



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021

Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

TREASURY

Hearing: Monday 8 March 2021

Answers due by: 1 April 2021

Budget Estimates secretariat

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TREASURY

Questions from the Hon Robert Borsak MLC

Power House Museum

1. Why did you announce on 4 July 2020 that the existing Powerhouse Museum at Ultimo will not be demolished adding \$195 million to the cost of the project?
 - (a) Did Minister Harwin know about this in advance?

2. How much will Willow Grove cost to dismantle and move?
 - (a) Where will it go to?

3. Is the government planning on reviewing the cost of the project at Parramatta given that CFMEU have a green ban on the removal/demolition of Willow Grove?

4. Do you believe that the Parramatta Powerhouse will need to be assessed again if Willow Grove problem isn't solved?

5. Are there or has your office considered other alternative Parramatta Powerhouse locations or alternatives?
 - (a) If so, what are they?

6. Did you department consult with Suzette Meade of the Parramatta Action Group on alternative solutions?
 - (a) If not why?

7. Do you think there is a more cost effective solution to the current Powerhouse Museum on the flood plain next to the Parramatta River?

Questions from the Hon Mark Latham MLC

Question to the Treasurer:

8. Of the 10 staff working on Indigenous matters, since June 2020, which visits have they made to heavily disadvantaged Indigenous communities in Western NSW? What are the details?
9. What policy changes and programs resulted from the visits in (8) above?
10. What capacity do the 10 Indigenous Treasury staff have for directly changing the policies and programs of:
 - (a) NSW Aboriginal
 - (b) NSW Department of Education and
 - (c) any other government agency?
11. What new Treasury programs and policies have been developed as a consequence of the work of the 10 Indigenous staff. What have they achieved other than the \$38,000 painting in the kitchen?
12. Are Treasury staff still using 'gendered words' like husband, wife and guys, and what extra training programs have been organised since September 2020 to end this free speech practice inside the Treasury?
13. What is the cost to Treasury of the flags, logo changes, apparel and other paraphernalia used to mark Mardi Gras for the month of March 2021?
14. Why was the Treasury's Mardi Gras flag ceremony moved from Monday 1 March to Wednesday 3 March to suit the work from home commitments of Joann Wilkie?
15. Was Tim Reardon invited to the ceremony in (7) above? Was this because Treasury lacked organisational capacity and needed the Smartest Man in the Room to sort out the event?
16. What has been the schedule for each Government Department and their distinct responsibilities for introducing Outcome-Based Budgeting – fully implemented/operational, partly implemented and yet to be implemented?

Question to Mr Pratt

17. What was the breakdown of expenditure for the \$37691 spent on the Treasury's Josie Rose 'reconciliation' painting said to be hanging in the staff kitchen? What was spent on:
- (a) the artist,
 - (b) consultants,
 - (c) commissioning agents,
 - (d) materials,
 - (e) hanging process and
 - (f) any other related purpose, and who exactly received these funds?

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Public sector wages

18. Will you commit to increasing public sector wages above 2.5% to ensure that the workers on the frontline of the COVID crisis aren't carrying the pay cut you enforced in 2020 into future years?

Silicosis

19. How many silicosis notifications were there since the compulsory reporting introduced from 1 July 2020?
20. Are you satisfied with the way SafeWorkNSW is undertaking to follow up these matters?
21. Is SafeWork reporting regularly to iCare? What is the frequency of this reporting?
22. How many workplace investigations have been triggered by these notifications?
23. How many on the spot fines have been issues for PCBUs failing to notify SafeWork NSW of an [adverse health monitoring report](#).
24. Are you aware of the Victorian case about silicosis induced lupus? Is this something being followed up in NSW?
25. How much funding has been provided to the subsidised Lung Screen service?
26. How many workers have been screened?

27. How many total screenings have been carried out?

Home building compensation fund

28. What was the deficit of the Home Building Compensation Fund scheme in the most recent financial year?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Youth unemployment

29. Youth unemployment is yet to return to pre-pandemic rates, currently sitting nationally at 13.9 per cent. How many of the jobs promised to be created in the 2020-21 state budget have gone to young people?

Budget line items

30. To ensure transparency and accountability, will the NSW Treasury commit to clearly stated Budget line items in the 2021 Budget Papers to ensure spending on domestic and family violence prevention and response in New South Wales can be tracked?

Minimum Viable Product grants

31. The Government's online information on Minimum Viable Product (MVP) grants states that applications will be assessed within eight weeks of submission, subject to volume of applications. I understand that applications opened in July. I have been made aware of one particular application which was made in October, and which still has not been assessed. Even accounting for two weeks of Department shutdown over the holidays, that's more than double the number of working weeks advised as the expected turnaround time.

- (a) How many applications for MVP grants have been received since 1 July 2020?
- (b) What is the average time for assessment of MVP grant applications?
- (c) How much MVP grant money had been allocated as of 31 December 2020?
- (d) How much MVP grant money had been allocated as of 9 March 2021?

Property tax

32. Will the findings of user group testing currently being conducted into land tax, stamp duty, and the currently-proposed model for changing NSW's property tax regime be released publicly? If so, when are they expected to be published?
33. Please provide the modelling and underlying assumptions used to determine which model would be proposed by Treasury for changing NSW's property tax regime.

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

34. Does the Government's policy on container facility development apply to Port of Newcastle Investments Pty Ltd?
35. Is it Government policy that a container terminal will not be developed at the Port of Newcastle before Port Botany and Port Kembla become fully developed?
36. Does Port of Newcastle Investments Pty Ltd have a contractual right to develop a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle?
37. What was the Government's source of funds on 31 May 2013 to meet its contractual commitment to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?
38. What was the Government's source of funds on 30 May 2014 to meet its contractual commitment to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?
39. Was the Government's decision to lease the Port of Newcastle to the private sector, as announced on 5 November 2013, made for the purpose of funding the Government's

contractual commitment to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?

40. Did the Government lease the Port of Newcastle to Port of Newcastle Investments Pty Ltd on 30 May 2014 for the purpose of funding the Government's contractual commitment to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?
41. If not, what is the Government's source of funds to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?
42. Why is the Government concealing the date that the ACCC was informed of the Government's contractual commitment to pay NSW Ports Pty Ltd for container traffic above 30,000 TEUs per year as at 1 July 2013, increasing by six per cent per year, for 50 years, at the Port of Newcastle?
43. Are you aware of the Prime Minister's support of the construction of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle?
44. Do you agree with the Prime Minister that the Port of Newcastle should construct a container terminal?
45. Is the Prime Minister correct in saying that a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle would create jobs?
46. Would a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle increase competition in the freight and logistics sector?
47. Would a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle be beneficial for farmers in NSW?
48. Has NSW Treasury undertaken any economic modelling on the impacts of a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle?

Employees

49. Minister, for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your portfolio:
- (a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
 - (b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees— both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (f) What is the lowest pay received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
 - (i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (m) What is the lowest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - (p) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?

- (q) What is the average number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (r) What is the highest number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (s) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- (u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
- (v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
- (w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?

50. Cluster Secretary- for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your Cluster:

- (a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
- (b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
- (c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
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- (u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
- (v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
- (w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?

Job Keeper Modelling

51. Given NSW Treasury projected in December 2020 that 500,000 NSW workers would be exposed to difficulty at the end of March due to the removal of Jobkeeper, would Treasury provide their modelling on the projected unemployment to increase once the JobKeeper program concludes, in terms of:
- (a) Total increase in number of jobs lost in NSW within the first month – by the end of April;
 - (b) Total increase in the unemployment rate in NSW – by the end of April.

JobSeeker

52. What modelling has Treasury done on the impact of the reduced JobSeeker rate on the NSW economy?
- (a) In terms of:

- i. Household spending
- ii. Retail spending

Half Yearly Budget Paper

53. The Half Yearly Budget Review states that business insolvencies in 2020 were below the decade average, but are expected to bounce this year (Page 10, Chapter 2.3 of Half Yearly Update). How many insolvencies is Treasury expecting in NSW this year?
54. In the Half Yearly Budget Review it states that capital project spending is down by \$1.6 billion for the next four years, and this is due to “timing” (Section 3.4, “Capital expenditure outlook”). Would you please provide which projects have had the timing of their funding adjusted?
55. Since the start of 2020, has your government sought contributions from the federal government towards infrastructure funding, and if so:
- (a) Which projects were put forward by the NSW Government?
 - (b) Which projects will be receiving support from the federal government?
 - (c) How much funding will the federal government provide for each of these projects?

Grants Schemes

56. Regarding the Export Assistance Grant:
- (a) How much money from the grant scheme has been spent?
 - (b) How many businesses have received grants through the scheme?
57. What is the value of the university loans that the NSW government has guaranteed?
58. Will the government extend the Southern Border Small Business Support Grant program, and if so:
- (a) When will the program commence and conclude?
 - (b) What will be the dollar value of the program?

59. On 26 May 2020 the government announced a scheme to provide \$420 million of insurance premium relief. How much relief was provided under this scheme as of 10 March 2021?
60. On 22 May 2020 the government announced a \$12.6 million support package for the taxi industry. How much relief was provided under this scheme as of 10 March 2021?
61. On 15 May 2020 the government announced a \$20 million support package for international students. How much relief was provided under this scheme as of 10 March 2021?

Land Sales

62. What is the value of the land the NSW government currently owns as per the 2020-21 financial year?
63. For every financial year since 2011 where there have been land or property sales or disposal targets, please provide:
 - (a) The target for each NSW Government Department or Agency
 - (b) The result for each NSW Government Department or Agency

Please note this information is not publically available, contrary to indications at Budget Estimates.

Ministerial disclosures

64. Treasurer Dominic Perrottet, in your Ministerial Disclosures, on 22 December 2020 you met with the Anti-slavery taskforce:
 - (a) Would you provide a list of who attended the meeting
 - (b) Were minutes taken?
65. Given S&P Global downgraded the NSW Government's credit rating:
 - (a) Have the Treasurer or Treasury officials had discussions with S&P Global regarding this decision?
 - (b) When does the government forecast a return to a AAA credit rating from S&P Global?

Gaming

66. Would you provide a breakdown of the gambling and betting tax revenue (separately) received by the NSW government for each month between January 2020 and February 2021 by each month from:

- (a) Club gaming devices
- (b) Hotel gaming devices