



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

# **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021**

## **Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance**

**THE LEGISLATURE**

Hearing: Monday 1 March 2021

**Answers due by: 25 March 2021**

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# THE LEGISLATURE

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

### Claims forms

1. Claim Forms are still listed under 'forms' on the Members Entitlement site. But DPS is refusing to accept them. Now that the chamber has largely reverted back to a paper based system, how long will this continue?
  - (a) What consultation took place with members?

### Capital works

2. What is the next tranche of capital works planned over the next financial year?

### Local Government

3. The Member' Staff and local government policy is listed as being current at November 2016. It is supposed to be reviewed every four years prior to each local government election. The next round of elections will be held in September this year. Has it been reviewed?

### CCTV

4. When will the NSW Parliament House Closed Circuit Television and Security Access Control Systems Policy be reviewed?
  - (a) How will Members be consulted?

### Work Health and Safety/ PCBU

5. Do the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act extend to cover Members of Parliament in their work?
6. Who is the Person Controlling the Business Unit (PCBU) for the purposes of members of staff for MLCs, in relation to work undertaken within the parliament or in the community?
7. Who is the PCBU for the purposes of guaranteeing a safe working environment for Members of Parliament?
  - (a) When working in the parliamentary environment?
  - (b) When working in the chamber?

8. Who is the PCBU in the event that a Member is injured as a direct result of travelling home after a late sitting?
9. Has the parliament received any legal advice on these questions?
  - (a) If not, will the parliament undertake to obtain advice on this question?

### **Technological Improvements**

10. When will the Parliament website be engineered to render properly on mobile devices and tablets?
11. When will the Legislature develop an App for members and staff, which would be much more amenable to mobile phone access and speed of access?
12. Has the Parliament prepared a Business Continuity Plan to provide for the functions of the Legislature over the medium to long term should the Parliament be unable to meet in-person for an extended period of time?
  - (a) What are the barriers to that being implemented?
13. In a future pandemic or if there was some significant natural disaster, how would the Parliament deliberate on legislation and continue to function?
14. What is happening with the project to modernise divisions by recording electronically?
15. Is the current project that is looking into making the parliamentary processes more accessible including a process of keeping track of amendments and legislation being debated more accessible?
16. Has there been an investigation in to having a digital swipe card available on mobile phones?

### **Parliamentary security**

17. The United States Capitol Riots and invasion by domestic terrorists should give all Legislatures pause for thought about their security arrangements – what consideration have you given to the potential for rioters to overcome the physical security of this building?
18. We are only protected by glass sliding doors at the Macquarie Street entrance and to the ramp access point from Level 6, is this considered adequate?
19. Has a fresh risk assessment been undertaken?
  - (a) If so, when?
20. Have the Special Constables received any additional training or a briefing on how to handle a similar scenario?

21. Apart from the driveway upgrades, have any projects been planned or undertaken to improve the physical security of the Parliament?
22. Have you come up with a way to screen visitors to the Parliament who arrive by car through the carpark elevators?

### **Staff**

23. How many times has Mr Webb met with staff and their union representatives through the quarterly meetings of the Joint Consultative Committee process in the past 18 months?
24. How many staff positions within the Parliamentary Library are vacant?
25. How many staff positions within the Parliamentary Library have been abolished or restructured?
26. What percentage of departmental staff have a disability?

### **Parliament Newsletter**

27. Who produces the monthly Parli-News newsletter?
  - (a) How many people open and read the newsletter each month?
  - (b) How many people click through a link?
  - (c) How many replies have you ever received to these newsletters?

### **Procurement and local jobs**

28. Is there a firm target for local procurement?
29. Apart from Catering, where there is a conspicuous effort to buy from NSW suppliers, what other guarantees do we have that you're supporting local suppliers and workers?
30. Where does the furniture you've purchased in the past four years come from? Example: desks in Members' offices, lounges in foyer, education centre renovations, theatrette?

### **Safety**

31. Has a risk assessment been done for the potential crash or injury risk caused by pedestrians walking along the western edge of Hospital Road, where there is no footpath?
32. During a recent evacuation the Fire Brigade were unable to get in via the new gates at Hospital Road. Has this been resolved?

### **Catering spaces and capital expenditure**

33. How much is being spent on the renovations to Strangers/Members dining areas?

34. How much is being spent and has been spent in the past 12 – 18 months on the renovations to the Public Café and Bar?
35. Is there further commercialisation of these spaces planned?
36. At the rising of the L.A. at the end of each sitting week and whenever the L.A. is not sitting - Members dining is unavailable for L.C. sittings. When will this be rectified?
37. Will DPS consider expansion of the dining room food to be made available to staff?

## **WHS**

38. Was the WHS committee consulted about the information that was provided by email on 22 February 2021 regarding resources for any Members and staff affected by a critical staffing incident such as harassment, bullying or assault?
39. Members and staff have found that the air-conditioning in the building is extremely cold. Many staff have been bringing in hot water bottles and other heating devices as it is intolerable for them. Can you please advise what can be done to ensure that the air-conditioning is not too cold?