



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Hearing: Thursday 31 October 2019

Answers due by: Tuesday 26 November 2019

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Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

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

International Trade Posts

1. How many and in what locations do NSW's international trade offices share office space with Austrade?
 - (a) What are the working arrangements in these offices?
 - (b) Do the teams work on trade deals together?
 - i. If so, how are the benefits of the deal attributed to NSW?
2. Please provide a list of the projects that were attracted to the State from each international office and also;
 - (a) The dollar value
 - (b) Number of jobs created
3. What reviews or analysis is the Department currently undertaking of the international trade locations and network as mentioned by the Deputy Premier (p.25)?
4. Please provide a list and overview of all the programs run by the Department conducted over the last 12 months that focused on reassuring international businesses that NSW is 'open for business' (p.26)

International Trade Missions

5. Please provide a copy of the itinerary for the Deputy Premier's trip to China and Vietnam on 2 November 2019.
6. Were any of the meetings undertaken in this trip recorded?
 - (a) If so could you please provide a copy of the recording or transcript?
 - (b) Could you please provide a list of all attendees to these meetings as well.
 - (c) How many staff went on the trip?
 - (d) What was the daily food and beverage allocation?
 - (e) What class of flight did the minister and staff fly on?
7. How many trade missions were undertaken last financial year?

- (a) How many are planned for this financial year and where?
- 8. Can you advise how much the participants total export sales increased by attending the mission?
- 9. Does the Department collect any impact data about trade missions?
 - (a) What method is used to assess the effect of the trade missions program?
 - (b) How is the data compared with other objective sources like ABS data?
- 10. How does the Department confirm that the trade missions aren't merely subsidising businesses that would otherwise export?
- 11. Are participants who don't currently export allowed to be involved in trade mission?
 - (a) If not, why?
- 12. What research is conducted about how non exporters becoming exporters?
- 13. Do participants/businesses who have been on more than one mission report higher or lower returns from participating in subsequent years?
- 14. Does the Department collect information as to whether firms or business share information obtained on trade missions with other exporters?

Export accelerator - a toolkit for NSW

- 15. When was the publication "Export Accelerator - a toolkit for NSW Business" last updated?

Trade Agreements

- 16. How often are finalised trade agreements and protocols reviewed to understand where and when opportunities might become available?

Western Sydney Airport MOUs

- 17. What action is the Minister undertaking to ensure regional businesses have access to the opportunities available at the western Sydney airport development?
 - (a) If these opportunities are being presented, how is this being communicated to regional NSW?

Forestry Corporation

- 18. How many kilometres of roads throughout NSW is Forestry Corporation responsible for?
- 19. How many kilometres of roads are owned or the responsibility of the softwoods division of Forestry Corporation?

20. What was the total expenditure on road maintenance, repairs and upgrade by Forestry Corporation in:
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16
 - (g) 2016-17
 - (h) 2017-18
 - (i) 2018-19
21. What was the total expenditure on road maintenance, repair or upgrade by the softwood division of Forestry Corporation in:
- (a) 2010-11
 - (b) 2011-12
 - (c) 2012-13
 - (d) 2013-14
 - (e) 2014-15
 - (f) 2015-16
 - (g) 2016-17
 - (h) 2017-18
 - (i) 2018-19
22. What is the forecast expenditure on road construction, repair, maintenance and upgrades for Forestry Corporation for 2019-20?
23. What is the forecast expenditure on road construction, repair, maintenance and upgrades for the softwood division of Forestry Corporation for 2019-20?
24. How many kilometres of road does Forestry Corporation's softwood division own, maintain and repair in each local government area in NSW?

25. Will the scoping study on the future of Forestry Corporation's softwood division be made public? If so, when? If not, why not?
26. What has been the impact of bushfires in 2019 on forests and plantations owned and managed by Forestry Corporation? Will these fires have any impact on the capacity to meet timber supply agreements?

Coal supply to Mt Piper Power Station

27. Has the Minister for Environment and Energy or the Department had any discussions with the Deputy Premier or the Department in relation to options to secure the coal supply to Mt Piper?
 - (a) If so, what has been the nature of those discussions?
 - (b) If so, when did they take place and who was involved in those discussions?
28. Are there any records of those discussions?
 - (a) If so, are those records available?
 - (b) If no discussions have yet taken place, when are they expected to take place?
29. Do any of the options discussed require legislative changes?
30. Do any of the options discussed require regulatory change?
31. What will be the nature of the legislative changes required?
32. What legislation will need to be (a) introduced or (b) amended to give effect to the security of coal supply?
33. When will the legislation in (32)(a)-(b) be introduced into the Parliament?

Resources for Regions

34. Fourteen projects submitted under Round 6 of the Resources for Regions program were not recommended for shortlisting as they did not meet one or more of the assessment criteria – can a breakdown of the number of projects by the assessment criteria that they failed to meet be provided.
35. How many of the fourteen projects submitted under Round 6 of the Resources of Regions program that were not recommended for shortlisting failed to meet the cost-benefit ratio assessment criteria?
36. How many projects funded under Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Resources for Regions program remain incomplete?

37. How many projects funded under Round 5 of the Resources for Regions program remain incomplete?
38. Will the review of the Resources of Regions program be made public? If so, where and on what date? If not, why not?

Port Kembla Community Investment Fund

39. Will applications be called for a funding round under the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund before 31 December 2019? If so, on what date will new guidelines be released and applications sought? If not, why not?

MINING ACT 1992 REVIEW

40. What is the completion date for the review into the Mining Act 1992 and its associate regulations?
41. What is the terms of reference for the review?
42. What consultations are underway in relation to the review?
 - (a) If not, when will the consultations start?
43. How many stakeholders have been approached for comments?
44. On what date were stakeholders approached?
45. How were stakeholders advised of the review?
46. How many officers in the Department are involved in the review?
47. Will the review undertake rural and regional consultations?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, where are the consultations in (47) to be held?
48. Will submissions to the review by made public?
 - (a) If not, why not?
49. When is it expected that the review will be completed?
50. Will an interim report by published?
51. Will the review report be publicly available?
 - (a) If not, why not?

NSW EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

52. Has the Minister for the Environment and Energy discussed with the Deputy Premier the intended interim target for the Government's objective of zero net emissions by 2050?
53. If so, what is the nature of those discussions?
54. If discussions have not yet take place, when will the Deputy Premier request they take place?
55. In those discussions, what will the Deputy Premier expect the nature of those discussions to be?
56. Does the Deputy Premier agree that an interim target by 2030 is necessary?
57. If not, what are his reasons for this position?
58. What will be the impact of an interim target by 2030 on the mining sector in NSW?
59. Have any discussions with the mining sector in NSW taken place on the proposed interim target by 2030?
60. If so, what have been the nature of those discussions?
61. If not, when is it proposed those discussions will take place?
62. Will this be a formal process of consultation or informal process of consultation with the mining sector?
63. If it will not be a formal process of consultation with the mining industry, why has this course of consultation been chosen by the Government?

COAG WORKING GROUP ON CRITICAL MINERALS

64. How many times does the COAG Working Group on critical minerals meet per year?
65. Who are its members?
66. What is the purpose of the Working Group?
67. When was the Working Group established?
68. Are its deliberations publicly available?
69. What issues were considered at its meeting on 26 September 2019?
70. To which Minister in NSW does the Working Group report?

Drought impact on mines

71. Has the Government had discussions with mines in regard to the impact of the drought on their operations?

72. Which mining operations have indicated that the drought may restrict operations if it becomes more severe or extends for a longer period?
73. What restrictions on operations have been indicated by these mine operations in particular, and in general in the mining sector?
74. What planning processes has the Government commenced to assist mining operations effected by the impact of the drought?
75. Will any of these plans require legislative or regulatory changes?
76. If so, when does the Government propose to introduce these measures?

Offshore sand for Stockton

77. Would a legislative change be required to allow offshore sand extraction to address coastal erosion at Stockton?
78. Considering that the Offshore Minerals Act 1999 No 42 notes that "a reserved block may be put up for tender by the Minister publishing in the Gazette a tender block licence notice", will the Deputy Premier give consideration to calling for tenders for offshore sand dredging for beach nourishment purposes at Stockton?
 - (a) If not, why not?