



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING

Hearing: Thursday 31 October 2019

Answers due by: Tuesday 26 November 2019

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WATER

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

1. On how many occasions has the NSW Government previously made submissions to the Federal Government for funding to assist with the Dungowan Dam project?
 - (a) In what month and what years were each of the previous submissions made?
 - (b) In what month and years were each of the Federal Government responses received?
 - (c) Is it correct to assume, given that the Dungowan Dam has not previously progressed, that on each occasion that previous applications were made, that those applications were rejected by the Federal Government and if so, on what grounds were they rejected?
 - (d) What are the nature of the changes made to the recent Dungowan funding submission such that, on this occasion, it was successful and will now be supported by the Federal Government?

Environmental Water Holdings

2. On a dam by dam basis, what volume of water is allocated for the purpose of Environmental flows and what is the breakdown of this Environmental water holdings in terms of State based holdings and Commonwealth based holdings?
 - (a) As per the original question, what volume is still held and remaining in the various water storage facilities for the purpose of Environment and again, who is the owner of that water?
 - (b) In NSW who is the owner and responsible agency and Minister for water that is held for Environmental purposes?
 - (c) Is the water held for Environment allocated based on a percentage of the total dam capacity or is it based on a specific volume of litres?
 - (d) Does the Water Minister receive regular scheduled briefings on current dam levels that include information about Environmental Water being held and if so, how frequently and when was the last briefing and when is the next briefing?

- (e) When the State or Federal Minister responsible for Environmental Water holdings is planning a release or flow of that water, is there any Legislative requirement for the said Minister to inform the Water Minister or perhaps even seek concurrence?
- (f) Was the Minister briefed on Environmental Water holdings as a part of her initial introduction to the Water portfolio?

Scone to Murrurundi Pipeline

- 3. What is the cost of the Scone to Murrurundi water pipeline project?
 - (a) Is funding for this project 100% NSW Government funded and if not, who else is contributing to costs and how much?
 - (b) Who will own and operate the pipeline asset after it is completed?
 - (c) Is there any likelihood or expectation that household water bills will increase as a result of the construction of this pipeline and if so, what is the expected cost increase per annum per household?

Capacity for Water Carting by Rail

- 4. As per the testimony of the Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator, that a substantial amount of work had been done to investigate water carting capacity, if all available trains for carting water were to be called on today, excluding chemical ISO containers, how many train carriages would be available?
 - (a) What would the total capacity of these train carriages be as measured in litres of water?
 - (b) What towns, currently considered to be in need of critical water supply, are accessible by rail?
 - (c) Is any work being done to activate currently disused rail lines to provide wider access to the option of carting water by rail and if so specifically which rail lines to which towns?

Capacity for Water Carting by Road

- 5. As per the testimony of the Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator, that a substantial amount of work had been done to investigate water carting capacity, if all available trucks for carting water were to be called on today, excluding chemical ISO containers, how many trucks would be available?
 - (a) What would the total capacity of these trucks be as measured in litres of water?

- (b) What is the average cost of water, per litre, that is used to supply such trucks and who pays that cost?
 - (c) What is the average hourly rate paid to operators of any such water cartage services and who pays that cost?
 - (d) What is the average per-kilometer rate paid to operators of any such water cartage services and who pays that cost?
 - (e) How many vehicles, with the capacity to cart water for the purpose of human consumption, are owned and operated by the NSW Government and what is the breakdown by Department?
6. With regard to chemical ISO containers that can be customized for the purpose of carting water, on flatbed trucks, how many of these containers currently exist and would be available if the NSW Government called on these today?
- (a) What is the average volume capacity of each of these containers?
 - (b) Does the NSW Government own or operate any such containers and if so, how many and what volume of water, or would they be accessed via the private market?
 - (c) How long would it take to fit-out a container such that it is capable of carting water?

Staff numbers at Water NSW

7. How many full time equivalent (FTE) staff are currently employed at Water NSW?
- (a) How many were employed at the end of the 2018/19 financial year?
 - (b) How many were employed at the end of the 2017/18 financial year?
 - (c) How many were employed at the end of the 2016/17 financial year?
 - (d) How many were employed at the end of the 2015/16 financial year?

Aerators for critical fish survival

8. With regard to the use of aerators to improve the water quality in the hope that fish can survive these extended periods of low river flows, how many aerators will the NSW Government fund and make available for use over the 2019/20 summer?
- (a) How many of these have already been deployed?
 - (b) When will the remainder be deployed?

- (c) Is it planned that all aerators will be exclusively used along the Darling River or are there other rivers requiring similar intervention and if so, which ones?
- (d) Is the Government aware of any other community funded and used aerators that are intended to be used over the coming summer months?
- (e) Is the Government aware of any privately funded and used aerators that are intended to be used over the coming summer months?
- (f) How many aerators were funded and made available by Government during the 2018/19 summer months?
- (g) How many aerators were funded and made available by communities and/or private citizens during the 2018/19 summer months?

Water NSW Finances

9. With regard to the finances of Water NSW what are the 5 main sources of income for Water NSW?
 - (a) Has there been any significant increase or decline in the quantum of money collected from these 5 income sources in recent years and if so, what is the nature of that change and what caused it?
 - (b) Given that the size of Dividends paid by Water NSW to the State have fluctuated quite widely over recent years, what is the process for determining projected Dividends?
 - (c) Is a copy of the standard fees and charges applied by Water NSW publicly available and if so where can it be found?

Pooncarie

10. Has the Regional Town Water Supply Co-ordinator (RTWSC) met with the Wentworth Shire Council to discuss water security and supply for the township of Pooncarie and if so, on what dates?
 - (a) Has the RTWSC prepared a plan to ensure supply of water to Pooncarie and if so, where is this plan available and does Wentworth Shire Council have a copy?
 - (b) Does the RTWSC have a plan, or requirement, for ongoing conversations with Wentworth Shire Council to monitor and assess the water supply issue for Pooncarie?
 - (c) When will the RTWSC next meet with Wentworth Shire Council?

- (d) Has the NSW Government provided any funding support for Wentworth Shire Council to ensure water supply to Pooncarie and if so what was the nature of those payments, what outcomes were delivered and are there any current or future projects expected to be funded?
- (e) Who does the RTWSC report to?
- (f) To whom does the RTWSC submit the plans for water security and supply?
- (g) What is the process for the RTWSC to make a submission for funding to implement an identified water security/supply project and what is the process for approval/refusal of any such submission?

Pooncarie Weir

- 11. Did the NSW Government have any role to play in the construction of the most recently built Pooncarie Weir?
 - (a) Who owns and maintains the current Pooncarie Weir?
 - (b) How much water is the Pooncarie Weir currently capable of holding?
 - (c) How much water was the old Pooncarie Weir capable of holding?

Menindee

- 12. During the 16/17 releases of water from the Menindee Lakes System:
 - (a) On how many occasions was an order given to release water?
 - (b) Who gave each of these orders?
 - (c) How much water was ordered to be released on each occasion?
 - (d) What was the stated purpose for each release?
 - (e) How is the success of each release measured and what evidence or reporting is done to declare the success (or failure) of each release event?
 - (f) Are these reports (e) available to the public and if so where can they be found?
 - (g) At the end of these release events, how much water was estimated to be remaining in the Menindee Lakes System at
 - i. Lake Wetherall
 - ii. Pamamaroo Lake

- iii. Copi Hollow
- iv. Menindee Lake
- v. Cawndilla Lake
- vi. Behind Weir 32

- (h) Going forward, how much water is intended to be held in the Menindee Lakes System and in which particular water course?
- (i) Is there any current or planned review of the amount (h) in light of the current drought experience?

Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator

- 13. Please list the boards that the Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator has been appointed to since they started in the role (for clarification this relates to the position of Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator not the actual person) and include;
 - (a) The position on the board
 - (b) Length of tenure/term for each position

- 14. Please list the advisory committees that the Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator has been appointed to since they started in the role (for clarification this relates to the position of Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator not the actual person) and include;
 - (a) The position on the board
 - (b) Length of tenure/term for each position

PROPERTY

Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)
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NSW Government property sales by Local Government Area

15. How many government properties have been sold in the following Local Government Areas since FY2011-12 to date and what is the total value of these sales?

- (a) Albury, City of
- (b) Armidale Regional Council
- (c) Ballina Shire
- (d) Balranald Shire
- (e) Bathurst
- (f) Bayside Council
- (g) Bega Valley Shire
- (h) Bellingen Shire
- (i) Berrigan Shire
- (j) Blacktown, City of
- (k) Bland Shire
- (l) Blayney Shire
- (m) Blue Mountains,
- (n) Bogan Shire
- (o) Bourke Shire
- (p) Brewarrina Shire
- (q) Broken Hill, City of
- (r) Burwood Council
- (s) Byron Shire
- (t) Cabonne Shire
- (u) Camden Council

- (v) Campbelltown, City of
- (w) Canada Bay, City of
- (x) Canterbury-Bankstown,
- (y) Carrathool Shire
- (z) Central Coast Council
- (aa) Central Darling Shire
- (bb) Cessnock
- (cc) Clarence Valley Council
- (dd) Cobar Shire
- (ee) Coffs Harbour,
- (ff) Coolamon Shire
- (gg) Coonamble Shire
- (hh) Cootamundra-Gundagai
- (ii) Cowra Shire
- (jj) Cumberland Council
- (kk) Dubbo Regional Council
- (ll) Dungog Shire
- (mm) Edward River Council
- (nn) Fairfield,
- (oo) Federation Council
- (pp) Forbes Shire
- (qq) Georges River Council
- (rr) Gilgandra Shire
- (ss) Glen Innes Severn Council
- (tt) Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- (uu) Greater Hume Shire
- (vv) Griffith, City of

(ww) Gunnedah Shire
(xx) Gwydir Shire
(yy) Hawkesbury, City of
(zz) Hay Shire
(aaa) Hills Shire,
(bbb) Hilltops Council
(ccc) Hornsby Shire
(ddd) Hunter's Hill
(eee) Inner West Council
(fff) Inverell Shire
(ggg) Junee Shire
(hhh) Kempsey Shire
(iii) Kiama,
(jjj) Ku-ring-gai Council
(kkk) Kyogle Council
(lll) Lachlan Shire
(mmm) Lake Macquarie
(nnn) Lane Cove
(ooo) Leeton Shire
(ppp) Lismore
(qqq) Lithgow
(rrr) Liverpool
(sss) Liverpool Plains Shire
(ttt) Lockhart Shire
(uuu) Maitland, City of
(vvv) Mid-Coast Council
(www) Mid-Western Regional

- (xxx) Moree Plains Shire
- (yyy) Mosman Council
- (zzz) Murray River Council
- (aaaa) Muswellbrook Shire
- (bbbb) Nambucca Shire
- (cccc) Narrandera Shire
- (dddd) Narrabri Shire
- (eeee) Narromine Shire
- (ffff) Northern Beaches Council
- (gggg) North Sydney Council
- (hhhh) Oberon Shire
- (iiii) Orange, City of
- (jjjj) Parkes Shire
- (kkkk) Parramatta Council
- (llll) Penrith
- (mmmm) Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
- (nnnn) Port Stephens Council
- (oooo) Queanbeyan–Palerang Regional Council
- (pppp) Randwick
- (qqqq) Richmond Valley Council
- (rrrr) Ryde
- (ssss) Singleton Council
- (tttt) Shellharbour
- (uuuu) Shoalhaven
- (vvvv) Snowy Monaro Regional Council
- (wwww) Snowy Valleys Council
- (xxxx) Strathfield

(yyyy) Sutherland Shire
(zzzz) Sydney
(aaaa) Tamworth Regional Council
(bbbb) Temora Shire
(cccc) Tenterfield Shire
(dddd) Tweed Shire
(eeee) Upper Hunter Shire
(ffff) Upper Lachlan Shire
(gggg) Uralla Shire
(hhhh) Wagga Wagga
(iiii) Walcha Shire
(jjjj) Walgett Shire
(kkkk) Warren Shire
(llll) Warrumbungle Shire
(mmmm) Waverley Council
(nnnn) Weddin Shire
(oooo) Wentworth Shire
(pppp) Willoughby
(qqqq) Wingecarribee Shire
(rrrr) Wollondilly Shire
(ssss) Wollongong
(tttt) Woollahra
(uuuu) Yass Valley Council

16. Can the Minister provide the addresses of all properties sold in each Local Government Area listed above from FY2011-12 to date?