?

Joint organisations are able to resolve to work in other areas as agreed by their member councils, including to identify strategic priorities for regional transport and to collaborate on the implementation of those priorities.

Ian Potter Wild Play Garden

221. During Estimates, OEH Chief Executive Anthony Lean, failed to inform the committee that several safety assessors had advised that moving the playground entrance could eliminate the very likely death or injury to a child. Mr Lean told the Budget Estimates Committee last Friday 7 September 2018 that it was his understanding that “there is no other practical option that doesn't raise more significant issues in terms of safety.” Yet no safety issues with other options have been identified at all. Experienced assessors clearly stated that moving the entrance from the current dangerous Grand Drive location to Dickens Drive could eliminate the risk. None of the other entrance options pose any safety concerns. Two assessors explicitly stated that the Grand Drive location was likely to cause a serious accident. Both their reports indicated that the alternate lower garden entrance near Dickens Drive entrance could eliminate this likely risk. (Safety In Focus and Horse Safety Australia).

- (a) Will the Minister advise what steps she will take to address the safety issues regarding the entrance to the Ian Potter Wild Play Garden?

Two independent safety reports (AusSafe Consulting and Reliance Risk) were commissioned by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. Outcomes from both reports identified the site location at Grand Drive and site entrance as safe, and recommended that a safety control expert be engaged to review what safety controls if any would be required. A safety control

expert (Safety in Focus) was engaged and chicanes, fencing and signage were installed on the horse track near the entrance based on recommendations from the report.

In accordance with the recommendations of the safety control expert, the entrance to the Wild Play Garden and associated horse track crossing were closely monitored in the months following the official opening in October 2017. A dedicated Ranger was stationed at the Garden each day during opening hours, from October 2017 until July 2018, to ensure visitor behaviour was monitored and reported, and to provide assistance to those visiting the Garden.

Time lapse CCTV photography was also in place across the horse track crossing between October 2017 and April 2018. From October 2017 until March 2018, fortnightly incident review meetings were held, as well as regular safety and incident review systems and procedures being in place.

Aside from the alleged incident as reported by a horse rider in December 2017, no other incidents were reported between October 2017 and July 2018.

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

Regional Council

222. How do you define what a ‘regional’ council is?

There is no single definition of regional council as the definition will depend on the operating context and environment in which it is being used.

223. Different state funding programmes use different definitions of ‘regional’, meaning some councils are ineligible for some regional funding, but eligible for others. So how does the NSW Government and its local government minister define what a regional council is?

See answer to question 222.

Local Airports

224. How many local councils in NSW are responsible for operating local airports?

(a) What are the councils involved?

The Office of Local Government does not hold a register of councils that own airports.

Impounding Act

225. Given recent developments such as share bikes, will you refer the Impounding Act for review by a Parliamentary Inquiry?

The *Impounding Amendment (Shared Bicycles and Other Devices) Bill 2018* passed Parliament on Wednesday 26 September 2018.

Superannuation

226. Local Government NSW supports making mandatory the payment of superannuation to mayors and councillors, in addition to the stipend paid to elected officials. What action will you take to support?

Councils are not required to make superannuation contributions equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee on behalf of mayors and councillors under the relevant Commonwealth legislation.

Funding Shortfalls

227. Given the additional supplementation for funding shortfalls for your forced mergers for Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Councils, will you supplement other affected councils?

The NSW Government is providing a range of support to new councils, tailored to meet the needs and circumstances of each council. This has included additional funding for some councils, including Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Councils.

Council Engagement Managers

228. What are the names and contact details of the Council Engagements Managers?

- (a) What KPIs does the position have?
- (b) Will funding for these positions be recurrent?
- (c) Has supplementation for funding for the positions been sought?
- (d) What is the estimated total cost of these positions?

Council Engagement Managers develop and maintain relationships with councils, joint organisations and State government agencies to enable councils to be in the strongest possible position to discharge their responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1993* and deliver services, infrastructure and civic leadership to the communities of NSW.

All councils and joint organisations have been allocated a Council Engagement Manager. These positions are funded within the Office of Local Government operating budget.

Productivity

229. What actions will the OLG take this financial year to meet the 3 per cent productivity cut?

- (a) What positions and programmes will be reduced or deleted?

The total efficiency dividend has been absorbed within the Cluster expenditure.

Council Rates

230. Does the Minister support an increase the pensioners rebate for Council rates?

The issue of the pensioner concession framework was considered by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in its Review of Local Government Rating.

231. What is the Ministers response to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's review of the local government rating system?

The Government is carefully reviewing the final report and will respond in due course.

Amalgamations

232. Does the Minister have plans to amalgamate any more Councils in NSW?

- (a) Can the Minister rule out forced amalgamations in the future?

The Government has committed to no more forced council mergers.

Efficiency dividends

233. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?

234. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?

235. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?

236. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?

237. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

233–237: Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance

238. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?

239. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2017-18 period?

240. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

241. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

238–241: See answers to questions 142–145.

Office Administration

242. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

See answer to 146.

243. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

See answer to 147.

244. 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 2017-18?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

See answer to 148.

245. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

See answer to 149.

246. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 150.

247. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 151.

248. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?

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

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

See answer to 152.

249. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?

(a) What were the gifts purchased?

i. Who were they gifted to?

See answer to 153.

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

(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

See answer to 154.

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

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

See answer to 155.

252. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:

(a) Taxi hire

(b) Limousine hire

(c) Private hire care

(d) Hire car rental

(e) Ridesharing services

See answer to 156.

253. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 157.

Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking

254. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?

(a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19?

See answer to 158.

255. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

See answer to 159.

Hospitality

256. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

See answer to 160.

257. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

See answer to 161.

Labour Hire Firms

258. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

259. If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:

(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

258–259: See answer to 162–163.

Media and Public Relations

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

See answer to 164.

261. 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?

See answer to 165.

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

See answer to 166.

263. 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 2017-18?

See answer to 167.

Facebook

264. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

See answer to 168.

265. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

See answer to 169.

Overseas Trips

266. 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?

See answer to 170.

267. 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?

See answer to 171.

Department/Agency Travel

268. What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine/private car hire
- (c) Hire car rental
- (d) Ridesharing services

See answer to 172.

Drivers

269. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant Department provided drivers?

- (a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?
- (b) In total, how many drivers are used by senior executives in the Department?
- (c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the Department?

See answer to 173.

Consulting

270. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 174.

271. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2017-18:

- (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

See answer to 175a–d.

Department/Agency Staffing

272. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2017-18?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
273. 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?
274. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
275. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2017-18?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

272–275: See answer 176–179.

Smart Phone Accounts

276. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on iTunes?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
277. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on Android?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

276–277: See answer to 180–181.

Merchant fees

- 278. 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.
- 279. 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.
- 280. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2017-18?

278–280: See answer to 182–184.

Probity Auditor

- 281. 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.

See answer to 185.

Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage

- 282. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:
 - (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;
 - (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
 - (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
 - (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
 - (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
 - (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;

- (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
- (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

See answer to 186.

283. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?

- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
- (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

See answer to 187.

284. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

See answer to 188.

285. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

See answer to 189.

286. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

See answer to 190.

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

287. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs and a copy of such documentation.
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?

- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
 - i. How?

See answer to 191.

288. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti- bullying training and awareness programs?

See answer to 192.

289. How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:

- (a) Sexual harassment
- (b) Bullying
- (c) Workplace violence

See answer to 193.

Participation of women in Government

290. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the agency?
- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?
- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?
- (g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

See answer to 194.

Energy

291. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:
- (a) 2014-15?
 - (b) 2015-16?
 - (c) 2016-17?
 - (d) 2017-18?
292. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.
293. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?
294. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?
295. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in:
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
 - (d) 2021-22?
296. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?
297. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?
298. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
 - (d) 2021-22?

291–298: See answer to 195–202.

HERITAGE

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Hadley farm

299. How long did the approval to list Hadley farm take?

The gazettal information for Hadley Farm is available at

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5055301>

300. In 2017/18 what was the average time to determine a listing?

301. In 2017/18 how many other heritage applications were decided as quickly in two weeks or less?

302. In 2017/18 how many times were the required timelines under the act breached?

303. What steps are being taken to address this?

300–303: Gazettal and other information for listings on the State Heritage Register can be found at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/heritagesearch.aspx>.

Some recommendations to list items on the State Heritage Register require more time for consideration due to their complex nature.

Windsor Bridge

304. What protections have been provided by the Department of Heritage or Minister for Heritage for the brick barrel drains discovered at Thompson Square?

305. Is it true that these are the oldest brick barrel drains in Australia?

306. What damage has occurred to these drains to date as a result of works in the area?

304–306: This matter falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Planning and Minister for Roads.

307. What intervention, if any, has been undertaken by Heritage to protect this area?

The Office of Environment and Heritage and the Heritage Council have no direct role in the management of the brick barrel drains which is governed by the State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) approval for the new Windsor Bridge Project.

Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals

308. How many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) within the NSW forest estate were issued in the last financial year?

None.

309. How many breaches related to Aboriginal heritage within the NSW forest estate were reported to the OEHS in 2017/18?

(a) How many of these were investigated?

(b) If suspected harm to Aboriginal heritage was not investigated, why not?

None.

310. How much money has been budgeted for the transition to the proposed single Coastal IFOA in the 2018-19 financial year?

The NSW Government has committed to funding for the EPA to support the forestry reforms.

311. How many Aboriginal staff are currently employed by the Environmental Protection Agency, and in what capacity?

The EPA's Annual Report complies with the reporting requirements of Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2015. Schedule 1 of the Regulation requires each agency's Annual Report to include a statement setting out the workforce diversity achievements of the Authority during the reporting year and the key workforce diversity strategies proposed by the Authority for the following year, along with diversity statistics. This disclosure includes details in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce participation and executive levels in the public sector.

In addition, the Public Service Commission produce an annual report on public sector diversity. The latest report, published on 10 September 2018, highlight that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders represent three per cent of all NSW public sector employees. Further, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in senior leadership roles increased by 14% in 2017 to 71 leaders. The Sector's four key strategies to achieve greater Aboriginal leadership are also detailed in the report.

Butterfly Cave

312. Has the Minister been asked to provide advice to the Federal Government in relation to the protection of the Butterfly Cave at West Wallsend?

(a) What advice has the Minister provided?

The Minister provided information about the existing protections for Butterfly Cave.

313. Has OEH received applications to protect the Butterfly Cave?

Butterfly Cave was declared an Aboriginal Place in May 2013 under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. OEH received a proposal for an additional Aboriginal Place for bushland surrounding Butterfly Cave Aboriginal Place in January 2017.

(a) What is the status of the applications?

OEH investigated the proposal having regard to the OEH *Aboriginal Places Policy 2011* and the *Guidelines for the Assessment, Declaration and Management of Aboriginal Places 2012*, and determined not to progress the matter to a further assessment.

Investigations and prosecutions

314. How many breaches related to Aboriginal heritage were reported to the OEH in 2017/18?

In 2017–18 the OEH Environment Line received 113 calls reporting alleged breaches related to Aboriginal heritage.

(a) How many of these were investigated?

(b) If suspected harm to Aboriginal heritage was not investigated, why not?

OEH assesses all reports of alleged breaches and determines an appropriate response in accordance with the OEH Compliance Policy and other relevant Government policies.

315. How many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) did OEH issue in 2017/18 that did not have the support of the Aboriginal community?

All AHIP applicants are required to consult with Aboriginal people about the Aboriginal cultural heritage values (cultural significance) of Aboriginal objects and/or places relevant to the proposed project.

316. How many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) did OEH issue in 2017/18 that related to:

(a) Scarred or carved trees?

Five

(b) Burial sites?

Two

Biodiversity laws

317. How is the Government addressing concerns that the new laws will allow significant cultural heritage sites, such as scar trees to be destroyed?

***National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* provisions relating to scar trees are unchanged.**

Compliance functions continue to sit with the OEH.

318. How much has the NSW Government allocated to compliance and enforcement of the new biodiversity laws?

The Government has provided an additional \$9.6 million to support compliance.

Joint management

319. What is the OEH's total budget for joint management (activities specifically related to national parks and reserves that are/will be jointly managed under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*) in 2017/18?

In 2017–18 the total budget for joint management is \$2,668,988.

(a) Of this, how much is spent on the following:

i. Staff?

\$178,819. Note this does not include staff funding through each park's operational budget.

ii. Rent?

\$2,123,464

iii. Proposals to develop new jointly managed parks?

\$260,000

320. What is the OEH's total budget for co-management activities related to increasing Aboriginal peoples participation and management in national parks and reserves?

(a) arrangement over national parks and other conservation areas' (Goal 26, NSW 2021)?

(b) Investigating incidents of alleged unauthorised harm to Aboriginal heritage?

In 2017–18, \$7.46 million was allocated to the Aboriginal joint management program for joint management agreements including Aboriginal ownership and lease back parks, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Aboriginal Parks Partnerships Program.

OEH compliance and enforcement investigations related to Aboriginal heritage are incorporated into the broader compliance and enforcement program.

321. How many applications for joint management (under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*) has OEH received in total?

15

(a) How many of these are outstanding?

Six.

Aboriginal heritage protected

322. How much money has been allocated to specifically increase the number of Aboriginal heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register in 2018/19?

The listing of Aboriginal heritage items on the State Heritage Register is funded through the operational budget of the OEH.

(a) Is this more or less than previous years?

See answer to Question 322.

Compliance and enforcement – Aboriginal heritage

323. How many compliance and enforcement staff are employed by OEH?

As at June 2018 OEH employed 36 staff (full-time equivalent) in compliance roles that included responsibility for Aboriginal cultural heritage.

324. Of all OEH compliance and enforcement activities, how many relate to investigating and enforcing Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* relating to Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places?

See answer question 314.

Aboriginal heritage protected via the State Heritage Register and Aboriginal Places Program

325. How many items does OEH expect to list on the State Heritage Register for Aboriginal Heritage significance in 2018/19?

State Heritage Register and Aboriginal Place nominations finalised for listing targets are outlined in the 2018–19 Budget Paper 3.

Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)

326. How many new entries were listed on AHIMs in 2017/18?

3818 new Aboriginal sites were added to AHIMS in 2017–2018.

327. How much money has been allocated in 2017/18 to improve the information contained in AHIMS reports?

(a) What specifically is this funding intended to be spent on?

The cost of improvements is included in the standard operating budget for all the Heritage Division's information management systems.

328. What was the actual budget for managing and operating AHIMS in 2017/18?

This is included in the operating budget for the Heritage Division's information management system.

329. What is the forecast expenditure for operating the AHIMS database in 2017/18?

This is included in the overall expenditure forecasting for all the Heritage Division's information management systems.

Biodiversity reform

330. Of the \$240 million announced for the new Biodiversity Conservation Trust:

(a) How much was spent in 2017/18?

Refer to response to Question 30.

(b) Were any funds provided to Aboriginal land holders?

The BCT does not ask applicants if they identify as Aboriginal people.

(c) How much will be made available in 2018/19?

See responses to Question 30.

Aboriginal communities

331. Does the Office of Local Government have any strategies or programs in place to assist Aboriginal communities to engage with Local Government?

(a) Has any funding been budgeted for this purpose in 2018/19?

The Office of Local Government has partnered with Local Government NSW, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment to provide a resource kit and website to support councils to include Aboriginal communities in council decision making.

332. Has the Office of Local Government implemented any initiatives to improve the working relationship and consultation between Local Government and Local Aboriginal communities?

See answer to question 331 above.

Emissions

333. What liaison does the Minister and Office of Local Government have with local councils regarding the implementation of effective coastal planning guidelines and sea level rise planning benchmarks?

The NSW Government has established a modern and integrated coastal management framework to better equip and support local councils to plan for and respond to a broad range of existing and future coastal management issues.

The NSW Government supports councils to manage the coast by providing both technical guidance and grant funding for the preparation and implementation of coastal management programs under the new framework.

Questions from the Hon Paul Green MLC

Heritage

334. Korean energy company KEPCO has bought the prime agricultural land of Tarwyn Park and intends on turning the beautiful Bylong Valley into an enormous open cut coal pit. Minutes of an October 2017 meeting of the NSW Heritage Council show KEPCO is disputing an expert assessment that Tarwyn Park could be of state significance, and should be on the State Heritage Register.

- (a) Minister will you recognise the outstanding cultural, scenic and heritage values of the Bylong Valley and protect these values via a State Heritage Register listing?

I have not received a recommendation from the Heritage Council to include this site on the State Heritage Register.

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

Development in Heathcote East, 1-21 Dillwynnia Grove. DA 17/0467

Please note there has been an evacuation alert for East Heathcote in January this year with an out of control Bush Fire 8km away in the Royal National Park at Waterfall.

335. Minister for Heritage, are you aware that Sutherland Shire Council has approved the Development in principle and that the Sydney South Planning Panel are currently considering

approving the construction of 55 Town Houses and Apartments on a 5 acre Heritage Site described by the Office of Heritage and Environment as an imposing two storey building designed in the Victorian Italianate style and is one of the oldest and grandest buildings in the Sutherland Shire. Built in 1887 by Isaac Harber?

This is a matter for the Sydney South Planning Panel.

336. Minister, are you aware of the Sutherland Shire LEP 2015 Heritage status clause (e) “the proposed development would not have any significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area”?

The Sutherland Shire LEP is a matter for the Sutherland Shire Council.

- (a) The construction and development of 55 apartments, with 5 levels, will obviously have “significant adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area”. Minister have you considered the effects on the majestic Heathcote Hall, site of state significance?
- (b) How it’s very foundations will be threatened by the construction site being in such close proximity?

336a–b: See answer to Question 335.

337. Is the Minister prepared to intervene, meet with residents and community groups and their families, understand the issues and have this life threatening development stopped before lives are put at risk in the event of a major fire and to preserve Heathcote Hall for future generations?

See answer to Question 335.

Heritage Council

338. Why does it take the Minister on average over six months to list items on the State Heritage Register once the recommendation has been received from the NSW Heritage Council?

339. Why has the Newcastle recreation reserve still not been listed on the State Heritage Register despite the Minister receiving the recommendation from the Heritage Council?

340. When will consideration be given to the recommendation of the NSW Heritage Council as required under section 34(1) of the Heritage Act 1997?

338–340: Some recommendations to list items on the State Heritage Register require more time for consideration due to their complex nature.

Redundancies

341. How many redundancies were accepted in NSW National Parks in the following years:

- (a) 2011;
- (b) 2012;
- (c) 2013;
- (d) 2014;
- (e) 2015;
- (f) 2016;
- (g) 2017; and
- (h) 2018?

See answer to question 176–179.

Efficiency dividends

- 342. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?
- 343. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?
- 344. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?
- 345. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?
- 346. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

See answer to 137–141.

Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance

- 347. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?
- 348. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2017-18 period?
- 349. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?
- 350. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

347–350: See answer to 142–145.

Office Administration

- 351. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

See answer to 146.

352. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

See answer to 147.

353. 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 2017-18?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

See answer to 148.

354. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

See answer to 149.

355. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 150.

356. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 151.

357. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 152.

358. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?

See answer to 153.

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

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

See answer to 154.

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

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

See answer to 155.

361. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

See answer to 156.

362. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?

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

See answer to 157.

Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking

363. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?

- (a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19?

See answer to 158.

364. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

See answer to 159.

Hospitality

365. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

See answer to 160.

366. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

See answer to 161.

Labour Hire Firms

367. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

368. If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:

- (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

367–368: See answer to 162–163.

Media and Public Relations

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

See answer to 164.

370. 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?

See answer to 165.

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

See answer to 166.

372. 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 2017-18?

See answer to 167.

Facebook

373. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

See answer to 168.

374. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

See answer to 169.

Overseas Trips

375. 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?

See answer to 170.

376. 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?

See answer to 171.

Department/Agency Travel

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- (a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?
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- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

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 - i. And the cost of these services
- (b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
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See answer to 175.

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381–384: See answer to 176–179.

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385–386: See answer to 180–181.

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387–389: See answer to 182–184.

Probity Auditor

390. 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.

See answer to 185.

Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage

391. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;
- (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
- (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
- (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
- (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
- (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
- (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
- (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

See answer to 186.

392. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?

- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
- (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

See answer to 187.

393. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

See answer to 188.

394. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

See answer to 189.

395. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

See answer to 190.

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

396. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs and a copy of such documentation.
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
 - i. How?

See answer to 191.

397. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

See answer to 192.

398. How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:

- (a) Sexual harassment
- (b) Bullying
- (c) Workplace violence

See answer to 193.

Participation of women in Government

399. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the agency?
- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?
- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?
- (g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

See answer to 194.

Energy

400. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:

- (a) 2014-15?
- (b) 2015-16?
- (c) 2016-17?
- (d) 2017-18?

401. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.
402. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?
403. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?
404. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in:
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
 - (d) 2021-22?
405. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?
406. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?
407. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:
- (a) 2018-19?
 - (b) 2019-20?
 - (c) 2020-21?
 - (d) 2021-22?

400–407: See answer to 195–202.

ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HERITAGE

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Land clearing

408. How much land in hectares has been cleared in New South Wales since the new legislation arrangements under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016* took effect 25 August 2017?
409. How much land in hectares had been cleared in the 12 months prior to the new arrangements?
410. How much land in hectares had been cleared in the 24 months prior to the new arrangements?
411. How many hectares of Koala habitat have been cleared around Moree and Collarenebri since new laws have taken effect?
412. How many hectares of Koala habitat across New South Wales have been cleared since the new laws have taken effect?
413. How many hectares of Painted Honeyeater habitat have been cleared since the new laws have taken effect?
414. How many threatened native species have had lost habitat due to land clearing since the new laws have taken effect?
415. How many of those species are classified as endangered or critically endangered?
416. How many of those species are classified as of National Environmental Significance?
417. How much land in hectares has been cleared since the new legislative arrangements that provided habitat for either threatened native species or species of National Environmental Significance?

408–417. Data for this period is currently being validated.

Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) Map

418. With reference to the Native Vegetation Regulatory Map, when will the maps be complete?

See the response to Question 26.

419. How long will these transitional arrangements for self-regulation be in place?

This is a matter for the Minister for Primary Industries.

420. How many investigations into improper clearing has the OEI undertaken?

In 2017–18 the OEH Environment Line received 565 calls reporting alleged native vegetation clearing. OEH assesses all reports and determines an appropriate response in accordance with the OEH Compliance Policy and other relevant Government policies.

421. What compliance is OEH undertaking?

See answer 25.

422. What amount of land in hectares has the Department approved for clearing since the new laws came into force on 25 August 2017?

423. What amount of land in hectares had the Department approved for clearing in the 12 months prior to those laws coming into effect?

424. What amount of land in hectares had the Department approved for clearing in the 24 months prior to those laws coming into effect?

422–424. This is a matter for the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Primary Industries.

Waste

425. What is the expected growth rate of waste generation in NSW for each of the following:

- (a) Municipal solid waste?
- (b) Commercial and Industrial Waste?
- (c) Construction and Demolition?

This data is not currently available.

426. What are the current recycling rates for each waste stream?

The latest information on recycling rates is available at:

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/d075c9bc-45b3-4ac0-a8f2-6494c7d1fa0d/files/national-waste-report-2016.pdf>

427. What was the rate of recycling for beverage containers prior to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)?

This is not available. Prior to the CDS, recycling of drink containers was not measured separately. Beverage containers were included in the recycling figures by material type, such as metals, paper and plastic.

428. What is the rate of recycling for beverage containers since the introduction of the CDS?

The overall rate of recovery of all eligible containers supplied into NSW and subsequently returned through the CDS includes volumes returned from yellow kerbside bins and all CDS return points including Reverse Vending Machines, Over the Counter collection points and Automated Depots.

429. What cost-benefit studies have been conducted to date on the impact of banning single use plastic bags in NSW?

The NSW EPA published a plastic bag options paper in 2016 available here

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/waste/160143-plastic-shopping-bags-options.pdf>

430. How many single use plastic bags are used in NSW annually?

This information is available online at:

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/publications/waste/160143-plastic-shopping-bags-options.htm>

431. What proportion of these bags are not captured in landfill or otherwise escape into the environment?

The 2017–18 National Litter Index found that plastic bags make up less than one per cent (0.3%) of total litter by volume in NSW.

Waste Processing

432. What percentage of NSW waste is processed in private facilities and what percentage is processed in Council run facilities?

A list of licenced waste and resource recovery facilities is publicly available on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-regulation/public-registers/about-prpoeo/list-of-licences>

433. How much money has the NSW Government given to Local councils since 2011 to help them with waste processing and recycling?

From 2011–2013 councils were funded through the Office of Environment and Heritage’s Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payments.

From 2013–14 to 2017–18, Councils have been eligible to apply for a variety of grants under the *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative funded programs:

- **Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program**
- **Illegal Dumping Prevention and Enforcement Fund**

- **Litter Prevention and Enforcement Fund,**
- **Organics Infrastructure Fund,**
- **Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund,**
- **Systems for Household Problem Wastes Fund**
- **Business Recycling Program.**

434. How much money is budgeted over the next 4 years to be given to local councils for waste processing and recycling?

Councils are eligible to apply for a variety of *Waste Less, Recycle More* funded programs and contestable grants as listed under question 433.

Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure Grants

435. How many companies applied for a grant under the scheme?

76

436. How many of those applications were granted?

16

437. How many local councils applied for a grant under the scheme?

19 of the 76 applicants were councils.

438. How many of those applications were granted?

4

439. How many of the projects are on track in terms of milestones?

Ten projects are on track in terms of their currently approved milestones. Three projects are delayed in delivering their most recent milestone reports. Three projects have been cancelled by mutual agreement and the funding returned.

440. How many have missed milestones?

It is not uncommon for large, complex infrastructure projects to apply for variations to milestones where their grant project experience delays.

441. Which are these?

This is commercial in confidence.

Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement program

Environment, Local Government, Heritage

442. How many companies applied for a grant under the scheme?

75

443. How many of those applications were granted?

26

444. How many local councils applied for a grant under the scheme?

20 of the 75 applications were from councils.

445. How many of those applications were granted?

12

Geneses Xero Waste Facility

446. In 2014 the EPA granted Dial-a-Dump \$5 million for their Geneses Xero Waste facility, which was to make up over 40% of the waste stream for the western Sydney incinerator. Now that the incinerator has been rejected what is the future for that facility?

That is a matter for the grantee.

447. Has the money been granted?

It is a requirement of the funding agreement that these funds are held in a separate account and can only be used for approved expenditure items. If the project does not go ahead these funds must be returned.

448. Was it conditional on the construction of the incinerator?

No.

449. Was the diversion of the waste to the incinerator one of the key aspects of the approval for the grant money?

No.

450. Has the facility been built?

No.

National Parks

451. How many new National Parks has the NSW Liberal/National Government established since being elected in 2011?

10

452. What was the National Park acquisition budget in:

- (a) 2015/2016
- (b) 2016/2017
- (c) 2017/2018
- (d) 2018/2019 (budgeted)

The table below shows the actual acquisition budget for the requested financial years.

Financial Year	\$ million
2015/2016	\$5.81 million
2016/2017	\$7.93 million
2017/2018	\$7.97 million
2018/2019 (budgeted)	\$11.97 million

453. How much was spent in 2017/2018 on invasive species control?

\$34 million

- (a) Please provide a list of how much is spent on the following measures:
 - i. Shooting
 - ii. Baiting
 - iii. Non-lethal measures

National Parks and Wildlife Service takes an integrated approach to pest management, with multiple techniques used for each program.

- (b) How many kilograms of 1080 poison did the National Parks and Wildlife Service use in 2017/2018?

0.73 kilograms in 2017–18.

454. How much is planned to be spent in 2018/2019 on invasive species control?

- (a) Please provide a list of how much is spent on the following measures:
 - i. Shooting
 - ii. Baiting

iii. Non-lethal measures

\$34 million. See response to question 453 (a).

455. Is the NPWS trialling or planning to trial any invasive species controls measures as a more humane alternative to 1080?

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) uses a range of integrated techniques as part of its pest management programs.

456. How much was spent in 2017/2018 on the Supplementary Pest Control Program? Please provide a list of each species and number of animals that were removed under the program?

See answer to Question 60.

457. Please provide an update of the activities of the Extinct Animal Reintroduction Program in the 2017/2018 financial year.

The contract with Australian Wildlife Conservancy was signed on 29 April 2016 and the contract with University of NSW was signed on 9 August 2016. Both projects are underway.

458. How many frontline staff are employed by OEHS as part of the National Parks and Wildlife Service?

(a) Of these, how many rangers are employed by the OEHS?

Of 1514 total full time equivalent employees, NPWS currently employs 1045 full-time equivalent frontline staff. Of these, 206 are rangers. This figure is currently growing as recruitment activities roll out across the remainder of 2018.

459. What criteria is used to determine the adequacy of staffing requirements for ranger positions in the National Parks and Wildlife Service?

The management requirements of the park estate are not categorised by role type.

460. How many rangers are required by NPWS to efficiently manage its estate?

The management requirements of the park estate are not categorised by role type.

461. How many visitors to NSW National Parks occurred in 2017-2018?

The figures for 2017–18 are yet to be determined.

462. How do these rates of visitation compare with the numbers from 2011-2016?

Figures for previous years are publicly available on the OEH website at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/our-science-and-research/our-research/social-and-economic/social/domestic-visitation>.

463. What has been the overall reduction in funding to the NPWS each year since 2011?

None.

464. What have been the overall staffing numbers of OEH each year since 2011?

Staff numbers are reported in agency annual reports.

465. How many walking tracks have been closed due to lack of maintenance since 2011? For what duration?

NPWS does not hold that data.

466. How many facilities at National Parks, including toilet and visitor amenities, have been closed due to lack of maintenance since 2011? For what duration?

NPWS does not hold that data.

467. What is the timeline for the Draft NSW National Parks System Directions Statement?

A Draft NSW National Parks System Directions Statement will be considered by government when finalised.

OEH Science division

468. What has been the reduction in staff in OEH's science division over the last four years?

There have been no staffing reductions over the last four years.

469. How many permanent full-time people are working in the science division now?

162 permanent full-time staff as at 30 June 2018 (excluding temporary staff, part timers, casuals and contractors).

470. How many redundancies have occurred since you became Environment Minister?

See answer to question 176–179.

Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy

471. Why do the short and long term targets in the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy contain no measurable area targets?

472. What is the targeted amount of private land (in hectares) in NSW protected under private land conservation agreements by 2023?
473. What is the targeted amount of private land (in hectares) in NSW protected under private land conservation agreements by 2038?
474. What is the targeted amount of land holdings to include areas under private land conservation agreements by 2023?
475. What is the targeted amount of land holdings to include areas under private land conservation agreements by 2038?

471–475. The Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy sets targets for private land conservation in NSW across the long and short term. See <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/conservationprograms/biodiversity-conservation-investment-strategy.htm>

Wilton South East Precinct

476. What correspondence was provided to the Planning Minister during consideration of the rezoning of the Wilton South East Precinct
477. Did your Department advice against the rezoning?
478. Does the OEH still believe that part of the Wilton South East Precinct should not be rezoned due to the impact this would have on the local koala population?

476–478. OEH provided advice to the Department of Planning in response to its request.

479. What koala protection strategy is in place for that Precinct?

OEH is not aware of a ‘koala protection strategy’ for that Precinct.

480. Do you agree that the State Government should repeal the rezoning of Wilton South East Precinct until a local koala protection strategy is in place and there is certainty the habitat will be protected into the future?

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.