



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

FINANCE, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

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FINANCE, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

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

Annual property tax for first home buyers

1. How many first home buyers were expected to enter the property market in 2021-22 and 2022-23 under current stamp duty collection policy?
2. How many first home buyers are expected to enter the property market in 2021-22 and 2022-23 following the introduction of an annual property tax?
3. In relation to the 6000 first home buyers expected to potentially apply for an annual property tax instead of paying stamp duty, how many are expected to enter the housing market solely because of the change in policy?
4. Has modelling been carried out by Revenue NSW, or another agency, on which suburbs or local government areas are likely to have annual property tax increases as a result of increasing land values due to housing targets, re-zonings or changes to density planning controls?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - i. Will modelling be carried out with the view to identifying suburbs that are likely to have annual property tax increases due to increasing land values?
 - (b) If so, which suburbs or local government areas would see the highest increases in property tax?
 - (c) If so, what is the breakdown of property tax increases due to increasing land values, per suburb or local government area?

Government procurement - Small and Medium Enterprises

5. How many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) bid for Government contracts or tenders in the 2020-21 financial year?
 - (a) How many SMEs were successful in winning Government contracts or tenders in the 2020-21 financial year?
6. How many SMEs bid for Government contracts or tenders in the 2021-22 financial year?
 - (a) How many SMEs were successful in winning Government contracts or tenders in the 2021-22 financial year?

7. Is data gathered on whether SMEs that have successfully won a Government contract or tender completed any of the four online training courses announced in October 2021 to help small businesses win Government tenders and/ or contracts?
- (a) If so, how many of the SMEs that secured a Government contract or tender in 2021-22 had completed at least one of the online courses?
- i. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Getting Business Ready” course?
 - ii. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Finding Opportunities” course?
 - iii. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Selling to Government” course?
 - iv. How many had received a certificate of acknowledgement for completing the “Successful Supplying” course?
- (b) If not, why not?

Electric vehicle stamp duty exemption

8. How many applications for electric vehicle stamp duty exemption have been received since applications opened on 1 November 2021?
- (a) How many applications were approved?
- (b) How many applications were declined?
- i. What were the main reasons for declining an application?
 - ii. How many objections were received and what were the outcomes of those objections?
- (c) What is the breakdown of applications per local government area?
9. What is the total value of stamp duty exemptions on electric vehicles since applications opened?
10. Is data kept on changes in electric vehicle sales year to year?
- (a) If so, what were the quarterly sales of electric vehicles in NSW in 2020-21 and 2021-22?
- (b) If not, how is the program monitored to determine whether it is achieving its objective of increasing electric vehicle sales?
11. Is data kept on the best-selling electric vehicle models in NSW?

- (a) If so, what were the top three electric vehicle models sold in NSW in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?
 - (b) If not, why not?
12. What is the average electric vehicle purchase price listed in applications for stamp duty exemption applications received in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years?
13. What is the average sales price of electric vehicles in NSW?
14. Have there been any changes to the eligibility criteria since the program was introduced?
- (a) If so, what changes were made?
15. What was the target number of applications for electric vehicle stamp duty exemption in the 2021-22 financial year?
- (a) Was that target met?
 - (b) If the target was not met, has any analysis been undertaken to determine why people are not applying for the program?
 - i. If so, what was the outcome of that analysis?
 - ii. If not, why not?
16. When announcing the policy, the Government forecast to see electric vehicle new car sales hit 52% by 2030-31. Is that still the forecast figure by 2030-31?
- (a) If not, what percentage of new car sales is expected to be electric vehicles in 2030-31?
 - (b) What is the new forecast year for electric vehicles to make up 52% of new car sales?
17. Is a review of the eligibility criteria being undertaken with a view to increasing uptake of the stamp duty exemption?
- (a) Is the Government considering including used electric vehicles or hybrids in the program?
 - (b) What other options are being considered?

Electric vehicle rebate

18. How many applications for an electric vehicle rebate have been received since 1 September 2021, broken down by financial year?
- (a) How many applications were approved?
 - (b) How many applications were declined?

- i. What was the main reason for declining applications?
 - ii. How many objections were received and what was the outcome of those objections?
 - (c) What is the total value of rebates on electric vehicles?
 - (d) What is the breakdown of applications per local government area?
19. Have there been any changes to the eligibility criteria since the rebate was introduced?
- (a) If so, what changes were made?
20. What was the target number of applications for electric vehicle rebate in the 2021-22 financial year?
- (a) Was that target met?
 - (b) If the target was not met, has any analysis been undertaken to determine why people are not applying for the program?
 - i. If so, what was the outcome of that analysis?
 - ii. If not, why not?
21. Is a review of the eligibility criteria being undertaken with a view to increasing uptake of the rebate?
- (a) Is the Government considering including used electric vehicles or hybrids in the program?
 - (b) What other options are being considered?

COVID fines issued to people under 18

22. In relation to infringement notices that were issued to people aged 17 and under for breaches of the COVID-19 public health orders since 1 July 2021:
- (a) What is the breakdown per age and local government area?
 - (b) What was the total dollar value of infringement notices, broken down by local government area and offence?
 - (c) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices, per local government area?
 - (d) How many requests for review were received, per local government area?
 - i. How many requests for review were successful in having the infringement notice replaced with a caution, per local government area?
 - (e) How many went to enforcement stage, per local government area?

- (f) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices that have gone to enforcement stage?
- (g) How many work development orders have been entered into for these infringement notices, per local government area?
- (h) What is the average dollar value of infringement notices subject to a work development order, per local government area?
- (i) How much has been spent on legal fees defending the COVID infringement notices for people aged 17 and under in court?

Garnishee orders protected amount

- 23. What is the current protected amount for garnishee orders?
- 24. When was the last time the protected amount was increased?
 - (a) By what percentage did the protected amount increase?
- 25. Will the Government increase the protected amount by the current inflation rate to factor in the current cost of living?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Phone calls to Revenue NSW

- 26. In 2021-22, how many phone calls were received by Revenue NSW?
 - (a) What is the breakdown of the number of phone calls relating to the following:
 - i. Request to review a fine;
 - ii. Fines debt;
 - iii. Enforcement action of fines;
 - iv. Payroll tax;
 - v. First home buyer assistance;
 - vi. Land tax;
 - vii. Stamp duty;
 - viii. Parking space levy;
 - ix. Homebuilder;
 - x. Electric vehicles;

xi. Unclaimed money?

27. What was the average time callers spent on hold?
 - (a) What is the breakdown of average wait times for calls relating to the subject matters above?
28. How many callers disconnected the call before speaking to a customer service operator?
29. How many calls were disconnected by Revenue NSW while people were waiting on hold?
30. How many calls were disconnected by Revenue NSW while a customer service operator was speaking with a caller?
31. How many callers were referred to the Revenue NSW or Service NSW website instead of receiving assistance over the phone?
32. How many staff are assigned to answer calls and inquiries received via the following phone numbers:
 - (a) 1300 139 814;
 - (b) 1300 208 528;
 - (c) 1300 308 863;
 - (d) 1300 139 814;
 - (e) 1300 139 817;
 - (f) 1300 138 118;
 - (g) 1300 655 805;
 - (h) 1300 135 627;
 - (i) 1300 655 805;
 - (j) 1300 130 624;
 - (k) 1300 753 822;
 - (l) 1300 363 806;
 - (m) 1300 139 816;
 - (n) 1300 241 869;
 - (o) 1300 368 710;
 - (p) 1300 139 815;

- (q) 1300 214 590;
- (r) 1300 366 016?

Procurement Policy Framework - conflicts of interest

33. In relation to the current Procurement Policy Framework:
- (a) What is the requirement in relation to disclosing personal relationships, such as friendships, while negotiating or administering Government contracts?
 - (b) Who is responsible for ensuring conflicts of interest or personal interests are declared in compliance with the Framework?
 - (c) What are the ramifications for not properly disclosing conflicts of interest or personal interests?
 - (d) What role, if any, can Ministers or their offices play during the negotiation or administration of Government contracts?

Emergency procurements

34. During the 2021-22 financial year, what emergency procurements were reported to the NSW Procurement Board?
35. During the 2022-23 financial year to date, what emergency procurements were reported to the NSW Procurement Board?

Procurement Board Direction (PBD) 2021-01 Support for flood affected communities

36. In relation to page 50 of the April 2022 Procurement Policy Framework that states “You should ensure that you maintain information about procurements covered by PBD 2021-01 and the outcomes achieved in supporting local businesses. This information will assist the Procurement Board to evaluate the effectiveness of this Direction”, what is the reasoning behind not making the retention of information about procurements covered by the PBD 2021-01 a mandatory rule?

Supplier conduct

37. What adverse findings against suppliers were reported to the NSW Procurement Board in 2021-22?
- (a) Have any of those suppliers been engaged in subsequent Government contracts following an adverse finding?

Complaints to the NSW Procurement Board

38. In relation to the NSW Procurement Board's handling of complaints about the procurement activities of agencies during the 2021-22 financial year:
- (a) How many complaints were referred to the NSW Procurement Board, per agency?
 - (b) How many complaints were investigated, per agency?
 - i. What was the outcome of those complaints?
 - (c) What directions and policies were issued by the NSW Procurement Board regarding corrective action?

Employee Relations Department of Premier and Cabinet

39. For the Employee Relations Function within Premier and Cabinet please provide a breakdown of how many employees are in:
- (a) The compliance team?
 - (b) The public sector team?
 - (c) The policy team?

Consultants

40. How many consultants have been engaged to provide Industrial Relations advice on live disputes?
- (a) Who has been engaged to provide advice on live disputes?
 - (b) How much has been spent on consultants providing advice on IR disputes for the last four years?

Productivity payment

41. Given the 0.5% payment for productivity will come from Departmental budgets, is the Government envisaging that every Department will have the opportunity to apply for this payment?
42. Will there be a consultation process whereby unions and the Government agencies come to an agreement about possible productivity outcomes?
- (a) What is the process whereby these outcomes will be measured and accepted?
43. When will the Government be making clear information available to unions and public service Departments about the possibility of productivity payments?

- (a) Will the Government be producing a document outlining this initiative and giving examples of what may be acceptable as productivity enhancements?
- (b) Have public sector unions been advised of 'productivity enhancements'?
- (c) Are agencies and unions in active discussions about productivity payments?
 - i. Does the Government have a timeframe?
- (d) Who will determine whether a productivity enhancement is accepted?
- (e) Will the IRC be involved?

44. Who is on the Senior Officials Wages Advisory Committee?

45. Could the Minister please make available the letter about productivity payments that was referred to on page 16 of the uncorrected transcript for the Employee relations estimates?

Industrial Relations Advisory Council

46. Who is currently on the Industrial Relations Advisory Council?

Screening for silicosis

47. Why is the Government still investing in a second mobile van with an X-ray machine when the research shows high resolution CT scans (HRCT) are needed to adequately screen for silicosis?

48. How many Caesarstone workers were screened for silicosis?

- (a) How many Caesarstone workers were found to have silicosis?
- (b) How many Caesarstone workers screened for silicosis were screened with a high-resolution CT scan (HRCT)?

Golder Case Study into silicosis

49. How much did the Golder Associates study "Case finding study into respirable crystalline silica exposure in the New South Wales manufactured stone industry" dated 17 May 2021 cost?

Return to Work Rates Dust Diseases

50. What is the Return-to-Work rate for workers with diagnosed cases of silica-related disease?

Retraining for silica -related disease

51. Will the Government make publicly available the type of retraining provided for workers, as well as details of new jobs and industries these workers are returning to, as advocated by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at the 2021 Dust Disease Review?

52. When will iCare's review to expand financial assistance for retraining and vocational support for people diagnosed with a silica-related disease be completed?

Dry cutting at building sites

53. Did Minister Tudehope or his staff report the incidents of dry cutting of kitchen tops at a worksite to SafeWork NSW?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If the incident of dry cutting referred to at estimates was referred to SafeWork NSW, what date was it reported?
 - (c) Did an inspector go to the site and inspect the incident?
 - (d) Were any fines given for the dry cutting incident referred to by the Minister?
54. How has iCare "instituted a policy of routinely recommending a CT scan for workers with a significant level of exposure to respirable crystalline silica"?
55. How does iCare prompt employers to return their workers for screening?
56. Has SafeWork NSW reported to iCare, how many employers have not complied with returning their workers for screening?
57. How many compliance breaches were issued to employers who did not return their workers for screening in the last 3 years?
58. In terms of the urgent review of all cases of manufactured stone previously screened for silica-related health condition, please provide a timeframe for the audit to be conducted by iCare?
59. Will the NSW Government and iCare disclose the timeframe of the audit and commit to making its results publicly available within a specified timeframe?

Sole traders – lack of screening for silicosis

60. What is the minister doing to ensure that sole trader manufactured stone workers are monitored in terms of silica dust exposure?
61. What is the minister doing to ensure that sole trader manufactured stone workers are monitored in terms of asbestos dust exposure?
62. How is the minister ensuring that sole traders regularly attend screenings for dust diseases?
63. Is there a database of sole trader manufactured stone workers?

- (a) If there is no database, how can the Minister ensure that sole trader workers do not contract a dust disease and can seek medical treatment for their dust disease?

Sham Contracting

- 64. There have been reports of sham contractors working on the Sydney Metro project. What is the Government doing to ensure Sham Contractors are not working in NSW, particularly on NSW Government projects?

Third-party contractors or consultancies

- 65. For every agency, department, or state-owned corporation within your portfolio, please provide the following:
 - (a) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in communications services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (b) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in PR services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (c) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in marketing services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
 - (d) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in Government relations or lobbying services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,

- ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (e) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in industry or peak body membership, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (f) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in policy or strategy development, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (g) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in project management, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (h) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in accounting and audit, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid

- (i) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in legal services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid
- (j) A list of all third-party contractor or consultancies engaged in any other services, including:
 - i. Contractor name,
 - ii. Contractor ABN,
 - iii. Service provided,
 - iv. Total cost paid

Disability Employment

- 66. Across the NSW Public Sector what is the percentage and total number of employees who currently identify as having a disability?
- 67. What is the percentage and number of senior managers who currently identify as having a disability throughout the NSW Public Sector?
- 68. What is the trend in distribution of workforce (distribution index) for people with disability throughout the NSW Public Sector?
- 69. What is the percentage and total number of people who identify as having a disability who are currently employed by:
 - (a) Industrial Relations Advisory Council
 - (b) ICARE
- 70. What is the percentage and total number of senior managers who currently identify as having a disability employed by:
 - (a) Industrial Relations Advisory Council
 - (b) ICARE