



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021 Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry**

**WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING**

Hearing: Monday 1 March 2021

**Answers due by: 25 March 2021**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**  
Phone 9230 2898  
[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING

### Questions from Mr Shoebridge MLC

#### Land claims

1. On the current numbers there is a more than 110 year waitlist for Aboriginal Land Claims - can you advise what additional resources you are allocating in the next 10 years to manage this situation?
2. Have you sought legal advice on the implications of this delay which amounts to a constructive denial of these claims?
3. Where in the process is the delay or bottleneck for this?
4. If it is in the assessment stage, how many staff members currently work in this area?
5. How has this changed over the last 10 years?
6. How is this anticipated to change in the next 3 years?
7. What are the stages each claim goes through?
8. How many are currently at each stage indicated by you?

#### Bondi beach club

9. Are you aware of the proposal for a “beach club on Bondi Beach” known as the “Amalfi Beach Club”?
10. Can you advise what protections are in place to ensure Crown Lands are protected from developments like this that seek to privatise public spaces?

#### Summer Night Walks

11. How much was paid to Tim Ross, Julia Baird and Kurt Furnley to appear in, and in Ross's case possibly to produce the Summer Night Walks videos?

### Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

#### Questions regarding NRAR

12. What level of insight does the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) have on Irrigation Infrastructure Operations (IIO) activities?
  - a) Are you limited in your scope? If so, how?
  - b) If you are limited, what recommendations would you make to widen your scope so there is full transparency with IIO activities?

## Questions regarding Dungowan Dam

13. In response to my question asking if the extra seven gigalitres would be used for town water supply would irrigators like Namoi Water potentially lose out or have an increased loss of that seven gigalitres.

You responded-

“What it does is actually give more security for users for a greater length of period, and that is the way the calculation is worked out. But Dr Bentley is absolutely correct; there is not a greater allocation. We still have to operate within the Murray-Darling cap, but if you have more water there more often means those farmers and the town will be more secure for water for greater periods of time.”

However, in a letter to the Member for Barwon, Roy Butler MP, dated 15 June 2020, you state that-

Under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, any increased diversion due to the proposed dam will need to be included in the calculations for compliance with the Sustainable Diversion Limit for the Namoi Sustainable Limit resource unit.

Considering both your response to Mr Butler and your response in Budget Estimates, will you now confirm if irrigators like Namoi Water will lose out or have an increased loss of that seven gigalitres through a reduction in the Sustainable Diversion Limit available to them?

<b>Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)</b>
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### Crown Lands

#### Crown Reserve Improvement Fund

14. Please provide the names and position titles of the people who sit on any panel/committee involved in decision making regarding the allocation of Crown Land Improvement Funds.
15. In relation to the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund and subsequent funds, can you please advise:
- How many applications were submitted; and,
  - How many applications were successful?
16. Of the applications received for Crown Reserve Improvement Fund that were unsuccessful, what reasons were applicants given as to why they were not successful for a grant?

### Crown Land Grants

17. What is the selection criteria when applying for the following:
- Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program – Phase 1A Funding
  - Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program – Phase 1B Funding

- c) Showgrounds Stimulus Funding Program – Phase 2 Funding
- d) Crown Reserve Improvement Fund

### **Native Title Claim Management**

18. What is the budget within Crown Lands for managing Native Title claims?

### **Swansea Channel dredging**

19. Is Lake Macquarie as a whole or in part a watercourse vested in the Crown for the purposes of the Crown Lands Management Act?
20. Why is the dredging of Swansea Channel not a programmed, consistent maintenance activity?
21. On what basis has the contract for dredging services been awarded to a Queensland based contractor?
22. Was a public tender process undertaken each time a contract has been let to Sandpiper Dredging in the past ten years?
23. Who is the person responsible for managing these contracts on behalf of Government?  
a) What is their position title?
24. Does the Acting Principal Environment Officer or the Environment Officer within the Coastal Infrastructure Unit of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment have any involvement in the awarding of contracts for dredging works?
25. Are contracts in the vicinity of \$250,000 - \$300,000 subject to a probity process or a competitive tender?
26. When the aggregate value of contracts let to one contractor exceed a certain threshold is there a further probity process or tender process undertaken?
27. How many contracts have been let to Sandpiper Dredging by the Department since 2011?
28. What is the aggregate value of those contracts?
29. Please list the Financial Year and value of each contract.
30. Where else apart from Swansea Channel has Sandpiper Dredging undertaken works for the Department?
31. Have all of these contracts been approved or awarded by the same person within the Department?

32. Does the Department have any capacity to undertake these works internally or without recourse to an external service provider?

### **Odour Control Unit at Wolli Creek**

33. An Odour Control Unit (**OCU**) is to be installed next to the section of the Southern and Western Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (**SWSOOS**) that crosses Wolli Creek. Can you explain the process of planning for the installation of OCU's?
34. Is there any compulsory community consultation conducted before a final decision is made about the installation of an OCU?
- a) If so was the local community consulted?
35. The Wolli Creek Preservation Society (**WCPS**), a community environmentalist action group, acknowledges that it has been in consultation with Sydney Water regarding the installation of the OCU at the Wolli Creek SWSOOS crossing. However, they remain concerned about the present proposed site of installation. They argue that the proposed site is unnecessary and unacceptably intrusive, as the installation will require Sydney Water to cut and remove native restored bushland, deface a natural sandstone structure, and negatively affect the amenity of the local walking trail. Are you aware of the WCPS's concerns?
36. The WCPS recommends an alternate location for the OCU. It happens that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**DPIE**) owns a parcel of land next to the SWSOOS at Wolli Creek. The WCPS believes that it is large enough for an OCU and says that the site is desirable as it has little native vegetation, has no sandstone structures, and it will not disrupt the amenity of the local walking trail. Are you aware of the WCPS's alternative suggestion?
37. Have you discussed the alternative site with Sydney Water?
- a) If not, will you?
38. Have you discussed the alternative site with DPIE?
- a) If not, will you?
39. Will you advocate Sydney Water to choose the alternative location?

### **Social Housing in the Swansea Electorate**

40. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in the Swansea electorate during the:
- a) 2018/2019 financial year?  
b) 2019/2020 financial year?  
c) 2020/2021 financial year?
41. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in NN02 Lake Macquarie/ East allocation zone during the:
- a) 2018/2019 financial year?  
b) 2019/2020 financial year?

c) 2020/2021 financial year?

42. How much did the Government spend on property maintenance for social housing properties located in the NN20 Wyong allocation zone during the:

a) 2018/2019 financial year?

b) 2019/2020 financial year?

c) 2020/2021 financial year?

### **Waterloo**

43. During the budget estimates hearing Mr Michael Cassel made mention that Land and Housing Corporation has spent \$20 million so far on the Waterloo proposal with Sydney City Council. To Quote "But I am sure you can appreciate that to this point in time we have spent over \$20 million on this proposal, it still sits before council and I have stopped a lot of work moving forward on those types of detailed things until we can get some type of clarity on what the project will look like.

a) Please provide a breakdown of this 20 million?

b) How much has been spent on contractors who have been outsourced?

c) Is this 20 million inclusive of LAHC employee wages?

d) If not, how much additional expense is from LAHC employee wages connected to the Waterloo proposal?

e) What is the estimated delay on the Waterloo project?

f) What is the current status of the LAHC preferred masterplan for the Waterloo public housing redevelopment?

g) What percentage of public housing will be specifically affordable Aboriginal Housing in the Waterloo redevelopment?

### **LAHC maintenance expenses**

44. Last year it was estimated \$430 million would be spent on maintenance on social housing. How much has been spent this year on Maintenance?

a) How much is forecast for planned maintenance?

b) How much is forecast on responsive maintenance?

c) How much is forecast on programmed maintenance?

45. The NSW Government allocation of \$200 million stimulus for maintenance works, of which LAHC received \$160 million please provide a breakdown of maintenance expense allocation for each LGA of NSW?

## **Vacant properties**

46. What is the allocation of money spent from the maintenance budget has been spent on vacant restoration of LAHC properties in NSW 2020 to current?
- a) How many LAHC properties have been vacant for a period of 12 months and over since 2019?
  - b) Please provide information with regard to the vacant properties located in Manix Street Warwick Farm. Number 5,7,9,11 and 13 Manix Street Warwick Farm.
    - i. How long have these properties been vacant?
    - ii. What is the future plan for the site?
    - iii. Has the land been sold?
    - iv. If so, how much money was received in exchange of the site?
    - v. If sold, how will the money be reinvested into the area of Warwick Farm?

## **Social Housing Property Sales**

47. For each financial year please provide the combined dollar value of all state-owned social housing properties or land sold by the Government to overseas purchasers?
- a) 2011-2012?
  - b) 2012-2013?
  - c) 2013-2014?
  - d) 2014-2015?
  - e) 2015-2016?
  - f) 2016-2017?
  - g) 2017-2018?
  - h) 2018-2019?
  - i) 2019-2020?
  - j) 2020-2021 (to current)?
48. Please provide the number of social housing properties managed by both LAHC and community housing providers in each LGA for NSW for each financial year from 2011-2012 to 2020 to current?
- a) 2011-2012?
  - b) 2012-2013?

- c) 2013-2014?
- d) 2014-2015?
- e) 2015-2016?
- f) 2016-2017?
- g) 2017-2018?
- h) 2018-2019?
- i) 2019-2020?
- j) 2020-2021 (to current)?

49. Please provide the number of social housing properties (residential dwellings) for each financial year from 2011-2012 to 2020- to current?

- a) 2011-2012?
- b) 2012-2013?
- c) 2013-2014?
- d) 2014-2015?
- e) 2015-2016?
- f) 2016-2017?
- g) 2017-2018?
- h) 2018-2019?
- i) 2019-2020?
- j) 2020-2021 (to current)?

50. Please provide the number of social housing properties (residential dwellings) sold in each financial year from 2011-2012 to 2020 – to current?

- a) 2011-2012?
- b) 2012-2013?
- c) 2013-2014?
- d) 2014-2015?



- e) 2015-2016?
- f) 2016-2017?
- g) 2017-2018?
- h) 2018-2019?
- i) 2019-2020?
- j) 2020-2021 (to current)?

### **LAHC Maintenance contracts and contractors**

51. Please provide detailed information of how Mr Robert Weir formally of G26/48 Belvoir Street Surry Hills remained in a property for 3 years with multiple reported water leaks to maintenance?
- a) How many times did contractors attend Mr Robert Weir's property to inspect and report on the water leak from 2018?
  - b) Has Broadspectrum failed to thoroughly assess and diagnose the underlying issue over a three year period causing inhabitable conditions for Mr Robert Weir?
  - c) How many non-compliance orders have been issued to maintenance contractors each financial year since 2016 to current?
  - d) Please provide information with regard to how LAHC manage and monitor contractor performance to confirm quality maintenance services are provided to standard?
  - e) How are contractors paid?
    - i. Are contractors paid per sight visit or property inspection or paid on completion of the job?
    - ii. Why are some social housing tenant reporting that a contractor is visiting their property on several occasions to scope the work but work is never completed?
    - iii. Is there an incentive for contractors to complete multiple inspections than necessary to maximise income or to reach KPI's?
52. How many NSW Government properties have been transferred to community housing providers since 2016?
53. The Inquiry into the Management of NSW Public Housing Maintenance Contracts recommendation 8. *The Committee recommend that the Department of Family and Community Services examines the current funding formula for maintenance and modifications of housing stock with a view to funding modifications separately, thereby improving service delivery arrangements for tenants with a disability.*

- a. Please provide detailed information of how has this recommendation been implemented?

### **Communities Plus**

54. What commitment has been made under Communities Plus in terms of increasing social housing stock?
  - a) How many additional social housing properties have been promised via Communities Plus?
  - b) How many properties through Communities Plus will be renewed?

### **Bellambi**

55. What is the future plan for Bellambi social housing estate?
  - a) Are there future plans to redevelop Bellambi?
  - b) If so, how many properties will be sold?
  - c) How many properties have been sold in the past five years in Bellambi?

### **Public Housing**

56. What is the total number of social housing dwellings across the state in each year from 2011 to present?
  - a) How many of these in each year are owned by a community housing provider?
  - b) How many are managed in each year by a community housing provider?
  - c) How many of these in each year are managed by the Aboriginal Housing Authority?
57. How many social housing dwellings across the state have been sold in each year from 2011 to present?
  - a) Have any of these been sold to the tenant? If so how many?
  - b) How many have been sold to community housing providers?
  - c) How much money has been raised by these sales?
58. How many new social housing dwellings (available to people on the public housing waiting list) have been constructed across the state in each year from 2011 to present?
  - a) How many of these have been constructed by community housing providers?
  - b) How many of these have been constructed by/for the Aboriginal Housing Authority?
  - c) How much money has been spent by the state on these constructions?

59. How many vacant parcels of land in public housing estates across the state have been sold in each year from 2011 to present?
- How many have been sold to a community housing provider?
  - How many have been leased to a community housing provider?
  - How much money has been raised by these sales?

### **Dungowan Dam**

60. Minister Pavey advised in Budget Estimates 2021 that the Dungowan Dam Final Business Case is now due first quarter of 2022:
- What has caused the delay as WaterNSW Frequently Asked Questions lists construction commencement as October 2021?
  - What is the revised construction commencement date?
61. In Budget Estimates 2020, the Final Business Case for Dungowan Dam project was due mid-2021 (June 2021) but Minister Pavey and WaterNSW have prefaced in February this year that it may now not be completed until late 2021 –
- What has caused the delay?
  - Is the expected project cost still estimated to be \$380million or has that amount been increased?
  - If the final business case and the Exhibition of the Environmental Impact Assessment are both anticipated for late 2021 is construction still anticipated to commence late 2021 (October 2021)?
62. Has an agreement on the final form of the funding contribution been decided by the State and Commonwealth Governments who are co-funding the Dungowan Dam project?
- Has the Commonwealth Government put a cap on their contribution amount?
  - If yes, what is the cap?
63. Did the feasibility study for a new Dungowan Dam completed in 2017 and provided to the Commonwealth Government include a cost:benefit ratio?
- If yes, what was the cost:benefit ratio?
64. As advised by WaterNSW in Dungowan Dam & Pipeline Frequently Asked Questions issued January 2021, WaterNSW has not looked at alternative projects or options as part of the scope because these projects were announced by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. As the principal objective is to secure long-term water supply security for Tamworth, why were alternative options not investigated?
65. WaterNSW advises that a key benefit of the project is ‘Increased supply for agriculture’, yet the Project Update Frequently asked questions issued December 2020 advises: The new dam and

pipeline will improve water security and reliability for agricultural users. We are committed to maintaining the 5.65GL of average annual use for agriculture. If the new dam is ‘maintaining’ then where is the increase for agriculture?

66. As who will own and operate the dam and pipeline has not yet been determined and will not be until the final business case has been completed, will the chosen owner and operator have any input to the decision or will the Government/s simply dictate the decision with no recourse?
67. Is the Environmental Impact Assessment on schedule to be completed to enable the Final Business Case to be completed by Late 2021?
  - a) How long will the Environmental Impact Assessment be on display (also scheduled for Late 2021)?
68. If the final business case and Environmental Impact Assessment and the commencement of construction are all slated for Late 2021, are the communities concerns going to considered or is this just a ‘tick and flick’ exercise on behalf of the Government/s and their departments?
69. Why has a Commence construction date (Late 2021) been included in the Estimated project timeline for Dungowan Dam Project when the final business case for has not yet been completed and yet Mole River Dam Project is dependent on the final business case and then the Government funding decision will be made in 2021?
  - a) What criteria dictates that a final business case is not required prior to a funding commitment/allocation?
  - b) Does the Minister make the decision or is the decision made by the relevant department hierarchy?

### **Wyangala Dam Wall Raising**

70. What amount were the biodiversity costings when the first costings of the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising Project ‘came out in about 2018’ but were announced by the Premier and Prime Minister in October 2019?
  - a) Why has this amount now risen to ‘up to \$500 million’?
71. Minister Pavey advised Budget Estimates that there is up to \$300 million worth of ‘repairing and dam safety and maintenance work’ for Wyangala Dam. Is this amount included in the current quote of \$650 million for the Dam Wall Raising Project?
72. Has the projected timeline for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project changed whereby construction works are due to commence October 2021?
  - a) If yes, what is the revised timeline?
  - b) If yes, what has been the cause of the change?

73. What is the current yield for general security licence use when modelling predicts an additional 21.05GL per annum estimated yield out of an expected dam increase capacity storage of 650 ggalitres?
74. Will none of the increased capacity (additional 650GL) be made available for environmental flows?
75. How many existing infrastructure are anticipated to be required to be replaced once Wyangala Dam project has been completed and the dam full that will fall below the new water line owned by:
- a) Federal entities
  - b) State entities
  - c) Local entities
  - d) Community entities
  - e) Private entities?

### **Greater Sydney Water Strategy**

76. Is The Greater Sydney Water Strategy on schedule for completion Mid-2021?
- a) How often is GSWS scheduled to be revised?
  - b) Has GSWS been designed and competed by the same department/s who completed the Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan 2017?
    - i. If no, which contributors are different?

### **IPART**

77. Can the Minister for Water make unsolicited recommendations and/or suggestions to IPART for consideration?
- a) Since 2 April 2019, has the Minister done this?
    - i. If yes, on how many occasions?
  - b) Were any of these recommendations/suggestions acted on?
    - i. Which ones?

### **Water Sharing Plans**

78. How many Water Sharing Plans are to be remade in 2022?
- a) Has work commenced on each of these plans as at 28 February 2021 to ensure completion on time?
    - i. If no, which plans have not yet commenced?

- b) What is the average time required to remake a Water Sharing Plan?
79. How many Water Sharing Plans are to be amended in 2022?
- a) Has work commenced on each of these plans as at 28 February 2021 to ensure completion on time?
    - i. If no, which plans have not yet commenced?
  - b) What is the average time required to amend a Water Sharing Plan?
80. When was the last audit conducted for the following Water Sharing Plans (WSP) that have been extended and have a cease date of 2030:
- a) WSP for the Murrumbidgee Regulated River – 2030
  - b) WSP for the Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River – 2030
  - c) WSP for the Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River – 2030
  - d) WSP for the Gwydir Regulated River – 2030
  - e) WSP for the Lachlan Regulated River – 2030
  - f) WSP for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers – 2030
  - g) WSP for the Lachlan Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - h) WSP for the Upper & Lower Namoi Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - i) WSP for the NSW MDB Fractured Rock Water Sources – 2030
  - j) WSP for the Murrumbidgee Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - k) WSP for the Murray Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - l) WSP for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated Water Sources – 2030
  - m) WSP for the NSW Border Rivers Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - n) WSP for the NSW GAB Shallow Water Sources – 2030
  - o) WSP For the NSW MDB Porous Rock Water Sources – 2030
  - p) WSP for the Gwydir Alluvium Water Sources – 2030
  - q) WSP for the Macquarie Castlereagh Alluvium – 2030
  - r) Water Sharing Plan for the Peel River Regulated Water Sources – 2030?
    - i. Have each of the Water Sharing Plans had 2 audits conducted since their inception?

ii. If no, which ones have not?

81. How many Water Sharing Plans were submitted within Water Resource Plans without concurrence of the Minister for the Environment?
- a) How many of these have had amendments recommended?
  - b) How many of these have been accepted without change?

### **Illawarra Desalination Plant**

82. Has WaterNSW submitted a Strategic Business Case to the Government for the Illawarra Desalination Plant?
- a) If yes, when?
  - b) If no, when is it expected?

### **Lachlan Valley**

83. What is the current status of The Lachlan Valley Water Security Study?
- a) When was Phase 1 completed?
  - b) When was Phase 2 completed?
  - c) How many phases will be included in the study?
84. Was a cost:benefit ratio included in the Lachlan Valley Priority Catchment Water Security – Preliminary Business Case which was submitted to the Federal Government?

### **Drought**

85. Are there any towns/locations that are still having to have water carted due to being in drought?
- a) How many?
  - b) Where are the locations?
86. The following water utilities source more than 50% of water supply from groundwater (as advised in BE 2020 Supplementary Questions):
- a) Bega Valley
  - b) Kempsey
  - c) Nambucca
  - d) Moree Plains
  - e) Narrabri
  - f) Gunnedah

- g) Bellingen
- h) Liverpool Plains
- i) Narromine
- j) Narrandera
- k) Coonamble
- l) Gwydir
- m) Gilgandra
- n) Murrumbidgee
- o) Carrathool
- p) Riverina County Council
- q) Goldenfields County Council:
  - i. Do any of these locations remain in drought?
  - ii. Which locations?
  - iii. Which of these locations have applied for funding for/to investigate alternative water sources since 2018?
  - iv. Do any of these locations have 1 year or less of groundwater supply remaining?

## **Financial**

87. What were the actual Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Water figures for financial year 2019-20 for:
- a) Salaries and Wages
  - b) Workers Compensation Premiums to Treasury Managed Fund
  - c) Redundancy or Restructuring Expenses
  - d) Materials to produce Goods
  - e) Consultant Expenses
  - f) Contractor Expenses
  - g) Advertising Expenses
  - h) Printing Expenses



- i) Training and Development Expenses
- j) Other Operating Expenses (Cash)
- k) Recurrent Grant Expense – Murray Darling Basin Authority
- l) Recurrent Subsidies and Contributions – Other
- m) Cluster Grant to Agencies – Recurrent
- n) Capital Grants to Agencies – Other than Cluster Grants
- o) Capital Grant Expenses – Other
- p) Capital Grant Expense – Land (Non-cash)
- q) Cluster Grants to Agencies – Capital
- r) Depreciation – Buildings and Improvements – Other than Dwellings
- s) Depreciation – Plant and Equipment – Other than Transport Equipment
- t) Depreciation – Infrastructure – Water, Dams, Sewerage and Drainage
- u) Sale of Goods – Other
- v) Personnel Services Revenue
- w) Fees for Services – Other
- x) Water Operations Fee Revenue
- y) Recoup of Administration Costs – Government Agencies
- z) Sale of Other Services Revenue
- aa) Recurrent Grants from Government Agencies
- bb) Capital Grants from Government Agencies
- cc) Capital Grants and Subsidies – Other
- dd) Capital Donations and Contributions – Other (Non-cash)
- ee) Revenue – General
- ff) Proceeds of Sale – Land
- gg) Written Down Value of Plant and Equipment – Sold?

88. Are dividend payments made to Treasury from WaterNSW, Sydney Water and Hunter Water calculated and decided:
- a) By a formula
  - b) By a request from Treasury
  - c) By consultation between Treasury and the relative entities
  - d) By relevant Ministers and their departments?

### **NRAR**

89. Has NRAR completed its investigation (CIRAM00541-2020) to examine allegations of non-compliance with the Water Management Act 2000 on Toorale Station?
- a) If yes, when was it completed?
  - b) If no, when is it anticipated to be completed?
90. Since 2018 when Natural Resources Commission assumed responsibility for water sharing plan audits, how many have been completed?
91. How many of Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) staff are/were funded under Commonwealth programs ie such as Healthy Floodplains?
- a) What programs?
  - b) When did each program commence?
  - c) When did each program finish?
  - d) Were staff on a contract for a specified time period?
  - e) Have all staff on finalised programs been retained by NRAR?
    - i. If not, how many were lost?
    - ii. If not, how many were retained?

### **Commonwealth**

92. How much funding has the Commonwealth provided for the development of the final business cases for:
- a) Dungowan Dam?
  - b) Mole River Dam?
  - c) Wyangala Dam Wall Raising?
93. What are the significant financial obligations if New South Wales cannot meet the deadlines in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and the Commonwealth Government?

94. Has New South Wales received the federal funding which Minister Littleproud refused to approve in January 2020 now that all Water Resource Plans have been submitted?

## **DPIE**

95. When was the infrastructure unit within Department of Primary Industries – Water established?
- a) How many staff are in this unit?
  - b) Were the staff seconded from within the Department of Primary Industries or from another Department?
  - c) Were any of the roles advertised externally?
    - i. If yes, how many roles?
  - d) Is this unit known as Water Infrastructure NSW?
96. Why has the Water Infrastructure NSW unit been removed from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to Department of Planning and Industry when much of water is in concurrence with the environment?
97. As Dr Bentley received legal advice from general counsel verbally in relation to ‘triple bottom line’ advice, is Dr Bentley able to get the advice in writing?
- a) If yes, is he able to provide that written advice?
98. When is the Peak Bodies Stakeholders Group referred to in Budget Estimates by Dr Bentley expected to:
- a) Be finalised?
  - b) Hold its first meeting?
  - c) Will the regularity of meetings be decided at or prior to the first meeting?
    - i. Further multi-level list
99. How much funding has Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and its subsidiaries applied for and been granted from the Snowy Hydro Fund?
- a) Which projects was the funding for?
100. What is the official definition of ‘dewatering’?
101. When Minister Pavey advised Budget Estimates that ‘we are realigning those resources’ in relation to staffing, was she referring to:
- a) Transferring staff between departments?
  - b) Locating staff at different rural and/or regional locations?
  - c) Changing positions from full-time to part-time?

- d) Changing positions from part-time to full-time?
- e) Employing more staff?
- f) Decreasing staff numbers?
- g) Employing more contractors?

102. Minister Pavey advised Budget Estimates in relation to final business cases ‘we still have the obligations and responsibilities to ensure best value for money for taxpayers’:
- a) Which office/department makes the decision that this requirement is met?
    - i. Can this decision be overridden by the relevant Minister?
    - ii. Can this decision be overridden by Treasury?

### **20 Year Infrastructure Options Study Rural Valleys**

103. When will the next edition of the 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study Rural Valleys Summary Report be released and available (as per page 13 of the June 2018 edition)?
104. Since releasing the 20 Year Infrastructure Options Study Rural Valleys Summary Report published June 2018, has WaterNSW applied for and been successful in obtaining funding to minimise the frequency and impact of cold water releases on the environment and develop strategies for the future?
- a) If yes, how much funding was received and what program/s was the funding used for?

### **Barmah Choke**

105. What volume of water does WaterNSW send down through the Murray Irrigation system for customers/obligations downstream of the Barmah Choke?

### **Murray Darling Basin Plan**

106. Did Minister Pavey and Minister Barilaro discuss with Minister Kean the option to seek legal advice to withdraw from the Murray Darling Basin Plan during the Cluster Ministers regular meetings prior to releasing the information to the media?
- a) If yes, which other Ministers were included in these discussions?

### **Regional Water Strategies**

107. Which 7 Regional Water Strategies are currently out at consultation?
- a) Which 5 are to start consultation?

## Sydney Science Park Project

The Sydney Science Park Project is set to deliver 2.4 million litres of recycled water a day to Western Sydney:

108. Which other companies/groups/departments are involved with this project besides Sydney Water?
- a) What stage of planning is the Project currently at?
  - b) Has any funding been allocated/provided for the project?
    - i. How much?
  - c) What suburbs will the recycled water support?
    - i. Is growth areas such as Wilton included?
  - d) What is the time frame for the completion of the project?
  - e) Is there a short list of suitable designs for the project?
    - i. Will these be available for public consultation?
    - ii. When?
  - f) Will any current SEPP disallowing water recycling be repealed?
    - i. Wilton?
  - g) Has a preliminary cost-benefit ratio been conducted?
    - i. Is the CBR greater than or less than 1?
  - h) Will the finished project be:
    - i. Publicly owned and operated?
    - ii. Privately owned and operated?
    - iii. Public/Private partnership?

## WaterNSW

109. How many dams and land assets has WaterNSW made available for privately developed on-demand, dispatchable energy generation and energy storage?
- a) How many Expressions of Interest have been received?
  - b) How many tenders have been received?
  - c) What form of energy generation has been expressed?
  - d) What form of energy storage has been expressed?
  - e) Have any contracts been prepared?

- i. Have any contract been signed?
- f) What is the minimum contract term length being considered?

### **Expressions of Interest**

110. What is the standard timeframe for Expressions of Interest (EOI) when tenders are called for major projects?
- a) Do these vary for the types of projects?
    - i. What are the different types of projects?
  - b) Do these vary for the different stages of projects?
    - i. What are the different stages of projects?
  - c) Why was the new Dungowan Dam project for early works packages EOI only 22 days from release to due and the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project 16 days from release to due?

### **NSW Government Property Sales in Newcastle**

111. How many government properties have been sold in the Newcastle Local Government Area since FY2011-12 to date?
- a) What is the total value of these sales?
112. Can the Minister provide the addresses of all properties in the Newcastle Local Government Area sold since FY2011-12 to date?
- a) I note this information has been provided to the committee in previous years.

### **Newcastle Crown Lands**

113. Can the Minister please provide the details of all crown land within the Newcastle Local Government Area?
- a) Please include address, DP and Lot number and reserve management details.

### **Land and Housing Corporation Properties in Newcastle**

114. How much did Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) receive in rent from its property portfolio in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years;
- a) 2011;
  - b) 2012;
  - c) 2013;
  - d) 2014;
  - e) 2015;

- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

115. How much did LAHC spend on maintenance of its property portfolio in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years;

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

116. How many social housing properties located in NN07 Newcastle zone were affected by mould for each of the following years;

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;

- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

117. How many social housing properties have been sold in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020; and
- k) 2021?

- i. How much was each property sold for?
- ii. What are the addresses of the properties sold?
- iii. How many of the properties sold were studio/1bedroom, 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom, 4+ bedroom?

118. How many new social housing properties were constructed in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years:

- a) 2010-11;
- b) 2011-12;
- c) 2012-13;
- d) 2013-14;



- e) 2014-15;
- f) 2015-16;
- g) 2016-17;
- h) 2017-18;
- i) 2018-19;
- j) 2019-20;and
- k) 2020-21(YTD)?

- i. What are the addresses of these properties?
- ii. How many of these properties were studio/1bedroom, 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom, 4+ bedroom?

119. How much was spent on the construction of new social housing properties in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020; and
- k) 2021?

120. How many maintenance requests were made in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years;

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;

- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

121. How many maintenance requests were completed in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

122. What was the average wait time from when a maintenance request was made to when it was completed in NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;

- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

123. How many maintenance requests in NN07 Newcastle zone were not actioned in the appropriate timeframe for each of the following years?

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

- i. How many were satisfactorily completed within 30 days?
- ii. How many were satisfactorily completed within 60 days?
- iii. How many were satisfactorily completed within 90 days?

124. What was the total value of Land and Housing Corporation assets in the NN07 Newcastle zone:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

125. How many properties, broken down by suburb, did Land and Housing Corporation own in the NN07 Newcastle zone for each of the following years:

- a) 2010;
- b) 2011;
- c) 2012;
- d) 2013;
- e) 2014;
- f) 2015;
- g) 2016;
- h) 2017;
- i) 2018;
- j) 2019;
- k) 2020;
- l) 2021?

126. How many times was Land and Housing Corporation taken to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) regarding maintenance issues in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

127. How many orders were made against Land and Housing Corporation by NCAT regarding maintenance issues in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

i. If the answer refers to another document please provide the name of the document and the specific page number where the information can be found

128. How many times did LAHC breach NCAT orders relating to maintenance issues in each of the following years:

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and
- k) 2021?

- i. If the answer refers to another document please provide the name of the document and the specific page number where the information can be found

129. How much compensation has been paid to tenants as a result of NCAT orders regarding maintenance issues in the NN07 Newcastle zone in each of the following years?

- a) 2011;
- b) 2012;
- c) 2013;
- d) 2014;
- e) 2015;
- f) 2016;
- g) 2017;
- h) 2018;
- i) 2019;
- j) 2020;and

- k) 2021?
  - i. If the answer refers to another document please provide the name of the document and the specific page number where the information can be found
- 130. If a Member of Parliament reports a maintenance issue to the MP Maintenance team that has not yet been reported to the maintenance line will the matter be actioned?
  - a) If not, why not?
  - b) If not, what is the most appropriate way for MP's to raise maintenance issues on behalf of constituents?
- 131. What action is LAHC taking to address the guttering at 315 Maitland Road, Mayfield which is in an extremely poor condition due to rust?
- 132. Can Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Housing staff report maintenance issues directly to LAHC?
  - a) If so, what is this process?
  - b) If not, why not?
- 133. Does LAHC direct DCJ Housing staff to report matters to the maintenance line instead of directly to them?
- 134. How much money from the NSW Government's Social Housing Maintenance Stimulus Program was spent in the NN07 Newcastle zone?
  - a) Please provide a list of all the projects undertaken and the cost of each project.
- 135. What action is LAHC taking to address the damaged windows at 5 Norton Way, Hamilton South?
  - a) When will the window be repaired?
- 136. Is LAHC aware that a tree fell down at 167 Teralba Road, Adamstown five months ago?
  - a) When will the tree be removed from the property?
  - b) Why has it not been removed?
  - c) What has caused the delay?
  - d) Is this an acceptable timeframe to respond to this issue?
- 137. What are LAHC's responsibilities to ensure that playgrounds they own in housing estates are safe for children and families?
  - a) How often are LAHC playgrounds assessed for safety issues?

- b) How often is maintenance undertaken at LAHC playgrounds?
138. What is LAHC's budget for maintenance of community infrastructure?
- a) How much of that is specifically for playgrounds?
139. Are you aware of the appalling state of the playground located in Neill Terrace, Hamilton South in Newcastle?
140. Do you think your department is meeting their safety requirements for this playground?
- a) What actions have you taken to ensure the playground is safe?
141. Do you support your department's decision to demolish the Hamilton South Community Playground at Neill Terrace and not replace it?
- a) If so, why?
142. Is your department deliberately running these assets into the ground so they can be bulldozed and therefore no longer be LAHC's problem?
143. Would you allow the department to bulldoze a playground in your electorate without replacing it?
144. Will you intervene and direct LAHC to replace the playground at Hamilton South?
- a) If not, why?
  - b) If not, your government has sold over \$50 million of social housing property in the Newcastle LGA since 2011; why won't you direct some of these funds to replacing the playground?
145. What plans does LAHC have for the future of its properties in Stockton?
146. Does LAHC plan to sell any further properties in Stockton?
147. Does LAHC plan to replace any properties in Stockton?

### **Water Recycling at Newcastle Jockey Club**

148. Does the Minister support Newcastle Jockey Club's plan to use recycled water for irrigation purposes at the racecourse, Merewether Golf Course and local parks and gardens?
- a) What work has Hunter Water undertaken on this proposal?
  - b) What is the expected total cost of this project?
  - c) How much water is this initiative expected to save each year?



## WATER

<b>Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>
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### **Water Management (General) Amendment (Emergency Works Exemption) Regulation 2021**

149. How many investigations has NRAR undertaken since 2017 relating to (the egs. In the reg fact sheet)?
150. Did the Department have any consultation with the irrigation industry regarding the reg?
151. Who were the industry bodies that approached the Department about introducing the reg?

### **Floodplain Harvesting**

152. What is NRAR's estimation of water extracted via floodplain harvesting by valley by month for 2020 and 2021
153. The Department engaged Alluvium (Greg Claydon and Tony Weber) to undertake a review of the NSW Floodplain harvesting policy implementation:
  - a) How much did that review cost the Department?
  - b) Did the review check whether the volumes being licenced are actually within the Cap or plan limits for the NSW Border Rivers and the Gwydir valleys?
  - c) On the Department's website, the review is described as an 'Independent Peer Review'.
    - i. Was the report reviewed by any academics?
      1. If so, please provide the names and qualifications of each academic.
    - ii. Was the report formerly reviewed by any other experts?
      1. If so, please provide the names and qualifications of each expert.
    - iii. On what basis can it be described as a 'peer review'?
154. The Department says that it is bringing Floodplain harvesting within Cap and within legal plan limits.
  - a) If floodplain harvesting was never measured, how does the department determine what floodplain harvesting volumes were taken under Cap (1994) or plan limits (2000)?
155. In regards to the Healthy Floodplains Review Committee;
  - a) How were the members appointed?
  - b) How much are the members paid?

- c) Is it correct that NSW Farmers Federation asked the Department that their representative on the committee be removed from the committee?
  - i. Why is this person still a committee member?
- d) Have the members disclosed any conflicts of interest?
  - ii. If so, what are these conflicts of interest?
- e) Do any of the committee members act as a consultant to any northern irrigator groups?
- f) Do any of the members stand to receive floodplain harvesting licences?
- g) Is the committee approving works, volumetric conversions, licence applications or any other approvals?

156. Are there any NRAR staff that have any interest in floodplain harvesting, and/or stand to benefit from floodplain harvesting licences?
157. What number of the volumetric conversions of floodplain harvesting licences have been completed?
- a) How many are in the process of being converted?
  - b) How many conversions are left to do?

### **Wyangala Dam**

158. Is it correct that the level of water in Wyangala will need to be lowered during construction?
- a) What level will the dam need to be lowered to?
  - b) How long will the disruption be for?
  - c) What will be the impact on town water?
  - d) What will be the impact on General Security water?
  - e) Has disruption been modelled?
159. Has the Department of the Minister been in any discussions with gold mining companies in the Lachlan valley about water supply or security?
160. Why did the Department / the Minister seek to split the EPBC Act approval for the Wyangala dam expansion?
161. Why did the MDBA reject the Water Resource Plan for the Lachlan Valley?

## **The Department and stakeholder engagement**

162. How often does the Department prepare social media content for stakeholders?
163. Who attends the fortnightly meetings with the Water Relationships officer or delegates?
  - a) Are there minutes for these meetings?
164. Why are these meetings secret?
165. Have invitations been sent to the groups that Peter Hansen said to avoid?
166. What was the procurement process to engage Peter Hansen?
167. How much is Peter Hansen receiving annually and to date?

## **Sydney Water Bushland Restoration**

168. Please provide a breakdown of how much Sydney Water is spending on each of its bush restoration projects along the Cooks River and on Johnstons Creek in Annandale.

## **Dungowan Dam**

169. Will modelling for the proposed Dungowan Dam include the new climate data that was developed for the Namoi Regional Water Strategy?
170. How will the increased capture of water in the proposed Dungowan Dam interact with the rules in the Namoi Regulated River Water Sharing Plan?
171. Will the cost-benefits analysis in the business case for the proposed Dungowan Dam assess the downstream impacts on the Namoi Regulated River water users such as loss of access to supplementary flows?
172. Will the business case assess the possibility of increased releases from Keepit Dam to meet the end of system flow rules in the Namoi Regulated Water Sharing Plan?

## **Mole River Dam**

173. Is there a planned Stage 2 and Stage 3 for the proposed Mole River Dam?
174. Water use from the Mole River currently operates under water sharing rules for unregulated streams which involves only a fixed charge not charges per megalitre. Will existing licences below the dam be changed to regulated flow licences?
  - a) will the business case for the proposed Mole River Dam include an assessment of the social and economic impacts on those licence holders of any changes to their

water shares, water use and charges, and likely consequent changes to their business operations if the dam proceeds?

175. A substantial part of the costs of managing and maintaining large publicly owned dams is normally recouped via water use charges set by IPART. After Pindari Dam was greatly enlarged in the 1990s, water use charges also included repaying construction costs, but the high water charges made irrigation prohibitively expensive for some water licence holders.
- a) If the Mole River dam proposal proceeds, who will pay for managing and maintaining this extra dam?
  - b) Will the business case benefit-cost analysis include the social and economic costs of losing existing agricultural production that would cease to be financially viable at various levels of management-and-maintenance cost recovery and at various levels of construction-cost recovery?
176. How much of the \$24million being spent on this business case is to be used to assess the impacts of the dam on downstream environments and communities so that these social and environmental costs can be included in the benefit-cost analysis?
- a) Will this include different impacts of alternative options for release and use of the water including loss of high flows past Mungindi into the Barwon-Darling, and impacts on meeting the end-of-system flow targets set in the Border River Regulated Water Sharing Plan rules?

### **Fish Passage**

177. What is the current status of the NSW Fish Passage Strategy?
- a) When will it be released for public comment?
178. What is the total dollar value of the full implementation of the strategy?
- a) Over what timeframe will this be spent?
179. Who will pay for the implementation of the strategy (i.e. tax payers or water users or both)?
180. Does the NSW fish passage strategy (and funds to implement it) encompass the Western Weirs project, the SDL projects and the three new dams (Wyangala, Mole River and Dungowan)?
181. If not, where will the funds to mitigate the impacts of Western Weirs, SDL projects and the three new dams be drawn from?

## Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

### November 2020 ICAC report into water management

In regards to the November 2020 report by ICAC into water management:

182. On page 12 of the transcript, the Minister suggested that 5 recommendations in the ICAC report have been completed. For each of the recommendations the Minister indicated is complete, please indicate how each of those recommendations have been implemented and when they were considered implemented?
183. In regards to Recommendation 11, relating to establishing communication protocols with EES, will the Minister provide a copy of those protocols?
184. In regards to recommendation 3, will the Minister list how each recommendation from the Natural Resources Commission's recommendations have been implemented and when they were implemented
185. What process will the Minister use to ensure that the application of the NSW Government Floodplain Management Policy, especially any regulations required to implement the licencing of floodplain harvesting, will comply with Section 5 of the NSW Water Management Act 2000.

### Water Management Act hierarchy of water sharing

186. In regards to the advice received on the application of the water sharing hierarchy contained in section 5 of the Water Management Act 2000, referred to on page 21 of the transcript, please confirm:
  - a) Who provided this advice?
  - b) When was this advice provided?
  - c) Has any advice been sought by the Crown Solicitor? If not, will such advice be sought?
  - d) Will any legal advice be made available to the Committee?

### Floodplain harvesting - peer reviewed figures

187. A Sydney Morning Herald article found at: <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/world-of-hurt-toxic-blooms-take-over-lower-darling-river-as-dam-debate-ramps-up-20210225-p575r7.html> included the following quote from a spokesperson from the Minister for Water:

“The NSW government is in the process of releasing peer-reviewed figures on floodplain harvesting”.

- a) What are these peer-reviewed figures?
- b) Who peer-reviewed them?
- c) When will they be released?

### **Floodplain harvesting - exemption**

188. Regarding the Draft Water Management (General) Amendment (Exemption for Rainfall Run-off Collection) Regulation 2020:

- a) Is there an estimate of annual (or similar reporting period) water take that the Regulation will allow?
  - i. If so, please provide
  - ii. If not, is there an intention for this to be measured?
  - iii. If not, what is the government doing to ensure this exemption does not allow excessive water take
- b) What prevents non-rainfall run-off being collected in the irrigation field and counted as rainfall run-off?
- c) What is the justification for this exemption, considering that 10% harvestable rights are allowed?

### **Healthy Floodplains Committee**

189. In regards to the functions of the Healthy Floodplains Committee:

- a) What is the Committee approving or reviewing? I.e. is the Committee considering floodplain harvesting licence applications?
- b) What is the justification behind the confidentiality arrangements with the Committee?
- c) Are meeting minutes, with attendees and decisions, made public?
  - i. If not, why not?

### **Floodplain harvesting - Gwydir and general rules**

190. Why is DPIE claiming there is no power under the Water Management Act 2000 that allows for the announcement of access to floodplain harvesting events when there are proposed rules in the Gwydir Regulated Water Sharing Plan and the Gwydir Unregulated Water Sharing Plan to provide protection for actively managed overbank flows?

- a) Why can't similar rules to those for supplementary access in the Gwydir Regulated Water Sharing Plan be implemented for floodplain harvesting access that recognise flow targets listed in Schedule 1?

191. Why is DPIE-Water tying return flows to consideration of end of system targets when considering floodplain harvesting access rules?
192. How is the proposed implementation of floodplain harvesting access rules meeting the objectives of the Water Management Act 2000?
193. How is the Gwydir Floodplain Management Plan being implemented in regard to structures hindering high flood flow connectivity?
194. How does the Floodplain Management Plan interact with eligibility criteria of floodplain structures to be licenced for floodplain harvesting in the Gwydir?
195. If 94% of properties in the regulated Gwydir have structures to be licenced for floodplain harvesting within zone A & zone D of the Floodplain Management Plan, how will the Gwydir Floodplain Management Plan protect sensitive areas and high flood flow connectivity on the floodplain?
196. What process is being undertaken by NRAR to remove unapproved structures from the floodplain?
197. Why is DPIE-Water favouring a 5 year accounting period for floodplain harvesting when there are adequate methods available to manage growth in use?
198. Why is modelling used to demonstrate growth in use of floodplain harvesting through the installation of new works (as outlined on p 29 Gwydir Community Report - DPIE, Feb 2021. Gwydir floodplain harvesting in water sharing plans. Report to assist community consultation) when the proposed rules for the Gwydir Regulated Water Source and Gwydir Unregulated Water Source prevent new works from being installed or modified for increased take in zones A or D of the Gwydir Floodplain Management Plan.
199. What is the modelling outcome under model growth Test B when full allocation is available once every 5 years rather than every year, as reported in Table 12 p 29 Gwydir Community Report?
200. Why is only the 5 year accounting framework used in the model to assess environmental outcomes in the Gwydir?

### **Natural Resource Commission review of Peel Valley Water Sharing Plan**

201. Has the Government provided a response to the Natural Resource Commission's review of Peel Valley Water Sharing Plan completed in May 2020?
  - a) If so, is this public and will it be made public?

202. Did the Peel Valley Water Sharing Plan submitted to the Murray Darling Basin Authority incorporate the findings of the NRC review?
- a) If so, which recommendations and which clauses were adjusted as a result?
  - b) If not, how will the recommendations be implemented in the water sharing plan?

### **Water resource plan development process**

In regards to the water resource plan development process as required under the Basin Plan:

203. Please provide a list or table of water resource plans and water sharing plans that have been submitted to the Murray Darling Basin Authority?
- a) Which water sharing plans received concurrence from the Environment Minister?
204. Which plans (water resource or water sharing) have been sent back by the Murray Darling Basin Authority
- a) For each plan returned what was the reason for the Murray Darling Basin Authority?
205. What is the justification for introducing, after exhibition, in several regulated water sharing plans the new clause on underuse (see for example clause 76 of the draft Gwydir Regulated River Water Source 2020 submitted to the Murray Darling Basin Authority)?
206. What is the justification for the change, after exhibition, to the definition of Planned Environmental Water in several regulated water sharing plans (see for example clause 15 of the draft draft Gwydir Regulated River Water Source 2020 submitted to the Murray Darling Basin Authority)?
- a) Was advice sought from EES on this change before submission?
  - b) If so, what was that advice?

### **Macquarie Re-regulating Weir**

207. How will the proposed Macquarie River Reregulating Storage impact on the 5 GL flow target at Marebone Weir that triggers supplementary flow access through rules in the Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated River?
208. How will capture of rainfall rejections in the proposed Macquarie River Reregulating Storage change flow access for downstream unregulated irrigators?
209. How will capture of rainfall rejection in the proposed Macquarie River Reregulating Storage impact on water availability at Warren Weir?



210. Why are the water debiting rules in the Macquarie Valley so complex?
211. How has the issue of water debiting been considered in regard to the volumes of rainfall rejections provided in Hansard Question and Answer 1835?
212. Why is a new highly expensive, publicly funded instream structure with multiple dis-benefits to downstream users being considered when improved water order debiting would provide the same level of improved reliability to general security licences?
213. Has the business case for the proposed Macquarie River Reregulating Storage been finalised?
214. Will the commitment in the draft Macquarie Regional Water Strategy that funding will only be allocated to the business case be maintained?
215. What is the annual average volume of water orders supplied to customers from tributary inflows to the Macquarie River that replace filling orders from Burrendong Dam releases?