



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021**

### **Supplementary Questions**

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

**JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY**

Hearing: Wednesday 10 March 2021

**Answers due by: 6 April 2021**

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# **JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY**

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

### **Jobs**

1. Can you confirm how many jobs are expected to be created by normal economic activity in Western Sydney Parklands and by when?
  - (a) How are the number of jobs being created being monitored?
  - (b) Are there regular reports or updates that come to you providing an update on figures?
  - (c) How many have been created since 1/1/2018?
    - i. Can you provide a breakdown of what industries those jobs were in?
2. Can you confirm whether the government's plan to create an additional jobs (excluding those created by normal economic activity) are to be created in the entire Western Sydney region or Western Sydney Parklands?
  - (a) What time frame did you set for those 200,000 jobs to be created and when did that timeframe begin?
  - (b) How many additional jobs have been created to date?
  - (c) Can you provide a breakdown of what industries those jobs have been created in?
  - (d) How are you monitoring the number of additional jobs created?
  - (e) Are regular reports presented to you detailing updated figures of additional jobs created?
  - (f) What is the government doing to create those additional jobs?
  - (g) Is there percentage of jobs that must go to local people and if so, how it that policed?
  - (h) Will the government impose any ramifications on itself should it fail to reached the additional jobs target?
  - (i) Can you provide a breakdown of how many jobs will be created in each local government area?
3. Explain what policies the government has in place to create jobs specifically in the following LGAs:
  - (a) Georges River
  - (b) Parramatta

- (c) Cumberland
  - (d) Blacktown
  - (e) Canterbury-Bankstown
4. Have you had discussion with the Local Government Minister or any of your other Ministerial colleagues about the need to establish another council – or councils – in or around the aerotropolis?
  5. Have you been provided any updates regarding the finalisation of flight paths?
    - (a) When do you expect the finalisation of the flight paths will be announced?
  6. Information in contained in the Draft Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (contained in the Draft Aerotropolis Precinct Plans that were on exhibition from 10/11/2020 till 12/03/2021) were heavily redacted. Can you explain why?
    - (a) Will the government make that information public so the public can make an informed decision regarding that technical report.
    - (b) Can you specifically explain why the following references in the report were redacted:
      - i. Information on page 25 of the report
      - ii. Figure 9 on page 34
      - iii. Figure 10 on page 35
      - iv. Figure 11 on page 36
      - v. Figure 12 page 37
      - vi. Figure 13 page 38
      - vii. Most of the information on page 42
      - viii. All of pages 43, 44 and 45
      - ix. Most of pages 105, 106 and 107
      - x. Page 122
      - xi. A large section of information on page 123
      - xii. Information on page 124
      - xiii. Information on pages 130 and 131
      - xiv. All of page 132
    - (c) How much were Extent Heritage paid to conduct the study?

- (d) Who were the 130 people consulted in regards to the report?

### **Industry monitoring and evaluation**

7. The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP discussed the “resilience” of tourism operators across the state, and said Job-Keeper program had a “profound” impact upon the industry. Is the Government tracking the impact of COVID-19 and JobKeeper on the tourism industry?
- (a) If so, what methods are being used to track the impact?
  - (b) If not, why not?
8. Has the Government set itself any targets in relation to the impact of COVID on the tourism industry and the success or failure of state and economic stimulus packages for the industry?
- (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) How many businesses in the NSW tourism industry will lose jobs when JobKeeper ends?
  - (c) How many jobs will be lost in the tourism industry when JobKeeper ends?
  - (d) How many businesses will go bankrupt in the tourism industry when JobKeeper ends?
9. What plans does the State Government to target a relief package for the tourism in the industry?
10. Are there any KPIs for assessing the efficacy of the State and Federal Governments’ relief packages?
- (a) If so, what are they?
  - (b) if not, why not?
11. What are the parameters of success?
- (a) Jobs retained?
    - i. And if so, what are the Government’s targets?
  - (b) Business insolvencies/bankruptcy rates?
    - i. And if so, what are the Government’s targets?
  - (c) Hotel occupancy?
    - i. And if so, what are the Government’s targets?
  - (d) Increased visitation in specific visitor regions?
  - (e) And if so, what are the Government’s targets?

12. What surveys has the Government undertaken in relation to the success of current and previous COVID tourism recovery grants?
  - (a) Please table the results of any surveys including copies of the survey questions, and response rates disaggregated by sector of the industry.
13. At Budget estimates, the Minister said the ending of Job-Keeper was “appropriate”, what percentage of the tourism industry agrees with you?

### **Net Trade Deficits**

14. The Minister also commented that Australia is a net trade deficit country when it comes to Tourism. How does that relate to Australians choosing to travel within Australia. Are there more tourists leaving Sydney for other states, or more tourists visiting Sydney from other states?
  - (a) Have these figures change since COVID-19?
  - (b) What percentage of Queenslanders from outside Brisbane have visited the capital in the 12 months to 1 March 2021?
  - (c) What percentage of Queenslanders from Brisbane have visited regional areas in the 12 months to 1 March 2021?
  - (d) What percentage of people from regional NSW have visited Sydney in the 12 months to 1 March 2021?
  - (e) What percentage of Sydneysiders have visited regional areas in the 12 months to 1 March 2021?
  - (f) How will the Federal Government's flight packages change the net trade deficits in tourism between NSW and Queensland over the autumn and winter months?
  - (g) As Merimbula was the only location in NSW included in the proposal, does the plan go far enough for NSW?
  - (h) What consultations did the Minister have with his Federal colleagues regarding the package?
  - (i) Did the Minister fight for more locations in NSW to be included in the plan?
  - (j) What modelling was provided by the Federal Government to explain which air routes had been included in the package?

- (k) The accommodation sector has been clear that there is nothing in these proposals for Sydney and most of regional NSW? Why has the Federal Government ignored the ongoing industry advocacy to assist with occupancy rates?

### **Zoos and Aquarium funding**

15. Given the significant underspend in the Zoos and Aquariums program, in your opinion does it make any sense to expand and continue this program?

### **Morrison Government's Tourism Covid Package**

16. The North Coast of NSW was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 9th most visited regions for international tourists?
- (a) How many jobs have been lost in tourism in the North Coast in the year to 1 March 2021?
- (b) How many tourism businesses have become insolvent or gone into bankruptcy in the North Coast in the year to March 2021
17. The Hunter was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 12th most visited regions for international tourists.
18. The New England North West was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 24th most visited regions for international tourists.
19. The Central Coast was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 24th most visited regions for international tourists.
20. Central NSW was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 32nd most visited regions for international tourists.
21. The Blue Mountains region was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 36th most visited regions for international tourists.
22. The Riverina was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 37th most visited regions for international tourists.
23. Capital Country was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 42nd most visited regions for international tourists (and being located around Canberra).
24. The Murray was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 43rd most visited regions for international tourists.

25. The Snowy Mountains was not on the list of 13 regions to receive funding, despite being ranked as the 44th most visited regions for international tourists.
26. Many tourism regions in NSW have been devastated by drought, fire, floods and COVID in the last three years, why did the Federal Government not grant them any funding as part of the tourism package?
27. The 13 locations on the list correspond with marginal electoral seats, is the Federal Government more focused on pork-barrelling to win votes than helping Australians in need?

### **Dine & Discover Vouchers**

28. In Budget Estimates, it was reported that there was 98% positive feedback amongst business owners, and 96% amongst patrons for the Dine and Discover Voucher program. Was this for the registration process or another aspect of the voucher?
29. How many vouchers have been used in the scheme?
30. Please disaggregate by category of business the voucher was used at and location?
31. Why didn't the Government choose to include accommodation in the Dine and Discover Voucher?
32. How many tourism businesses in each category of the Dine and Discover businesses have been registered?
33. How many have applied but been rejected?
34. How many have had vouchers presented to them?
35. The Government's "Dine and Discover" stimulus package is half the size of Victoria's, it can't be spent on accommodation or organised tours, and hasn't even started to operate. Pretty much all of the other states have some kind of voucher system, most of them more generous and most of them have been operating since October. Why has it taken so long for NSW to get these vouchers out?
36. Victoria announced their initiative at around the same time as NSW. Why hasn't our voucher system been rolled out?

### **Regional Event Fund**

37. The CEO of DNSW reported that only 3 of the 59 events given monies by the Regional Event Fund actually took place.

- (a) How did the State Government keep track of the events?
  - (b) What processes were put in place to ensure the money was used as intended?
  - (c) Who was responsible for liaising with event organisers?
  - (d) Have any event organisers returned the grants?
  - (e) If so, how many?
38. When were the guidelines changed to allow for postponement?
39. Have any of the Event organisers who have not operated events under the fund received funding?
40. Have all grants received been acquitted?
41. Which of the 59 events that were funded in the Covid response were:
- (a) Postponed
  - (b) Held online
  - (c) cancelled
42. What has happened to the grant monies that were provided to the postponed, held online or cancelled events?
- (a) Have the monies been returned to Destination NSW?
43. Wasn't one of the criteria of the funding that the money would have to be spent within the period?
44. How is it fair that organisations that could put together a funding application in the short time frame could get funding, even if they didn't hold events, whilst other organisations that couldn't get their funding applications in on time, but managed to hold events didn't get the opportunity for funding?
45. Was the funding deadline was unrealistic as there was general uncertainty as to when or how the lockdown would lift?
46. Given the slamming DNSW got from the Auditor General about the transparency around major event funding, is it appropriate that the Annual Report from Destination NSW had just one paragraph about the Regional Event Fund, which listed the 59 events that were successful in gaining funding, but there was no reporting as to what events were actually held, which were postponed, which were held online and which were cancelled?



47. Given the pitiful record of the Berejiklian Barilaro government relating to transparency around grant funding, how can the Minister guarantee tourism businesses that their applications for grants are treated in a fair and equitable manner and determined on their own merits?

### **Quarantine**

48. NSW has the highest quarantine rates in the country, at \$3,000. We know that tourism has been the hardest hit sector, with more than 51 per cent of international visitors to Australia coming to NSW. That market, which is worth \$7.7 billion to the state's economy, was turned off overnight. Have you done anything to reduce the quarantine costs for visitors coming to the state?

### **Dine & Discover Vouchers**

49. In the Budget Speech, the Treasurer announced "half a billion dollars in stimulus for NSW restaurants, visitor sites and cultural attractions through the Out and About voucher". I know this voucher has subsequently been renamed the Dine and Discover Voucher, why hasn't the Government applied the vouchers to tourism accommodation?
50. Isn't tourism accommodation an important part of the visitor economy?
51. Tamworth City Council had to make the difficult decision to cancel its Country Music Festival in January this year. What is the tourism occupancy in Tamworth for providers who have lost their key tourism period, and aren't eligible for the Dine and Discover Vouchers?
52. What has the take up been of all tourism providers (visitor experiences such as cellar doors, theme parks, zoos, tours, etc)? Please disaggregate the following questions by tourism category as at 12 March 2021:
- (a) How many tourism providers have registered with the program?
  - (b) How many tourism providers have applied for the program
  - (c) How many tourism providers have been successful in applying for the program?
53. The Northern Territory's vouchers are worth up to \$400, and can be spent on accommodation and on fuel to encourage regional visitation to areas outside of the capital and Alice Springs. Has the NSW considered a similar package for NSW?
54. Do you think people would travel for over 4 hours to Parramatta or Penrith when they can get only \$25 off a dinner and say \$25 off a cinema ticket?
55. Wouldn't a higher value voucher encourage tourism for those who may not be able to afford it?

56. The Government has said that the Dine and Discover NSW program would be piloted with businesses at Broken Hill and the Rocks in Early February. Has the pilot been completed and what were the outcomes?
- (a) How has that changed the rollout for other destinations?
  - (b) The pilot was then to be extended to the Sydney CBD, the Bega Valley and the Northern Beaches from Late February. How have those pilots gone?
  - (c) Is the program on track to roll out across the state before the end of March 2021?
57. Do you know how many tourism businesses that Service NSW has written to inviting them to register for the Dine and Discover Vouchers?
- (a) How did they select the businesses?
    - i. What was the criteria?
    - ii. What ABN numbers were listed as being relevant?
  - (b) How many businesses inquired about registration?
    - i. Can you please disaggregate by month since announcement?
  - (c) How many businesses registered?
    - i. Can you please disaggregate by month since announcement?
  - (d) Are wineries included in the vouchers?
    - i. When were they included
  - (e) Are all coach tour operators included in the vouchers?
    - i. When were they included?

### **Transparency and Leadership to Industry and the Parliament**

58. At an industry round table hosted by the Labor Opposition Shadow Minister for Investment and Tourism with coach tourism operators in June 2020, there was widespread confusion about the rules relating to how coach tourism operators could operate. Advice subsequently received from the NSW Department of Health was that there were no strict numbers or social distancing requirements within which coach tourism could operate, but that it would be “understandable if coach tour operators thought they couldn’t operate, or that it would not be profitable to operate, as there were limits on having more than ten people gathering at that time.” On the other hand, the Office of the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads responded that coach tour operators could not operate any tours. What was the correct advice?
- (a) What had you done to communicate the correct advice to industry before June 2020?
  - (b) If you had done nothing – why not?

- (c) If so, what had you done?
  - (d) What if any, attempts have you made to assist coach and group tour operators in interpreting the Public Health Orders?
  - (e) Soon after the Department of Health advice that coach tour operators had no limits on the number of people on a coach was made public a so-called party bus was fined under the Public Health Orders. Are party buses part of the visitor economy?
59. How often have you met with BusNSW or other bus industry representatives during the pandemic?
  60. Why did it take more than four months before Destination NSW held its first webinar for tourism operators after the Summer bushfires and the pandemic started?
  61. Why didn't Destination NSW, or the Minister, attend the NSW Local Government Tourism Conference in Jindabyne in March this year?
  62. Destination NSW was supposed to present a bushfire recovery module there, why didn't they turn up to the Conference?
  63. NSW National Parks presented at the Conference as did Tourism Australia. Don't you think it was important that you as the relevant Minister or Destination NSW should have attended to support the industry at that local Government level?
  64. There were less than 500 at the LGNSW Tourism conference, and in fact, they had a presenter from New Zealand present via a pre-recorded video. Why didn't the Minister or Destination NSW do the same?
  65. What kind of message do you think that gives the sector, when the message about COVID from the beginning has been "we're all in this together"?
  66. How many briefings have you given to Members of Parliament relating to the impact on tourism businesses of the bushfires or Covid-19?
    - (a) If so, how many,
    - (b) Have you included all parties in those briefings?
    - (c) If not, why not?
  67. Travel agents and Group Tour Operators have complained about the language used by Government Ministers and the Premier when encouraging people to resume their tourism activities. Travel agencies, particularly, have spent many months, much of it unpaid, rearranging their clients' travel itineraries, to get them home safely, or to rebook their tours for later, or obtain refunds that are often difficult to obtain due to multiple and conflicting terms and

conditions While travel agents have survived the continued disruption of the internet, they need support during this time. Why has the Government advice continued to emphasis “booking online” to the detriment of travel agencies?

### **New Chair of Destination NSW**

68. The appointment of Christine McLoughlin to the board of Destination NSW was announced on 8 March as John Warn has stepped down from the board of Destination NSW after two and a half years. What was the selection process for the position?
- (a) Did the Minister call for expressions of interest for the role of Chair?
  - (b) If so, how many applications did you receive?
  - (c) If not, why not?

### **Auditor General’s Report into *Destination NSW’s Support for Major Events* – Released 9 April 2020**

69. Key findings of the Auditor General’s report into Destination NSW’s Support for Major Events was released on 9 April 2020. Key findings of the Auditor General’s report were around a lack of transparency in relation to how spending happens. Has the Minister made improvements to his recording of decision making and outcomes of investment in events?
- (a) How many recommendations of the report were supported by the Government?
  - (b) How has DNSW and the Minister’s office implemented those recommendations?
  - (c) How has DNSW and the Minister’s office improved the Ministerial briefings as part of those recommendations?

### **\$3.5 million Tourism Funding Grants – too little, too late.**

70. The Queensland Government provided loans of up to \$250,000 as part of its COVID-19 Jobs Support Loans, with no repayments or interest payable for the first year. Plus two years of interest only rates, with principal and interest repayments commencing only after the third year, for the remainder of the term of the loan. This kind of loan structure was particularly helpful for tourism operators without the cashflow to pay fixed expenses over the last year. Why didn’t the NSW Government look at a similar program for tourism operators early in the pandemic?
71. Tourism operators have been working to pivot their businesses for more than a year now with the bushfires and the pandemic, why did the Government wait until February 2021 to release any grants?

72. Some of these grants only have six weeks to apply, but require development applications which may take much longer to approve. Wouldn't it have been better to open the grants earlier and keep them open for longer to enable operators to apply and meet their planning conditions?
73. Some of the funding requires matched dollar-for-dollar funding. How are operators who have had little to no income, who lose JobKeeper on 28 March possibly be going to be able to afford these grants?
74. And what about operators who have managed to invest in their businesses over the last 12 months, but now when JobKeeper ends will find themselves without any support?
75. The Government's grants packages provide no funding to cover upgrading vehicles, boats, tents or other mobile facilities and equipment, despite group and transport based travel being hit particularly badly by the pandemic. Why isn't the Government funding initiatives for product development to improve vehicles or cruise vessels for example?

### **Regional Business Event Development Fund**

76. Given that many of the events that were supposed to occur via the Regional Event Fund last year never happened, how will DNSW ensure that the half a million dollars put into the Regional Business Event Development Fund grants program is expended on events that actually happen?

### **\$10 million Tourism Recovery Package – Announced 8 February 2020**

77. The Government announced a number of tourism recovery packages in 2020, what quantum of support in that package did the Government give to small individual sole trader tourism businesses or small and family businesses?
78. What has been the take up of these grants so far?
  - (a) Please advise the number applications to date
  - (b) When will the grants be announced so successful grantees expect to be able to start their projects?

### **Destination NSW's success in Major Event Funding Bids**

79. How many major events has Destination NSW bid in the last three years?
80. How many of those applications have been successful? Please disaggregate by
  - (a) Name of the Grant Program
  - (b) Name of the Event

- (c) Amount of the grant funding allocated to the event?
- (d) Matched funding
- (e) Date of the event
- (f) Date of application for grant funding

### **Services to Businesses from Destination NSW**

81. On page 11 of the Annual Report, Destination NSW has some information about its brand development and management, strategic partnership programs, co-operative marketing programs etc. How many tourism businesses does Destination NSW offer these services to?
- (a) Is there a break down of the costs of providing each of these services by operator?
  - (b) Or even by the area of work?

### **NSW Wine Industry**

82. The NSW Wine Industry has some 520 wineries, 380 cellar doors and 34,000 hectares of vineyards. Given the challenges that have been facing the industry from smoke taint, to a reduction in exports to China, what specific strategies have you taken to assist cellar doors in their tourism businesses?
83. Were cellar doors initially included in the Dine and Discover Voucher program?
- (a) If not, why not?
84. Were cellar doors given specific advice about Covid Safe operation taking into consideration the unique nature of their operations?
- (a) If not, why not?

### **Regional Tourism Awards**

85. Minister the Regional Tourism Awards have been around since 2004 and we've seen first hand what a difference the awards have made to many regional tourism businesses and events across the state. Sadly, the event didn't proceed last year as it failed to secure a major sponsor. On the NSW Tourism website it advises that the Tourism NSW awards will return in 2021 but there doesn't appear to be a commitment regarding the Regional Tourism Awards. Has the NSW Government provided funding for the 2021 Regional Tourism Awards?
- (a) If not, why not?
  - (b) Was the NSW Government approached to fund the event?
    - i. If so how much was requested?

- (c) Regional Tourism Awards organisers admitted that “in the past we’ve seen a dip in entries for the NSW Tourism Awards when there has been no Regional Tourism Awards.” Are you concerned that without support for the Regional Tourism Awards the NSW Tourism Awards may become unfeasible?
- (d) If so, how much funding will the Government provide?
- (e) Has the NSW Government committed to sponsor the event in future years?
- (f) If so, what is the length of time and value of that commitment?
- (g) If not, why not?
- (h) When will the event be held?

### **Coach Tourism Operators - Vehicle registration and other relief**

- 86. Has the CEO of DNSW read the industry briefing from the Bus Industry Confederation which surveyed the bus industry in April 2020?
- 87. Noting the extremely high number of operators in NSW who had to mothball their vehicles, take up bank incentives and the high number of operators either relying on JobKeeper or letting staff go to remain in business, what has the NSW Government done to assist this sector of the tourism industry?
- 88. Other jurisdictions have provided registration relief for coach tourism operators who have had to park their vehicles up for more than a year since the 2019 Bushfires began. Coach Registration can cost up to \$10,000 per vehicle in addition to vehicle repayments of up to \$10,000 per month. Whilst some have suspended their registration and/or insurances, this will also be problematic for them when they have to re-register and re-insure them as they will have to get and pay for inspections again. Other states have introduced a regime where the operator takes a photo or uses company records of their registration numbers at the commencement of COVID-19, to show that the vehicle has had little to no use afterwards. Why has the NSW Government not provided any similar kind of registration relief to tourism coach operators who have not had any coach tours going for now well over 12 months.
  - (a) With the loss of inbound tourism, coach transfers doing airport and cruise shuttles have come to a complete stop. Many operators have not been able to afford their coach repayments, which may cost as much as \$7,000 per month. What assistance has the Government provided to these operators?
  - (b) Has DNSW or the Minister advocated for operators to be able to “pause” their vehicle registration rather than having to cancel it and re register?

## **Waiver of Bus Operator Accreditation Scheme (BOAS) Financial Viability and Audit Requirements for Coach Tour Operators or providing grant relief for audits**

89. Coach Tour Operators currently have to show financial viability as part of the Bus Operators Accreditation Scheme (BOAS), and must pay for an independent audit at least once every three years. During COVID-19, most uncontracted bus or coach operators would have difficulty in satisfying the financial viability criteria due to the uncertainty around the resumption of touring. The Federal Government's Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020 provides a "new safe harbour from the director's duty to prevent insolvent trading", using temporary amendments to "provide relief for directors from potential personal liability for insolvent trading". Has the State Government provided similar relief for coach operators in the NSW Bus and Coach industry by waiving the financial viability of the BOAS and providing some grant relief for them to undertake audits if they are due within the period of COVID-19
90. Has the NSW Government waived the BOAS fees for coach tour operators who do not have contracted public transport services with the NSW Government?

## **Waiver of National Parks Fees for Tourism Operators**

91. Tourism operators have to pay fees to operate in National Parks, and many other industries have had such government fees waived. The Government could waive the fees for bushwalking, snow play or other national parks activities for a period of time to assist operators with their recovery?

## **The \$3,000 Small business marketing grant**

92. How many tourism businesses applied for the \$3,000 small business marketing grant?
- (a) How many of them were successful?
  - (b) What support was supplied to those who were unsuccessful?
  - (c) What was the average processing time for tourism businesses?
93. Some tourism operators complained that due to the way that their ABNs had been registered meant that they could not receive the \$3,000 marketing grant as they were ineligible due to not being identified as tourism businesses. A number of businesses had to try a number of times to even get the \$10,000 grants, despite losing 100 per cent of their bookings. Why was it so difficult for them to access the grant?
94. Bus, coach and group charters were told they were not on the list of "highly impacted" industries for the \$3,000 COVID-19 business restart grant. They were devastated to have gone through the application process and be presented with this response to their application. How many complaints have you had in relation to that?



- (a) One tourism operator said he would have been able to get a marketing grant if he was a brothel. Why was the Government unprepared to assist tourism operators?

### **Snowfields 2020 and 2021**

- 95. New Zealand ski resorts opened in June 2020 and the Victorian Government permitted snow sports to continue in May 2020. In Victoria, the Government gave specific advice regarding snow sports and travel to the snowfields allowing day trips to the ski fields, and they have set a hard date for their opening as 22 June 2020. In New Zealand, government and the industry have agreed to a number of specific guidelines which will allow ski resorts to operate safely, why didn't the NSW Snow Season start until July?
- 96. NSW tourism operators and tourists were told that overnight travel could start from 1 June 2020, but even a week before that date, there was no clear advice about when or how our ski fields, one of the jewels of regional NSW tourism, could open. Why was there such a delay for the ski season, given that none of the ski fields ended up being able to open by the traditional start of the long weekend?
  - (a) What action did the Minister take to try and assist the industry?
  - (b) Why did it take longer to get this organised in NSW than in either Victoria or New Zealand?
- 97. Given that the industry generates about 23,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in annual economic impact across Australia, what was the economic impact of the delay?
  - (a) Were any jobs lost?
  - (b) If so, how many?
- 98. The resorts got together under the banner of the Australian Ski Areas Association and presented a covid-safe operating plan to the health authorities and the NSW government in or around April 2020, yet it wasn't until late May that they were told that when they were "Covid ready" they could open. Why did it take so long to organise an approval for one of the major winter tourism regions to operate in their peak season?
- 99. Given that Vail Resorts which owns lifts at Perisher and in Victoria, said that contact tracing was an area where ski resorts had an edge over other industries as passes for ski lifts at all the major resorts work on a RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system so skier movements can be tracked and traced according to time and location. Why did it take so long for visitation to ski resorts to be approved?
- 100. The delays in the announcement meant that when the announcements were made that resorts could open, many people struggled to get their lift ticket bookings and their accommodation matched up. How many tourists were stranded at resorts unable to access the snow or alternatively having tickets but not being able to access the resort accommodation?

101. What will the Government do differently in 2021 to make sure that there is a more orderly opening of the ski season?
102. Will the resorts be free to open on the June Long Weekend in 2021 as is the tradition?

### **Assistance and Notice for Tourism Operators to restart**

103. Pubs and Clubs in NSW were given approximately 2 days' notice that they would be able to recommence operations. Why didn't the Government provide a structured recovery plan for the Tourism Industry?
104. Some other sectors of the hospitality industry appeared to have quite clear avenues for a restart. Why didn't tourism operators?

### **Failure to look at Product Development funding rather than marketing during 2020**

105. During COVID lockdowns, many tourism operators had staff on Jobkeeper. Why did the Government focus on marketing grants (\$3,000) rather than product development to say help them pivot their business model towards higher yield activities for a post-covid restart? For example, a tourism chocolate factory starting to do cooking classes for smaller groups than large tour groups?
106. Why did the Government fail to invest in place activation and continue to focus on marketing activities?

### **Caravan & Camping**

107. During the initial lock down period in April and May, caravan parks with fully self contained cabins or self drive RVs with facilities were prevented from operating as "hero accommodation". Why was that?
108. Some in the industry have pointed out that being discrete accommodation, these providers would have been able to more adequately accommodate people in a covid safe way. Why weren't these parks approved for accommodation for nurses, doctors, and other pandemic heroes who needed to visit other locations?
109. Were any private caravan park operators on crown lands or National Parks provided with any rent relief during the COVID shut down by the NSW Government?
  - (a) If so, which ones?

## Employees

110. 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?

111. 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?
- (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?
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- (h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
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- (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?

<b>Questions from the Hon Mark Latham MLC</b>
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**Questions please to Minister Ayres:**

112. What has the government done at the Aerotropolis to implement the commitment given by the then Planning Minister Anthony Roberts in October 2018 such that:
- a) “No land holder will be disadvantaged”
  - b) “It is the Government’s intention to acquire land in this precinct directly from existing landowners prior to any rezoning”
  - c) “No current landowners (will be) impacted, either positively or negatively, by any decision to rezone land”
  - d) “Land will be acquired at fair value on valuations based on its current rezoning”?
113. When does the Government now expect the Catholic STEM High School at Luddenham announced by Premier Berejiklian in March 2017 to open?
114. Given that Infrastructure Australia has revealed a small BCR for the North-South Metro, why hasn’t the government proceeded with the bigger BCR and employment-creating Leppington line extension as its top priority?
115. Why has the Government sacrificed tens of thousands of new jobs in the South-West Sydney corridor (Liverpool to Campbelltown) for the sake of a low-BCR rail line running through the Sydney Science Park?
116. What representations did Stuart Ayres make to (State and Federal) government ministers, departments and agencies (and also Penrith Council) for the Sydney Science Park,
- (a) Rezoning
  - (b) Luddenham Metro location

- (c) St Marys Metro route passing through SSP land
- (d) A State developer contribution exemption for SSP's education land
- (e) The SSP/CSIRO Urban Living Lab
- (f) State Government announcement of the Luddenham STEM high school
- (g) The 2017 SSP/Westmead medical research agreement
- (h) The SSP Autonomous Vehicle Hub collaboration with Transport for NSW
- (i) To Minister Pavey for the SSP water announcement in December 2020
- (j) SSP/Nepean-Blue Mountains Local Health District partnership
- (k) SSP/The Penrith Quarter partnership
- (l) Preventing a State public hospital site being identified in the Aerotropolis LUIP, in competition with SSP plans for a hospital
- (m) SSP requests for increasing its retail floor space to 130,000sqm
- (n) SSP requests for lifting the residential height limit at its Luddenham Metro
- (o) Lifting the SSP GFA non-residential cap
- (p) lifting the SSP residential cap to 30,000+
- (q) Including the Celestino North Luddenham land in the Northern Gateway precinct, and
- (r) ensuring the Northern Gateway precinct was in the first group of precincts to be developed

**Questions to Simon Draper, Infrastructure NSW:**

117. What assessment has Infrastructure NSW made of the benefit-cost of possible rail links to the Badgerys Creek airport site? What does this assessment show about the relative merits of the various options studied?
118. What involvement did Infrastructure NSW have in the
- (a) Badgerys Creek Airport-St Marys Metro route determination, and
  - (b) siting of the Luddenham Metro station? What are the details?

**Questions to Sarah Hill, CEO WPCA:**

119. Is Natalie Camilleri, Executive Director, Infrastructure, in any way related to the owners of the Sydney Science Park? What are the details?

## WESTERN SYDNEY

### Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

#### Warragamba Dam

120. Is the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall being funded through the Climate Change Fund under the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy allocation?
- (a) If not, where is funding for the development of the EIS coming from?
121. How much was spent in each of the following years on the development of the EIS for the Warragamba Dam Wall raising project?
- (a) FY18
- (b) FY19
- (c) FY20
- (d) To date in FY21
122. What was the total value of the contract with SMEC for their work in the preparation of the EIS?
123. Have there been any contract changes agreed as a result of the delay in the EIS process?
- (a) If yes, when have those changes been agreed and what has been the costs of those changes?
124. Are all meetings that you have had with non-Government parties about the Warragamba Dam Wall raising proposal listed on your Ministerial Diary Disclosure?
125. Please provide a list of meetings or discussions, either formal or informal, that you have had with either State or Commonwealth Ministers or Members of Parliament; or State or Commonwealth Officials; in relation to the Warragamba Dam Wall raising project since 1 January 2020 including:
- (a) The date of the meeting/discussion
- (b) The nature of the meeting/discussion
- (c) The topic of the meeting/discussion



126. Have you ever met with or discussed with, either formally or informally, the proceedings of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in regards to the Warragamba Dam Wall raising project with the Foreign Minister, the Hon. Marise Payne MP?