



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 Premier and Finance

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

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Answers due by: 24 November 2021

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

1. Has the government been recording data in regards to tourism during Covid-19 period?
2. Can you provide the number of visitor nights for 2019?
3. Can you provide the number of visitor nights for 2020?
4. Can you provide the number of visitor nights for 2021?
5. Is there a prediction for visitor nights 2022?
6. Has any work been done on how the domestic tourism industry will recover?
 - (a) Pre international tourism returning.
 - (b) Post international tourism returning.
7. Does the current government financial support packages take into account the staggered return of visitor nights and domestic tourism operations?
8. The tourism sector has identified a skill and workforce shortage particularly in regional NSW. What work is the NSW government doing to match skills training with workforce shortages in the tourism industry in NSW?
 - (a) What modelling is the NSW government undertaking to determine the impact of international students and visa worker shortage in the short to medium term?
9. The event industry including business conferences plan their events many years in advance. Do the current NSW grant processes allow for events planned for 2023 and beyond?
10. What are the current usage figures is for dine and discover?
 - (a) 2020-21 financial year, Dine and Discover?

Destination NSW International Offices

11. NSW has International Offices in 13 locations. Auckland, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Chengdu ,Guangzhou ,Seoul, London, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Singapore, Mumbai. How many staff are employed at each Office?
 - (a) Is each Office rented individually or do they share space?

- (b) What is the Annual Budget of each Office including Salaries?
 - (c) What is the Annual Budget of each Office including Salaries?
 - (d) How is the recruitment process for these Offices carried out?
 - (e) Where are the jobs advertised?
12. Investment NSW offices has offices in; China, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vietnam. What is the Salary of each Trade and Investment Commissioner?
- (a) What are the staff numbers of each Office?
 - (b) What is the annual budget for each Office?
 - (c) How is the effectiveness of each Office assessed?

Skills and Workforce Shortage in Tourism

13. Australian Regional Tourism has called for leadership to address the issue of skills and workforce shortages, which it says will be “the next crisis to hit the regions”, what plans do the NSW Government have to address this issue in Regional NSW?
14. After two years of stop-start COVID-19 lockdowns NSW is ready to party, but venues from restaurants to sporting stadiums are facing a difficult summer after a huge exodus of holiday workers and foreign students, what strategies have been put in place to address these shortages by the NSW Government?
15. Government statistics show the number of non-resident workers in the country; (often travellers with work visas) was down by two-thirds in the June quarter of 2021 from the start of 2020, is there a plan to fill this gap and support NSW business?

Jobs Plus Program

16. Under the Jobs Plus Program how many business has the Jobs Plus Program assisted?
 - (a) How many employees are directly involved in the concierge service?
 - (b) How are you monitoring compliance?
 - (c) How many businesses have registered for the payroll tax relief where they have created 30 new jobs?
 - (d) Can new businesses register anytime during the four year period?
 - (e) How much of the \$250 million has been spent?
 - (f) How many are employed directly in the Job Plus concierge?
 - (g) How is the payroll tax program monitored?
 - (h) Under Job Plus Program how many subsidized training package rebates have been awarded?
 - i. How many of these programs have been developed to the point where they can be accessed by the NSW wider community?
 - (i) How many infrastructure rebates have been awarded? Can you give us an example?
 - (j) What is the current dollar value of the infrastructure rebates to the 30th of June 2021?
 - (k) How many businesses have gained access to subsidized government short term government accommodation?
 - i. Can you provide an example of one?
 - (l) What is the average subsidy?
 - (m) Can you provide an example of a business that received fast tracked planning approval?
 - i. How many jobs did that create?

Aboriginal Internship Program Destination New South Wales

17. How many internships since 2013 have been offered to Aboriginal people?
18. How many of those positions resulted in full time positions?
19. How many internship places are offered each financial year?

Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility

20. In relation to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility [AMRF] announced in a media released titled “First look at the Aerotropolis’ Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility” in November 2020:
- (a) When was the AMRF expected to be completed?
 - (b) What was the size of the AMRF in square metres?
 - (c) What technology was to be available in the facility?
 - (d) What equipment was to be available in the facility?
 - (e) How many FTE jobs were expected to be created;
 - i. During construction of the facility?
 - ii. During the operation of the facility?
 - (f) What is the current status of the AMRF, as announced in November 2020?
21. In relation to the answer to Legislative Council Question on Notice 7153, why has the Government decided to trial the concept of the AMRF in the First Building in Bradfield City, rather than build the full-scale, standalone AMRF?
22. Is the Government still committed to delivering a full-scale, standalone AMRF in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis?
- (a) If so, when will the facility be delivered?
 - (b) If so, where will the facility be located?
 - (c) If not, why not?
23. In relation to the trial AMRF in the First Building:
- (a) What is the building footprint in square metres?
 - (b) What technology will be available?
 - (c) What equipment will be available?
 - (d) How many FTE jobs are expected to be created;
 - i. During construction,
 - ii. During the operation of the facility?

- (e) What businesses/ organisations have signed on to be tenants?
 - i. How much space will each tenant take up?
 - ii. What is the duration of the leases signed for each tenant?
 - iii. Did those businesses/ organisations sign up before or after the Government decided the trial the concept of the AMRF?
24. In relation to renderings of the AMRF that were released in November 2020 as part of a media release titled “First look at the Aerotropolis’ Advanced Manufacturing Research Facility”:
- (a) What was the cost to design those renderings?
 - (b) Were the renderings created by a Government Department or a third-party consultant?
 - i. If a Government Department created the renderings, which one?
 - ii. If a consultant create the renderings, what was the name of the company?
 - (c) Besides accompanying the media release, how else have those renderings been used?
 - (d) Will a full-scale, standalone AMRF still look like the building in those renderings?
 - i. If not, why not?

Local Government Areas of Concern

25. What criteria needed to be met for a Local Government Area to be classified as an LGA of concern?
- (a) What criteria needed to be met for a Local Government Area to no longer be considered an LGA of concern?
 - (b) Did the Minister for Health ever provide you with the criteria above?
 - i. If so when?

WestInvest

26. How much of the \$5 billion WestInvest fund will be spent on:
- (a) Schools?
 - (b) Health?

- (c) Public transport?
- (d) Emergency services/emergency service facilities?
- (e) Roads?
- (f) Community facilities?
- (g) Parks/sporting facilities?

Various projects

27. Can you provide an update on the following projects:
- (a) The Spring Farm Link Road between Menangle Road and Appin Road?
 - (b) The M9 Orbital?
 - (c) The upgrade of Dunheved Road?
28. Does the NSW Government have any intentions to upgrade the Appin Road to a dual carriage way between Kellerman Drive, St Helens Park, and Bulli Tops?
29. When will the following projects be complete:
- (a) Oran Park Fire Station?
 - (b) Gregory Hills Public School?

Western Sydney Airport

30. Have you been given any indication of when the flight paths for the Western Sydney Airport will be confirmed?
- (a) Can you provide any details in regards to the flight paths?
31. Can you provide a timeline for when the train line from the Western Sydney Airport south to Macarthur/Leppington will begin?
- (a) Can you provide a timeline for when the train line from the Western Sydney Airport south to Macarthur/Leppington will be finished?
32. Will construction be required for any rapid bus routes to and from the Western Sydney Airport?
- (a) If so, can you provide details on when that construction will begin?

- (b) When it will conclude?
- (c) Where that construction will need to occur?

Current and Future Provision of Health Services in the South West Sydney Growth Region

33. The Upper House inquiry into the Current and Future Provision of Health Services in the South West Sydney Growth Region made a number of recommendations. In your capacity as the Minister for Western Sydney, what have you done to advocate for the following recommendations to be implemented?

- (a) The New South Wales Government address without delay the historical under-funding of health and hospital services in South-West Sydney
- (b) That NSW Health immediately review its funding methodology for Local Health Districts to ensure fairer allocation of resources to growth areas like South-West Sydney. The funding methodology should ensure health funding keeps pace with population growth and accounts for higher health risk profiles
- (c) That NSW Health develop and implement a real time system of health data reporting across Local Health Districts that is transparent and includes, but is not limited to: capacity reporting, occupancy rates for acute inpatient beds, staff numbers and wait times for patients needing to access outpatient care.
- (d) That the New South Wales Government work with the South Western Sydney Primary Health Network and the Commonwealth Government to reinstate a 24 hour GP clinic in order to reduce pressures on the emergency department and local general practitioner clinics.
- (e) That NSW Health review the relationship between primary and secondary/tertiary health care with a view to improving integration and supporting the role of primary health care providers to reduce pressure on the local hospital network.
- (f) That NSW Health develop and adequately resource a more proactive and holistic community care model for higher risk patients in South-West Sydney, including an improved follow up model of health care.
- (g) That NSW Health urgently review the outpatient services currently provided and planned for South-West Sydney, to ensure services meet the needs of this rapidly growing community with a higher risk profile

- (h) That NSW Health increase the number of paramedics working in the South Western Sydney Local Health District to improve response times and to keep up with the rapidly increasing population in new growth areas.
- (i) That NSW Health review current staffing levels and recruitment programs and take steps to ensure that South-West Sydney has adequate medical specialists, nurses and other health workers to accommodate its population growth and the higher health risk profile
- (j) That NSW Health address the following issues at Liverpool Hospital: enhance radiology and ultrasound services after hours; enhance resources for emergency surgery; and immediately fill vacant positions and increase the number of junior doctors at the hospital
- (k) That NSW Health address the following issues at Campbelltown Hospital: immediately fill the vacant positions within the Emergency Department; immediately fill the vacant position that exists for a full-time psychologist for the adolescent mental health unit; immediately fill the vacant midwife positions; and examine the proposal of establishing paediatric surgery and other paediatric subspecialties at the hospital.
- (l) That NSW Health address the following issues at Fairfield Hospital: immediately examine the need for additional operating theatres; immediately audit the theatre equipment at the hospital and establish a plan for the replacement of aged equipment; and enhance the kidney dialysis treatment available at the hospital to ensure all patients receive the recommended number of treatments.
- (m) That NSW Health fast-track the site selection for the new Bankstown-Lidcome Hospital.
- (n) That NSW Health immediately review the availability of maternity and paediatric services across South-West Sydney with the aim to expand and increase the availability of these services to keep up with the number of families living in the region.
- (o) That NSW Health immediately review the number of mental health beds and staffing levels across the region with the aim to expand bed capacity as well as improving connection between hospital and community based services for those experiencing mental health issues.
- (p) That NSW Health develop and implement a more effective preventative health strategy to address the higher rate of chronic health diseases in South-West Sydney as the population continues to increase.

- (q) That the New South Wales Government secure land within the Aerotropolis precinct for a future health facility that could expand children's services to meet the needs of South-West Sydney, including the projected population in and around this precinct.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Kamay Ferry Wharf

34. The NSW Government is committing \$200 million in the 2020-21 NSW Budget to drive visitation and visitor spending in NSW. In the *Visitor Economy Strategy 2030* the Government has said it will invest in 'maritime infrastructure to deliver a quality visitor experience'. Is the proposed Kamay Ferry Wharf project, which is a tourist service, considered part of this maritime infrastructure to support the visitor economy?
35. The design of the wharf at La Perouse seems to be unusually large if it is just for a small local tourist service; it is quite a different scale to the ones operating at Bundeena and Pittwater and about 10 times the size of the previous wharf that it is meant to be reinstating. Are you aware of any other purpose that this wharf may be used for at any future date?
36. In the Tourism and Transport Plan – Supporting the Visitor Economy, much of the plan is devoted to supporting the cruise ship industry and a key idea is that "visitors will increasingly expect seamless connections between tourism gateways like cruise ship ports and airports and destinations" and it suggests ferries will play an important role to support this. Is this ferry wharves marine infrastructure part of a plan to offload passengers at La Perouse and so solve possible future road traffic congestion problems around Port Botany if Hayes Dock were to become an interim cruise ship solution or Yarra Bay was to become a permanent solution?
37. Many times in the Kamay Ferry Wharf EIS it suggests that the project supports the 2018 Tourism and Transport Plan – Supporting the Visitor Economy. In fact all the plans that the project is said to support were written after the project was announced in 2015 and after a feasibility study was written in 2016. It seems a very odd process to introduce a project first and then retrofit plans to reflect the project second - do you think this is appropriate?
38. In the Tourism and Transport plan it mentions that "Transport for NSW is also unlocking underutilised assets for use by the Tourism sector" and "Government investment to upgrade the ferry wharves will unlock private capital". Do you intend for this ferry wharf infrastructure to be

opened up to tourist operators for commercial opportunities if it can be shown to be underutilised as a transport asset?

39. In the Tourism and Transport plan the Government states that Tourism will work with Treasury, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and Department of Industry to investigate opportunities to remove regulatory barriers to entry for emerging cruise markets; and in the Cruise Development plan of 2018 the Government mentions that it will include “considerations of different financing mechanisms”. What exactly does this mean? What level of financial assistance is being contemplated by the Government in relation to the cruise industry?