



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020
Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

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REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Narrabri gas “Beneficial use” of exploration gas by Santos and royalty loss to NSW

1. How much gas has been sent to the Wilga Park power station from exploration and appraisal wells in PAL2 in the Pilliga near Narrabri since approval was granted to use the gas this way in 2008?

ANSWER:

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment does not hold data on the amount of gas sent to Wilga Park for beneficial use.

2. Does the Department keep records of how much gas is being produced from exploration and appraisal wells in PAL2 and PEL238 and used commercially by Santos? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The Department does not hold data on the amount of gas sent to Wilga Park for beneficial use. The titleholder is not legally required to provide this data to the Department. The Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016 limits the beneficial use of gas extracted by number of days of extraction for beneficial use rather than the volume used beneficially.

The Department holds data on the volume of gas produced from wells in Petroleum Assessment Lease (PAL) 2. The title conditions on PAL 2 require the titleholder to provide this data to the Department. The Department treats this data as confidential.

The Department does not hold data on the volume of gas produced from wells in Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 238. The title conditions on PEL 238 do not require the titleholder to provide this data to the Department.

Gas extracted from PAL 2 and PEL 238 is only used beneficially for the generation of electricity or flared.

3. Given the length of time exploration and appraisal has been underway on PEL238 and PAL2, how does the Department satisfy itself that the gas being beneficially used at the Wilga Park power station would otherwise be vented or flared?
 - (a) Has NSW received any royalties from this gas?
 - (b) What is the well-head value of the gas at PEL238 or PAL2 that is used to calculate royalties?

ANSWER:

NSW petroleum legislation allows for gas recovered from exploration wells to be used for electricity generation as an alternative to venting or flaring the gas. Allowing for the beneficial use of gas ensures the sustainable use of gas resources during exploration. The petroleum regulations recognise that it is in the broader public interest to allow gas that would otherwise be wasted to be used for other beneficial purposes, such as electricity generation.

- (a) and (b)

Under the NSW royalty regime, royalties are payable on the net well head value of gas. The net well head value is calculated by subtracting allowable deductions (certain operating

expenses) from the gross value of the gas produced. For PEL 238 and PAL 2, the allowable deductions are currently greater than the revenue, resulting in a negative net value.

4. Perdaman's proposed ammonium nitrate plant near Narrabri would use appraisal gas as well as Wilga Park power station.
 - (a) How much longer will Santos be permitted to continue commercially utilising exploration and appraisal gas from PAL2 and PEL238?
 - (b) Will the Department commit to not allowing any further expansion or extension in time of this program, given it is short-changing NSW of royalties and using a loophole to avoid the scrutiny and safeguards that would come if and when Santos applied for a full production licence?

ANSWER:

The Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016 limits the beneficial use of gas to a period of 1000 days (whether consecutive or not), per well. On 11 October 2018, the Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016 was amended to ensure Santos could continue to beneficially use gas from its operating exploration wells within PAL 2 (for a further 1000 days from that date) rather than wastefully flare it. Santos can continue to beneficially use gas from the PAL 2 exploration wells until the 1000-day threshold is reached.

The extension only applied to the exploration wells in PAL 2. The 1000-day limit for exploration wells in PEL 238 starts from the date when they start to recover gas for beneficial use. Any further extensions would be a matter for the Minister.

Expired petroleum licences

5. Has there been any exploration activity or any community consultation on any of the expired petroleum exploration licences in the state's north-west except for PEL 238 in the last six years?

ANSWER:

There are no expired petroleum exploration licences in the state's north west. There are currently 12 petroleum exploration licences and one petroleum assessment lease awaiting determination of their renewal applications. Until determinations on the renewals are made, the licences and lease remain active and exploration can continue, subject to environmental approvals.

6. Does the Deputy Premier consider that the holder of these eleven expired licences has met the minimum standards required for holders of gas exploration licences?

ANSWER:

There are no expired petroleum exploration licences in the state's north west.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Conditions enforcement

In relation to conditions placed on mining licences/approvals under the Mining Act,

7. How are fines for non-compliance with conditions determined?

ANSWER:

Penalty amounts are prescribed by the Mining Act 1992 and Mining Regulation 2016.

8. What is the range of the dollar value of these fines?

ANSWER:

Penalty amounts are prescribed by the Mining Act 1992 and Mining Regulation 2016.

9. What follow-up is carried out in relation to companies which have failed to comply with conditions to ensure future compliance?

ANSWER:

A risk based approach is taken with specific follow up and verification undertaken for higher risk matters and lower level matters checked through routine compliance monitoring and inspections.

10. Are independent investigations conducted by any government agency or department to monitor compliance?
- (a) If no, how and when does non-compliance get notified?
 - (b) If yes, how many investigations have been conducted in the last 12 months?
 - i. How many incidents of non-compliance were discovered?
 - ii. What action was taken in relation to any non-compliance?

ANSWER:

Yes, the NSW Resources Regulator is a standalone regulator responsible for compliance and enforcement of the Mining Act.

During 2018/19 FY the Regulator received 405 allegations of non-compliance with the Mining Act. Of these, 315 matters were sustained resulting in nine prosecutions, the acceptance of three enforceable undertakings, 63 penalty infringement notices, 59 official cautions and the suspension of mining operations at three sites.

Bond and securities

11. What have you or the Department done in relation to the Auditor General's 2017 recommendation that the way security and rehabilitations bonds are calculated be updated to ensure they are adequate?

ANSWER:

A new rehabilitation cost estimation tool was published on the department's website on 1 June 2017.

Key improvements include; updated cost schedule based on third party industry rates and actual costs derived from projects across NSW and Queensland; clearer guidance on the process for using alternative rates; application to exploration and a wider range of rehabilitation activities to be considered; clearer guidance on understanding the application of the rehabilitation activity; and advice regarding contingencies and how to calculate them.

The new tool includes a significant increase in contingency amounts to 30 per cent, representing; 10 per cent for general contingency; 10 per cent for post closure environmental monitoring; and 10 per cent for project management and surveying. This is double the amount of 15 per cent required under the previous tool, comprising of 10 per cent for project management and surveying and 5 per cent for post closure environmental monitoring.

Loss of merit based appeals

12. Has there been any review of the impacts of the removal of merit-based appeal rights on granting of mining licences?

ANSWER:

Aspects of these questions relating to appeals against development consents are a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

There are no merit-appeal provisions for an appeal by a third party to the grant of a mining lease under the *Mining Act 1992*.

The only merit provisions in the Act are as follows:

- Section 380A(6), which relates to appeals against a decision that a person is not a fit and proper person.
- Section 128(1), which relates to appeals against decisions concerning cancellations of authorities (mining leases, assessment leases, and exploration licences), including a decision to cancel an authority or in relation to compensation payable as a consequence of cancellation.
- Sections 23A(14) and 44A(14), which relate to appeals against decision to cancel an activity approval (required to authorise certain exploration activities, once an exploration licence or assessment lease has been granted). However, it should be noted that these are not in relation to mining leases. There have been no amendments to these merit appeal provisions (including the removal of any appeal rights) since 2016.

13. How many legal appeals have been filed against mining leases/licences/approvals since 2016?
(a) How many were granted and what reasons were cited?

ANSWER:

Aspects of these questions relating to appeals against development consents are a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Since 2016, one challenge has been made in the Land and Environment Court against the grant of a mining lease (*Carter v Minister for Resources* 2019). The applicant, a landholder, challenged the validity of a mining lease granted over his land, on the basis that the provisions regarding agricultural land objections were not followed. The Court declared that the mining lease granted in 2017 was invalid and of no effect.

14. How many appeals have been filed by mining companies in that time?
(a) How many have been granted and what reasons were cited?

ANSWER:

Aspects of these questions relating to appeals against development consents are a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Since 2016, no mining companies have initiated proceedings in relation to the refusal to grant a mining lease under the *Mining Act 1992*.

Mining Licences on the Illawarra escarpment

15. For how long can an expired mining licence remain suspended rather than revoked?

ANSWER:

There are no prescribed periods or limitations under the *Mining Act 1992*. It depends on the circumstances surrounding the suspension (such as whether the operation has been suspended due to a non-compliance issue, whether it has been sought by the titleholder, or where a renewal is under consideration).

Section 117 of the *Mining Act* provides for an authority that was due to expire to continue to have effect, provided an application for renewal has been made before it has expired. It will then continue

until the application has been finally disposed of. Should no renewal be pending, then the title expires on its expiry date.

If a suspension notice has been issued (for example, under s240AA), then the suspension is subject to the terms of that notice. Terms might include compliance with requirements in order to have the suspension notice lifted. The suspension remains in effect until the suspension notice is lifted or other action is taken, such as cancellation of the title.

Similarly, where the titleholder seeks Minister's consent to suspend, the consent may be granted subject to terms.

16. On revocation of a licence, what compensation is payable to the former licence holder?

ANSWER:

Under section 127 of the Mining Act 1992 the holder of an authority is not entitled to compensation, except where the authority is cancelled on the grounds that the whole or part of the land concerned is required for a public purpose. In such instances the amount of compensation is determined by the Minister.

17. What is the procedure for revoking a mining licence against the wishes of the licence holder?

ANSWER:

The procedure for cancelling a mining licence is set out in sections 126 and 204 of the Mining Act. Section 126 states:

- (1) Before cancelling an authority, otherwise than at the request of the holder of the authority, the decision-maker is to cause a written notice to be served on the holder of the authority that contains the following:
 - (a) notice that the authority is proposed to be cancelled,
 - (b) details of the grounds for the proposed cancellation,
 - (c) notice that the holder of the authority has a specified period (of at least 28 days) in which to make representations with respect to the proposed cancellation.
- (2) The decision-maker must not cancel an authority, otherwise than at the request of the holder of the authority, unless:
 - (a) the decision-maker has taken any such representations received from the holder of the authority into consideration, or
 - (b) the period specified in the notice has elapsed and no such representations have been received.

Wilpinjong Coal Mine - ELA 5804

18. Why is ELA 5804 being considered as an operational release rather than a strategic release?

ANSWER:

ELA 5804 was lodged under section 13C of the Mining Act 1992, as Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd is an existing coal title holder and may apply for an additional exploration title to avoid sterilisation of resources, support better mine design, or expand existing mining operations.

An application under the Strategic Release Framework can only be lodged if the Minister invites applications, which has not occurred.

19. Why does the market interest test for ELA 5804, which was open until 15 September 2019, only cover part of the unallocated EL 6676?

ANSWER:

The area identified in the market interest test for ELA 5804 is based on the Geological Survey of NSW's understanding of the coal geology and mining potential of the area that could support a standalone mine.

20. Will the Peabody Energy approval to mine coal until 2033 under the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Extension Project be considered when making a decision on ELA 5804?

ANSWER:

Under the *Guidelines for coal exploration licence applications for operational allocation purposes*, the needs of the applicant and the remaining production period of the existing mine are required to be considered.

21. How will the cumulative environmental, social and economic impacts of accessing additional coal resources in the Wollar district be considered when making a decision on ELA 5804?

ANSWER:

Cumulative environmental, social, and economic impacts of accessing additional coal resources in the Wollar district would be considered as part of the state's comprehensive development consent process, should a development application to extract coal resources from this area be received.

22. Who makes up the Coal Resource Operational Allocation Committee?

ANSWER:

The Coal Resource Operational Allocation Committee is comprised of senior officers from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Treasury.

23. Will the Coal Resource Operational Allocation Committee provide details of the application to the Advisory Body for Strategic Release to inform the Advisory Body's work? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

If ELA 5804 does not meet the *Guidelines for coal exploration licence applications for operational allocation purposes*, details of the application will be provided to the Advisory Body for Strategic Release to inform its work.

Licensing of companies and assessments by Resources and Geoscience

24. Why have concurrent licences been awarded for mineral exploration over land which has been identified as habitat for the critically endangered Thick Billed Grass Wren in Western NSW?

ANSWER:

The standard exploration licence conditions, including the statutory condition for an activity approval (s23A of the Mining Act 1992), embed comprehensive and contemporary environmental and rehabilitation obligations and the imposition of a security condition. These conditions adequately protect the environment and manage any environmental risk arising from the prospecting activities proposed in the licencees' work programs.

25. Why don't the Division of Resources and Geoscience adequately assess exploration licences in NSW on a continuum? Why do they instead consider works with minimal impact in isolation rather than the cumulative impact by multiple companies, despite the State Environmental Planning Policy framework requiring proper assessment?

ANSWER:

In deciding whether or not to grant an authority, the decision maker must take into account the need to conserve and protect the environment in, or over, the land which the authority is sought. On grant, an

authorisation is subject to any conditions imposed by the relevant decision maker. This may include conditions relating to environmental management, protection, and rehabilitation. This may include requiring the holder of an authorisation to carry out activities, or not to carry out activities, in order to protect, prevent, control, or mitigate harm to the environment and rehabilitate land or water that is, or may be, affected by activities under the authorisation.

The conditions regulate the type of exploration that can be carried out and where these activities may occur. Exploration activities identified as having minimal environmental impact can be carried out without further approval. Routine exploration activities in non-sensitive areas generally have a low impact and any impacts are of a temporary nature.

Higher-intensity activities, activities in sensitive areas, or activities that have the potential to affect threatened species or ecological communities require further approval. There are stringent assessment processes in place for approval of these types of activities. Proponents are required to prepare and submit a Review of Environmental Factors that addresses all potential impacts of the proposal, including potential impacts on the environment and the community. For projects falling under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment must examine and take into account all matters that will, or are likely to affect the environment. Any exploration that is assessed as potentially having a significant impact requires the proponent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Department's review of the EIS will form the basis as to whether the activity will be approved.

These processes allow for all environmental issues, including impacts to natural features and water resources, to be rigorously addressed and managed.

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Regional NSW

26. How many different definitions are there for “regional NSW”?
- What definitions are used in order for local councils, community organisations, small business, etc to access different forms of funding?
 - What are the state electoral districts and local government areas that are included in each of the definitions for “regional NSW”?

ANSWER:

There is no universally accepted definition of regional and metropolitan with the Government considering individual needs and characteristics as they relate to specific programs and projects. Program guidelines make eligibility criteria, including geographical restrictions, clear to applicants. The NSW Government does not classify state electoral districts as "metropolitan" or "regional."

27. How much extra funding, using 2018/19 budget figures as the base, has gone to regional NSW, and under what definition of “regional NSW” to help combat climate change?
- Are there specific government plans across regional NSW on climate change?
 - If so, what are the specific plans across regional NSW?
 - If not, why is this not the case?
 - How is the government taking the local conditions into consideration when planning for climate change?
 - Which departments, and/or clusters have responsibility for enabling and operationalising these plans?
 - Do these plans include extreme weather events?
 - How is drought factored into these plans?
 - How is water security factored into these plans?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment

28. How is the NSW government supporting regional NSW in getting to zero emissions by 2050?
- Which departments, clusters and/or agencies have responsibility for this?
 - Is there are specific unit that will provide support for regional NSW in doing this?
 - What is the plan to achieve this?
 - How much funding, using 2018/19 as the baseline for this, is allocated to it in the budget?
 - What are the reporting procedures in place to make sure the NSW government can reach this?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment

29. Does Essential Energy use tools to measure satisfaction with the workplace culture?
- How those results from those tools to measure satisfaction reported?
 - How are those reports used to change, for the better, workplace culture?
 - Have any of the results from those tools been disregarded?
 - Why were they not taken into consideration?

- (b) Is there a culture problem at Essential Energy?
- (c) Is it the case that a recent poll of Essential Energy employees said that 69% had experienced bullying in the last 12 months?
- (d) Why did the chair of the board (Patricia McKenzie) leave?
 - i. Where there any extenuating circumstances that led to her leaving?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

30. How many jobs has the growing local economies program created?
- (a) How is this measured?
 - i. What metrics are used?
 - ii. How is it reported?
 - iii. How are the general and youth unemployment rates across regional NSW used?
 - iv. Where is this information publicly available?
 - v. If not, why is it not publicly available?
 - (b) How much of this funding has been spent in regional NSW communities?
 - i. What is the breakdown of that funding by state electoral district and local government area?
 - (c) How has this funding being used to reduce youth unemployment across regional NSW?
 - i. Are there specific programmes that have been funded to do this?
 - ii. If not, why not?
 - iii. If so, please detail what programmes have been funded?

ANSWER:

Each project funded under Growing Local Economies fund will create jobs through the construction phase, as well as estimated direct and indirect jobs once the project is complete. Job creation figures will be reviewed and reported as part of the Program evaluation.

- (a) Job creation figures are assessed as part of the Cost Benefit Analysis undertaken as part of the economic assessment criteria.
 - i. Applicants are required to estimate the number of jobs created through the construction phase, as well as post-construction.
 - ii. Job creation is captured in the applicants Business Case and related data
 - iii. General unemployment is factored in the estimation of benefits in the Cost Benefit Analysis of each project. Youth unemployment may be used in the analysis of specific projects.
 - iv. Projected job figures for each project are usually identified in media releases and in the public domain upon successful announcement of funding for a project.
 - v. As per answer at iv.
- (b) The Growing Local Economies (GLE) Fund has committed a total of \$238.7 million to 35 projects across regional NSW.
 - i. The location of successful GLE projects is published online.

- (c) Each project funded under Growing Local Economies fund will create jobs through the construction phase, as well as estimated direct and indirect jobs once the project is complete
 i), ii), iii) The appointment of the first NSW Minister for Regional Youth gives a greater focus to youth issues, including the issue of youth unemployment. Regional youth will have access to \$50 million reserved from the current round of the Stronger Countries Community Fund for projects and programs, including job preparation. Applications closed 27 September.
31. Is there a specific funding stream, whether through consolidated revenue or Restart NSW is the \$8 million investment from the NSW government for regional air services announced on the 27th of August 2019 coming from?

ANSWER:

The regional air services commitment was funded from consolidated revenue and forms part of the \$20m support to the Far West Councils to form two Joint Organisations.

32. What is the NSW Government's expected timeframe for the Narrabri Santos project go ahead?
- (a) Are there any limitations placed on the Government by any draft or finalised agreement by Santos in relation to this project?
- i. Is the Government obligated to fund any part of the project?
- ii. What involvement is there from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in this project?
- What does that involvement look like?
- (b) What steps have been taken to support farmers in this consultation process?
- (c) In the case of the great artesian basin, will that ground water be protected from Santos and CSG mining?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

33. What plans have been put in place when towns across regional NSW run out of water?
- (a) With residents in Dubbo, Nyngan, Tamworth and Walgett likely to run out of water, what plans have been put in place to ensure there will be access to drinking water?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Water, Property and Housing

34. In the role as Minister for Regional NSW, what role do you see that portfolio having in relation to the review of the election reviews and the redistribution?
- (a) Does the Minister stand by the comments he made at Inverell in June 2019 to introduce a bill to change the Electoral Act to achieve, "real fairness and representation" for regional communities?
- (b) Will the Minister's advocacy reflect the comments made at Inverell?
- (c) What is the timeframe for this?

ANSWER:

I stand by comments made at Inverell in June 2019 regarding increased representation for regional communities, especially as they battle drought. My views on this matter are on the public record.

Rail Trails

35. Does the NSW Government support rail trails in regional communities?
- (a) In all cases?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government supports the facilitation of rail trails on disused rail lines where there is overriding community support and a viable business model in place.

36. What was the total amount of the \$100 million promised to fund regional rail trails and airports has been dedicated to rail trails and airports respectively?

ANSWER:

There is no \$100 million dedicated solely to fund regional rail trails and airports.

37. Has work on the pilot rail trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood commenced?

ANSWER:

Yes.

38. If so, what is the progress and timeline for the project?

ANSWER:

As at September, Snowy Valleys Shire Council reported project completion at approximately 15%. The current forecast is for the project to be completed in 2020.

39. What are the conditions by which the Tumbarumba to Rosewood pilot be considered successful?

ANSWER:

The success of pilot rail trail projects will be reviewed once construction is complete and rail trails are operational. The pilot projects will provide the NSW Government with a better understanding of the full benefits and potential for rail trails in NSW.

40. Considering that the pilot has seen work on other rail trails cease across the State, how is the Government working to ensure these projects do not stall?

ANSWER:

Legal complexities such as managing existing leases and licenses on rail corridors have caused delays to rail trail projects. It is appropriate that the NSW Government provides sufficient time for these issues to be addressed.

41. How did the forced merger of regional councils impact plan for regional rail trails?

ANSWER:

Both merged and unmerged councils have successfully proposed rail trails.

42. Does the NSW Government support the Crookwell to Goulburn Rail Trail project?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government supports the facilitation of rail trails on disused rail lines, where there is overriding community support and a viable business model in place.

Benefits of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle

43. Is the Deputy Premier aware that the 2019 NSW Nationals Conference passed the following motion:

"That conference call on the NSW Nationals to ensure:

The removal of all obstacles facing the Newcastle Container Terminal Expansion Plans, including the cap on the number of containers and the State Government fee payable on container exports and The Port's development of a high intensity container terminal."?

ANSWER:

This matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

44. Does the Deputy Premier support the motion passed by the 2019 NSW Nationals Conference?

ANSWER:

This matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

45. What action has the Deputy Premier taken to implement this motion?

ANSWER:

This matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

46. Has the Deputy Premier discussed this motion with the Premier or Minister for Transport and Roads?

- (a) If so, what has been the outcome of these discussions?
- (b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

This matter is currently the subject of court proceedings and is therefore subject to the sub judice convention.

47. Does the cap on containers at the Port of Newcastle drive up costs of farming exports?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer provided by the Treasurer.

48. Does the cap on containers at the Port of Newcastle drive up costs for Regional NSW exports?

ANSWER:

Please see the answer to Question 47.

49. Would a container terminal in Newcastle lower freight costs for western district farmers and primary producers exports?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Agriculture.

50. Have any farmers contacted you to express concerns about the NSW Government's restrictions on the Port of Newcastle?

- (a) If so, what action have you taken to address these concerns?

ANSWER:

No.

51. How many jobs would a container terminal in Newcastle deliver for Regional NSW?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer provided by the Treasurer.

52. Would a container in Newcastle reduce freight costs for businesses in Newcastle, the Hunter and Regional NSW?

ANSWER:

With more than 482 million tonnes of freight being moved within NSW, one additional container (assuming Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) would be an increase of approximately 0.0000063%, and would have a negligible impact on freight cost for businesses.

53. What would be the economic benefit to Regional NSW of a container terminal in Newcastle?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the answer provided by the Treasurer.

Restart NSW/Go Equity NSW

54. In the budget, will the proportion of Restart NSW expenditure to regional NSW over the life of the fund reach 30% at any point over the forward estimates?

ANSWER:

As at the 2019-20 Budget, around 800 rural and regional projects and Restart programs, worth \$7.4 billion, have been approved for funding, with \$2.1 billion in further Restart funding reserved for ongoing regional grant programs or projects. This represents roundly 29 per cent of all budgeted and planned Restart funding since inception (of \$33.1 billion). The 30 per cent commitment applies over the lifespan of the fund.

55. Was Michael Lukin of ROC partners invited to attend the launch of the first investment from the Go Equity NSW fund, held in Ebor?

ANSWER:

Please see answer to Question 56.

56. Was Michael Lukin of ROC Partners listed on the list of people expected to attend?
(a) If so, why was this fact not mentioned in responses to questions on notice regarding this matter previously?

ANSWER:

As previously stated in prior Budget Estimates hearings in 2018, Jobs for NSW was advised that Mr Michael Lukin had been invited to the Stone Axe Pastoral co-investment between First State Super and the NSW Government as part of the GO NSW Equity Fund in his capacity as a board member of Stone Axe Pastoral Pty Ltd. A list of attendance was not taken at the event.

57. Was this information edited from answers to questions on notice at any point as they were being supplied to the Parliament previously?

ANSWER:

No.

Deputy Premier

In relation to the Deputy Premier's comment that "There are lots of things in government that we do not tell the public."

58. Is the Minister aware of any other plans to privatise NSW government assets that have not yet been disclosed to the public?

ANSWER:

I am unaware of any current plans.

59. Is there a record of meeting of the Deputy Premier's meeting with Santos on the 13th of May 2019?

- (a) If so, could it be supplied on notice?
- (b) Why was a departmental official not present?
- (c) What was discussed at the meeting?

ANSWER:

The Deputy Premier's diary is publically available.

Growing Local Economies Fund

60. Was the Deputy Premier's office made aware of the pause in the Growing Local Economies Fund before it occurred?

ANSWER:

Yes.

61. Was the Deputy Premier made aware of the pause in the Growing Local Economies Fund before it occurred?

ANSWER:

Yes.

Murray Valley National Park

62. In the trials of thinning performed in the Murray Valley national park, what has been the volume and class of timber produced on each occasion a trial has been conducted?

ANSWER:

The quantity of timber generated is approximately 7,500 tonnes, comprising:

- High quality (HQ) sawlog: 0%
- Low quality (LQ) sawlog: 2-4%
- Residue (including firewood): 96-98%

Jobs for NSW fund

63. Of the 14,300 jobs created under the Jobs for NSW fund, how many of those jobs are attributable to each of the three streams of funding, that is: grants, loans and equity?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Jobs, Investment Tourism and Western Sydney.

64. Of the 14,300 jobs created under the Jobs for NSW fund, how many of those jobs are attributable to each of the programmes associated with the fund? Please list them.

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Jobs, Investment Tourism and Western Sydney.

Agent General

65. When is an Agent General expected to be appointed to London?

(a) Will this be before a possible Brexit?

ANSWER:

The potential appointment of a NSW Agent-General to the UK is still under consideration as part of a broader review of the state's offshore presence.

(a) The timing of the scheduled withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union is a matter for the Government of the United Kingdom.

Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance

66. How many nights travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2018-19 period?

ANSWER:

In 2018-19, total expenditure by the Ministry on domestic travel was \$1,093,735

67. How many nights travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2018-19 period?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 66

68. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 66

69. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 66

Efficiency dividends

70. What was the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

71. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in

(a) 2019-20?

(b) 2020-21?

(c) 2021-22?

ANSWER:

Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

72. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2018-19 inclusively?

ANSWER:

Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

Ministerial Office Administration

73. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2018-19?
 - (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2019-20 based on current appointments?

ANSWER:

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>

74. How many iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2018-19?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - (c) What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER:

There were 261 smartphones and other mobile devices allocated across the Ministers' IT Network in 2018-2019. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$334,630, compared to 2009-10 expenditure of \$434,854 under Labor. There were 6 devices lost/stolen across the Ministerial Offices during 2018-2019. 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.

75. 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 2018-19?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2018-19?
 - (c) What was the cost of replacing these devices?

ANSWER:

There were 111 iPads allocated across the Ministers' IT Network in 2018-2019. 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.

76. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER:

Artwork in Ministers' Offices includes art donated at no cost.

77. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?

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

ANSWER:

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

78. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

ANSWER:

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

79. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals (including online services) in 2018-19?
(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
(b) Who is the subscriber for each of these?

ANSWER:

Ministers' offices subscribe to a modest number of publications, which are managed within Ministerial office budgets.

80. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2018-19?
(a) What were the gifts purchased?
(b) Who were they gifted to?

ANSWER:

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW in accordance with established protocol.

81. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

ANSWER:

The Ministry spent \$466 on filtered water for their offices in 2018-19.

82. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$27,782 in 2018-19, which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.

83. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

ANSWER:

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2018-19, all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant Ministerial office budget.

84. What was the total bill for your office in 2018-19 for:

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

ANSWER:

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2018-19 across the Ministry was \$119,179, compared to 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776 under Labor.

85. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2018-19?
- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

ANSWER:

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$83,845 in 2018-19, compared to 2009-10 expenditure of \$281,567 under Labor.

86. 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 2018-19?

ANSWER:

No

Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking

87. Have any of your departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies 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 2019-20?

ANSWER:

Accommodation planning for our departments and agencies is undertaken in accordance with the Government's accommodation strategy and design guidelines. Agile working environments are being rolled out as appropriate.

88. How much have your departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Accommodation planning for our departments and agencies is undertaken in accordance with the Government's accommodation strategy and design guidelines. Agile working environments are being rolled out as appropriate.

Hospitality

89. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How much was spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2018-19?
 - (b) Whether the department, statutory agency and/or other body has coffee machines? And if so:
 - i. How many?

- ii. What was their purchase cost?
- iii. What is their maintenance cost?
- iv. Who has access to them?
- v. Which staff have access to the machines?

ANSWER:

Expenditure on hospitality is limited to official work related purposes with any related staff benefits subject to Fringe Benefits Tax provisions. The provision and acceptance of gifts, benefits and hospitality is subject to specific policies and agency Codes of Conduct and is strictly monitored.

Labour Hire Firms

90. Do any departments, statutory agency and/or other bodies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2018-19:
- (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
 - (h) Who authorised the use of labour hire companies?
 - (i) Do staff under these labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff?

ANSWER:

Our departments and agencies use Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required.

Stationery

91. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) What was the cost of stationery for the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
 - (b) What brand of paper is used?
 - i. Is this paper Australian made?

ANSWER:

Stationery purchases by our departments and agencies are made in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures on procurement.

Credit Cards

92. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16

- ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
- (d) How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards for the following financial years:
- i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (e) How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards for the following financial years
- i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (f) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (g) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
- i. What was the cost to replace them?
- (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
- i. What was the total value of those purchases?
 - ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - iii. Were all those amounts actually repaid?
 - iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
- (i) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
- i. What that amount actually repaid, in full?
 - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- (j) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
- i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (k) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government has implemented a P-Card program to realise a number of benefits including savings from the use of cards over traditional high cost procure-to-pay processes and the enhanced capability to track and monitor expenditure.

Cards are issued to staff according to business need and are managed in accordance with Treasury Policy TPP 17-09 *Use and Management of NSW Government Purchasing Cards*.

Staff are prohibited from using official P-Cards for personal or other unofficial purposes and cards are not connected to reward schemes or any other program that would provide a personal benefit to the cardholder.

All NSW Government card balances are paid within bank payments terms and therefore no late fees or interest charges are incurred.

Media and Public Relations

93. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many media/communications/public relations advisers are employed?
 - i. What is the total salary cost for media/communications/public relations advisers in 2018-19?
 - (b) What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media/communications/public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
 - (c) What is the total cost of media monitoring services?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown by department, statutory agency and/or other body.
 - (d) Are any media or public relations advisers currently engaged as contractors?
 - i. Who are these contracts with?
 - ii. What is the value of these contracts?
 - (e) How much was spent on media or public relations advisors in financial year:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present?

ANSWER:

- (a-b) Our departments and agencies' staff numbers are included in the Annual Report. Our staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.
- (c-e) The Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in the agency annual report. These are available in accordance with NSW Government Procurement Policy.

Facebook

94. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

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

95. How much did your department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

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

Overseas Trips

96. 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?
 - (b) Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
 - (c) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
 - (d) Who paid for these trips?

ANSWER:

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on agency websites.

Department/Agency Travel

97. What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio on:
- (a) Taxi hire
 - (b) Limousine
 - (c) Private car hire
 - (d) Hire car rental
 - (e) Ridesharing services
 - (f) Chartered flights?

ANSWER:

Agency travel was conducted in accordance with relevant NSW Government policies and guidelines including Treasury Circular TC18-15 and ATO determinations.

Drivers

98. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant department, statutory agency and/or other body 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, statutory agency and/or other body?
 - (c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the department, statutory agency and/or other body?

ANSWER:

No senior executives in our departments and agencies are provided drivers.

Consulting

99. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How much was spent in legal costs in 2018-19?
 - i. For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
 - (b) Have departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2018-19:
 - i. Social media
 - ii. Photography
 - iii. Acting training
 - iv. Ergonomics
 - (c) What was the cost of these services?
 - i. Social media
 - ii. Photography
 - iii. Acting training
 - iv. Ergonomics

ANSWER:

The Financial Statements, including legal, consulting and any other general costs from third party service providers, are available in agency annual report.

Web Content

100. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed this year?
 - (b) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed this year?

ANSWER:

- (a) Data sent and received is not tracked as a website metric as this does not provide customer benefit.
- (b) See below for NSW Treasury's data:

Site	Page views 2018-2019 FY 2019
visitnsw.com	11,055,000
sydney.com.au	10,884,000
vividsydney.com.au	1,932,000
Procurepoint.nsw.gov.au	1,340,000
destinationnsw.com.au	530,968
treasury.nsw.gov.au	478,165
Budget.nsw.gov.au	459,268
businessmonth.nsw.gov.au	260,541
jobsfornsw.com.au	203,321

smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au	196,019
sydneystartupclub.com	167,289
study.sydney	140,689
tcorp.nsw.gov.au	136,999
wcaa.sydney	30,633
productivity.nsw.gov.au	15,873
invest.nsw.gov.au	8,914

Based on the information available today, below are top 20 websites by unique URL (domain) for DPIE.

Notes:

- As DPIE is a new cluster, data has been retrieved from several agencies/departments.
- Data tagging and reporting standards vary and has not been normalized across the cluster.
- This may impact the overall data quality.
 - As an example, Google Analytics accounts are filtered inconsistently across the accounts. Some exclude all "internal" government users to give a pure customer view, some data includes all traffic.
- Data is reported as Total Sessions from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.
- Some Agencies are in the process of transitioning in and out of the PDIE infrastructure. This may impact-full data sets.
- We are sourcing but do not currently have data for the following websites. These may impact the rankings: asset.gov.com.au, basix.nsw.gov.au, ipcn.nsw.gov.au, mhl.nsw.gov.au, zoo.nsw.gov.au, landcare.nsw.gov.au, landcom.nsw.gov.au, landmanagement.nsw.gov.au, leadsmart.nsw.gov.au, lhib.nsw.gov.au, mpgp.nsw.gov.au, nrc.nsw.gov.au, nvp.nsw.gov.au, peopleandplaces.nsw.gov.au

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au
planningportal.nsw.gov.au
environment.nsw.gov.au
planning.nsw.gov.au
dpi.nsw.gov.au
epa.nsw.gov.au
industry.nsw.gov.au
rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au
foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
darlingharbour.com
Sydneyolympicpark.com.au
energysaver.nsw.gov.au
therocks.com
olg.nsw.gov.au
petregistry.nsw.gov.au
liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au
centennialparklands.com.au
forestrycorporation.com.au
aquaticcentre.com.au
wildaboutwhales.com.au

Department/Agency Staffing

101. How many redundancies were processed by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2018-19?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
- i. Voluntary?
 - ii. Involuntary?

ANSWER:

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. Redundancy figures can be found in the Annual Report. 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. Frontline staff such as, nurses, police officers and school teachers and regional employees have been quarantined from this measure.

102. What was the total cost of all redundancies?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 101

103. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the department, statutory agency and/or other body 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?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 101

- 104.** Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio responsibility?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 101

- 105.** How many staff were dismissed from departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2018-19?
(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 101

- 106.** How much was spent advertising for recruitment for the following financial years:
(a) 2015-16
(b) 2016-17
(c) 2017-18
(d) 2018-2019
(e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Advertising expenses can be found in the Annual Report.

Smart Phone

- 107.** How many mobile phones are given to staff or board members?
(a) How many new mobile phones were purchased in the last year?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

- 108.** What is the total cost of these phones for the following financial years:
(a) 2015-16
(b) 2016-17
(c) 2017-18
(d) 2018-2019
(e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

- 109.** How many had to be replaced due to damage?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

- 110.** How many were reported as lost?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

111. How many tablets are given to staff or board members?
(a) How many new tablets in the last year?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

112. What is the total cost of these tablets for the following financial years?
(a) 2015-16
(b) 2016-17
(c) 2017-18
(d) 2018-2019?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

113. How many phones and tablets had to be replaced due to damage?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

114. How many were reported as lost?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

115. How many people have both a smart phone and a tablet?
(a) What is the lowest ranked official who has both a work smart phone and tablet?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

116. How many staff or board members overspent on their phone or tablet data bill?
(a) By how much?
(b) What was the average cost of data bills for tablets and mobile phones?
(c) What was the highest monthly cost?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

117. Do the departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
(a) What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 on iTunes?

(b) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

118. Do the departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio have a Google Play Store account?

(a) What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 on through the Google Play Store?

(b) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through the Google Play Store?

ANSWER:

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with the NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

Merchant fees

119. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments to a department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio.

ANSWER:

There have been no instances where customers need to pay a merchant fee.

120. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions to a department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio.

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 119

121. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments to departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 119

Advertising and Sponsorships

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

(a) How much was spent on advertising in the following financial years:

i. 2015-16

ii. 2016-17

iii. 2017-18

iv. 2018-2019?

ANSWER:

The Financial Statements, including advertising, are available in agency annual reports. The NSW Government may use advertising to inform the public of their rights, obligations and entitlements as well as to explain government policies, programs, services and initiatives. Government advertising is conducted within guidelines outlined in the NSW Government Advertising Handbook. Any sponsorship arrangements are conducted within ICAC principles.

123. Has your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio engaged in any corporate sponsorships?
- (a) Who were these sponsorships with?
 - (b) What was the purpose of these sponsorships?
 - (c) What was the value of these sponsorships, by case and year?
 - (d) What was the value of these sponsorships in the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-19?

ANSWER:

The Financial Statements, including advertising and sponsorship, are available in agency annual reports. The NSW Government may use advertising to inform the public of their rights, obligations and entitlements as well as to explain government policies, programs, services and initiatives. Government advertising is conducted within guidelines outlined in the NSW Government Advertising Handbook. Any sponsorship arrangements are conducted within ICAC principles.

Probity Auditor

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

ANSWER:

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework, our departments and agencies have internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. Our departments and agencies specifically incorporated PBD2013-05 into procurement procedures, in addition to providing guidance regarding probity on intranets. Agency Annual Report includes all consultancies including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.

Energy

125. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body within 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?
 - (e) 2018/19?

ANSWER:

Energy purchases by our departments and agencies are made in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures on procurement 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 – ERM Power 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.

NSW Government agencies are required to report on energy use under the Government Resource Efficiency Policy. Our departments publish progress reports on compliance with the policy.

126. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each department, statutory agency and/or other body within 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.

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

127. How much money was spent on electricity for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

128. What was the name of the energy supplier to each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name for those financial years?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

129. How much electricity is it estimated that each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio will consume in:

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

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

130. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

131. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

132. What is the name of the energy supplier to each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio for each of:

- (a) 2019-20?
- (b) 2020-21?

(c) 2021-22?

ANSWER:

Please refer to the response to 125

General Costs

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

(a) Any gardening services used for indoor or outdoor pot plants/flowers maintenance?

- i. Who are the contracts with?
- ii. How much does each contract cost?
- iii. How often do they visit?
- iv. How much was spent on this service in financial year:

- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19?

(b) Any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants hired or leased for display in any offices?

- i. Who were the contracts with?
- ii. How much was each contract cost?
- iii. How much was spent on this service in financial year:

- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19?

ANSWER:

The Financial Statements, including expenditure on any general costs, are available in an agency's annual report. Plant and related purchases are made in accordance with the applicable policies and procedures on procurement.

Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage

134. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body 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?
- (i) What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
 - i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence

- ii. Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

ANSWER

- (a) 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 19-08 Domestic and Family Violence Workplace Support Policy – Guiding Principles for Agencies.
- (b) 2009 and amended in 2012 with a new clause Section 84A.
- (c) Domestic Violence leave is covered in the Crown Employees (PS Conditions of Employment) Award which applies across the sector for all employees.
- (d) From 1 January 2019, a separate leave type of Domestic & Family Violence Leave was made available as a separate leave type. In 2018-19, there were no reported leave days of this type taken.
- (e) – (g) In accordance with the Award, NSW Government Sector employees are entitled to ten days paid domestic and family violence leave per calendar year. This leave is non-cumulative and can be taken in part-days, single days, or consecutive days. Staff may also utilise all available Family and Community Service Leave, Sick Leave and Carer's Leave to assist with managing domestic violence circumstances. If this leave is unavailable special leave maybe granted up to five days per calendar year. Data is not available for days of domestic violence leave or days of other personal leave taken, as these are not separately noted when special leave is processed as a single leave category.
- (h) All staff, their families and contractors have access to Employee Assistance Program.
- (i) An e-learning module has been developed in consultation with Family and Community Services. NSW Treasury is working to ensure all staff are trained in line with the developed modules. For DPIE, there is currently no cluster wide training targeting domestic violence as the topic. Privacy and Personal Information Protection online training covers privacy. DPIE is currently considering a variety of options with regard to supporting people affected by or managing people affected by domestic violence. Staff may contact Human Resources for support and seek flexible work arrangements. As contractors are not employed by DPIE, where requiring support, DPIE will work with the contractor's agency to facilitate access to appropriate services to provide the best possible outcome for contractors wellbeing.

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

ANSWER:

NSW Treasury is an accredited White Ribbon Workplace through White Ribbon Australia. NSW Treasury continues to provide ongoing support and guidance to cluster agencies on best practice approaches to supporting women who are experiencing domestic violence. In DPIE, there is currently no cluster wide training targeting domestic violence as the topic. "Privacy and Personal Information Protection" online training covers privacy. DPIE is currently considering a variety of options with regard to supporting people affected by or managing people affected by domestic violence.

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

ANSWER:

E-learning is made available however this is voluntary and the system does not hold nor provide data or statistics on attendance.

137. 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?

ANSWER:

Our departments 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

138. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body 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.
 - i. Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
 - ii. Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
 - iii. How long for each session, how many sessions?
 - iv. Who delivers it?
 - v. Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
 - How?
- (b) What percentage of staff in each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio have undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?
- (c) How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:
 - i. Sexual harassment
 - ii. Bullying
 - iii. Workplace violence

ANSWER:

- (a) & (b) Our departments and agencies includes anti-bullying and harassment training as part of the induction process for new staff. The training is interactive, comprising of videos and knowledge quizzes that must be passed with 100% accuracy and takes 30 minutes to complete.
- (c) Complaints of this nature are addressed through our departments and agencies' relevant policies and procedures. Not all complaints are raised as a formal complaint and may be addressed informally and directly between the individuals concerned.

Participation of women in Government

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

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (d) What strategies does the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?

- (e) What is the gender pay gap within your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (f) Does the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

ANSWER:

- (a-c) This information is available in each agency's Annual Report.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) The workforce profile data collected by the PSC is made available to Women NSW.

Professional Photography

140. How much has been spent on professional photography for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

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

Unmanned Aerial Services

141. How much has been spent on Unmanned Aerial Services for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

The Financial Statements, including expenditure on unmanned aerial services, are available in agency annual reports.

Seconded Staff

142. How many staff from your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio have been seconded to your Ministerial Office, for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

NSW Government sector employees may be seconded from agencies to Ministers' offices in accordance with Clause 35 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.

143. Please provide their names, their substantive work title, and their seconded work title.

ANSWER:

NSW Government sector employees may be seconded from agencies to Ministers' offices in accordance with Clause 35 of the Government Sector Employment Regulation 2014.

Consultant Costs

144. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report, the total expenditure on consultants by financial year:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

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

145. What are names and values of the five most expensive reports produced by consultancies for each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio by financial year:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

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

GIPA Questions to the CEOs/ Department Secretaries

146. Since March 30, how many formal GIPAs have your cluster/ department received?

ANSWER:

Note: The current Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) did not exist until 1 July 2019. Prior to this, the primary agencies which now make up DPIE were:

- The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)
- The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
- The Department of Industry (DOI)
- The Office of Local Government (OLG)

Some other business units which now make up DPIE were part of other clusters prior to 1 July, and some parts of the previous agencies no longer form part of DPIE. For example:

- Heritage is now part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- The State Archives and Records Authority is now part of Premier and Cabinet
- Property NSW was previously part of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation
- The Land and Housing Corporation was previously part of Family and Community Services.

DPIE's response to the questions taken on notice are therefore split into two categories:

1. 30 March to 30 June 2019, and
2. 1 July to 11 September 2019

The first category will include figures for DPE, OEH, DOI and OLG only, and separately. The second category will provide a single figure for the current DPIE cluster.

30 March to 30 June 2019	
DPE	40
OEH	23
DOI	43
OLG	2
1 July to 11 September 2019	
DPIE	103

147. Out of the received formal GIPAs, how many have you determined to:

- (a) Grant full access to the information?
- (b) Grant partial access to the information?
- (c) Not grant access to the information?

ANSWER:

- a) Grant full access to the information?

30 March to 30 June 2019	
DPE	8
OEH	4
DOI	11
OLG	2
1 July to 11 September 2019	
DPIE	9

- b) Grant partial access to the information?

30 March to 30 June 2019	
DPE	17
OEH	7
DOI	13
OLG	0
1 July to 11 September 2019	
DPIE	22

c) Not grant access to the information?

30 March to 30 June 2019	
DPE	3
OEH	2
DOI	1
OLG	0
1 July to 11 September 2019	
DPIE	5

Note: Where there are discrepancies between the number received and the number of outcomes, it will be because of one of the following:

- Transferred to another agency
- Withdrawn by the applicant
- Not yet finalised
- Information not held
- Refuse to deal (see section 60 of the GIPA Act for the reasons an agency can refuse to deal with an application)

148. Out of the GIPA where partial information or no information was granted, how many have decided to appeal?

- (a) Out of those who have decided to appeal, how many have decided to use:
- i. The agency's internal appeals' mechanism?

- ii. Review by the Information Commissioner?
 - iii. Review by NCAT?
- (b) How many of those GIPAs have been overturned on appeal?
- i. Internal appeals' mechanism?
 - ii. Review of the Information Commissioner?
 - iii. Review by NCAT?

ANSWER:

30 March to 11 September 2019 = 15

Note 1: Whilst there is no formal 'appeal' function under GIPA, applicants and third parties consulted during the processing of an application can request a decision be reviewed by the NSW CAT. Requests for review by third parties are because that party has objected to release but the agency has decided to release despite their objections. A third-party application for review is therefore usually because they want information to be withheld.

The figures are therefore given for reviews requested by the original applicant, as these are more likely in the nature of an 'appeal' against access to information being declined.

Note 2: The figures are given as consolidated figures for the full period of 30 March 2019 to 11 September 2019.

- a) Out of those who have decided to appeal, how many have decided to use:
- i. The agency's internal appeal mechanism?
 - ii. Review by the Information Commissioner?
 - iii. Review by the NCAT?

i. The agency's internal appeal mechanism	8
ii. Review by the Information Commissioner	5
iii. Review by the NCAT	2

- b) How many of those GIPAs have been overturned on appeal?
- i. Internal appeals mechanism?
 - ii. Review by the Information Commissioner?
 - iii. Review by NCAT?

i. Internal appeals mechanism	4
ii. Review by the Information Commissioner	1
iii. Review by the NCAT	1

Decisions are not 'overturned' by internal review the original decision is varied.

The Information Commissioner cannot vary a decision, only make recommendations to the agency to review a decision.

149. GIPAs that have been granted full or partial access, how many appear on the agency's disclosure log?
- (a) What is the rationale for not putting GIPAs on the agency's disclosure log (excluding GIPAs asking for personal information)?

ANSWER:

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is in the process of consolidating disclosure logs for the agencies that now form DPIE, creating a single disclosure log. The DPIE did not exist prior to 1 July 2019, and decisions in relation to applications to DPIE will not be posted to the disclosure log until the review period has expired (40 working days after decision). The disclosure logs with decisions of agencies made between 1 April to 30 June 2019, where information maybe of interest to members of the public, are being updated as the review period for those decisions expires. Websites are currently being updated and decisions made, which are appropriate for the disclosure log, will be posted in due course.

Note: decisions to release information will not be put on the disclosure log while a third party has a right to request review of an agency's decision to release. This would be a minimum of 40 working days from the date of the decision, and longer if review rights are activated.

- a) What is the rationale for not putting GIPAs on the agency's disclosure log (excluding GIPAs asking for personal information)?

The GIPA Act does not require all applications to be placed on a disclosure log, only those matters which the agency deems is likely to be of interest to other members of the public.

150. Has any GIPAs that appeared on the agency's disclosure log been taken down?
- (a) For what reason/s?

ANSWER:

No.

- (a) N/A

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

Forestry Corporation overcutting

In regards to questions in the hearing on 13 September relating to overcutting by the Forestry Corporation since 2014 when the Government bought back 50,000 cubic metres a year of high-quality saw logs from the wood supply agreement with Boral:

151. Is the Government, or Forestry Corporation, aware of any overcutting (above long-term Wood Supply Agreement commitments) that has occurred in North East NSW, particularly over the past three years?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

152. Is the Government, or Forestry Corporation, aware of any overcutting (above long-term Wood Supply Agreement commitments) that has occurred elsewhere in NSW?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

153. For North East NSW (Upper and Lower North East Regional Forestry Agreement regions) for each financial years 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 (separately):

- what has been the annual commitments in long-term Wood Supply Agreements for each of Large High Quality Logs and Small High Quality Logs (in cubic metres)?
- what have been the annual yields for each of Large High Quality Logs and Small High Quality Logs (in cubic metres)?

ANSWER:

(a) For the purposes of a response to this question, annual commitments listed in Table 1 below refer to all relevant Wood Supply Agreements which have a duration equal to or in excess of 5 years for log products which either wholly or partially contain sections of logs which would meet the minimum log quality and size specifications for High Quality Large and Small Logs as described in the Upper and Lower North East Regional Forestry Agreements.

However, Wood Supply Agreements for Poles, Piles and Veneer have specifications which sometimes would enable a single log product to contain components which would meet minimum specifications for High Quality Large and Small Logs as well as Low Quality logs. These log product commitments are not clearly segregated and described into these categories in respective Wood Supply Agreements so the total allocations described in the table below have not been separated.

Table 1 – Annual Allocations

Financial Year	Product Group	HQ Sawlog	Girders	Piles	Veneer	Poles
2015	High Quality Large	128457	4150	260	16502	31600
	High Quality Small	46664				
	Low Quality or Pulp Quality					
2016	High Quality Large	127137	4150	260	16502	31600
	High Quality Small	45984				
	Low Quality or Pulp Quality					
2017	High Quality Large	127137	4150	260	16502	31600
	High Quality Small	45984				
	Low Quality or Pulp Quality					
2018	High Quality Large	127137	4150	260	16502	31600
	High Quality Small	45984				
	Low Quality or Pulp Quality					
2019	High Quality Large	127137	4150	260	16502	31600
	High Quality Small	45984				
	Low Quality or Pulp Quality					

b.

Financial Year	Forest Type	Product Group	HQ Sawlog	Girders	Piles	Veneer	Poles
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2015	Native	HQL	130459	3135	791	4969	26602	
	Native	HQS	44614	170		848		
	Native	Other				125		
	Plantation	HQL	3972			721		1801
	Plantation	HQS	1815			4		
	Plantation	Other						
2016	Native	HQL	132155	4924	1036	8056	24676	
	Native	HQS	52321	393		2613		
	Native	Other				3225		
	Plantation	HQL	3724			523		1016
	Plantation	HQS	2089			6		
	Plantation	Other				514		
2017	Native	HQL	131825	6504	568	9292	30673	
	Native	HQS	47109	516		2139		
	Native	Other				4259		
	Plantation	HQL	8318	31		895		5072
	Plantation	HQS	4559	2		179		
	Plantation	Other				851		
2018	Native	HQL	134070	5617	1033	7588	20183	

	Native	HQS	49755	903		2377	
	Native	Other				1728	
	Plantation	HQL	11068	12		1610	4770
	Plantation	HQS	6006			357	
	Plantation	Other				2652	
2019	Native	HQL	136051	6546	1174	7840	24319
	Native	HQS	46763	182		1900	
	Native	Other				1821	
	Plantation	HQL	10089	110		1431	6504
	Plantation	HQS	7094			347	
	Plantation	Other				2069	

154. For North East NSW what have been the reasons for any overcuts (above long-term Wood Supply Agreement commitments) that have occurred in each of the past three years?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

155. How has any overcutting over the past three years affected the availability of timber for the long-term Wood Supply Agreements until 2023, and overall volumes until 2050?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

156. Does the Forestry Corporation consider that they have sufficient Large High Quality Logs and Small High Quality Logs to satisfy existing long-term Wood Supply Agreements until 2023? If not, what are the expected shortfalls for each year?

ANSWER:

Yes. No shortfalls are anticipated.

157. Does the Forestry Corporation consider that they have sufficient High Quality Logs to meet current long-term Wood Supply Agreement commitments if they were extended until 2050? If not, what are the expected shortfalls for each 4 year modelling period?

ANSWER:

Yes, noting that wood supply modelling is currently being revised for both Tumut sub-region and the North Coast regions specifically including, but not limited to, revisions necessary to account for the new settings to be implemented under the Coastal IFOA.

158. Have any additional timbers, in excess of Boral's wood supply agreement, been sold back to Boral in any of the years since the buyback?
(a) If yes, how much in each of the years?

ANSWER:

No.

159. In regards to any overcutting occurring over the past three years in North East NSW who was the overcut wood sold to and for how much for?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

160. Where there new wood supply contracts entered into to sell the overcut wood?

ANSWER:

All volumes delivered across NSW are within the permitted tolerance in annual supply variation of the published Regional Forest Agreement sustainable yield figures.

Forestry Corporation - Wood Supply Agreements

In regards to statements by Mr Roberts in the hearing of 13 September regarding the wood supply agreements including 'flexibility provisions' and 'swing volumes':

161. What do the flexibility provisions allow in the agreements?

ANSWER:

This is detailed in Wood Supply Agreements available on Forestry Corporation's website.

162. What flexibility do the swing volume provisions apply?

ANSWER:

This is detailed in Wood Supply Agreements available on Forestry Corporation's website.

163. What are other examples of flexibility provisions?

ANSWER:

All contract provisions are in the Wood Supply Agreements available on Forestry Corporation's website.

Forestry Corporation - Wood Supply Agreements - force majeure

164. What is the nature of force majeure clauses in existing wood supply agreements? (ie. what conditions can lead to a force majeure clause being enacted?)

ANSWER:

This is detailed in Wood Supply Agreements available on Forestry Corporation's website.

165. What WSAs include a force majeure clause?

ANSWER:

This is a standard contract term for all long-term Wood Supply Agreements that apply to the Upper and Lower North East Regional Forestry Agreement regions.

166. If a force majeure clause was enacted in regards to any agreements in the last 5 years, for which agreements and which years was it enacted?
(a) how did this impact on wood supplied during the period?
(b) How did this change wood supplied in subsequent years?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation has not enacted the provisions of the Force Majeure clauses in any long-term Wood Supply Agreement that applies to the Upper and Lower North East Regional Forestry Agreement regions in the last five years.

North Coast Native Forest Yields

Data obtained from the Forestry Corporation under the Government Information (Public Access) Act showed yields for North Coast Native Forests. The data provided that from 2017- 2077 there is an expected decline of High Quality large logs from 162,283 m³ to 92,719 m³ (42% decline) and an expected increase of High Quality small logs from 44,276 m³ to 73,024 m³ (65% increase).

167. Why is this expected to occur?

ANSWER:

The main driver of this change is the increase in plantation logs as part of the overall supply of High Quality logs, which produce a higher proportion of small logs at the time of harvest.

168. Is there any concern about the sustainability of forestry practices that are leading to this change in yield predictions?

ANSWER:

No

Expression of Interest - north coast forestry

In regards Forestry Corporation's 'Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hardwood Logs from NSW, Australia - North Coast and Tableland Regrowth and Plantation Forests' that had a closing date of 16 March 2018 to supply more than 400,000 tonnes per annum of hardwood logs:

169. What is the status of the EOI?

ANSWER:

Direct negotiations are being progressed with a number of companies for the pulp / residue component identified in the EOI document. Forestry Corporation is yet to progress allocation of the Low Quality Sawlog component.

170. Have any of the assumptions, particularly those regarding what will be available for sale, changed since the EOI was produced? If so, please provide the breakdown into different regional zones, between native and plantation and then broken down again between pulp, residue logs and low-quality sawlogs.

ANSWER:

Some assumptions have changed leading to a revised set of indicative quantities of Pulp / Residue timber that could be sustainably made available as a by-product of harvesting operations for High Quality log products to meet long term Wood Supply Agreement commitments. These are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Pulp / Residue Timber

Pulp / Residue Timber			
Revised Indicative Quantities (Jun 2019)	Regrowth Forest	Plantation Forest	Total
Supply Zone 1	18,360	88,695	107,055
Supply Zone 2	42,660	8,900	51,560
Supply Zone 3	83,971	35,460	119,431
Supply Zone 4	8,403	12,502	20,905
Supply Zone 5	2,530	4,508	7,038
Supply Zone 6 (Walcha)	10,350		10,350
Supply Zone 6 (Styx)	11,500		11,500
Total	177,774	150,065	327,839

171. What are the terms of the direct negotiations occurring as part of this process (noting some information may be commercial in confidence)?

- (a) What kind of companies are you negotiating with?
- (b) Are any of these international companies?
- (c) What are the volumes of wood being negotiated?

ANSWER:

- (a) Timber processing companies located within Australia.
- (b) The companies are timber processing companies located within Australia.
- (c) See question 170.

172. Will there be, or has there been, a competitive tender process? Will the details of this be publicly available?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation undertook a competitive process comprising an EOI followed by direct negotiations

173. Have any new wood supply agreements been signed as part of this process? Has there been any extensions to current wood supply agreements as part of this process?

ANSWER:

No new Wood Supply Agreements have been signed as part of this process. Some 6 month and 12 month extensions have occurred with existing customers that previously held Type D Wood Supply Agreements for Low Quality Sawlogs while the EOI process has been conducted.

174. Would new or extended wood supply agreements be required as part of this process? Will this information be publicly available?

ANSWER:

Yes.

In regards to the testimony of Mr Roberts in the hearing on 13 September 2019, where he stated regarding the EOI 'some of it will be extra opportunities; some of it will be opportunities that are not being realised through the current harvesting operations. So there will be some log products which we are not currently recovering in the forest. There will be some incremental harvesting, particularly plantation products, which will be a part of this volume.':

175. How much of the wood is expected to be exported? How much in weight?

- (a) What counties might the wood be exported to?
- (b) How much of this will be for biomass?

ANSWER:

None.

- (a) N/A
- (b) N/A

Monthly reporting

For 20 years, stakeholders received a 'monthly report' from each relevant Forestry Corporation regional office in the form of an excel spreadsheet that provided ~37 columns of information on each of the ~600 harvesting operations in one stage or other of planning or execution.

They have been told that this is to cease, and in its place, an online map in Forestry Corp's new Plan Portal which gives very little detail, besides the status of an operations.

176. Is this 'monthly report' excel document still made available to other agencies such as the Environment Protection Authority?

ANSWER:

An equivalent report is already available through the Plan Portal. The information in the plan portal will be updated continuously and will be more comprehensive than previously provided data..

177. Will it be made available again to stakeholders? Or will there be a commitment to provide the same level of information through the Plan Portal?

ANSWER:

An equivalent report is already available through the Plan Portal. The information in the plan portal will be updated continuously and will be more comprehensive than previously provided data.

Plan Portal

178. What is the Government doing to ensure data security in Forestry Corporations Plan Portal?

ANSWER:

Information collected in the plan portal is managed in accordance with Forestry Corporation’s privacy policy.

Biomass

179. On 29 May 2014 the Sugar Milling Co-Operative Ltd and Cape Byron Management Pty Ltd were given an exemption to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (Gazette notice 6 June 2014) to allow them to use native forest biomaterial that had been cleared for other purposes. The exemption required monthly reporting on volume, source and type of native forest used. The exemption applied for 5 years, expiring in May 2019.

- (a) Is this exemption still in place?
- (b) Was any reporting undertaken as part of this exemption
- (c) If reporting was undertaken, will this information be made publicly available? If so, when?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Energy and Environment

180. Regarding the use of biomaterial from state forests for the purpose of energy production, in each of the financial years 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, please provide a table that identifies:

- (a) The geographical source location of the biomaterial
- (b) The specific source type. i.e. highway, plantation, etc.
- (c) The volume of wood taken from each specific location.

ANSWER:

A report detailing biomaterial production from native forests is published on Forestry Corporation’s website annually.

Figures for biomass production from hardwood plantations are below:

Location	Source	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Conglomerate SF.	Plantation	0	0	0	0	543	0
Tarkeeth SF.	Plantation	0	0	0	999	595	0

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Resources for Regions

181. What projects were funded under Round 6 of the Resources for Regions program, what are their proposed outcomes, when are they proposed to be completed, how much funding was allocated to each of them and what was the benefit-cost ratio for each funded project?

ANSWER:

11 projects were approved under Round Six for a combined grant value of \$26 million. Each project achieved a calculated benefit to cost ratio of above 1.

Projects funded were the following:

- Parkes Central West Childcare Services - \$1,355,450
- Davy's Plains Road - Shoulder Rehabilitation and Safety Improvement Project – \$1,038,000
- Vittoria Road - Shoulder Rehabilitation and Safety Improvement - \$1,238,000
- Tarriaro Bridge Replacement - \$1,780,800
- Bylong Valley Way Upgrade - \$3,888,750
- Scone CBD Revitalisation - \$2,965,782
- Kurri Kurri Commercial Centre Upgrade - \$3,647,900
- Orange Airport Security and Passenger Enhancements - \$1,554,545
- Hill Street / Northern Distributor Road / William Maker Drive Roundabout - \$2,350,000
- Muswellbrook Shire and Surrounds Mine Affected Roads - \$4,605,843
- Helensburgh Town Centre Revitalisation Project - \$1,600,000

182. What was the basis for shortlisting the 17 applications invited to submit detailed applications by November 2, 2018?

ANSWER

The eligibility requirements and assessment criteria outlined in the Resources for Regions Program Guidelines

183. What was the basis for Infrastructure NSW shortlisting a further 2 expressions of interest that were invited to provide detailed applications by 16 November 2018?

ANSWER:

The Infrastructure NSW Regional Independent Assessment Panel determined that further information was required to make a determination on the shortlisting of these two projects

184. Were there any changes to the Guidelines between Rounds 5 and 6? If so, what were the changes and why were they made?

ANSWER:

Changes to the Resources for Regions Round 6 Guidelines were communicated publically at the time of the program relaunching.

185. How many jobs will be provided by each of the 11 projects allocated funding in Round 6? What was the level of co-contributions for each of these projects?

ANSWER

Each project funded under Resources for Regions fund will create jobs through the construction phase, as well as estimated direct and indirect jobs once the project is complete.

Public disclosure of co-contribution amounts is up to the individual applicant. In many cases, co-contribution amounts are identified in media releases with the prior approval of the applicant.

186. How many Expressions of Interest for projects under Round 6 were incomplete or considered unable to be assessed

ANSWER

No Expressions of Interest were deemed to be incomplete. One project was unable to be assessed as it did not meet the program eligibility requirements.

187. How many Expressions of Interest for projects under Round 6 were assessed as ineligible for funding?

ANSWER

One project was assessed as ineligible. 14 projects were not recommended for shortlisting as they did not adequately meet one or more assessment criteria.

188. Which NSW Members of Parliament were consulted as part of the assessment process and on which projects were they consulted?

ANSWER

The program guidelines allow DPC to consult on applications with relevant stakeholders

189. Please provide a list of completed projects from Rounds 1-5 which includes the amount funded, co-contribution provided and a comparison of actual versus expected employment and other outcomes be provided?

ANSWER

Information about successful projects is made publicly available at the time of the announcement, with the exception of co-contribution amounts (in this case public disclosure is a matter for the individual applicants). Other outcomes are reported directly to INSW.

190. Have all previously funded projects been completed and the funding acquitted?

ANSWER:

No.

Resources Regulator compliance blitz

191. How many inspections took place during the Resource Regulators compliance blitz between 17 June and 21 June this year?

ANSWER:

112

192. What was the basis for determining which sites were inspected?

ANSWER:

A review of compliance holdings and risk profiles for each site.

193. Were sites which had been subject to previous unannounced inspections re-inspected this year? If so, how many and why were those sites selected for re-inspection?

ANSWER:

10 mines were inspected in both the 2018 and 2019 operations. Sites were inspected subject to assessment and incident outcomes for the last period, not on the basis of whether or not they were inspected as part of the 2018 operation.

194. The compliance blitz report indicated that 97 work health and safety notices and 12 mining act notices were issued – what has been the follow-up on compliance with these notices?

ANSWER

A risk based approach is taken with specific follow up and verification undertaken for higher risk matters and lower level matters checked through routine compliance monitoring and inspections. For all WHS improvement and prohibition notices the mine operator must provide evidence of compliance with the notice before it will be lifted.

195. Have all the sites and operators issued with notices been re-inspected for compliance since the notices were issued? If not, will this be done and by when? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 194

196. The compliance blitz report indicates that eight sites were potentially non-compliant with the mining laws –

ANSWER:

Yes

197. At which sites were these potential breaches identified?

ANSWER:

The sites are identified in the published report at:
https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1146346/Statewide-compliance-operation-report-2019.pdf

198. What was the nature of the potential breaches?

ANSWER:

The nature of the breaches is outlined in the published report.

199. How long were the operators given to take corrective actions?

ANSWER:

Various dates depending on the works required on a case by case basis.

200. Have the sites been re-inspected or how has confirmation been provided that the corrective actions have been taken?

ANSWER:

Each titleholder is required to provide written or other evidence of compliance with the direction which will be inspected during future routine planned inspections.

201. Does the Resource Regulator consider that the value of an unannounced inspection blitz that is over a week commencing on 17 June was diminished by the announcement of unannounced inspections at the start of the inspection period – doesn't this mean that operators were put on notice that they may receive an unannounced inspection?

ANSWER:

No, the announcement of the compliance blitz is designed to create general deterrence across the whole of the mining sector and prompt all operators to review their management and operating systems to ensure that they provide a safe and compliant workplace. This is achieved by specifically putting them on notice that they may be subject to an inspection.

202. What is the estimated cost of conducting the week long compliance blitz?

ANSWER:

The compliance blitz was conducted using the Regulator's ordinary budget and resources.

203. Does the Resources Regulator consider that an annual compliance blitz is sufficient or given the number of notices issued, particularly with respect of workplace health and safety matters, should the unannounced inspections be more frequent?

ANSWER:

Unannounced site visits occur throughout the year as part of the regulator's proactive compliance program, not just during intensive compliance operations such as the blitz.

204. How many planned inspections of sites does the Resources Regulator undertake each year?

ANSWER:

In 2017/18 there were 800 planned inspections undertaken. In 2018/19 there were 1138 planned inspections undertaken.

205. Does every site get a least one visit from the Resources Regulator a year?

ANSWER:

Yes for all active coal mines and large mines

No for small mines and quarries, small scale titles (e.g opal mines), and exploration sites, of which there are over 6000.

206. How many targeted assessments were undertaken in the last year? Is this more or less than the year before? Why?

ANSWER:

In 2017/18 the Regulator conducted 76 targeted assessments compared to 46 in the 2018/19 financial year. The reduced number was largely due to a comprehensive review being undertaken of the targeted

assessment program. During this period resources were re-directed to increased planned inspection activities (800 to over 1100) and investigations such as undertaking 3 causal investigations.

207. How are sites determined for targeted assessment?

ANSWER:

Risk profiling based on the principal hazards that exist at a site, and how many workers are exposed to the hazard on a per shift basis.

208. What is the annual budget for inspections in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20? What are the reasons behind changes in the annual budget?

ANSWER:

The Resources Regulator does not have a specific budget for inspections.

209. How many people or organisations have subscribed to the emailed safety bulletins? Is this number growing over previous years? Is this considered an effective way of communicating with the industry?

ANSWER

6,963 subscribers at 20 September 2019

Increased from 3,457 subscribers in March 2011.

Yes.

NSW Minerals Strategy

210. How much of the \$16 million committed over the next 10 years to the MinEx CRC is allocated each year over the forward estimates?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government's 10-year commitment to MinEx CRC comprises:

- \$4.4 million to fund drilling programs in NSW.
- \$4.4 million of new geophysical and geochemical data to be collected by the Geological Survey of NSW (GSNSW) over the life of the CRC.
- \$2.2 million in-kind, representing the value of data currently held by GSNSW.
- \$5 million staff in-kind over the life of the CRC.

Over the forward estimates, GSNSW will contribute \$440,000 per year cash and \$500,000 per year staff in-kind to MinEx CRC. The exact sum expended on new data acquisition in a given year will average \$440,000 per year over the life of the CRC.

211. Is the review of the GSNSW work program scheduled for completion in December 2019 on track? If not, what has delayed this schedule?

ANSWER:

Work on this action has commenced and is on track for completion by December 2019.

212. Is the project to make historic exploration data publicly available by June 2021 on track? On what date did this work start? If not, when will it start?

ANSWER:

The project work began in 2018, starting with the processing of historical drilling and geochemical data currently stored in the exploration company report archive. The project is on track to publicly release validated historical drilling and geochemical data that will become open-file on 1 June 2021.

213. How has the release of the high-tech metal resources of NSW map been made accessible to the public?

ANSWER:

The map has been made accessible to the public through the Digital Imaging of Geological System (DIGS), which is an online report and publication archive, on the Division of Resources and Geoscience's website, via social media, through the Geological Survey of NSW e-newsletter (On The Outcrop), at the Maitland and Orange departmental office front counters, through public outreach events, and through industry-related events and conferences. There have been over 400 maps distributed at these events.

214. What further inquiries has the Government received from the publication of these maps?

ANSWER:

The high-tech metal resources of NSW map has been very popular with a broad range of community members. There have been a number of direct inquiries and requests for large numbers of the map from secondary schools across the state, as well as from interested members of the community, government agencies, and industry professionals. It has been very popular at Geological Survey of NSW outreach events, industry-related events, and conferences. There have also been copies distributed to local libraries.

215. What has been the cost of producing the maps?

ANSWER:

The printing cost was \$19,100.

216. Has work started on the Future of Minerals Report scheduled for completion in December 2019? If not, why not? What resources have been made available for this work?

ANSWER:

Work has begun and will be made available on the Division for Resources and Geoscience's website. The report is based on a combination of internal and externally-commissioned data and analysis.

217. When did work start on completing Action items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 to improve authorising services with completion dates scheduled for October 2019 and November 2019? If work has not started, when is it expected to do so?

ANSWER:

Work has begun and will be made available on the Division for Resources and Geoscience's website. The report is based on a combination of internal and externally-commissioned data and analysis.

218. What work has been done to complete Action 3.1 scheduled for completion in June 2019?

ANSWER:

The Division of Resources and Geoscience provides a wide range of information on the state's geology and mineral prospectivity through the Geological Survey of NSW. Additionally, the Division, NSW

Trade and Investment, and Austrade have established a process for effectively managing investment queries related to minerals, mining, and mining services.

The Division is increasing its presence at major events to engage with potential investors, including at the International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC), which will be held in Melbourne at the end of October 2019.

The launch of the Minerals Prospectus (Action 3.3), cooperative drilling (Action 3.2) and Future of Minerals report (Action 1.5) will also directly support investment.

219. On what date did the launch of the NSW Minerals prospectus take place in July 2019? Is the prospectus public available and if so, where? If not, why not and what are the reasons for the delay in completion?

ANSWER:

The Minerals Prospectus has been developed and will shortly be released on the website of the Division for Resources and Geoscience. Website updates relating to the recent machinery of government changes resulted in delays to other pending website updates.

220. Has work begun on completion Action 3.4, and if not, why not? If so, what discussions have taken place with the Commonwealth in progressing Action 3.4? How will the completion of Action 3.4 be known: will a report be produced?

ANSWER:

Work is under way on this item to analyse opportunities in expanding domestic minerals processing. Information relating to processing opportunities will be added to the online Minerals Prospectus when complete.

The Division of Resources and Geoscience is participating in the COAG working group on critical minerals, which includes consideration of secondary industries.

221. What information has the Government provided to the Commonwealth on the potential secondary industries in NSW?

ANSWER:

Further actions are expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the COAG working group on critical minerals on 26 September 2019

222. What options has the Government presented to the Commonwealth on potential secondary industries in NSW?

ANSWER:

Further actions are expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the COAG working group on critical minerals on 26 September 2019

223. Has work started on Action 4.1 on the review of the Mining Act 1992 and associated regulations? If not, what is the likely date for the start of this Action? Which specific parts of the Act and its regulations are likely to be reviewed?

ANSWER:

Work on this action has commenced. All parts of the Mining Act 1992 and its regulations are currently potentially within scope.

224. Has work started on completing Action 4.2? If not, why not and what are the reasons for not doing so?

ANSWER:

Work on this action has commenced

225. Has work started on Action 4.3? If not, why not and what are the reasons for not doing so?

ANSWER:

Work on this action has commenced

226. What consultations have taken place with stakeholders on Action 4.3? What has been the response of stakeholders on Action 4.3?

ANSWER:

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has had preliminary discussions with industry peak groups on the scope and intent of the action. These groups indicated interest in continuing to be consulted on the action.

227. Has Action 4.4 been completed as scheduled in July 2019? If not, why not and when will it now been completed? If so, when was the minimum standard policy released and where can it be found?

ANSWER:

Work on this action is ongoing. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment plans to finalise the document by the end of 2019. Delivery has been delayed, as the Department decided to investigate a broader range of options than originally envisaged.

228. Has work commenced on Action 5.1?

ANSWER:

A significant review of the website of the Division of Resources and Geosciences has been conducted and out of date and superseded material has been retired or replaced.

229. What work was completed for Action 5.2? Which councils were consulted? What issues did the councils raise?

ANSWER:

The Division of Resource and Geoscience has established regular communication with the Association of Mining and Energy Related Councils. Discussions have covered a broad range of mining-related issues, including the NSW Minerals Strategy, operation of the Mining Act, mining titles, and the MinEx CRC program.

230. Has Action 5.3 been completed? How regularly will the performance reports be published? Where will the performance reports be published for accessibility?

ANSWER:

Work is under way to complete Action 5.3. The Titles Management System will have automated functionality to support the development of the Quarterly Performance Reports. These reports provide a summary of the performance for the provision of title assessments and processing within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Division of Resources and Geoscience. The

Division's performance is reported against the Service Delivery Standards, which note target timeframes for the processing of applications under the Mining Act 1992.

The Quarterly Performance Reports are published on the Division's website.

231. What work has started on Action 6.1?

ANSWER:

The Division of Resources and Geoscience is investigating how targeted skills development and vocational training could be delivered to regional communities to provide clearer pathways into the mining industry. A prospectus is in development that will outline several models that can be applied, based on examples from other states and countries. Additionally, a pilot school linkage program is entering Stage 2 in the western area of NSW. Research into the skills gaps in different areas of the state and the likely future shape of the industry is informing this work.

232. What work has started on Action 6.2?

ANSWER:

Research is under way to better understand the current participation rate of Indigenous people within the NSW minerals industry and what effective strategies could be implemented to promote greater participation. Work on the skilled workforce (Action 6.1) will also include a focus on Aboriginal people.

233. What work has started on Action 6.3?

ANSWER:

Work on the skilled workforce (Action 6.1) will include a focus on women in mining. The Division of Resources and Geosciences is in discussion with other stakeholders about further opportunities to support women in mining.

234. Has work started on Action 6.4?

ANSWER:

Yes

235. Has the Government met its commitment to halve assessment times for state significant development projects? If not, why not? How does the Government plan on getting its objective back on track?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

236. Is the Government on track to meet its objective that NSW's share of total Australian greenfield exploration expenditure averaging 9 per cent over the five years to 2025? If not, what is the Government doing to get its objective back on track?

ANSWER:

The NSW proportion of minerals exploration expenditure is increasing and is close to 9 per cent, according to ABS figures.

237. Is the Government on track to meet its objective that the proportion of greenfield exploration relative to brownfield exploration done within NSW increase by 10% on 2018 levels by 2025? If not, what is the Government doing to get this objective back on track?

ANSWER:

Yes. The proportion of greenfield minerals exploration expenditure in NSW has increased since 2018, according to ABS figures.

Mining conditions

238. Of the 50,000 conditions attached to mining licences and exploration licences, can the conditions be categorised into specific areas, for example, how many of the 50,000 conditions relate to (a) mining licences and (b) exploration licences?

ANSWER:

Currently there are approximately 36,191 conditions. This comprises 19,170 conditions across 1035 exploration licences and assessment leases, and 17,021 conditions across 971 mining and production leases.

The number of conditions is reducing over time due to new, more streamlined, standard conditions being issued with the grant and renewal of titles.

239. How many conditions relate to the categories of environment, water, safety, etc?

ANSWER:

As of 19 September 2019:

Condition Group	Exploration licences and assessment leases	Mining and production leases	Total conditions in group
Administrative	559	3717	4276
Community Relations	1748	1081	2829
Geoscientific information	1437	0	1437
Compliance	0	419	419
Native Title	938	0	938
Ownership	1894	0	1894
Protection of the environment	8021	8282	16,303
Reporting	1058	976	2034
Safety	507	1617	2124

Security	1135	929	2064
Technical Capability	275	0	275
Work Program	1598	0	1598
Total	19,170	17,021	36,191

240. How are so many conditions monitored?

ANSWER:

Conditions are managed through existing processes and functions carried out by teams within the Division of Resources and Geoscience and the Resources Regulator. These include assessment of annual reports, environmental management performance assessment, environmental approvals, auditing, and inspections. Title holders are also required to report any non-compliances to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

241. How often are the 50,000 conditions monitored?

ANSWER:

Different conditions have different requirements, which affects how they are managed. They may involve one-off or ongoing requirements, be triggered by particular activities or other action, or by an event that may or may not be able to be predicted.

242. How many of the 50,000 conditions have been breached in full and in part?

ANSWER:

In the 2018/19 financial year there were 56 breaches of condition sustained by the Resources Regulator.

243. How did the Department enforce compliance of breached conditions?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 10

244. What is the total number of staff involved in monitoring the 50,000 conditions?

ANSWER:

There are approximately 50 staff within the Division of Resources and Geoscience and the Resources Regulator that carry out compliance functions relating to conditions including assessing annual reports, assessing exploration activity applications (environmental assessments) and mining operations plans, assessing and issuing authorisations, and carrying out compliance audits and site inspections.

245. How does the Department become aware of breaches or non-compliance of the 50,000 conditions?

ANSWER:

Inspection, desktop assessment or through information received via complaints or referral from other agencies.

New tools for mine worker safety

246. Where, when and how many workshops were conducted by the NSW Resources Regulator following the Minister’s announcement “New Tools for Mine Worker Safety” on 6 February 2018?

ANSWER:

From 6 February 2018, there were 10 workshops conducted at the following locations: Broken Hill; Wagga Wagga; Campbelltown; Blacktown; Mudgee; Ballina; Coffs Harbour; Port Macquarie; Wollongong; and Lithgow.

247. How many people attended each of the workshops?

ANSWER:

- Broken Hill - 12
- Wagga Wagga - 8
- Campbelltown - 14
- Blacktown - 12
- Mudgee - 3
- Ballina - 10
- Coffs Harbour - 10
- Port Macquarie - 6
- Wollongong - 22
- Lithgow - 17

248. Was any feedback sought from workshop participants on the new tools being provided by the NSW Resources Regulator?

ANSWER:

Yes

249. Are these new tools now available to everyone in the sector?

ANSWER:

Yes

250. What was the total cost of developing the new tools?

ANSWER:

The new tools were developed using existing internal resources, with the exception of three videos which were produced for \$15,500 excluding GST.

251. What was the total cost of conducting the workshops?

ANSWER:

The estimated total cost for conducting the workshops was \$16,309.58.

252. How frequently will these workshops be repeated? Annually? Bi-annually?

ANSWER:

There are currently no plans to repeat the health control plan specific workshops.

253. The Minister's media release indicated that "In addition to these new tools, the regulator will host a series of workshops tailored to various mines, both large and small, to ensure their health control plans meet current legislative requirements", how many of these workshops were held?

ANSWER:

10

254. Where and when were they held?

ANSWER:

Broken Hill - 7 February 2018; Wagga Wagga - 9 February 2018; Wollongong - 20 February 2018; Campbelltown - 21 February 2018; Blacktown - 22 February 2018; Lithgow - 6 March 2018; Mudgee - 7 March 2018; Ballina - 20 March 2018; Coffs Harbour - 21 March 2018; Port Macquarie - 22 March 2018

255. Were all of the health control plans found to meet current legislative requirements? If not, how many did not meet current legislative requirements and what has been done to correct them?

ANSWER:

Mine operators were not required to submit their control plans for assessment at these forums. They were presented with information to allow them to draft and maintain compliant plans.

256. Do all mines in NSW now have compliant health control plans? If not, how many mines do not have compliant plans and how long do they have to have compliant health control plans in place?

ANSWER:

All mines are currently required to have a health control plan in place. However, mines are not required to submit their control plans for review or approval by the Resources Regulator.

257. What are the current penalties for a mine operator for not having a compliant health control plan in place?

ANSWER:

Maximum penalty is \$6000 for an individual and \$30,000 for a corporation. Penalty notice offences are \$600 for an individual and \$3000 for a corporation.

258. How frequently are health control plans checked for compliance?

ANSWER:

Elements of control plans are assessed during planned inspection and targeted assessment activities by the Resources Regulator. Implementation and effectiveness of control plans is also assessed as part of investigations into incidents.

259. How frequently do health control plans need to be revised and/or updated?

ANSWER:

The health control plan forms part of the mine's safety management system. The mine operator must review the safety management system within 12 months of the commencement of mining operations and at least once every 3 years after that to ensure it remains effective.

260. Do all mines in NSW undertake the correct health monitoring of their workers? If not, how many mines do not undertake correct health monitoring? How long do these mines have to comply with health monitoring requirements?

ANSWER:

Mines are not required to report on health monitoring of their workers to the Regulator. During the 2018/19 FY the Regulator identified 25 instances of insufficient or absent health monitoring.

Where health monitoring is identified as deficient, the Regulator will generally, at a minimum issue the operator with an improvement notice requiring rectification within a specified period - which varies based on the severity of the identified deficiencies.

261. What are the current penalties for a mine operator for not having the correct health monitoring for your workers?

ANSWER:

For failing to provide health monitoring the maximum penalty is \$6000 for an individual and \$30,000 for a corporation.

Wollongong Coal Fit and Proper Person Test

262. What is the progress on concluding the 'fit and proper person' investigation into Wollongong Coal?

ANSWER:

The Resources Regulator continues to assess, on an ongoing basis, the company's fitness to continue to hold mining leases in NSW.

263. Why is the investigation taking so long to draw a conclusion?

ANSWER:

The Regulator's consideration of the matter is more appropriately categorised as an ongoing assessment rather than a single 'investigation'. The Regulator is actively monitoring the company's compliance performance to ensure it meets its obligations under the mining laws and will take escalated action should it form the view, at any time, the Wollongong Coal is no longer fit and proper to hold a mining authorisation in NSW.

264. What is the estimated timeframe for the conclusion of this investigation?

ANSWER:

Refer to answer to Q263 above. As it is an ongoing/continuous assessment there is no timeframe for conclusion.

265. When the investigation is concluded, what is the process for implementing its decision in the event the investigation finds Wollongong Coal is not a 'fit and proper person' to hold a mining licence?

ANSWER:

In accordance with section 380A of the Mining Act, where a person is found to be not a fit proper person, a decision maker may:

- refuse to grant or renew a mining right
- refuse the transfer of a mining right
- cancel a mining right
- impose or vary conditions of a mining right.

The decision maker must provide notice to the person of the proposed action and the grounds on which it is being taken and provide an opportunity for the person to provide a submission in response (and take any submission into consideration).

266. Will the NSW Resource Regulator publish its findings and how will it do so?

ANSWER:

The Regulator publishes all significant decisions, including the suspension or cancellation of a mining licence on its website.

Mine Rehabilitation

267. What directions did the Resources Regulator give to the owners and operators of the coal mines which had failed the audit on their rehabilitation works?

ANSWER:

Statutory notices under section 240 of the Mining Act were issued requiring mine holders to take remedial actions within specified timeframes .

268. By what date are the directions of the Resource Regulator to be complied with?

ANSWER:

Various dates depending on the works required on a case by case basis.

269. How will the Resource Regulator check compliance with the directions given?

ANSWER:

Statutory directions generally require the titleholder to report back on compliance with the notice. A risk based approach is taken with specific follow up and verification undertaken for higher risk matters and lower level matters checked through routine compliance monitoring and inspections.

270. Has the Resource Regulator been in contact with the Muswellbrook Mayor, Martin Rush, to further investigate concerns expressed over the rehabilitation of the Old Drayton site, Mt Arthur and Bengalla mines? If not, why not? If so, are those concerns under assessment and what has been required?

ANSWER:

Mr Rush has not contacted the Regulator about his concerns.

The Regulator is closely monitoring rehabilitation activities at all three sites and has conducted the following recent site inspections or desktop assessments of each:

- Bengalla – Inspection on 29 August 2019
- Old Drayton Mine (now Maxwell Infrastructure area) – Inspection on 26 August 2019
- Mt Arthur – Mining Operations Plan assessment on 9 August 2019

Mine Rehabilitation Discussion Paper

271. How many submissions did the discussion paper receive?

ANSWER:

Thirty individual submissions were received.

272. Have the submissions been published? If so, where? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Yes – see <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/under-consideration/mine-rehabilitation-discussion-paper>

273. Has the Government considered the comments from the discussion paper process?

ANSWER:

Yes

274. What issues were raised the submission process?

ANSWER:

The submissions are publicly available online as per answer to question 272

275. Has the Government published its response? If so, what is the response? If not, when will its response be published? If not, why has the discussion paper process taken so long?

ANSWER:

No. The range of responses to the discussion paper necessitated a re-examination of the proposed approach. A response has not been finalised and no timeline has been agreed to date.

276. If not, what explanation has been provided to stakeholders for the length of time taken to finalise the Government's response?

ANSWER:

The next course of action is still being determined

Mt Arthur Coal and Resources Regulator

277. In relation to the incident at Mt Arthur Coal Mine which led to a worker being seriously burned, the Resources Regulator accepted an enforceable undertaking valued at \$1,090,750 which included \$890,750 of works required to meet statutory obligations. Some have claimed this meant the real penalty was around \$200,000 – is this a fair characterisation?

ANSWER:

No, that assertion is factually incorrect. The undertaking committed to a total spend of \$1,090,750 in addition to the estimated \$960,000 already spent on safety rectification works.

278. Why was a donation to Muswellbrook Rural Fire Service considered an acceptable part of the penalties for the mine operator in this case?

ANSWER:

The provision of a donation is acceptable under Regulator's published Enforceable Undertaking guidelines.

279. There is a claim that this decision has brought into question the independence of the Resources Regulator and that there has been “regulatory capture” – are decisions that are the subject of such strong criticisms independently reviewed? If so, has the Mt Arthur decision been referred for review or will it be?

ANSWER:

No reviews are proposed. The Regulator already has strict governance measures in place with a committee that considers WHS undertakings and makes recommendations to the delegate of the Regulator to accept or reject an undertaking. The committee includes an independent chairperson, the General Counsel of the department and a representative from SafeWork NSW.

280. Have there been other decisions of the Regulator that have been the subject of similar criticism in the past? If so, what consideration has been given to changing processes or providing additional information on the decision as a result?

ANSWER:

No, there have been no similar criticisms in the past that we are aware of. In relation to this incident the Regulator published on its website:

- Preliminary investigation report
- Full investigation report
- Video animation of the incident
- The signed Enforceable Undertaking document
- Full Reasons for Decision document in relation to the acceptance of the undertaking.
- Media release on the decision to accept the undertaking

Coal exports to China

281. Has any coal exported from NSW been caught up in the customs procedures of China?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

282. What is the value and tonnage of this coal?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

283. What proportion of coal, exported to China and involved in this customs procedure, from thermal and metallurgical coal volumes?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

284. What action has the Government taken to monitor the delay in the export of coal to China?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

285. Have industry stakeholders raised their concerns with China’s actions with the Government?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

286. Has the Government sought any explanation for the customs processing delays of any coal generated in NSW from the Government of China? If so, what is the response from China? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Please refer this Question to the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

COAG Energy Council

287. Has the framework for regular benchmarking of policies and regulation referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018 been established? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The federal government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a 12-month study of resources sector regulation to identify best-practice examples from across Australia and internationally. The outcomes of this study will help inform the delivery of this action.

288. What was the NSW Government's role in establishing this framework?

ANSWER:

The then NSW Minister for Resources agreed to the action as a member of the COAG Energy Council Resources Roundtable. The NSW Government will work closely with the federal government through the COAG Energy Council during the development of the framework.

289. Has the collaborative new critical minerals work program to boost exploration and open up new basins and downstream value adding activity referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018 been established? If so, what is it, what is in the work program and where is it available? If not, when is it expected to be established?

ANSWER:

The COAG Energy Council has not yet agreed to a timeline for delivering this action. The next COAG Energy Council meeting will be held on 22 November 2019.

290. Has the data strategy referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018 been established?

ANSWER:

No.

291. What data is/will be available through this strategy?

ANSWER:

The data strategy, once established, will cover key environmental, geoscientific, and heritage data sets.

292. Is the data publicly available and if so, where?

ANSWER:

The data strategy has not been established, so no data is available.

293. Have the options to better leverage long-term cross-sectional research referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018 been established? If so, what is this? If not, when will it be established?

ANSWER:

The COAG Energy Council has not yet agreed to a timeline for delivering this action. The next COAG Energy Council meeting will be held on 22 November 2019.

294. Has the comprehensive evaluation of current community engagement and benefit sharing practices by industry, government and other bodies referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018 been undertaken? If so, is this available? If not, when will it be completed?

ANSWER:

The COAG Energy Council has not yet agreed to a timeline for delivering this action. The next COAG Energy Council meeting will be held on 22 November 2019.

The federal government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a 12-month study of resources sector regulation to identify best-practice examples from across Australia and internationally. As part of the study, the federal government has asked the Productivity Commission to ‘examine regulatory and non-regulatory examples of effective community engagement and benefit-sharing practices, and establish best-practice examples of where mutually-agreeable relationships were successfully developed between the resources sector and the communities in which they operate, including with Indigenous communities’. The outcomes of this study will help inform the delivery of this action.

295. Has the roundtable convened the roundtable to boost VET outcomes in the sector, referred to in the COAG Energy Council communique of 18 December 2018, been held? If so, when was it held and what were the outcomes? If not, when will it be held and who will represent NSW as part of the roundtable?

ANSWER:

Yes, the federal Minister for Resources and Northern Australia held an initial roundtable in March 2019. The outcomes have not yet been provided to the COAG Energy Council. Future meetings are planned to be held and the NSW representative will be determined once dates are known.

296. Has the membership of the Strategic Resources Advisory Group been announced? If so, can the names of the members and the organisations they represent be provided? If not, when will this be established?

ANSWER:

The COAG Energy Council has not yet agreed to a timeline for delivering this action. The next COAG Energy Council meeting will be held on 22 November 2019.

297. How many representatives will NSW have on the Strategic Resources Advisory Group? How many members will the Advisory Group have?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

298. How were the NSW representatives on the Strategic Resources Advisory Group selected?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

299. What are the terms of reference for the Strategic Resources Advisory Group?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

Productivity Commission Review into the Resources Sector

300. Does the NSW Government support the Productivity Commission review into resource sector regulation?

ANSWER:

Yes.

301. Will the NSW Government lodge a submission as part of this review? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

NSW is supporting the Productivity Commission to undertake the study by providing relevant data.

302. Will the NSW Government participate in any public hearing of the Productivity Commission as part of the review? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

NSW is supporting the Productivity Commission to undertake the study by providing relevant data. At this time, a decision has not been made on whether the NSW Government will participate in any public hearing.

303. Was the NSW Government consulted by the Commonwealth Minister or Commonwealth Departments prior to the announcement of the Productivity Commission review? If so, what form did those consultations take?

ANSWER:

The Commonwealth Minister for Resources and Northern Australia and Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Innovation consulted all states and territories through the COAG Energy Council, both before and after the announcement of the Productivity Commission study.

Strategic Statement on NSW Coal

304. Given the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal is 5 years old, does the NSW Government intend to publish an updated statement? If so, what would an updated statement say? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government continues to recognise the coal industry's significant contribution to the NSW economy and its important role in providing investment and employment in regional communities.

The NSW Government remains committed to getting the balance right between resource development and managing other state assets, such as farmland, waterways, parks and forests, and the environment. The objectives and outcomes of co-existence, transparency, sustainability, safety, best practice and leading technologies, achieving value for the economy and adequate taxpayer returns, and regional economic development continue to be relevant for NSW.

305. Has the NSW Government undertaken an (a) internal or (b) independent review of the Strategic Statement since it was published 5 years ago? If so, what was the outcome of the review? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The government has not reviewed the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal as:

- the objectives and outcomes of co-existence, transparency, sustainability, safety, best practice and leading technologies, achieving value for the economy and adequate taxpayer returns, and regional economic development continue to be relevant for NSW.
- the actions to achieve these objectives have been completed or are ongoing commitments.

306. Has the NSW Government met each of its objectives as outlined in 1-6 of the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal? If so, can the NSW Government provide a report or list of outcomes which confirm the implementation of each objective 1-6 from the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Actions 1-3, the component of Action 4 relating to coal release decisions, and Action 5 in the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal were completed via the implementation of the Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration and the Guidelines for coal exploration licence applications for operational allocation purposes.

The remainder of Action 4 is an ongoing government commitment to ensuring a comprehensive and robust yet streamlined regulatory regime for coal exploration and production.

Action 6 is an ongoing government commitment to avoiding unnecessary barriers to investment, growth, and innovation.

307. What objectives still remain to be implemented from the Strategic Statement in NSW Coal?

ANSWER:

The remainder of Action 4 is an ongoing government commitment to ensuring a comprehensive and robust yet streamlined regulatory regime for coal exploration and production. Action 6 is an ongoing government commitment to avoiding unnecessary barriers to investment, growth, and innovation.

308. What is the timeframe for implementing the remaining objectives?

ANSWER:

The remainder of Action 4 is an ongoing government commitment to ensuring a comprehensive and robust yet streamlined regulatory regime for coal exploration and production. Action 6 is an ongoing government commitment to avoiding unnecessary barriers to investment, growth, and innovation.

309. Is the target to increase the value of mining production by 30% by 2021 on track?

ANSWER:

Since 2011, the value of NSW saleable mining production has increased by approximately 62 per cent.

Taxes, fees and charges imposed on NSW minerals industry

310. What has been the revenue collected from the following taxes, fees or levies from the NSW Minerals industry from 2010-11 to 2019-20 and the rationale for the charging basis:

- (a) Mine Safety levy;

- (b) Administrative Levy;
- (c) Annual Rent Fee;
- (d) Mine Rescue Levy;
- (e) Mine Subsidence Board Colliery Fee;
- (f) Coal Washery Rejects Levy
- (g) Development Applications
- (h) Royalties;
- (i) Payroll Tax and
- (j) Land Tax.

ANSWER:

- a) The Mine Safety Levy is collected to cover expenditure incurred by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in the administration or execution of the mine and petroleum site work, health and safety legislation.

Mine Safety Levy determinations:

2010-11	\$23.609M
2011-12	\$27.590M
2012-13	\$29.331M
2013-14	\$33.005M
2014-15	\$33.830M
2015-16	\$33.830M
2016-17	\$33.830M
2017-18	\$34.300M
2018-19	\$34.986M
2019-20	\$38.206M

- b) The Administrative levy supports:

- the administration and enforcement of the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991,
- community and industry liaison carried out in connection with the Mining Act 1992 or the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991,
- rehabilitation of land or water disturbed by activities, and
- any other costs declared by the regulations to be minerals and petroleum administrative costs.

Administration Levy Determinations:

2010-11	\$0.00M
2011-12	\$00.00M
2012-13	\$12.486M
2013-14	\$15.425M
2014-15	\$18.625M
2015-16	\$21.130M
2016-17	\$23.413M
2017-18	\$24.850M
2018-19	\$27.518M

- c) The Annual Rental fee supports any government program or initiative the object of which is to promote investment in State minerals or petroleum (or both).

Annual Rental Fee Determinations:

2010-11	\$0.00M
2011-12	\$00.00M
2012-13	\$5.118M
2013-14	\$5.973M
2014-15	\$4.817M
2015-16	\$4.815M
2016-17	\$5.372M
2017-18	\$5.580M
2018-19	\$6.069M

- d) Mine Rescue Levy - This is administered by a non-government organisation. Please refer to the Coal Services annual report.
- e) Mine Subsidence Border Colliery Fee – This is administered by the Customer Service Cluster (Subsidence Advisory NSW). For information on this fee please refer to the Subsidence Advisory NSW website.
- f) Coal Washery Rejects Levy - Information on this levy is reported in the annual reports of the Environment Protection Authority
- g) Development Applications - Information is published in the annual report of the former Department of Planning and Environment (Note 3(a) of financial statements)
- g) Royalties - Collected by Revenue NSW. Information is published by the Department of Finance Services and Innovation (DFSI) in annual reports and historical information is available on the Resources & Geoscience website
- h) Payroll Tax - Collected by Revenue NSW. Information is published by DFSI in annual reports.
- j) Land Tax - Collected by Revenue NSW. Information is published by DFSI in annual reports.

311. Are there still 80 different fee categories across 62 different fee types for the NSW minerals industry under the Mining Act 1992? If so, please list these fee categories and fee types? If not, which fee categories and fee types have been changed or abolished?

ANSWER:

No.

The following fees were abolished in 2018:

- Application for variation of prospecting operations authorised by low-impact exploration licence (section 32E of the *Mining Act 1992*).
- Application for review of determination under section 32E (section 32EA of the Act).
- Application for addition of mineral to mining lease (section 77 of the Act).
- Application for variation of mining lease (clause 12 of Schedule 1B to the Act).
- Application for aggregation of labour and expenditure conditions (clause 30 of this Regulation).
- Application for registration of transfer (section 122 of the Act).
- Lodgement of caveat (section 124 of the Act).
- Nomination to whom authority is granted (section 133 of the Act).
- Application for appointment of arbitrator in default of agreement (section 144 of the Act).
- Application to suspend conditions of authority (clause 14 of Schedule 1B to the Act).
- Provision of certificate evidence (section 378ZG of the Act).

- Application for amendment of each registered interest, including cancellation (section 161 of the Act).
- Application to record as holder of authority on devolution of rights (section 162 of the Act).
- Application for registration of colliery holding or amendment or cancellation of colliery holding (section 163 of the Act).
- Application for registration, renewal or variation of each sublease (section 163A of the Act).
- Application for removal of each sublease from register (section 163B of the Act).
- Application for change of registered name of holder of authority (other than on transfer of authority).
- Registration of change of name on devolution of mineral claim (section 202 of the Act).
- Application for suspension of conditions of mineral claim (clause 14 of Schedule 1B to the Act).
- Registration of change of name of holder of mineral claim (other than on transfer of mineral claim).
- Registration of legal or equitable interest (section 218B (3) of the Act).
- Application for permit to enter land (section 254 of the Act).

312. What was the outcome of the Department of Industry, Division of Resources and Energy, internal review of the different fees and categories in 2015-16, which is mentioned on page 8 of the Government's response to the Minerals Action Plan?

ANSWER:

The review led to the removal of 29 fees in 2018.

313. Can the review be provided to the Committee?

ANSWER:

Yes, the review report can be provided to the Committee but should not be distributed further as it contains potentially sensitive information on industry levied government revenue streams.

314. If the review was not undertaken, what was the reason for not doing so?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

315. Has there been any further reviews of the taxes, fees and levies imposed the NSW minerals industry? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

In June 2018, the then Minister for Resources established an Independent Review of the Mining and Petroleum Industry Administrative Levy to examine the methodology for calculating the amount payable, the manner in which the funds raised by the levy have been used since its establishment, and the operation and administration of the levy. The Minister is considering the results of this review.

Independent review of rail coal dust emissions management practices in the NSW coal chain

316. What consideration has the Department taken in light of the reports by the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer in this review?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

317. What action has been taken on the report's recommendations?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

318. Have all of the recommendations been implemented in full? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

319. What recommendations have been implemented partially?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

320. On what date are these recommendations in (5) due to be implemented in full?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

321. In relation to the article published in the Newcastle Herald on 16 July 2019, does the NSW Government or the Department have a view on the conflicting accounts of air quality standards in the Upper Hunter between the IPC and Hunter New England Local Health District? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

322. Has the Department modelled the impact on the NSW coal industry of requiring coal carriages to be covered? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

Geological survey of NSW

323. What types of mineral deposits is it hoped to find with this aerial survey?

ANSWER:

Polymetallic copper-gold and zinc-silver-lead deposits, like those that have been mined in the Cobar district for almost 150 years.

324. What will be the level of depth of the aerial survey?

ANSWER:

Approximately 400 metres. The exact depth of penetration is dependent on the electrical properties of the rocks surveyed.

325. What is the financial contribution of each of the partners in this survey?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government has contributed \$497,000, which fully covers the acquisition costs for this survey. Geoscience Australia is providing procurement management and data interpretation services to the survey, but no direct financial contribution. Four mineral exploration companies are funding more closely-spaced survey lines over small areas within the larger survey, at a total cost of \$80,814.

326. Which Australian universities are involved in the survey?

ANSWER:

None.

327. Will the results of the survey be made public? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Yes.

Forestry Corporation

328. How was the amount of \$24 million for the Government's equity injection determined?

ANSWER:

This was determined to allow the purchase and establishment of a substantial area of new public plantation in NSW and, thereby, to also help stimulate increased private sector investment in the forestry sector.

329. How many hectares of new land for softwood plantation is expected to be purchased for \$24 million?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation will evaluate all opportunities for acquisitions to purchase as many hectares as possible.

330. What has been purchased to date?

ANSWER:

To date 350.1 hectares of net plantable area has been purchased using the equity injection.

331. How much did the purchase of Glengarry near Bombala cost? What was the business case behind the purchase of this property?

ANSWER:

This was purchased for \$575,000 prior to the equity injection funding. The property is cut over land adjacent to Coolangubra State Forest.

332. From how many landholders, from which landholders, and at what cost has the 255 net hectares referred to on page 8 of the half yearly report been purchased?

ANSWER:

Five groups of properties were purchased and the details of these purchases are publicly available through Land Titles.

333. Over what period does Forestry Corporation intend to acquire new lands for softwood plantations?

ANSWER:

The equity funding was provided to be spent over four years.

334. How is the Forestry Corporation dividend rate determined?

ANSWER:

This is detailed in Forestry Corporation's Annual Report.

335. Is this higher or lower than the dividend rate for similar organisations in NSW or in other states and territories?

ANSWER:

There are no other government forestry businesses in NSW. Information on the operations of private organisations should be sourced from the annual reports of those organisations.

336. How many employees does Forestry Corporation have?

ANSWER:

This information is available in the Annual Report.

337. Can a breakdown of these employees by primary role (eg: production coordinator, manager, administration, etc) be provided.

ANSWER:

A breakdown of employees by primary role, office based or field based, is provided in the Annual Report.

338. What is the average on-cost per employee?

ANSWER:

30.26%

339. How many seasonal firefighters were engaged last bushfire season?

ANSWER:

137

340. How many seasonal firefighters are expected to be engaged this bushfire season?

ANSWER:

Estimated 148

341. How many are employed in the following categories:

- (a) 3 months
- (b) 4 months
- (c) 5 months
- (d) 6 months
- (e) "call as needed" casual basis?

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 0
- (c) 0
- (d) 25%
- (e) 75%

342. How many contracts in each category are renewed without a break in service?

ANSWER:

None.

343. What is the annual cost of recruitment of seasonal firefighters? How much is spent on advertising these roles? What mediums are used to advertise the roles? What is the advertising budget for each of these advertising mediums?

ANSWER:

Cost of advertising for seasonal recruitment in 2019 was \$8695.

Advertising is carried out in print media and online. Budget per medium varies based on recruitment targets for each region."

344. Were any seasonal firefighters sourced through Labour Hire Firms? If so, how many and at what total cost?

ANSWER:

No

345. What is the average cost per seasonal firefighter to provide firefighter training?

ANSWER:

\$1220 - \$1470

346. What is the average cost per seasonal firefighter or providing protective clothing, safety boots, safety helmets and other personal protective equipment? Is this equipment returned at the end of the season? If so, what items, if any, can be re-used? What is done with the equipment that is not re-used?

ANSWER:

Cost of Personal Protective Equipment is around \$800 per person. Consumables and replacements are also supplied throughout the season as required. Jackets and pants are re-usable if they are in good condition and laundered. Other items are personal issue and generally not reused and are disposed of.

347. Are there areas of the state in which recruitment of seasonal firefighters is more difficult?

ANSWER:

Yes

348. How much does the extended fire season add to the total cost of seasonal firefighters and does this change the mix of contracts provided to seasonal firefighters in affected areas?

ANSWER:

Fire seasons vary from year to year in both length and severity and Forestry Corporation considers the potential variation in its planning and works cooperatively with other firefighting authorities to best manage resources.

349. Does Forestry Corporation use social media influencers in its advertising and recruitment efforts? If so, how much is spent on social media influencers?

ANSWER:

No

350. In 2018-19 how many permits were applied for in each of the following categories:

- (a) Firewood collection
- (b) Fossicking
- (c) Hunting
- (d) Cattle grazing
- (e) Apiary
- (f) Research
- (g) Filming
- (h) Other activities

ANSWER:

- (a) to (h)

Forestry Corporation do not record applications, we can only retrieve information on permits issued.

- (c) 34,679

351. How many applications in each of the categories in (23) were granted? How many permits are expected to be sought in 2019-20?

ANSWER:

Permits held in 2018-19:

- (a) 8530
- (b) 2773
- (C) 34,679

Licensed Hunters login to the game licensing unit (GLU) online portal and book available forest hunting areas. Written permissions (permits) are generated automatically from the online booking system and thus when a written permission is applied for it is also granted. Forest areas available for hunting are approved each quarter based on a range of factors like timber harvesting operations and the use of forests by other recreational groups.

It is not possible to estimate the number of hunting permits for 2019-20 due to the fluid nature of how many forests are open to hunting throughout the year and due to timber harvesting operations. For reference, the number of permits issued over the previous 4 years are:

- 2015-16 - 20,354
- 2016-17 - 21,896
- 2017-18 - 25,608
- 2018-19 - 34,679

- (d) 378 (including Crown Leases)

- (e) Apiary permits are issued for several years and invoiced annually. During 2018-19, 478 permits were held for 4103 sites.
- (f) 31
- (g) 16
- (h) 216

Permit numbers are expected to be similar for 2019-20.

352. Can a list of external events, programs and organisations sponsored by Forestry Corporation, the dates sponsorship was extended, the amount of sponsorship, including in-kind sponsorship, for 2018-19 be provided?

ANSWER:

Corporate financial sponsorships in 2018-19:

Amount	Recipient
\$9,090.91	The Institute of Foresters Australia / Australia Forest Growers Conference
\$4,500.00	Forest Industry Engineering Association ForestTECH Conference
\$1,187.55	Timber and Forestry E-News - 'Talking Trees for Column
\$2,272.73	The Institute of Foresters Australia - IFA subtropical fire forum

In-kind sponsorship is not collated for the organisation as a whole.

353. How many applications for sponsorship were received in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

This information is not available.

354. Is the total sponsorship budget in 2019-20 higher or lower than 2018-19? Why?

ANSWER:

The budget for FY20 is the same to FY19.

355. How much did Forestry Corporation spend in 2018-19 on fire management activities?

ANSWER:

\$18.2 million.

356. How does Forestry Corporation determine its contribution to fire management activities when they are combined responsibilities with other levels of government or organisations?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation is a firefighting authority and works closely with other fire fighting authorities at both a state and local level to coordinate resources and responsibilities.

357. How much is forecast to be spent on fire management in 2019-20?

ANSWER:

\$17.0 million.

358. The Half-Yearly statement records Safety Lost Time Incident Frequency (rate) as 10.6 against a half year target of 6.0 – what is the cause for the difference? What is being undertaken to address safety incident frequency?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation is continually investing in safety improvement initiatives, with details published in Forestry Corporation's Annual Report and Sustainability Report each year.

359. Can details of the 6 Forest Management System Incidents in the half yearly statement be provided.

ANSWER:

The six incidents are summarised below. In all cases remedial actions have been implemented.

- A mobile fuel tanker was left on site by a harvesting contractor in the Bathurst Management Area.
- In the Grafton Management Area, a 70-hectare weed management trial with *Pinus taeda* had poor survival and resulted in some infilling. Further inspection of the area shows replanting is required.
- In Production North harvesting contractors entered an exclusion area.
- Track construction without appropriate drainage by roading contractor caused minor affects to a drainage line.
- Two incidents related to illegal activities in softwood plantations, one contained possible asbestos contamination and one involved a car set on fire.

360. Have all of the 8.4 million radiata pine seedlings planted for the 2018 Age Class been planted yet? If not, how much longer will the planting process take?

ANSWER:

The majority of planting has been completed but a small proportion have been put on hold due to drought. Any further planting will be subject to suitable planting conditions.

361. What is the harvest plan and timeline for these seedlings?

ANSWER:

The seedlings will take 30 to 35 years to mature. Plantation trees are scheduled for harvest annually based on contractual supply obligations with customers.

362. Does Forestry Corporation have a view on the success, failure or suitability River Red Gum Ecological Thinning Trial in achieving its objectives?

ANSWER:

No

363. Has Forestry Corporation been asked to provide advice to Government on the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Tree Thinning Operations) Bill 2019?

ANSWER:

No

364. Does Forestry Corporation forestry management experts consider the implementation of the tree thinning operations proposed in this National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Tree Thinning Operations) Bill 2019 will have a positive or negative impact on forest ecologies in the Murray Valley National Park and Pilliga National Park?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation has not reviewed this bill.

365. How much additional timber is expected to be sold as a result of current housing building activities in NSW?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation sells timber under long term wood supply agreements and shorter term sales agreements and does not anticipate supplying additional sawlogs to major customers in the current financial year.

366. Can this timber demand be met under existing timber supply contracts? If not, what plans are there to meet the supply shortfall?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation can satisfy all its existing timber supply contracts.

367. Can all current timber supply contracts be met?

ANSWER:

Yes

368. Does Forestry Corporation have a view on the remapping of the North Coast forests currently being proposed by the Natural Resources Commission? Does Forestry Corporation expect that this will result in more or less area being designated as old-growth forest?

ANSWER:

This project has been proposed by the NRC and Forestry Corporation is supplying information to inform the NRC's considerations. Forestry Corporation understands that the proposal is to improve the quality of mapping to ensure areas are correctly identified as old growth or otherwise.

369. How much of the \$4.6 million extended in the 2018-19 budget for contractor training and accreditation has been spent?

ANSWER:

The 2018-19 Budget provided funding of \$4.6 million over four years. The NSW Department of Primary Industries has to date paid \$590,000 (GST exclusive) to the contracted project manager, the Australian Forest Contractors Association. This amount is in accordance with a funding deed to develop and deliver a training and certification program for forestry contractors. In addition, \$450,000 (GST exclusive) has been paid to the Forestry Corporation of NSW to train contractors in the requirements of the new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals.

370. What programs, events and activities have been undertaken with this funding and how many contractors have been trained and accredited through these activities?

ANSWER:

DPI is starting a four year program to develop and roll out nationally accredited training modules and an associated certification scheme for forestry contractors. The contracted project manager, the Australian Forest Contractors Association, is working under the oversight of a cross-agency Project Board and has established an Industry Reference Group to support the project and ensure industry relevance and uptake. In the meantime, some funding has been directed to training contractors working with the Forestry Corporation of NSW in the requirements of the new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals.

371. What will the contractors be trained in?

ANSWER:

Forestry contractors will receive training under the following five modules:

- Environment
- Business Management
- Safety
- People Practices
- Leadership

372. What accreditation will the contractors received?

ANSWER:

The project aims to identify, develop and establish an industry-run certification scheme that will provide the NSW Government with confidence in the environmental and risk performance of contractors working in our forests. This is to be done in consultation with the industry under the oversight of a cross-agency Project Board.

373. How many contractors are expected to be trained and accredited through this funding?

ANSWER:

The project aims to establish arrangements that will engage all forestry industry contractors in NSW and nationally.

374. Which types of contractors will be trained?

ANSWER:

There is no limitation.

375. How much of the \$9.2 million extended in the 2018-19 budget for forest mapping and monitoring has been spent and on what?

ANSWER:

- \$9.2 million was allocated over four years for forest monitoring and mapping announced by the Department of Industry in the 2018-19 NSW budget.
- \$7.2 million is allocated to the NSW Forest Monitoring and Improvement Program. DPI forest science initiated work under the program. Since February 2019, the Natural Resources Commission has independently overseen the program under terms of reference from the

Premier. As of end-June 2019, \$466,461 was spent on designing the five year program including feasibility studies, on-ground pilot trials and independent advice from leading scientific experts.

- \$2 million is allocated to the Old Growth Mapping Program. The Natural Resources Commission is independently overseeing the program under terms of reference received from the Premier in November 2018. As of end-June 2019, \$494,508 was spent primarily on designing scientific methods to assess old growth and special conservation values and verify wood supply.

376. Is this funding being used to fund the remapping of north coast old-growth forests?

ANSWER:

Yes, as described above

377. Do any of the government’s climate change mitigation programs involve forestry activities in which Forestry Corporation is involved?

ANSWER:

Forestry is a climate change mitigation activity. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change notes: “in the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.”

378. Has Forestry Corporation proposed any forestry projects which could be used to mitigate climate change impacts?

ANSWER:

Yes

379. Has Forestry Corporation been involved in any research activities about the impact of forestation and forestry management on climate change? If so, what were or have been the findings of this research so far?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation’s research program is detailed in its annual report each year.

380. What activities, projects, process, events or other activities are proposed for the \$2.4 million allocated to “...implement the private native forestry reforms to facilitate land holders to engage in forestry activities” (2019-20 Budget Paper No 3, p 4-3)

ANSWER:

The funds are being used to support salary and operating expenditure of twelve Private Native Forestry staff to ensure Local Land Services can meet industry, landholder and community expectations for forestry approvals and advisory services. The funding will also be used to develop communication and training material associated with the Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice and support ongoing engagement with landholders and industry to discuss and advise on effective forestry management.

Forest Industry Innovation Fund

381. How many applications were received under Rounds 1 and 2 of the Forest Industries Innovation Fund Loan Scheme?

ANSWER:

Seven applications were received in Round 1 and two applications were received in Round 2.

382. How many proposals were assessed to go forward by the Technical Advisory Panel?

ANSWER:

All applications were assessed by the Technical Advisory Panel. One was not recommended due to insufficient technical information being provided.

383. How many were assessed as financially unsound by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority?

ANSWER:

Four

384. What were the Review Assessment Guidelines against which projects were reviewed by the Review Assessment Panel?

ANSWER:

The Review Assessment Panel reviewed each application against the following:

- Meets the eligibility criteria;
- Meets the program objectives;
- Has passed the financial assessment and been recommended for approval by the Rural Assistance Authority;
- Has passed the technical assessment and been recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Panel;
- Has provided all necessary supporting documentation;
- The lead proponent in an application is not a State Owned Corporation or a government agency.

385. Who was on the Rural Assessment Panel?

ANSWER:

The Review Assessment Panel comprises:

- Group Director Forestry Policy, Research and Development (Chair), DPI Forestry
- Director Resources and Projects, NSW Treasury
- Principal Policy Officer - Resources and Land Use, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Director Rural Assistance Authority

386. What qualifications were required of people to sit on the Rural Assessment Panel? Was a background in forestry or experience in the forestry industry required?

ANSWER:

The Review Assessment Panel comprises senior officers of the four NSW Government agencies responsible for the establishment and oversight of the Fund. No specific qualifications were required and experience in forestry was not a prerequisite. Technical knowledge and industry insight is provided through the independent Technical Advisory Panel. Financial expertise is provided through the NSW Rural Assistance Authority and independent financial consultants.

387. How many of the applications were successful?

ANSWER:

All four applications that passed both the technical and financial assessment were successful.

388. How many loans were extended under each round to:

- (a) Plantation operations
- (b) Native forest operations
- (c) Forest product processor or milling operation
- (d) Silvicultural or forest harvest
- (e) Hauling contracts
- (f) For market development?

ANSWER:

No loans have as yet been disbursed.

389. Provide a list of the organisations who received loans, the amount of the loan, loan terms, key objective, category of loan recipient and details of the project to which the loan was extended and the risks of the project identified in the project risk assessment.

ANSWER:

No loans have as yet been disbursed. All the loans are currently being finalised and the details are considered to be commercial in confidence at this time.

390. What was the total value of loans extended to projects in Rounds 1 and 2?

ANSWER:

No loans have as yet been disbursed. \$9.3 million in loans have been approved.

391. What is the total value of loans available for projects in Round 3?

ANSWER:

Approximately \$20 million remains available for future projects.

392. What performance measures are being used to judge whether the concessional loans scheme has been or is being successful? How often is this assessment taking place?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Rural Assistance Authority have developed an evaluation survey that will provide insight in the following areas:

- Application and assessment process
- Industry knowledge of the Program
- Loan Purpose
- Business statistics
- Insight into how the investment (purchased through loan funding) will contribute to the stated scheme objectives.

An initial survey is currently taking place with follow up surveys to take place at regular intervals over the coming years while the loans are outstanding.

393. Are these measures being publicly reported?

ANSWER:

This will be a decision of the NSW Government at the time the information is generated.

394. What does the Department consider to be the most important measures of success of the concessional loans scheme?

ANSWER:

The funding is available to industry to implement innovation opportunities and explore new markets for forest products.

395. When will the scheme be reviewed?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries and the Rural Assistance Authority have committed to an ongoing evaluation process.

Forestry Industry Roadmap

396. Have all actions under the Forest Industry Roadmap been completed?

ANSWER:

The NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap outlines an ongoing vision for the forestry Industry in NSW, together with a number of specific near-term actions. We have made substantial progress against the Roadmap's four strategic pillars:

- Regulatory modernisation and environmental sustainability
- Balancing supply and demand
- Community understanding and confidence; and
- Industry innovation and new markets.

Regulatory modernisation and key reform areas have been a major focus to date, resulting in the creation of new rules governing native forestry operations on public land in coastal NSW and the renewal of three Regional Forest Agreements for a further 20 years. These reforms underpin the future sustainability of the sector and provide a solid basis for further work around other Roadmap pillars.

Other initiatives include establishment of the \$34 million Forestry Industry Innovation Fund loan scheme, the allocation of \$9.2 million over four years for improved forest mapping and monitoring, \$24 million for expansion of the public plantation estate and \$4.6 million over four years for forestry contractor training and certification.

While we have made significant progress, we have more work to do and remain focused on delivering actions to further strengthen the sustainable management of NSW forests.

397. If not, what actions are left to complete?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 396

398. What are the next steps for the Roadmap?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 396

Forestry logging – Buckenbowra State Forest

399. Has the Deputy Premier's request for the cessation of logging in compartments 516 and 517 of Buckenbowra State Forest been implemented? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Harvest operations in compartment 516 were completed on 30 April 2008. Plans to harvest compartment 517 were well advanced before the March 2019 election. Harvest operations in compartment 517 were completed on 10 May 2019.

400. Was a review of the environmental impact and economic viability of these compartments undertaken as requested? Is that report available publicly and where?

ANSWER:

Forestry Corporation always reviews the environmental impact of operations, with results informing publicly available harvest plans. Forestry Corporation runs a profitable business and all operations contribute revenue to the business.

Departmental and other reviews

401. Can a complete list of all reviews commenced and completed by the Department, state owned corporations, statutory organisations or associated entities during the 2018-19 financial year be provided detailing:

- (a) Title of review
- (b) Program or process being reviewed
- (c) Purpose of the review
- (d) Expected completion date or completion date of the review
- (e) Whether the review is being conducted internally or externally
- (f) Whether the review sought public submissions and when
- (g) The cost or expected cost of the review
- (h) Whether the final report of the review will be published, where it has been or will be published, when it was published and if it has not been published why it has not been

ANSWER:

This question requires every part of our departments, state owned corporations, statutory organisations and associated entities to conduct searches to identify all types of reviews commenced, completed or proposed during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years. This is highly likely to present a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources. If there are specific policy reviews or internal audit reviews that information is required, this can be provided by our departments and agencies upon request.

402. Can a complete list of all reviews commenced, completed or proposed by the Department, state owned corporations, statutory organisations or associated entities during the 2019-20 financial year be provided detailing:

- (a) Title of review
- (b) Program or process being reviewed
- (c) Purpose of the review
- (d) Expected completion date or completion date of the review
- (e) Whether the review is being conducted internally or externally
- (f) Whether the review sought public submissions and when
- (g) The cost or expected cost of the review
- (h) Whether the final report of the review will be published, where it has been or will be published, when it was published and if it has not been published why it has not been

ANSWER:

This question requires every part of our departments, state owned corporations, statutory organisations and associated entities to conduct searches to identify all types of reviews commenced, completed or proposed during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years. This is highly likely to present a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources. If there are specific policy reviews or internal audit reviews that information is required, this can be provided by our departments and agencies upon request.

Port Kembla Community Investment Fund review

403. Will the general public have an opportunity to provide submissions to the review? If so, when? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The PKCIF program review was undertaken consistent with the principles and standards of the NSW Government's Program Evaluation Guidelines.

404. Will the Member for Wollongong be consulted prior to the recommendations of the review being developed? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

The Member for Wollongong made a written submission on the review to the Deputy Premier on 11 July 2019 which was considered along with other written submissions as part of the review process.

405. Which members of the NSW Parliament have been consulted on the review of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund and when were they consulted?

ANSWER:

The Member for Wollongong made a written submission on the review to the Deputy Premier on July 11 2019.

406. Provide a list of the stakeholders consulted as part of the review and the date(s) that the consultation took place and whether that consultation was requested by the Department and whether it was provided verbally or via written submission

ANSWER:

The review included stakeholders such as previous successful applicants of the program, members of the Evaluation Panel and the Port Kembla Chamber of Commerce.

407. How were stakeholders nominated to be consulted as part of the review identified?

ANSWER:

All previous successful or funded applicants, key stakeholder groups and Evaluation Panel members, in accordance with the NSW Government Program Evaluation Guidelines.

Port Kembla Community Investment Fund (PKCIF) Round 3

408. The guidelines for PKCIF Round 3 indicated that funding announcements would be made in December 2018 (page 3 of Guidelines) but these were not made until February 2019 – what caused the delay?

ANSWER:

The date for the funding announcement for successful projects is provided as a guide only before the actual round commences.

409. When was the assessment of funding applications for PKCIF Round 3 completed?

ANSWER:

As detailed in the guidelines, the assessment process concluded with the Evaluation Panel meeting held in November.

410. How many enquiries for applicants or potential applicants for Round 3 of the PKCIF were received?

ANSWER:

There were a total of 41 enquiries from different organisations.

411. How many project proposals did not proceed to a formal application following discussions with departmental officials?

ANSWER:

A total of 17 projects did not proceed to a formal application after meeting with departmental officials as they did not meet the eligibility criteria detailed in the program guidelines.

412. When was the list of projects recommended to be funded provided to the Minister for consideration and approval?

ANSWER:

Following the November 2018 Evaluation Panel meeting, a report, endorsed by Panel members, containing recommendations was provided to the Deputy Premier for consideration.

413. How were members of the Evaluation Panel selected? Are any specific qualifications required of members of the Panel? How were members nominated and how many nominations were considered?

ANSWER:

Evaluation Panel membership reflects organisations not individuals. The Department determines the membership of the Panel consistent with the Fund's objectives.

414. Are any of the Evaluation Panel members residents or business owners in Port Kembla? If so, which members? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Evaluation Panel membership reflects organisations not individuals and the location of residence of the individual nominated by the respective member organisation is not taken into account.

415. Were any Port Kembla residents or business owners considered for membership of the Evaluation Panel?

ANSWER:

There is not an identified position on the Evaluation Panel for a Port Kembla community member representative. Community surveying such as choice modelling provides an independent tool for the Evaluation Panel to consider community priorities for the projects being assessed.

416. How frequently is the size and membership of the Evaluation Panel reviewed? When will the size and membership be next considered?

ANSWER:

Evaluation Panel size and membership is considered for each round and may change due to availability and changing circumstances.

417. How many times did the Evaluation Panel meet when considering funding applications in Rounds 1, 2 and 3?

ANSWER:

The Evaluation Panel met for one day for each of the rounds.

418. Are meetings of the Evaluation Panel catered? If so, what is the cost of catering for each meeting of the Panel?

ANSWER:

Catering has been provided for all three Evaluation Panel meetings that have been held. The cost of this catering has been determined using the published State Government meal allowance.

419. Do Evaluation Panel members conduct site inspections on projects being considered for funding? If so, which sites were inspected during the assessment of projects under Rounds 1, 2 and 3 of the PKCIF?

ANSWER:

This is not the role of the Evaluation Panel members. Due diligence on projects is undertaken by Departmental staff on all eligible applications submitted.

420. How are conflicts of interest of Evaluation Panel members managed?

ANSWER:

Evaluation Panel members must sign a Conflict of Interest declaration for each round. A Probity Officer is present to assess potential conflict of interest raised during the Evaluation Panel meeting that have been brought to the attention of the Evaluation Panel Chair. Appropriate action is then taken, which may include the Panel member being excused from any discussions and voting on the project in question.

421. When was the community choice modelling (page 6 of Guidelines) as part of the assessment of funding applications under Round 3 of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund undertaken?

ANSWER:

Choice modelling for PKCIF Round 3 was undertaken in October 2018.

422. How many people were asked to participate in the community choice modelling in (13)?

ANSWER:

Choice modelling involved 134 respondents. The number who chose not to participate is not known as it was undertaken by an independent contractor.

423. How many people engaged in the community choice modelling in (13)

ANSWER:

Choice modelling involved 134 respondents.

424. as the ranking of project proposals under the community choice modelling made public? If not, why not?

ANSWER:

Choice modelling results are not made publicly available. The purpose of choice modelling was to help inform the Evaluation Panel of community priorities.

425. Who conducted the community choice modelling and how much did it cost?

ANSWER:

Choice modelling was undertaken by the University of Technology Sydney. Information about the cost is not made publicly available.

426. Will these underspent funds from Round 3 be added to the funds available for PKCIF Round 4?

ANSWER:

There was a notional funding pool of \$4 million available for Round 3 of which some \$2.9 million has been committed for successful projects. The balance of uncommitted funds are available for subsequent rounds.

427. When will the guidelines for Round 4 of the PKCIF be publicly available?

ANSWER:

Key dates and guidelines for Round 4 have not yet been finalised.

428. When will PKCIF Round 4 open for applications?

ANSWER:

Key dates for Round 4 have not yet been finalised.

429. When will applications for Round 4 close?

ANSWER:

Key dates for Round 4 have not yet been finalised.

430. When will successful projects under Round 4 of PKCIF be announced?

ANSWER:

Key dates for Round 4 have not yet been finalised.

431. Have all of the projects from Rounds 1, 2 and 3 been completed? If not, can a list of incomplete projects be provided?

ANSWER:

All Round 1 projects have been completed. Round 2 projects had to be completed by September 2019. Three projects will not meet this date due to delays that are the subject of contract variations that have

been negotiated with the Department. Round 3 projects have until February 2021 to be completed. The status of each funded project will be made available on PKCIF webpage for future reference.

432. What action is the Department taking to make sure organisations awarded funds under Rounds 1, 2 and 3 are completed?

ANSWER:

All funded projects are subject to agreed terms and conditions that form part of the contract arrangements between the NSW Government and individual project proponents. The release of funds is tied to achievement of project milestones.

433. Will organisations that have not completed and acquitted their funding under Rounds 1, 2 or 3 be eligible for funding under Round 4? If so, why?

ANSWER:

The demonstrated ability of an organisation to deliver infrastructure projects is a standard criteria across all NSW Government funded infrastructure programs including PKCIF.

434. When and where will the reports, plans and reviews funded under the PKCIF be published and available to the Port Kembla community? If they are not going to be available, why aren't these reports, plans and reviews being published?

ANSWER:

There has been no undertaking that all documents funded through Fund projects would be made publicly available, as some reports contain sensitive or commercial-in-confidence information.

Chief Scientist's recommendations on CSG

To the Deputy Premier:

In your evidence you stated that:

“Fourteen of the 16 recommendations made by the Chief Scientist and Engineer are complete or complete and ongoing...”

435. Where is the regulatory framework proposed by the Chief Scientist in recommendation 4, to ensure the regulation of the CSG industry is at no cost to NSW taxpayers?

ANSWER:

This work is being led by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) with input from the relevant agencies. It is expected a report will be submitted to Government this financial year.

436. When was this recommendation implemented?

ANSWER:

Refer to answer to Q 435 above

437. What was the cost of implementing recommendation 4?

ANSWER:

Refer to answer to Q 435 above

438. If this recommendation has been implemented, where in the Budget Papers is the 'annual statement' provided for in recommendation 4?

ANSWER:

Refer to answer to Q 435 above

439. If it has not been implemented, when will it be delivered?

ANSWER:

Refer to answer to Q 435 above

440. When and in what form was recommendation 6 carried out?

ANSWER:

Legislative amendments to harmonise the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 were made in 2015 as an action under the NSW Gas Plan. These significantly streamlined titles administration and compliance and enforcement processes. The government will continue to identify opportunities to further harmonise the regulatory frameworks for all onshore subsurface resources in NSW where required.

441. What was the cost of implementing recommendation 6?

ANSWER:

Nil.

442. When and in what form was recommendation 7 carried out?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment.

443. What was the cost of implementing recommendation 7?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment.

444. When and in what way did the NSW Government carry out the ‘target and outcomes focused regulatory system’ with the three key elements outlined in recommendation 8?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government supports the use of targeted and outcomes-focused regulation. In 2015 the government passed legislation to support the Improved Management of Exploration Regulation (IMER) reforms.

Under IMER, all the codes and conditions that regulate the onshore petroleum industry were reviewed. New strict rules covering all types of exploration activities were introduced and regulation for gas exploration was simplified and strengthened. New Codes of Practice outline mandatory requirements for explorers and provide clear standards to enable industry to introduce new technical innovations to meet regulatory requirements.

The 2015 legislative reforms to harmonise the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 also included a broad range of compliance and enforcement tools to combat non-compliance.

445. What was the cost of implementing recommendation 8?

ANSWER:

Nil.

446. When did the NSW Government implement recommendation 9 of the Chief Scientist, for a robust and comprehensive policy of appropriate insurance for the CSG industry?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

447. Where can the documentation for the implementation of recommendation 9 be read?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

448. What are the terms of the relevant insurance policy or policies?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

449. Are these underwritten by the private insurance market or by government?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

450. How many policies of insurance are now in place?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

451. What are the premiums that are being charged?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

452. When was the scheme of security deposits contained in recommendation 9 implemented?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

453. What are the terms of the scheme of security deposits?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

454. When was the rehabilitation fund contained in recommendation 9 implemented?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

455. What are the terms of the rehabilitation fund?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

456. What has been the cost to date of implementing recommendation 9? Please answer by referring to each separate part of recommendation 9.

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

457. If recommendation 9 has not been implemented, when will it be delivered?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

458. Where is the Whole-of-Environment Data Repository with each of the features recommended by the Chief Scientist in recommendation 10?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

459. When was recommendation 10 fully implemented?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

460. What has been the cost of implementing recommendation 10 to date?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

461. Where is the centralised Risk Management and Prediction Tool for all extractive industries in NSW, with the risk register, database of event histories and the archive of Trigger Action Response Plans recommended by the Chief Scientist in recommendation 11?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

462. When was recommendation 11 fully implemented?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

463. What has been the cost of implementing recommendation 11 to date?

ANSWER:

This matter should be referred to the Minister for Energy and Environment

464. When was the expert advisory body on CSG established, as recommended by the Chief Scientist in recommendation 12?

ANSWER:

The government decided to continue working closely with the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development rather than to establish a duplicate expert body in NSW.

465. Who is on the advisory body?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

466. When were they appointed?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

467. What is the term of office?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

468. How were the persons on the body selected?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

469. What was the selection criteria?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

470. Where and when were the positions advertised?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

471. Are those serving on the advisory body remunerated? If so, how much?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

472. What work has the advisory body done to date?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

473. Where can that work be reviewed?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

474. Where are the Annual Statements of the advisory body, as included in recommendation 12?

ANSWER:

Not applicable

475. When was the formal mechanism (consisting of five parallel, interacting steps and contained in recommendation 13) implemented?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Water, Property and Housing

476. Where can the documentation be seen?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Water, Property and Housing

477. What has been the cost to date of implementing recommendation 13?

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Water, Property and Housing

478. When was the mandatory training and certification requirements, contained in recommendation 14, implemented?

ANSWER:

Requirements for qualifications for specific safety-critical roles and training for all workers at petroleum sites were implemented on 1 February 2016.

479. Where can the mandatory training and certification requirements contained in recommendation 14 be read?

ANSWER:

Clauses 103, 104, 105 and schedule 10A of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014.

480. Are these requirements legislative? What legislation are they made under? If they are not legislative, in what way has the government made them mandatory?

ANSWER:

See response to Q479

481. When was the plan to manage legacy matters associated with CSG, contained in recommendation 15, implemented?

ANSWER:

In 2014, the Legacy Mines Program was expanded to consider legacy petroleum wells. Projects are prioritised based on safety and environmental risk. The program has assessed 900 petroleum wells, with 350 wells found to be legacy or abandoned. Of these, and following an extensive risk assessment, the program identified 36 as requiring further action. To date actions on 28 wells have been completed. The government will continue to monitor issues associated with legacy petroleum wells.¹

482. Where can this legacy plan be read?

ANSWER:

Information on the Legacy Mines Program can be found on the Resources and Geoscience website at resourcesandgeoscience.nsw.gov.au.

483. What has been the cost to date of developing and implementing this legacy plan?

ANSWER:

Approximately \$4 million.

Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance

484. How many nights travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2018-19 period?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 66

485. How many nights travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2018-19 period?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 67

486. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 68

487. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 69

Efficiency dividends

488. What was the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 70

489. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio in
(a) 2019-20?

¹ In correspondence to the committee received 3 February 2020, the Deputy Premier provided clarification to his answer to supplementary question 481.

- (b) 2020-21?
- (c) 2021-22?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 71

490. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2018-19 inclusively?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 72

Ministerial Office Administration

491. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2018-19?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2019-20 based on current appointments?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 73

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

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2018-19?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
- (c) What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 74

493. 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 2018-19?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2018-19?
- (c) What was the cost of replacing these devices?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 75

494. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 76

495. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 77

496. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2018-19?
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 78

497. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals (including online services) in 2018-19?
(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
(b) Who is the subscriber for each of these?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 79

498. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2018-19?
(a) What were the gifts purchased?
(b) Who were they gifted to?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 80

499. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 81

500. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 82

501. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 83

502. What was the total bill for your office in 2018-19 for:
(a) Taxi hire
(b) Limousine hire
(c) Private hire care
(d) Hire car rental
(e) Ridesharing services?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 84

503. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2018-19?
(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 85

504. 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 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 86

Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking

505. Have any of your departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies 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 2019-20?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 87

506. How much have your departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 88

Hospitality

507. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
(a) How much was spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2018-19?
(b) Whether the department, statutory agency and/or other body has coffee machines? And if so:
i. How many?
ii. What was their purchase cost?
iii. What is their maintenance cost?
iv. Who has access to them?
v. Which staff have access to the machines?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 89

Labour Hire Firms

508. Do any departments, statutory agency and/or other bodies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2018-19:
(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
- (h) Who authorised the use of labour hire companies?
- (i) Do staff under these labour hire arrangements receive as much training and security clearance as permanent staff?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 90

Stationery

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

- (a) What was the cost of stationery for the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (b) What brand of paper is used?
 - i. Is this paper Australian made?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 91

Credit Cards

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

- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
- (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
- (d) How much interest was paid on amounts outstanding from credit cards for the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present
- (e) How much was paid in late fees on amounts outstanding from credit cards for the following financial years
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present

- (f) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (g) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - i. What was the cost to replace them?
- (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. What was the total value of those purchases?
 - ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - iii. Were all those amounts actually repaid?
 - iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
- (i) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
 - i. What that amount actually repaid, in full?
 - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- (j) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (k) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 92

Media and Public Relations

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

- (a) How many media/communications/public relations advisers are employed?
 - i. What is the total salary cost for media/communications/public relations advisers in 2018-19?
- (b) What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media/communications/public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- (c) What is the total cost of media monitoring services?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown by department, statutory agency and/or other body.
- (d) Are any media or public relations advisers currently engaged as contractors?
 - i. Who are these contracts with?
 - ii. What is the value of these contracts?
- (e) How much was spent on media or public relations advisers in financial year:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019
 - v. 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 93

Facebook

512. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 94

513. How much did your department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 95

Overseas Trips

514. 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?
- (b) Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
- (c) If so, what was the nature of these trips?
- (d) Who paid for these trips?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 96

Department/Agency Travel

515. What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio on:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine
- (c) Private car hire
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services
- (f) Chartered flights?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 97

Drivers

516. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant department, statutory agency and/or other body 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, statutory agency and/or other body?
- (c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the department, statutory agency and/or other body?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 98

Consulting

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

- (a) How much was spent in legal costs in 2018-19?
 - i. For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
- (b) Have departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2018-19:
 - i. Social media
 - ii. Photography

- iii. Acting training
 - iv. Ergonomics
- (c) What was the cost of these services?
- i. Social media
 - ii. Photography
 - iii. Acting training
 - iv. Ergonomics

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 99

Web Content

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

- (a) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed this year?
- (b) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed this year?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 100

Department/Agency Staffing

519. How many redundancies were processed by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2018-19?

- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary?
 - ii. Involuntary?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 101

520. What was the total cost of all redundancies?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 102

521. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the department, statutory agency and/or other body 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?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 103

522. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio responsibility?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 104

523. How many staff were dismissed from departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2018-19?
(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 105

524. How much was spent advertising for recruitment for the following financial years:
(a) 2015-16
(b) 2016-17
(c) 2017-18
(d) 2018-2019
(e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 106

Smart Phone

525. How many mobile phones are given to staff or board members?
(a) How many new mobile phones were purchased in the last year?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 107

526. What is the total cost of these phones for the following financial years:
(a) 2015-16
(b) 2016-17
(c) 2017-18
(d) 2018-2019
(e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 108

527. How many had to be replaced due to damage?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 109

528. How many were reported as lost?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 110

529. How many tablets are given to staff or board members?
(a) How many new tablets in the last year?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 111

530. What is the total cost of these tablets for the following financial years?

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 112

531. How many phones and tablets had to be replaced due to damage?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 113

532. How many were reported as lost?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 114

533. How many people have both a smart phone and a tablet?

- (a) What is the lowest ranked official who has both a work smart phone and tablet?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 115

534. How many staff or board members overspent on their phone or tablet data bill?

- (a) By how much?
- (b) What was the average cost of data bills for tablets and mobile phones?
- (c) What was the highest monthly cost?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 116

535. Do the departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 on iTunes?
- (b) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 117

536. Do the departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio have a Google Play Store account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2018-19 on through the Google Play Store?
- (b) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through the Google Play Store?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 118

Merchant fees

537. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments to a department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 119

538. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions to a department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 120

539. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments to departments, statutory agencies and/or other bodies within your portfolio in 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 121

Advertising and Sponsorships

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

- (a) How much was spent on advertising in the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-2019?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 122

541. Has your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio engaged in any corporate sponsorships?

- (a) Who were these sponsorships with?
- (b) What was the purpose of these sponsorships?
- (c) What was the value of these sponsorships, by case and year?
- (d) What was the value of these sponsorships in the following financial years:
 - i. 2015-16
 - ii. 2016-17
 - iii. 2017-18
 - iv. 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 123

Probity Auditor

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 124

Energy

543. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body within 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?
- (e) 2018/19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 125

544. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each department, statutory agency and/or other body within 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.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 126

545. How much money was spent on electricity for each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 127

546. What was the name of the energy supplier to each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name for those financial years?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 128

547. How much electricity is it estimated that each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio will consume in:

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 129

548. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 130

549. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 131

550. What is the name of the energy supplier to each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio for each of:

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 132

General Costs

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

(a) Any gardening services used for indoor or outdoor pot plants/flowers maintenance?

- i. Who are the contracts with?
- ii. How much does each contract cost?
- iii. How often do they visit?
- iv. How much was spent on this service in financial year:
 - 2015-16
 - 2016-17
 - 2017-18
 - 2018-19?

(b) Any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants hired or leased for display in any offices?

- i. Who were the contracts with?
- ii. How much was each contract cost?
- iii. How much was spent on this service in financial year:
 - 2015-16
 - 2016-17
 - 2017-18
 - 2018-19?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 133

Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage

552. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body 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?
- (i) What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
 - i. Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
 - ii. Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 134

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 135

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

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 136

555. 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?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 137

Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs

556. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body 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.
 - i. Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
 - ii. Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
 - iii. How long for each session, how many sessions?
 - iv. Who delivers it?
 - v. Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
 - How?
- (b) What percentage of staff in each department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio have undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?
- (c) How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:
 - i. Sexual harassment
 - ii. Bullying

iii. Workplace violence

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 138

Participation of women in Government

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

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (d) What strategies does the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (e) What is the gender pay gap within your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio?
- (f) Does the department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 139

Professional Photography

558. How much has been spent on professional photography for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 140

Unmanned Aerial Services

559. How much has been spent on Unmanned Aerial Services for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 141

Seconded Staff

560. How many staff from your department, statutory agency and/or other body within your portfolio have been seconded to your Ministerial Office, for the following financial years:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019

- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 142

561. Please provide their names, their substantive work title, and their seconded work title.

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 143

Consultant Costs

562. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report, the total expenditure on consultants by financial year:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 144

563. What are names and values of the five most expensive reports produced by consultancies for each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio by financial year:

- (a) 2015-16
- (b) 2016-17
- (c) 2017-18
- (d) 2018-2019
- (e) 2019-present?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 145

GIPA Questions to the CEOs/ Department Secretaries

564. Since March 30, how many formal GIPAs have your cluster/ department received?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 146

565. Out of the received formal GIPAs, how many have you determined to:

- (a) Grant full access to the information?
- (b) Grant partial access to the information?
- (c) Not grant access to the information?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 147

566. Out of the GIPA where partial information or no information was granted, how many have decided to appeal?

- (a) Out of those who have decided to appeal, how many have decided to use:
 - i. The agency's internal appeals' mechanism?

- ii. Review by the Information Commissioner?
- iii. Review by NCAT?
- (b) How many of those GIPAs have been overturned on appeal?
 - i. Internal appeals' mechanism?
 - ii. Review of the Information Commissioner?
 - iii. Review by NCAT?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 148

567. GIPAs that have been granted full or partial access, how many appear on the agency's disclosure log?
- (a) What is the rationale for not putting GIPAs on the agency's disclosure log (excluding GIPAs asking for personal information)?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 149

568. Has any GIPAs that appeared on the agency's disclosure log been taken down?
- (a) For what reason/s?

ANSWER:

Refer to the answer provided for Question 150