



# **Transport for NSW**

## **Response to post-hearing questions**

Select Committee on the Response to Major  
Flooding across New South Wales in 2022

Response to major flooding across NSW in 2022

Hearing Date – Wednesday, 15 June 2022

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### QUESTION 1 (Page 7)

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK:** I have lots of questions. I will try to be specific with my questions and, if possible, if you could be specific with the answers. Mr Hutchings, how many rescues did NSW Maritime services perform on the Wilsons River and on the Tweed River?

**MARK HUTCHINGS:** I haven't got any details about rescues. I just want to make it very clear about NSW Maritime's role. We are not an accredited marine rescue agency. We are a support organisation under the subplan. It was well articulated by Commissioner Tannos that we have very similar boats that are not designed to work in swift water.

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK:** Sorry, can I just thank you for that. I have quite a few questions. I just want to understand, did Maritime perform any rescues at all during the emergency?

**MARK HUTCHINGS:** We did 131 evacuations of separate people, mainly in up the Northern Rivers.

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK:** Which river was that?

**MARK HUTCHINGS:** The details I've got is the Clarence and the Richmond.

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK:** Right, so not in the Wilsons or the Tweed?

**MARK HUTCHINGS:** Not that I'm aware of, but I can take that on notice and get back to you

**ANSWER:** NSW Maritime is the State Government Authority responsible for marine safety, regulation of commercial and recreational boating and oversight of port operations.

During emergencies, NSW Maritime's role is to support the combat agency in waterways in which its vessels can be safely placed and operated.

During the March 2022 floods, NSW Maritime provided on-water assistance including evacuations, medical transport, delivery of essential medicines, and movement of supplies such as fuel and equipment on the Clarence, Richmond and Hawkesbury Rivers.

NSW Maritime was not requested to conduct rescues in flood affected townships or swift water on the Wilsons or Tweed River during the flood operations as NSW Maritime is not a rescue body.

Across the Northern Rivers, between 1 and 10 March 2022 NSW Maritime evacuated 131 people, including 33 requiring medical assistance, performed 86 on-water tasks (including vessel salvages) and responded to 14 logistical support calls for supplying medical supplies, generators, and fuel.

### QUESTION 2 (Page 74)

**The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK:** Can you take on notice the number of vehicles that were able to get through under controlled access on the M1 associated with the closure?

**MATT FULLER:** Sure. I would be happy to do so if we are able to provide that.

**ANSWER:** On 5 and 6 March 2022, when the flood water had receded to a level that it was considered safe to escort heavy vehicles, Transport for NSW arranged for the escort of three heavy vehicles containing essential food and other supplies.

**QUESTION 3 (Page 79-80)**

**The CHAIR:** Mr Fuller, you would be familiar with a road in the Hawkesbury called Cornwallis Road. That's the huge canyon. That's the road that has washed away.

**MATT FULLER:** I'm not familiar with that specific road, no.

**The CHAIR:** You're not familiar with it?

**MATT FULLER:** No, I'm not.

**The CHAIR:** It has been in the national media. Is anyone else from your team familiar with that road?

**MATT FULLER:** In the Hawkesbury?

**Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:** It's Greater Sydney. Ask Mr Collins.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, Cate. Mr Collins?

**HOWARD COLLINS:** Thank you for the question. I will take that one on notice. I cover the Greater Sydney area, so Galston Gorge, Garie Road and all those other roads which have had significant geotechnical challenges.

**The CHAIR:** I am asking about Cornwallis Road. If you're going to take it on notice, we would like to know what the estimated cost is to repair the road, what assistance the State Government is offering to the council to do it, what the timetable is and if there are any other roads in the Hawkesbury area that have been affected by the recent floods that come within that scope.

**HOWARD COLLINS:** Just to be general, I will be very quick. We are supporting local council. Many of these roads, as you mentioned—and that particular one, I think—are council roads. We are working very closely and providing funding for councils to deal with their own issues, and many of those are in that area—certainly, Hawkesbury and the northern part of Greater Sydney. But I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER:** Cornwallis Road is a local road. It is understood that Hawkesbury City Council has engaged the Public Works Advisory to project manage the road repair.

Transport for NSW has recently provided \$1.6 million in the form of an advanced payment to the Hawkesbury City Council and the ability to claim progress payments to help ensure a timely completion of natural disaster projects.