

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

| QUESTION – Night time economy project governance | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|--------------------------|
| <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Thanks for your appearance today. I will turn to the arts section shortly. Obviously the arts and entertainment cultural sector is both publicly funded and privately funded. I might start by asking about the governance arrangements for the night-time economy focus. We have the former chair of the committee here and I think Committee members will be interested in some changes which have occurred with how the night-time economy agenda has been driven in government. It is slightly opaque from outside the Executive. If either of you were able to describe—</p> <p>The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Is this a question with leave?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Potentially.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I apologise for this but I think I will have to take that on notice. I have not come prepared for that. I can make some general comments but I will take it on notice. Do you have a specific question or questions about it?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I might ask the specific question: What is Create NSW's role in that now? Previously it was the agency driving it; now that has migrated somewhat.</p> <p>Ms FOY: Create NSW certainly continues to play a role and arts and culture continue to play a role in supporting the night-time economy. I am afraid I will have to take quite a bit of the detail on notice, if that is okay, but I am very happy to come back with that. Create certainly</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Given Ms Foy's answer, perhaps on notice, if you are able to set out the governance arrangements, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: The governance specifically, so the roles of Create NSW and other agencies?</p> <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Yes, and other agencies, given they have changed.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Absolutely.</p> | <p>CREATE NSW</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>Create NSW is part of an inter-agency working group led by NSW Treasury to develop a 24-Hour Economy Strategy for Greater Sydney.</p> <p>Create NSW and other NSW Government agencies are contributing to the Sydney 24-Hour Economy Strategy being developed by NSW Treasury. The Strategy will help enhance the vibrancy, diversity, inclusiveness and safety of Sydney's 24-hour economy. The Strategy will enhance Sydney's standing as a global city and make the city a safe and great place to live, work and visit.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Green Ban on MAAS Parramatta site | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>The CHAIR: There was a green ban announced yesterday by the construction union.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: And the question this morning was around the green ban.</p> <p>The Hon. Courtney HOUSSOS: It was reported this morning.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: It was from what was reported yesterday?</p> <p>The Hon. Courtney HOUSSOS: Yes.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I have read the reports the same as you have. We have literally hundreds and hundreds of projects at the moment. Every single one of those projects have issues arising. That is what project managers and project directors have to deal with. If there is a green ban by an industry organisation on a project we will have to deal with that on its merits as it comes up. I am not across the detail. I am happy to take it on its merits but I am not across the detail.</p> <p>The Hon. Courtney HOUSSOS: If you could provide more detail on notice that would be helpful.</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |

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ANSWER:

On 30 June 2020, the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining And Energy Union (CFMMEU) announced that it has placed a green ban on buildings scheduled to be demolished to make way for the Parramatta MAAS. The buildings subject to the ban are understood to be a Victorian Italianate villa, Willow Grove, and a complete row of seven terrace houses, St George's Terrace. No ban action has been taken to date.

| QUESTION – FTE number at MAAS | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|----------------|
| <p>Ms FOY: I will talk in general terms first. Firstly, the matter is before the Industrial Relations Commission [IRC]. It was brought by the relevant union before the Industrial Relations Commission, so I will not go into the detail of that. No one is being sacked from the Powerhouse. The Powerhouse, like many other organisations, has employed casuals for a range of tasks, whether that is to support a particular exhibition, such as the Linear exhibition or other exhibitions around the place, they are therefore a set period of time. My understanding is that no one is having their contracts prematurely cancelled. Contracts are being honoured. Where there is a requirement that people sign a contract with an understanding of a start date and an end date there is budget available for that. My understanding is that, in general terms, those contracts are being honoured. As I said, it is before the IRC and I am happy if there is more detail required I will take that on notice and answer those questions as required.</p> <p>The CHAIR: A useful piece of information would be what the current full time equivalent headcount is for the Powerhouse today compared to a year ago?</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am happy to take that on notice, I do not have that detail with me today.</p> <p>The Hon. Natalie WARD: In relation to the COVID pandemic, not in a budget estimates way.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Funny you should ask that. Yes, please take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Is there a clarification on that?</p> <p>The CHAIR: No, I just wanted the two figures.</p> <p>Ms FOY: So, the two figures being before and after?</p> <p>The CHAIR: What they are now, what the current full time equivalent headcount is for the Powerhouse and what it was 12 months ago?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: As best we can based on the fact that it is a pandemic and how many stood down come back, but we will do the best we can.</p> | MAAS |
| ANSWER: As at 30 June 2020, the Powerhouse Museum's headcount was 281.1 FTE As at 30 June 2019, the Powerhouse Museum's headcount was 197.8 FTE | |

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| QUESTION – Floor space reduction at MAAS | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The CHAIR: I am asking whether or not the reduction of floor space is at all a rational response to COVID-19 as it provides less space for social distancing.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: We will take that on notice about the institution you have just reflected upon;</p> | MAAS |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>Selected parts of the museum are closed while items on display in the Powerhouse collection are digitised. Those areas are temporarily closed to the public for the safety of staff and visitors and are adjusted as staff work through the digitising process.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Employment program for casual & semiskilled workforce | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>The CHAIR: My question as written is about the direct employment of the casual and semiskilled workforce who are the ones who have been hardest hit. Is there a program directed at that?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I am not aware of the program in the Australian Capital Territory. I am not aware of any program that would be equivalent to that in New South Wales because I am not aware of the Australian Capital Territory program. If there is anything further I can take it on notice, but matters like that will be matters of policy for the Government.</p> | PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The NSW does not currently run an employment program specifically relating to this cohort.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Number of casuals employed in NSW Public Sector | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: To pick up where Ms Houssos was going in terms of casuals employed in the Powerhouse, across Australia something like 1.1 million casuals apparently have lost either their whole work or a substantial part of it due to the pandemic. Mathematically around 400,000 of those are likely to be in New South Wales. Is it correct to assume that the State Government employer engaged about 70,000 casuals prior to the pandemic?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I will have to take that on notice. But I would, as we have discussed a few times, the state of the sector report out of the Public Service Commission will segment that as much as it needs to, so my taking it on notice would be to furnish that to you.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Sure. My recollection is that it said 70,000 casual and contract staff. If you could send them, those figures could be interrogated further.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I will furnish you with a copy of the state of the sector report. Just asking me to interrogate something further is fairly long.</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Presumably as the head of the public service you would be able to provide us on notice more than just a publication, you would be able to tell us prior to the pandemic and now how many casuals are engaged by various State Government sector agencies?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I will see what I can do. As head of the public service there are a few things to do and if it is in there in sufficient detail and segmented I will furnish it with the report.</p> | PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION |

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The Government also provides supports to local government as well to assist them. I cannot remember the actual number, I will get it. I have a number in my mind. It was a reasonably large number. I will try and get that.

Mr REARDON: If they are an employee, yes. I think I understand your question. We have tried to employ or redeploy as much as we can. In a crisis it means a lot of people are tilted in terms of what their priorities are. All of the things that you have asked us about in terms of mobility across the public service have come to the fore in the last few months where we have had people in Premier and Cabinet dealing with the returned travellers and working with the department of foreign affairs and trade. These are people who normally would do events and protocol. People have redeployed across the board in emergency operations centres. We have sought to redeploy as many people as we possibly can. What I have said about keeping the infrastructure pipeline going, where a lot of the contingent workforce would be, where a lot of the contract workforce would be, now has a lot that have been retained, a significant amount. If the construction sector had gone down that would have been a major issue. Government has also provided over \$200 million. That number was just for contract cleaning, for example. The amount of casual workers that we have needed for the schools cleaning program, for a couple of thousand schools, and the public transport network at every major interchange has been a significant jobs generator.

The Hon. Adam SEARLE: Can you give us some numbers around that?

Mr REARDON: I can give you the public number of the amount of funding that went towards, for example, there cleaning contracts. How many have been deployed across the board?

The Hon. Adam SEARLE: That is more what I am interested in. I am interested in how many more bodies on the ground.

Mr REARDON: As best I can, I will take it on notice.

ANSWER:

During the 12 months ending 27 June 2019, there were 157,332 temporary and casual NSW Public Sector employees recorded in the workforce profile data, which equates to 69,605 FTE.

| Service | Headcount during the year | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Temporary | Casual |
| Public Service | 13,940 | 12,260 |
| NSW Health Service | 28,750 | 26,998 |
| NSW Police Force | 288 | 3 |
| Teaching Service | 29,756 | 8,957 |
| Transport Services | 1,369 | 346 |
| Other Crown Services | 16,964 | 16,945 |
| Total government sector | 91,067 | 65,509 |
| State-Owned Corporations | 353 | 215 |
| External to Government Sector | 167 | 21 |
| Total public sector | 91,587 | 65,745 |

2020 data on the NSW Public Sector workforce will be available in late 2020.

NSW Treasury and Transport for NSW advised the additional cleaners (headcount) engaged in the transport and schools cleaning components of the cleaning stimulus program are approximately 1,210 and 1,670 respectively, to 30 June 2020.

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| QUESTION – Number of casuals employed in NSW Public Sector – end of March 2020 vs end of June 2020 | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|---|
| <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: Mr Reardon, I would like to understand, and I understand you will have to take this on notice and come back with the figures: How many casuals did the State Government and its agencies employ at the beginning of the pandemic when the public health orders were made at the end of March compared to the end of June, just to see if there is a change?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I acknowledge the question. The timeframe to achieve that, Chair, may not be possible within 21 days.</p> <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: I believe the Committee would be happy to grant an extension if that means receiving the figures. I am speaking for myself. This is not a gotcha moment.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: We spoke of this before. We do this once a year. We are in extraordinary circumstances now. The public sector—the People Matter engagement survey, for example, we have had to set aside. We normally have it done in May-June. We have all been doing pulse checks and pulse surveys quite considerably across the board for our people and counting the amount of casuals at the moment and the amount of information that would be required to be pulled together I have no idea how long that might take.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Mr Reardon, could I suggest, if this is adopted by the rest of the Committee members, that you indicate to the Committee within the 21 days what, if any, time frame would be required to provide that information and we will consider that.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Shall do, Chair.</p> <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: In terms of fixed term contract staff you said wherever possible those contracts have been extended or continued. Do you have any sense of how many? Whether it is 80 per cent, 90 per cent, 50 per cent, or how many of those on fixed term contracts are still employed?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I do not have a real sense. All I can tell you is that whilst a lot of people have worked from home from my experience and what has been in front of me most people have remained engaged in the New South Wales public sector in casual contracts full-time, but I do not have a sense. We are one of the employers who is putting out, as I said, that infrastructure pipeline with casuals for cleaning in other areas where we have had a small amount of jobs growth in places like health. Education would have had it because of the casuals in cleaning schools, but I do not have a sense of the exact. I would imagine our job retention would be significantly higher than a lot of areas in the private sector.</p> <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: Again, I would like to understand, on notice, for you to get that information for us.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The Public Service Commission (PSC) does not have data on the number of casuals employed by the State Government and its agencies at the end of March 2020 when the public health orders were made.</p> <p>This data would need to be sourced separately from each NSW Public Sector department and agency.</p> <p>All NSW Public Sector departments and agencies are currently producing their 2020 workforce profile data submissions.</p> <p>The PSC has extended the timeframe by which departments and agencies are required to submit their workforce profile data this year, given the impact of COVID-19 on their operations.</p> | |

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Data on the number of casuals in the NSW Public Sector workforce will be available in late 2020 and will be compared to June 2019 data.

| QUESTION – Number of fixed term contracts extended / continued for staff employed in NSW Public Sector | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: In terms of fixed term contract staff you said wherever possible those contracts have been extended or continued. Do you have any sense of how many? Whether it is 80 per cent, 90 per cent, 50 per cent, or how many of those on fixed term contracts are still employed?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I do not have a real sense. All I can tell you is that whilst a lot of people have worked from home from my experience and what has been in front of me most people have remained engaged in the New South Wales public sector in casual contracts full-time, but I do not have a sense. We are one of the employers who is putting out, as I said, that infrastructure pipeline with casuals for cleaning in other areas where we have had a small amount of jobs growth in places like health. Education would have had it because of the casuals in cleaning schools, but I do not have a sense of the exact. I would imagine our job retention would be significantly higher than a lot of areas in the private sector.</p> <p>The Hon. Adam SEARLE: Again, I would like to understand, on notice, for you to get that information for us.</p> | <p>PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>There are over 8,000 contingent workers (contractors) reported under SCM0007 - The Contingent Workforce Prequalification Scheme each month. Since these engagements are temporary, the total count of workers changes from month to month.</p> <p>Analysis conducted by Procurement NSW of contingent labour data extracted from their systems does not show a significant drop in the number of contingent labour staff during the period of March to May 2020.</p> <p>Contractors employed under SCM0007 do not include frontline workers such as teachers, nurses and paramedics.</p> | |

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| CLUSTER | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | May 2020 vs. Jan 2020 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Transport | 1,734 | 1,818 | 1,755 | 1,551 | 1,937 | 12% |
| Stronger Communities | 1,460 | 1,591 | 1,578 | 1,314 | 1,416 | -3% |
| Education (including TAFE) | 2,009 | 2,059 | 2,101 | 1,919 | 1,905 | -5% |
| Health | 1,014 | 1,029 | 1,088 | 1,026 | 1,042 | 3% |
| Customer Service | 587 | 665 | 799 | 738 | 812 | 38% |
| Planning Industry and Environment | 882 | 896 | 903 | 840 | 907 | 3% |
| Treasury | 225 | 238 | 264 | 248 | 267 | 19% |
| Premier and Cabinet | 146 | 158 | 170 | 131 | 128 | -12% |
| TOTAL | 8,057 | 8,454 | 8,658 | 7,767 | 8,414 | 4% |

| QUESTION – Proportion of public sector staff working from home | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Do you have a sense of what proportion of public sector workers were working from home at the peak of the lockdown?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I can get you that. I can probably get you that more readily than some of the other questions you have asked.</p> | PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The NSW Public Service Commission (PSC) does not have data on the number of NSW public sector employees who were working from home during the lockdown. However, the public service’s position is that employees who are able to work from home should do so.</p> <p>The PSC has asked clusters and agencies to report on the percentage of their employees who are working from home. For the 20 agencies that have responded to date, rates of working from home range from 40% to almost 100%.</p> <p>To collect more systematic information on rates of working from home, the PSC has added three questions to the People Matter Employee Survey 2020: a question on working from home during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic (March–June 2020); a question on working from home at the time of the survey; and a question on the desire to work from home in the future. The People Matter Employee Survey 2020 will run from 19 October 2020 to 13 November 2020. The PSC will make cluster and agency results available in mid-January 2021.</p> | |

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| QUESTION – Working from home allowance | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The CHAIR: Mr Reardon, are there provisions for the payment for internet or energy or any of those other additional costs that staff will incur working from home as opposed to the office?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Not at this point in time. Not at this point in time, but I have not done an audit of it.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Given that expensive outsource to employees now is there anything afoot to work out a policy to properly compensate those employees?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Not that I am aware of. I can take it on notice. In terms of that, the equipment that we provide to date, there is a certain amount of equipment we provide, I can furnish that to you, but anything outside of that, and I acknowledge the issue raised and I will take it on notice.</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>Employees can claim home office expenses and deductions for additional running expenses through their taxation returns and the Australian Taxation Office introduced a temporary simplified method of calculation for additional running expenses incurred from working at home because of COVID-19.</p> <p>Many employees have been provided with equipment which enables them to work remotely. Information on the equipment provided by each cluster to employees is not held centrally.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Special leave taken by public sector staff during pandemic | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>The CHAIR: And that of course was a distinct form of leave available in the public sector not in the private sector, at least on a comprehensive basis. Do you have any data about how much special leave has been taken?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I do not have that on me at the moment.</p> <p>The CHAIR: If you could give the Committee the data—</p> <p>Ms FOY: Of course, happy to.</p> <p>The CHAIR: —about how much special leave has been taken, if you can break it down on a monthly basis that would be very useful so we can track how it is working.</p> <p>Ms FOY: Yes. I will see what is available, certainly. I am sure we can get it cluster by cluster and if we can break that down where appropriate, we will.</p> <p>The CHAIR: And if there is any data on applications that have been refused to back up the position you put about the small levels of disputation.</p> <p>Ms FOY: Of course.</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>This information is currently being sought from each cluster and can be provided once available.</p> | |

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| QUESTION – Number of staff attending work when unwell | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>The CHAIR: Has there been any study done by the industrial relations team about the number of people in New South Wales who do not have access to sick leave and who therefore are a potential risk, not only to themselves but the rest of the public by attending work when they are sick?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: Not that I am aware of, Mr Shoebridge. But, again, there has been a lot going on, so I might ask Ms Foy if she is aware of any?</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am not aware of any detail. With the Public Service Commission we certainly look at a profile of the overall public sector workforce, permanent, casual, contract. There may be some data available. We have obviously put keeping people in jobs, keeping our workplaces safe at the forefront. That is why we have got the circular around employment arrangements and that is why we support our clusters to work on a case-by-case level in the business and support each of those health and job priorities. But I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Just so you do not get misdirected, Ms Foy, my question is about the public sector providing payment for private sector workers who do not have access to sick leave, so they do not feel compelled to go to work just simply to keep a roof over their heads or be able to feed their families while sick, which is what the Victorian model was designed for.</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am happy to take that on notice.</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet has not undertaken independent research on the numbers of non-public sector employees in NSW who do not have access to sick leave entitlements. This data may be held by the Commonwealth Government.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Carriageworks PwC consultancy scope & cost | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|--------------------------|
| <p>he CHAIR: What is the sum of the contract with PwC?</p> <p>Ms FOY: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>The CHAIR: Could you provide the details of what the scope of that contract is?</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am happy to take that on notice.</p> | <p>CREATE NSW</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>This is a fee-for-service based on PwC being engaged to provide analysis, support and recommend a course of action that protects the interests of Create NSW and the people of NSW.</p> <p>The rates negotiated are at a substantial discount to those set out within the NSW panel procurement rates.</p> <p>Details of all consultant engagements will be included in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's annual report in accordance with the <i>Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2015</i>.</p> | |

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| QUESTION – Carriageworks current lease | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: What is the length of their current lease? Ms FOY: As I understand it they are going on a month by month. I will clarify that but we are currently in discussions about a longer term lease as part of their approach to sustainability.</p> | CREATE NSW |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The NSW Government, through Create NSW, has executed a Heads of Agreement indicating that the Government will grant a long-term lease to Carriageworks Ltd consisting of an initial term of 10 years, with two 5 year options. Carriageworks Ltd emerged from Voluntary Administration on 22 July 2020 and is now back in the hands of its Directors.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Carriageworks grants paid | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: In order to help I might move on to this question: One of the reports to reflect the Government's position is that Carriageworks had been paid its 2020 grant, that is for this calendar year. What is the amount of that grant? Ms FOY: I will get the exact figure on notice. The grant is around about \$2.5 million. The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: The exact figure on notice will be helpful but that is very helpful. When was that paid? Ms FOY: I would have to get back to you on that. The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Was it paid this year? FOY: Again, I would have to get back to you on that. The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Although clearly COVID has impacted on their financial position. My question is: The 2021 grant has been reported as usually being paid 1 July 2020. Would you like to comment on that claim which has been made? Ms FOY: I will take that detail on notice. I do not have it in front of me and given we are dealing with such an important matter I would rather be accurate.</p> | CREATE NSW |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>2020 funding of \$2.527 million was provided to Carriageworks in July 2019. The early payment of this funding was at the request of Carriageworks due to a shortfall in cash. Over the past five years, the request for annual funding had become increasingly earlier, indicating an underlying financial deterioration in the company.</p> <p>Recent funding provided as follows:</p> <p>2016 funding – 1 September 2015 (\$1.527m) & 3 February 2016 (\$1m) 2017 funding – 16 August 2016 - \$2.527m 2018 funding – 14 August 2017 - \$2.527m 2019 funding – 6 July 2018 - \$2.527m 2020 funding – 22 July 2019 - \$2.527m</p> | |

| QUESTION – Carriageworks timing | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|-----------------------|
| <p>The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I accept that. This has been a high-profile casualty of this period, for whatever reason. You have said that work is ongoing. What do you expect is the timeline for those discussions?</p> | CREATE NSW |

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| <p>Ms FOY: I will get back to you on those ongoing discussions. I should reiterate that payments for 2021 would be, as I understand it, eligible in 2021 not in 2020. I will get back to you on the detail on that. I will get back to you with the detail on the discussions because I would need to get an update from the administrator. I do not have that readily to hand.</p> <p>cleaners. The number I wanted to get accurate was the additional funding for the additional cleaners was \$250 million, just to be clear. In terms of direct support I would only be speculating on policy, so I will not.</p> | |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>The Minister for the Arts announced on 10 July 2020 that Carriageworks Limited will emerge from voluntary administration due to donations and loans from a number of philanthropists. The NSW Government, through Create NSW, has committed to a long-term lease of a 10-year initial term, and two 5-year options and a five year funding agreement with Carriageworks Limited.</p> <p>At a meeting on 21 July 2020, creditors accepted generous offers made by several philanthropists that will help guarantee the future of Carriageworks and the entitlements of its staff. Following that meeting, KPMG signed a deed of company arrangement, returning control of the company to the Carriageworks board.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Spend to date on additional cleaners | RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|-----------------------|
| <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: My next question was if you supported the proposal or are you working on it? It is a payment that would provide workers, hospital cleaners, retail and supermarket workers—very low paid employees—with an economic stimulus.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I think you asked me a question of whether I would support it. It would be a government policy matter to support it. I will go back to what I said before about areas such as cleaners. The number I wanted to get accurate was the additional funding for the additional cleaners was \$250 million, just to be clear. In terms of direct support I would only be speculating on policy, so I will not.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How much of the \$250 million has been expended so far?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I will come back to you on that. I will take that on notice and let you know. I will try to determine, as Mr Searle requested, how many casuals that has employed.</p> | <p>TREASURY NSW</p> |
| <p>ANSWER:</p> <p>As at 30 June 2020, an estimated \$140m has been spent through the cleaning stimulus program, to deliver around 1.8 million additional hours of cleaning of public infrastructure – the equivalent of over 3,200 Full Time Equivalent jobs. The program will continue to support enhanced cleaning (i.e. additional to standard cleaning outside a COVID environment) and employment over the coming months.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2020, additional cleaners (headcount) engaged in the transport and schools cleaning components of the cleaning stimulus program are approximately 1,180 and 1,670 respectively, with a further 2,100 additional cleaners engaged across other public infrastructure. Most if not all of these would have been engaged by service providers to government.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Discussion with Flight Path Theatre | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I appreciate that. I want to turn back to smaller arts organisations, which Mr Shoebridge started to touch on, and specifically talk about the Flight Path Theatre in Marrickville. They are based at Addison Road at the community</p> | <p>CREATE NSW</p> |

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| <p>centre. They have had a lease since last July and they negotiated with the landlord to get a rent freeze but after going backwards and forwards they could not get an agreement. They took on a lot of debt and losses, and I am sure this is a common situation amongst small cultural organisations, so they could not take on any more in setting up. They cannot run any productions at the moment, it is likely they will have to can the organisation because they have not been able to organise the rent agreement. Are you aware, Mr Reardon or Ms Foy, of any discussions with the Flight Path Theatre?</p> <p>Ms FOY: Flight Path Theatre? I am not personally aware.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: For the record, neither am I.</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am happy to go back to the agency and see if there have been any discussions, but I am not aware of them having made an approach to us, certainly not to me directly. I am very happy to go back and have a look at this particular instance. We have had a range of organisations who have expressed interest or are in the early stages of putting forward various submissions, but I am happy to find that one about Flight Path, as long as I am not offending any of their commercial concerns, I will put that back on notice.</p> | |
| <p>ANSWER: The preference is not to disclose companies who may have applied for the NSW Arts Rescue and Restart package, without their explicit consent as this could be commercially confidential.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Eligibility of Walk Now Productions for grants | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I want to move on to another example, Walk Now Productions?</p> <p>Ms FOY: Which was that?</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Walk Now Productions. That is an independent theatre co-op of a film group. They work in bringing diversity to the theatre space. Are you aware of any discussions or support with independent theatre groups, because they are set up as a co-operative, not a charity, so they are not eligible for certain grants?</p> <p>Ms FOY: I am not aware of that specific one. We do have conversations with a broad range, both not for profit and commercials as well, whether they are big or small. As far as Walk Now, I do not have any advice about specifics, but again I am very happy—are they based in Sydney?</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: I do not have that written here.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: If there is any information—</p> <p>Ms FOY: Yes, please pass it over.</p> <p>The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Certainly.</p> | <p>CREATE NSW</p> |
| <p>ANSWER: Departmental enquiries reveal that this is not a registered entity, but a sole trader according to ABN information. As a sole trader, Walk Now Productions is not eligible for Arts Rescue and Restart funding.</p> | |

| QUESTION – NSW Government position on wages increase | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I note that the Government is currently in the Industrial Relations Commission at the moment dealing with 43 awards that cover the majority of the State public sector workforce. The contention is between the Government's proposal for a zero per cent pay increase, a pay freeze as I think it is described. The unions have their own case. Given the ruling by the Fair Work Commission to increase minimum rate wages by 1.75 per cent on 19 June, is there any reconsideration within Government about the zero per cent increase in pay that is proposed in the proceedings?</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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| <p>Mr REARDON: Mr Searle, on this, I am Industrial Relations Secretary. I have certain accountabilities under the Government Sector Employment Act, which I could read out to you and I am happy to furnish to you my role in that overarching—</p> <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I am just asking if the Government is going to change its position.</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I understand your question, wages policy. The Industrial Relations Commission has a hearing on foot that you pointed to. I request that I am not asked questions around the issue of the Industrial Relations Commission, any matter that is related to Fair Work, that could have a bearing on that. You have asked me a question about is the Government reconsidering its position because of that. I can take it on notice.</p> | |
| <p>ANSWER: As this matter is currently the subject of proceedings before the NSW Industrial Relations Commission, with further hearings scheduled for mid-August 2020, it would not be appropriate to comment further on this matter.</p> | |

| QUESTION – Financial assistance for gig workers in NSW | RESPONSIBILITY |
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| <p>The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: In relation to, for example, gig workers who in most cases are not termed to be employees and therefore, at least arguably, are not currently regulated by anyone. Has any thought been given at a policy level within the New South Wales Government about whether or not forms of financial assistance could be or should be extended to gig workers?</p> <p>Mr REARDON: I will take that on notice, as I did with the Chair. The general questions were around public sector employees, private sector, full-time employees, contractors, casuals and gig workers; I think the essence of the question is similar and I will take it on notice.</p> | <p>EMPLOYEE RELATIONS</p> |
| <p>ANSWER: Some gig economy workers may be eligible for the Commonwealth JobKeeper payments. Workers who are unemployed and looking for work or doing approved activities to find a job may be eligible for Commonwealth JobSeeker payments.</p> | |