



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

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 Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)

Bushfire Clean Up

1. How many sites have so far been cleaned up by Laing O'Rourke statewide?
 - (a) How many site owners have not yet been engaged in discussions about works at their site?
2. Is there any kind of Exclusion Zone, of for example 15 metres, around a destroyed property that Laing O'Rourke will not clean up?
3. Are there footings or foundations which Laing O'Rourke has been asked to excavate and remove but which it refuses to?
4. How many sites does Laing O'Rourke plan to clear up by the end of April?
5. What is the average cost per lot for the bushfire lot?
6. Will people whose homes were cleaned up by their insurer before the Government announced the coordinated clean-up project be refunded the value of that clean-up cost by government so as to restore to its full value their insurance payout?
7. What is the funding allocation to the overall clean up effort if the amount announced in November 2019 for the North Coast region alone was \$25 million?
8. If the June 30 deadline is not met as promised, will you provide financial support to people who are waiting for Laing O'Rourke to clear their destroyed homes since they must pay for temporary accommodation while they wait?
9. If Laing O'Rourke fails to meet the deadline of June 30 are there any penalties payable in their contract?
10. If the clean-up project drags on beyond June 30, will additional funding over and above that already committed to in the existing contract be provided to Laing O'Rourke?
11. On 9 January 2020, the Government announced \$1bn in recovery funding "to rebuild bushfire impacted communities across New South Wales". How much of this \$1bn funding has been expended so far?
 - (a) How much of this discrete allocation of funding covered by the 9 January announcement has been expended on rebuilding or repairing government owned assets?

- (b) How much of this discrete allocation of funding covered by the 9 January announcement has been expended providing direct assistance to bushfire survivors?
- 12. Will you direct the Minister for Property to co-fund fencing replacement for farmers' whose properties adjoin Crown Lands, despite Crown Lands enjoying an exemption to the Dividing Fences Act which requires a 50/50 division of costs?
- 13. Have you received correspondence from any community representatives asking for full, open and public hearings for the Bushfire Inquiry?

Offshoring of jobs by NSW Government Departments and Agencies

- 14. Does your Department model the impact of other Departments' decisions to send procurement projects overseas?
- 15. Do you know how many jobs were lost or forgone through the decisions to offshore
 - (a) New Intercity Fleet Trains to South Korea?
 - (b) Light Rail trains to Spain?
 - (c) Double Decker Buses to Malaysia?
 - (d) Ferries to China and Indonesia?

Jobs and Employment

- 16. To what factors or causes does your Department ascribe the recent increases in unemployment and youth unemployment in the Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands region?
- 17. Will you direct the Minister for Energy to make a direction to Essential Energy not to move ahead with the planned 500 job cuts by 2024?
- 18. Will you direct the Minister for Energy to make a direction to Essential Energy to retain the 182 jobs which were to be cut but for which the current direction expires in August 2020?

Regional Job Security

- 19. On page 56 of the uncorrected transcript Mr Roberts said, "(...)we have some very creative and innovative customers who are looking at all sorts of different ideas. There will also be a lot of jobs in the bush. We have a huge replanting program ahead of us and there may well be some opportunities there."
 - (a) Please advise what industries these customers come from?
 - (b) How many customers are looking to develop industry in the regions?

- (c) What support is the Department giving to these customers to develop their ideas?
 - (d) Have any job positions have been confirmed?
 - (e) Does the Department conduct tours with interested customers/parties? If yes, please list location and date of tours
20. What specific jobs was Mr Roberts referring to when he said ‘a lot of jobs in the bush’? Please provide job title and amount of FTE positions
21. How many jobs will be created from the replanting program?
- (a) How are these being advertised?

State Forest Infrastructure Damage

22. On page 62 of the uncorrected transcript Mr Roberts said, “In terms of softwoods, I think we have lost five or six bridges that were destroyed and there are areas of road network which have been damaged to some extent.”
- (a) Please advise the number and name of the bridges that were destroyed by the recent fires in the State Forests?
 - (b) What were these bridges constructed of?
 - (c) Will they be rebuilt using the same material?
 - (d) How long will it take to repair or rebuild these bridges?
 - (e) What temporary measure have been taken since they were damaged?
 - (f) How much funding will be required to complete construction of these bridges?
 - (g) When will the full extent of the road damage be known?
 - i. Can you provide an estimate of the road damage?

\$46 million injection and equity into Forestry Corporation

23. What will the \$46 million injection and equity into Forestry Corporation be spent on?
- (a) How much of this injection will be in job retention?
 - i. Job Creation?
24. Please advise what the ‘fine print’ is that the Minister is referring to on page 63 of the transcript?
- (a) Does this money have to be paid back?
 - (b) How will the efficiency dividends impact upon this injection?

Industry Package

25. On page 34 of the uncorrected transcript the Minister advised there is going to be an industry package delivered later in the year?
- (a) When will this be announced?
 - (b) What metrics will the Department use to evaluate industry needs?
 - (c) Will any funding have to be paid back?
 - (d) Where will the money come from?

Job Analysis

26. When will the recent job analysis undertaken as part of the industry plans and the regional economic development strategies be available to the public?
- (a) Where will this be available?
 - (b) Who is conducting the review?
 - (c) Are any consultants or contractors involved in the analysis? If yes, who?
 - (d) What will this analysis be used for?

Exclusion Fencing

27. How much money from the \$250 million package of infrastructure programs (page 69) has been set aside for Crown Lands fencing?
- (a) Are private land owners able to apply for fencing from this program?
 - (b) Will private landholders who share a boundary with Crown Lands be able to participate or decide what type of fencing will be constructed?
 - (c) Will they be able to choose exclusion fencing?

Departmental Budget Cuts

28. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have been forced to find \$81.4 million worth of cuts this financial year due to the 2019/2020 budget. The Secretary, Jim Betts has reported roughly \$45 million worth of cuts have been made as of January 2020, with \$36.4 million still to come.
- (a) How many jobs have been cut as a result of these cuts?
 - (b) How is the Department going to find \$36 million worth of cuts in the next 4 months?

- (c) Considering the devastating recent bushfire season, will the government cancel its plans to rip a further \$36 million dollars out of DPIE?
29. What additional funds have been provided by the Government to support the drought response activities?
 30. The Deputy Secretary of RIAR has stated that those additional funds do not close the gap in their budget. What's the size of the budget black hole?
 31. Are Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resource immune from the DPIE staffing freeze?
 - (a) What roles will not be backfilled as a result of the staffing freeze?
 32. What services to Farmers, Landholders and the wider community will no longer be provided as a result of the savings plan and associated staffing freeze?
 33. What resources and work programs will no longer be delivered to regional communities as a results of the budget cuts?
 34. Can the Government guarantee that no jobs in the regions will be downgraded or reclassified to a lower graded, and lower paid, role, as a result of these budget cuts?
 35. How does the non-back filling of roles reconcile with the government's commitment to no job losses in the regions?
 36. How many jobs will need to be cut across Regions, Industry, Agriculture and Resources due to the 12% efficiency dividend contained within the Governments budget? (3% per year over 4 years)
 37. What is the approximate cost to NSW farmers of replacing fencing damaged by the recent bushfires?
 38. Considering this cost, shouldn't extra resources and funding be set aside for Government agencies such as NPWS and LLS to assist in rebuilding those fences?

Forestry Corporation

39. How many representations from MP's has Forestry Corporation or the Minister received with respect of replacement fencing on behalf of private landholders adjoining Forestry Corporation land?
40. Has a salvage harvesting protocol been established for wildlife in the Coastal IFOA?
41. The Daily Telegraph reported on 22 February 2020 that 20 burnt sites have been identified as suitable for harvesting on the north and south coast – can the details of each site be provided?

- (a) Are these the only sites that have been approved?
 - (b) If not, how many sites have been improved in total and can the location and harvesting details for each site be provided?
42. Has Forestry Corporation considered or developed a public education campaign to outline why salvage harvesting may have to take place?
 43. Is any or all of the remaining amount of the \$24 million equity injection being used for the purchase of private plantation areas to expand Forestry Corporation's plantation estate? If not, what is the remaining amount of the equity injection being used for?
 44. How much of the \$24 million equity injection has been spent? How many hectares of plantation estate has been purchased to date? What is the mix of purchases between hardwood and softwood?
 45. Has Forestry Corporation or the department undertaken an assessment of the level of support required to keep timber industry workers employed once the salvage harvesting has been completed? If so, what is the current assessment and to whom is this information being provided and for what purpose? If not, will this assessment be undertaken?
 46. Does Forestry Corporation use any indigenous cool burning practices as part of its land management strategies? If so, how widely used are these practices?
 47. Does Forestry Corporation consider the communications and other arrangements between organisations involved in firefighting to be adequate? If not, what needs to be improved?
 48. Is Forestry Corporation examining the need to increase its firefighting capacity? If so, what matters or approaches are being considered?
 49. Did Forestry Corporation conduct any hazard reduction activities prior to the current fire season? If so, what was the size of the area treated and in what locations? Does Forestry Corporation believe that this reduced the impact of fires in those areas?
 50. Did Forestry Corporation provide any advice, assistance or support to any of the properties it neighbours to reduce fuel loads prior to the current fire season? If so, what support was provided and how did Forestry Corporation determine which neighbours to support?
 51. Has Forestry Corporation been able to supply timber for power pole replacements damaged by the 2019-20 bushfires?
 52. How many poles were damaged across NSW in the 2019-10 bushfires?

53. How many timber poles have been replaced to date?
54. Has NSW had to source supply for timber poles from interstate?
 - (a) If so, how many poles were sourced from interstate?
55. What was the cost of the interstate supply?
56. How many vehicles are currently owned or leased by Forestry Corporation?
57. How many of the vehicles owned or leased by Forestry Corporation general purpose passenger vehicles?
58. How many of Forestry Corporation's general purpose passenger vehicles are electric or hybrid vehicles?
59. Is Forestry Corporation subject to the NSW Government's Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan? If not, why not?
60. Will Forestry Corporation meet the NSW Government's target of 10 per cent of new general purposed passenger fleet cars being either electric or hybrid by 2020/21? If not, what is the primary reason for Forestry Corporation being unable to meet this target? What steps are being taken to address this problem?
61. Has Forestry Corporation installed any electric vehicle charging facilities in any of the forests that are open to the public? If so, how many and in which locations? If not, does Forestry Corporation have any plans to install electric vehicle charging facilities in the camping, recreation or other facilities that it manages?
62. How many of the field-based staff have qualifications in the following:
 - (a) Forestry management
 - (b) Ecology
 - (c) Conservation and land management
 - (d) Science
 - (e) Forest growing and management
 - (f) Habitat assessment
63. How many of the office based staff have qualifications in the following:
 - (a) Forestry management
 - (b) Ecology

- (c) Conservation and land management
 - (d) Science
 - (e) Forest growing and management
 - (f) Habitat assessment
64. For each of the last three years, how much did Forestry Corporation spend on weed management?
 65. How much is Forestry Corporation forecast to spend on weed management in 2020/21?
 66. For each of the last three years, how much did Forestry Corporation spend on pest control?
 67. How much is Forestry Corporation forecast to spend on pest control in 2020/21?
 68. Has Forestry Corporation approached nurseries in other states to supply the expected shortfall in seedlings needed to re-establish the softwood plantations damaged in the bushfires?
 69. What is the estimated cost per hectare of replanting softwood plantations, including the cost ground preparation, seedlings, transport and labour costs associated with replanting?
 70. How many staff will need to be employed to undertake the replanting of the softwood plantations, when will these staff be engaged and how long will they be engaged for?
 71. When will ground preparations commence in the softwood plantation areas to prepare the ground for replanting? Will additional equipment need to be purchased, hired or leased for the preparation? What is the expected cost of this additional equipment?
 72. How long will it take to prepare the ground in the softwood plantations for replanting?
 73. In evidence to the Committee Forestry Corporation noted that it intended to replant the softwood plantations at 10,000 hectares a year. How was this area determined to be the optimum amount? How many years will it take to replant the softwood plantations at a rate of 10,000 hectares a year?
 74. What is the incremental cost per hectare of replanting the softwood plantations?

Resources for Regions

75. Will the guidelines for the new round include the implementation of all the recommendations of the review? If not, which ones will it include?
76. Has the formula for the calculation of the mining employment Location Quotient been finalised? If so, how is it calculated?

77. The summary report (page 2) notes that review included a recommendation that “There should be flexibility around the requirements of a co-contribution and threshold of Benefit Cost Ratio of above 1.0” – but the listed recommendations make no mention of a change to the Benefit Cost Ratio except for having the program funded from the consolidated fund (rather than Restart) – will the government be changing the requirement with respect of the Benefit Cost Ratio?
- (a) If not, given the review notes that one of the issues of the program is “an increase in failures of applications due to applicant inability to meet the Benefit Cost Ratio requirements” – why will the government continue to require a BCR of 1.0 or greater?
78. Will the guidelines be expanded to include non-infrastructure programs that will support the economic development of mining-impacted areas?
79. Which three projects from Round 6 have yet to have their funding agreements finalised and projects commenced?
80. Has the Department entered into discussions with Treasury about the allocation under the program for the 2020/21 financial year? Has Treasury expressed any concerns about the level of funding allocated to the program given that, to date, around half of the funding this financial year remains unallocated?

Port Kembla Community Investment Fund

81. Will there be a funding round offered under the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund before the end of the 2019/20 financial year?
82. Will there be a funding round offered and announced under the Port Kembla Community Investment fund before 31 December 2020?
83. When will the next round of applications be sought under the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund?
84. How long will applications be open for under the next round of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund?
85. Has the review of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund been completed? If so, on what date was it provided to the Minister or the Minister’s office?
86. How many submissions from previous grant recipients, organisations in Port Kembla, unsuccessful grant recipients or others were received as part of the review?
87. What were the main conclusions of the review in terms of the Fund’s suitability, projects funded and operation to date?

88. What were the recommendations of the review?
89. Has the Government accepted all of the recommendations of the review?
90. Will the review report and its recommendations be made public? If so, when? If it contains commercial-in-confidence material has consideration been given to publicly releasing a redacted version of the report or a summary report?
91. Please provide a complete list of stakeholders consulted as part of the review and the dates on which discussions with these stakeholders took place or dates when written contributions from these stakeholders selected by the reviewers for consultation were received.
92. What is the total amount of funding that will be available through the next round of the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund?
93. How many projects have not been completed from (a) Round 1, (b) Round 2 and (c) Round 3? Which projects have not been completed in each of the above and when will they be completed?
94. Will the Port Kembla Surplus Industrial Lands Activation project report funded under Round 2 of the PKCIF be made public? If not, why not? If it contains commercial-in-confidence material has consideration been given to publicly releasing a redacted version of the report or a summary report?
95. Will the Tourism Development Plan for Port Kembla project report funded under Round 2 of the PKCIF be made public to guide future project applications? If not, why not? If it contains commercial-in-confidence material has consideration been given to publicly releasing a redacted version of the report or a summary report?
96. Will the Port Kembla Community Campus Masterplan funded under Round 3 of the PKCIF be made public? If not, why not? If it contains commercial-in-confidence material has consideration been given to publicly releasing a redacted version of the report or a summary report?
97. Why is the Port Kembla Wetlands Rehabilitation Stage 2 project listed as “Withdrawn”? Was the funding for this project withdrawn by the department? If so, why? Or was this project withdrawn by the applicant? If so, why? Will the \$47,667 allocated to this project be returned to the funding pool for future rounds? If not, why not?
98. Will the assessment of future rounds of the program include community choice modelling used as part of the assessment of projects considered for funding in Round 3 of the program? If not, why not?

99. Is it a requirement of projects to demonstrate a benefit-cost ratio greater than or equal to 1 as part of the application or assessment process? If not, why not?
100. Has the department or the program reviewers undertaken an assessment of the effectiveness of various forms of community notification that project applications have opened? If so, what advertising medium was found to be most effective and which to be least effective in raising awareness of a funding round? How much was spent on advertising the request for applications under the last round of the program?

Australia-United States Critical Minerals Hub

101. What role does the NSW Government have in implementing the Australia-United States Critical Minerals Hub agreement signed between Geoscience Australia and the US Geological Survey?

Blue Ridge Hardwoods

102. Has information now been provided to Blue Ridge Hardwoods workers about their eligibility for the income support payment package announced by the Member for Bega on 21 February 2019?
 - (a) How was this information provided to the workers?
 - (b) Who provided this information to the workers?
103. Was the relevant trade union(s) involved in the provision of this information to workers?
 - (a) If not, why not?
104. Does the income support payment package still include a \$150,000 income support payment per employee?
 - (a) If not, why not?
105. Of the workers notified of their redundancy on 26 February 2020, how many are entitled to the \$150,000 income support payment?
 - (a) If any are not entitled to this income support payment, why are they not entitled?
106. Is the Department aware of further planned redundancies of the Blue Ridge Hardwood workforce?
107. Has information on the income support package been provided to them, or is the Government awaiting information on the notice of redundancy for these workers?
108. Is Blue Ridge Hardwoods in receipt of any funding assistance from the NSW Government and bushfire recovery assistance?

- (a) If so, what is the nature and total amount of assistance provided?

Chief Scientist report on carbon emissions

- 109. Has the Department of Industry and Trade been consulted by the Chief Scientist in relation to the preparation of the blueprint commissioned by the Minister for Energy and Environment?
 - (a) If so, on what date and how were the consultations conducted?
- 110. What advice was provided to the Chief Scientist by the Department of Industry and Trade?
- 111. Has the Department provided advice on the Chief Scientist's interim report to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Industry and Trade, which according to media reports was completed in January 2020?
 - (a) If not, has advice been requested by the Deputy Premier or his office?
 - (b) If so, what was the nature of this advice?
- 112. Is the Chief Scientist's interim report publicly available?
 - (a) If not, when is it expected to be made public?

Coal supply to Mt Piper Power Station

- 113. What does the undertaking to remove barriers to coal supply to the Mt Piper power Station involve?
- 114. What is the nature of "barriers" currently in place for the coal supply to Mt Piper power station?
- 115. How does the NSW Government intend to remove these barriers?
- 116. What is the timeframe for the removal of these barriers?
- 117. What is the cost of removing these barriers?
- 118. Who will meet these costs?

New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling Program

- 119. How many applications have been received under round 3 of the New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling program?
- 120. What was the total value of applications sought under round 3 of the New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling program?
- 121. Have successful applicants been announced? If not, why not?

122. What are the details of each grant recipient, grant amount and purpose of exploration of the successful grant recipients under round 3 of the program?
123. The first two rounds provided up to 100 per cent of drilling metre-rate costs but round 3 provides up to 50 per cent – what is the reason for the change?
124. Can a full list of grant recipients, grant amounts and purpose of exploration for rounds 1 and 2 of the program be provided.
125. Is the data from the aerial electromagnetic survey of NSW completed in 2019 been released to the public?
126. What was the total cost of the aerial electromagnetic survey?
127. Does the Government have plans to conduct aerial electromagnetic surveys across other parts of NSW? If so, where and when?

NSW Apiarist's Association

128. Has the President of the NSW Apiarist's Association made representations to the Government to allow beekeepers access to national parks and state conservation areas unaffected by bushfires?
 - (a) Has the Government responded to this representation?
129. Has the Deputy Premier discussed the request with the Minister for Energy and Environment in relation to the use of national parks and state conservation areas?
 - (a) Is so, what has been the response of the Minister?
130. Which national parks, Forestry Corporation forests and state conservation areas have been given access to beekeepers?
131. What legislative and regulatory arrangements underpin this access if it has been agreed by the Government?
 - (a) Is there a timeframe in relation to this access?
 - (b) If so, what is this timeframe?

Strategic Statement on NSW Coal

132. Has the NSW Government undertaken an (a) internal or (b) independent review of the Strategic Statement since it was published in August 2014?
 - (a) If not, why not?

133. Have any of the decisions the Commonwealth and NSW Governments have made, or are under consideration in relation to climate change and reducing carbon emissions, affected the future of coal in NSW, and the objectives and outcomes in the Strategic Statement on NSW Coal published in August 2014?
134. Has the Department conducted any research on the market analysis of projected demand for (a) thermal coal and (b) metallurgical coal produced in NSW, including the industry's economic impact and job opportunities for 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050?
- (a) If not, why not?
135. Will the Government consider undertaking this research in (151)?
- (a) If not, why not?
136. Does the Government have a view on the public statements of Energy Security Board Chair, Ms Kerry Schott, as reported in the Australian on 12 March 2020, that "Coal-fired generators will be retiring at times we didn't expect and people in coal mines and their communities are going to be heavily impacted...and we don't have any plans for this."
- (a) If so, does the Government agree with Ms Schott?
- (b) If not, why not?
137. What plans are in place in NSW for the retirement of coal-fired power stations and the impact on coal mines and their communities?
138. Does the Government agree with the public statement of Energy Australia's customer head, Mr Mark Collette, who told the Australian on 12 March 2020, "You've got some signals that coal itself is coming under pressure and might only be there for eight years and we're relying on the coal fleet being there for 20 or 25 years still and maybe 30 years on occasion..."
- (a) If not, why not?

Resources Regulator

139. How many vehicles are currently owned or leased by the Resources Regulator?
140. How many of the vehicles owned or leased by the Resources Regulator are general purpose passenger vehicles?
141. How many of the Resources Regulator's general purpose passenger vehicles are electric or hybrid vehicles?

142. Is the Resources Regulator subject to the NSW Government’s Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan?
If not, why not?
143. Will the Resources Regulator meet the NSW Government’s target of 10 per cent of new general purposed passenger fleet cars being either electric or hybrid by 2020/21? If not, what is the primary reason for the Resources Regulator being unable to meet this target? What steps are being taken to address this problem?
144. What is the reason for the increase in assessments during quarter 2 in financial year 2020?
145. Why did planned inspections reduce from 94 to 57 between quarter 1 and quarter 2 in financial year 2020?
146. How many planned inspections will take place in financial year 2020?
147. How many planned inspections took place in financial year 2019?
148. What explanation can be provided for the difference between the number of inspections undertaken in financial year 2019 and the number expected to be undertaken in financial year 2020?
149. Please provide a categorisation of the 108 “Work Environment” incidents notifications received by the coal sector between October 2019 and December 2019 by the nature of the incident. Is the number of notifications higher or lower than the same period in 2018? If so, by how many?
150. Please provide a categorisation of the 78 “Key system failure” incidents notifications received by the coal sector between October 2019 and December 2019 by the nature of the incident. Is the number of notifications higher or lower than the same period in 2018? If so, by how many?
151. Please provide the details of the location and nature of each of the 23 air quality incidents notified by the coal sector between October 2018 and December 2019 as reported in the Quarterly Safety Report (Oct-Dec 2019). Is the number of notifications higher or lower than the same period in 2018? If so, by how many?

Resources and Geoscience

152. How many vehicles are currently owned or leased by Resources and Geoscience?
153. How many of the vehicles owned or leased by Resources and Geoscience are general purpose passenger vehicles?
154. How many of Resources and Geoscience’s general purpose passenger vehicles are electric or hybrid vehicles?

155. Is Resources and Geoscience subject to the NSW Government's Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Plan? If not, why not?
156. Will Resources and Geoscience meet the NSW Government's target of 10 per cent of new general purposed passenger fleet cars being either electric or hybrid by 2020/21? If not, what is the primary reason for Resources and Geoscience being unable to meet this target? What steps are being taken to address this problem?
157. As of 19 March 2020 how many times has the Resources and Geoscience Online Prospectus been accessed?
158. How much of the \$16 million committed to the National Drilling Initiative is proposed to be spent each financial year of the 10 year commitment to the program?
159. Will each of the five areas identified be explored simultaneously or will they be prioritised? If they are to be prioritised, what is the current prioritisation of locations?
160. What is the current program of community consultation to be undertaken as part of the National Drilling Initiative, when and where will it commence? Over how many weeks will the community consultation be undertaken?

Ministerial responsibility

The Deputy Premier told the Committee on 17 March 2020, "For me, I have really set aside a lot of my other ministerial responsibilities just to focus on the recovery." In light of this statement:

161. Which ministerial responsibilities has he set aside?
162. Who now is responsible for exercising those ministerial responsibilities he has set aside?
163. How long does he anticipate setting aside these ministerial responsibilities for?
164. When will he resume these set aside ministerial responsibilities?
165. Has the department provided any official advice to the Deputy Premier on the administration of these set aside ministerial responsibilities?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, on what date was it provided?
 - (c) If so, will it be made public?
 - (d) If not, why not?

Unproclaimed Acts NSW

166. What are the reasons for not proclaiming the following provisions of Acts:
- (a) Section 51 and Schedule 1.7[10] except to the extent it repeals Section 70(2) of the Gas Industry Restructuring Act 1986.
 - (b) Coal Acquisition Legislation Repeal Act 2007 No 62, Section 4.
 - (c) Forestry Legislation Amendment Act 2018 No 40, Section 3.7[1].

Renewable energy revenue

167. Has the Department undertaken any research to determine what revenue sources will be necessary from the increase of renewable energy investment?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, what are the conclusions from this research?
168. Has any advice been provided to the Government on this matter?
- (a) If so, on what date was it provided?
 - (b) If not, will it provide such advice to the Government?
 - (c) If so, when does it expect to do so?
169. Does the Department foresee a change in mining royalty revenue from renewable energy investment?
- (a) If so, what conclusions has it made?

Future of NSW coal fired power generation

170. Have stages 3 and 4 of the Future NSW Coal Fired Electricity Generation Industry Study been completed?
- (a) If so, has the entire study now been completed?
 - (b) If not, what stage is the study at?
 - (c) If so, on what date was it completed?
 - (d) If so, is the study public?
 - (e) If not, why not?

Coal Innovation NSW (Ministerial Advisory Council)

171. Has the *Coal Innovation Administration Act 2008* (the Act) been reviewed since 2008?

- (a) If so, what did the review find?
- (b) If not, when will it be reviewed?

172. Who are the current members of the CINSW Ministerial Advisory Council?

173. How often does the Council meet?

174. Are its agenda, minutes and decisions publicly available?

175. Are its members paid in any form?

- (a) If so, what is the payment?

Coal Innovation Program

176. How much is the NSW Government investing in the Coal Innovation Program?

177. What will be the focus of the Coal Innovation Program?

178. Which department will administer the program?

179. How much will the Commonwealth invest in the Program?

180. How much will the coal industry invest in the program?

181. When does the program commence?

182. Will legislation and regulations be required to implement the program?

Liddell Taskforce

183. Is the department represented on the Liddell Taskforce?

- (a) If not, which department or agency is?

184. How often does the Liddell Taskforce meet?

185. Who are the members of the Liddell Taskforce?

186. Does the Liddell Taskforce report to the Commonwealth Government primarily?

- (a) If so, what reports are provided to the NSW Government?

187. What consultations has the Liddell Taskforce had with the Port Macquarie workforce and community?

- (a) What has been the progress on these consultations?

188. Has there been an extension on the estimated closing date of the Liddell Power Station?

INDUSTRY

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

Hazard reduction burning in state forests

189. For each of the last five calendar years:

- (a) What have been the hazard reduction burning targets for State Forests (as a percentage of State Forest estate and in total hectares of burning)?
- (b) How many hectares of hazard reduction burning occurred in State Forests?

190. Is burning following harvesting operations considered hazard reduction burning?

191. Is logging considered mechanical hazard reduction?

Fire impacts on state forests

192. For each of the five years, FY 14/15, FY15/16, FY 16/17, FY 17/18, and FY 18/19, as at July 1:

- (a) what was the total size in hectares of the state forest estate managed by Forestry Corporation of NSW;
- (b) how many hectares were harvestable native forests
- (c) how many hectares were hardwood plantation
- (d) how many hectares were softwood plantation

193. How many hectares of the following were burnt in the 2019-20 bushfires?

- (a) Non harvestable native forests
- (b) harvestable native forests
- (c) softwood plantations
- (d) hardwood plantations?

194. Approximately how many kilometres of fencing between State Forests and private land has been burnt?

- (a) How many kilometres of fencing between State Forests and other public land has been burnt?

195. In reference to evidence given in the hearing by Mr Roberts on page 40 of the transcript where he refers to situation reports, or 'sitrep' reports:

- (a) How many of the 1,100 fires referenced started in state forests?
- (b) Will these 'sitrep' reports be made public when finalised?
- (c) Was a 'sitrep' report conducted for the Badja Forest Road fire that started in Badja State Forest?
 - i. If so, can this be provided to the Committee?

196. In reference to evidence given in the hearing by Mr Roberts on page 40 of the transcript where he describes internal and external after action reviews:

- (a) How will these reviews impact logging operations?
- (b) Do these reviews consider impacts on threatened species and habitat from the fires?
 - i. If so, in what way?
 - ii. If not, how is Forestry Corporation of NSW considering the impacts of the fires on threatened species and habitat when it comes to planned harvesting?

197. Is the Forestry Corporation of NSW engaged in any surveys after the fires?

- (a) What is the extent of this work?
- (b) Does it involve sampling or comprehensive surveys?
- (c) Are surveys ground surveys or using satellite imagery?
 - i. If satellite or aerial surveys, how are the impacts on the understory being captured and assessed?
- (d) How will these surveys inform logging operations?
 - i. Will there be any reassessment of wood supply agreements as a result of habitat and species loss?

Forestry industry impacts

198. Has any work been done on a forestry industry assistance package after the fires?

- (a) Please provide details on where money was directed and how much.

Active harvest plans

199. In each of the following forestry regions how many harvest plans are active (noting this information is not up to date in the Plan Portal):

- (a) Upper North East

- (b) Lower North East
- (c) Southern
- (d) Eden

200. How many cubic metres of wood has been, or is expected to be, hauled from each of the following forestry regions from January 2020 to July 2020:

- (a) Upper North East
- (b) Lower North East
- (c) Southern
- (d) Eden

201. In reference to the evidence given by the Minister on page 48 of the transcript where he says that logging in Port Macquarie was halted after the fires on the 'discretion of Forestry Corporation':

- (a) How many other state forests was this discretion applied to where planned logging was cancelled as a result of the fires? Please name each state forest.

202. In regards to the Wild Cattle Creek state forest:

- (a) How many cubic metres of wood is scheduled or planned to be hauled over the next 6 months?
- (b) Is there identified Koala habitat in this state forest?
- (c) Will any intensive harvesting occur in this state forest in the next 6 months?
- (d) What kind of assessment or survey has been, or will be conducted, before logging commences that will look at impacts of fire?
- (e) Has there been any assessment or survey beyond that required under the IFOA? If so, please provide details.

203. In regards to the Kalateenee state forest:

- (a) How many cubic metres of wood is scheduled or planned to be hauled over the next 6 months?
- (b) Is there identified Koala habitat in this state forest?
- (c) Will any intensive harvesting occur in this state forest in the next 6 months?

- (d) What kind of assessment or survey has been, or will be conducted, before logging commences that will look at impacts of fire?
- (e) Has there been any assessment or survey beyond that required under the IFOA? If so, please provide details.

204. In regards to the Cowarra state forest:

- (a) How many cubic metres of wood is scheduled or planned to be hauled over the next 6 months?
- (b) Is there identified Koala habitat in this state forest?
- (c) Will any intensive harvesting occur in this state forest in the next 6 months?
- (d) What kind of assessment or survey has been, or will be conducted, before logging commences that will look at impacts of fire?
- (e) Has there been any assessment or survey beyond that required under the IFOA? If so, please provide details.

205. In regards to the Lower Bucca state forest:

- (a) How many cubic metres of wood is scheduled or planned to be hauled over the next 6 months?
- (b) Is there identified Koala habitat in this state forest?
- (c) Will any intensive harvesting occur in this state forest in the next 6 months?
- (d) What kind of assessment or survey has been, or will be conducted, before logging commences that will look at impacts of fire?
- (e) Has there been any assessment or survey beyond that required under the IFOA? If so, please provide details.

Site specific operating conditions

206. As a result of the fires, how many new site specific operating conditions have been finalised, i.e. are there more than what is currently listed on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/bushfire-affected-forestry-operations?>

- (a) How many other site specific operations conditions are in the process of being developed?

207. For each state forest with new site specific operating conditions:

- (a) How many of these have had active logging in the past 3 months?
 - (b) How many of these will continue to be logged as part of their approved harvest plans?
208. For each state forest with new site specific conditions, will the Government commit to cease logging in the unburnt areas of these state forests while the site specific conditions are in operation?
209. For each state forest with new site specific conditions, listing separately:
- (a) How many cubic metres of wood is expected to be logged over the next 6 months?
 - (b) How many cubic metres of wood is expected to be logged while the site specific conditions are in place?
210. What is meant by 'selective harvesting' within the new site specific operating conditions?
- (a) Please define and explain how this will be applied and monitored.
211. In regards to section 23.4 of the IFOA, there is a requirement for Forestry Corporation of NSW to submit a report to the EPA before that provision is triggered:
- (a) Was a report submitted for all 250 compartments initially proposed by the Forestry Corporation of NSW?
 - (b) How many reports were submitted and for which state forests? Will these be made public?
 - (c) What are other examples of section 23.4 being applied in the past? Has it ever been applied across the state as it is now?
212. Has any legal advice been provided on the application of the new site specific operating conditions? If yes, can this be provided to the Committee?
213. The new site specific operating conditions appear to have a different compartment numbering system, why?
- (a) Has Forestry Corporation of NSW introduced a new compartment numbering system across its operations?
 - (b) When was this done?
 - (c) Were stakeholders informed? If so, who?

Hardwood profitability and sustainability

214. For the FY18-18, the Forestry Corporation of NSW Hardwood Division reported a revenue of \$123 million and normalised earnings of \$1.1 million.

- (a) What was the revenue for hardwood plantations?
- (b) What was the normalised earnings for hardwood plantations?
- (c) What was the revenue for native forests?
- (d) What was the normalised earnings for native forests?

215. Why has there been a drop in normalised earnings each year since FY16-17, when revenue has increased?

Force majeure

216. In regards to evidence given by Mr Roberts on page 51 of the transcript in relation for force majeure being applied to wood supply contracts after the bushfires:

- (a) Has this been triggered in all wood supply agreements on the North Coast (Lower North East and Upper North East forestry regions)?
 - i. How is this being triggered, i.e. is it a cut across all contracts, are there species specific provisions, etc?
- (b) How many wood supply agreements on the South Coast (Eden and Southern forestry regions) have had force majeure provisions triggered?
 - i. Which contracts?
 - ii. How is this being triggered, i.e. is it a cut across all contracts, are there species specific provisions, etc?

217. Has the Forestry Corporation or DPIE sought any legal advice on applying force majeure provisions after the bushfires?

Wood supply forecasts and auditing

218. In relation to evidence given by Mr Hansen on page 58 of the transcript in relation to wood supply projections:

- (a) The last review of the forestry resource and management evaluation system (FRAMES) was in 2017. When will the next review commence and can it be brought forward considering the changes to wood supply after the fires?
- (b) When will the next Commonwealth audit of the Regional Forest Agreements commence and are these made public?