



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-2023 Supplementary Questions**

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

**THE LEGISLATURE**

**Hearing:** Tuesday 6 September 2022

**Answers due by:** Wednesday 5 October 2022

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## THE LEGISLATURE

### Questions from the Hon Mark Latham MLC

#### **Broderick Report and its Recommendations**

1. In total, how much did the parliament pay for the Broderick Report process, including the final report, extra expenses for Ms. Broderick and her team, the work of the PAG, secretarial support services and any other related costs?
2. Why was Broderick commissioned by the PAG to produce her report, without the ordinary process of tender or calling for expressions of interest?
  - (a) Was this because the committee knew exactly what she would report, and
  - (b) Is their knowledge of the foregone conclusions of the report precisely what was desired by PAG, with zero evidence base of proven or even investigated allegations?
3. How is the Broderick Report written for our parliament any different from dozens of other reports she has written about other workplaces?
  - (a) Why was Broderick paid so much for the same report with the same findings and recommendations?
4. In respect of the Broderick Report's Recommendations:
  - (a) Will the recommendation for CCTV cameras in MPs offices be implemented?
  - (b) Will the recommendation for external investigations (such as through the involvement of private detectives) of MPs be implemented?

#### **Complaints Officer: Confidentiality and Abuse of Process**

5. In light of the fact that Broderick has recommended an end to non-disclosure agreements in our parliament, how will the new Complaints Officer processes respect confidentiality?
6. In relation to the processes involved in the work of the Complaints Officer:
  - (a) How will the political weaponization of these processes be prevented, especially in the lead up to the State election, given the ease with which political rivals can lodge false or vexatious complaints and then leak them to the media?
  - (b) Why has Mr. David Blunt for 9 years enthusiastically promoted these patently flawed processes, which are certain to be abused by political opportunists, undermine public trust in our democratic system and bring discredit to our parliament?

## **Obligations to Report Criminal Conduct**

7. Given the seriousness of the matter and the obligations of s. 316 of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW):
  - (a) Why doesn't the President know if the parliament has discharged its obligation to report allegations of sexual assault to the NSW Police?
  - (b) Do other members of the Executive (such as Messrs. Webb and Blunt) know what has been reported to the Police, whether under s. 316 or otherwise?

## **Standards and Conduct of Members**

8. Did the Parliamentary Executive watch the ABC's Q&A show on 18 August 2022 when Mr. Stan Grant asked the Hon. Ms. Catherine Cusack about the "boozy culture" in NSW Parliament House, and without a moment of self-awareness Ms. Cusack proceeded to attack everyone else in the building?
  - (a) How was this notorious parliamentary drinker allowed onto the PAG Committee assessing "serious misconduct" in the building?
  - (b) Hasn't this egregious example of personal and political hypocrisy made a farce of the whole process?
9. What incident or security reports were filed for 27 August 2020 concerning the conduct of the Member for Shellharbour in Parliament House?
  - (a) Specifically, were reports filed concerning her attempt to use her car?
10. Concerning Supplementary Question No. 9 above, what CCTV footage is available concerning the Member for Shellharbour, specifically in the car park?
  - (a) What does this show?
11. Given the language in the complaints produced in the report resembles the Greens and Left of the ALP, for example, criticising "old rich white men", why did the Broderick Report fail to break down the number of complaints made by party affiliation?
12. Given the dubious behaviour of some of the MP members of the PAG, will the Broderick recommendation to give this committee more money be implemented?
  - (a) What are the details?
13. Why was alcohol use targeted in the Broderick Report but not the Greens' drug use in the building?

14. How credible is the Broderick Report when at page 37 it takes seriously the notion of a staffer feeling unsafe at work because of words spoken by elected MPs in the chamber?
  - (a) Shouldn't this staffer be dismissed as a nutter for not realising that in our democracy MPs are elected to speak in Parliament about their beliefs and those of their supporters?
  - (b) Why would such a person seek to work in politics in the first place?
15. In reference to page 43 the Broderick Report, wherein behaviours that constitute sexual harassment are listed:
  - (a) How long must someone stare and/or "loiter nearby" someone else before that conduct constitutes sexual harassment?
  - (b) Would a gift of Michelangelo's "David" statue constitute a form of sexual harassment?
16. Will MPs, staff and other users of the building be notified of the time periods allowable in Supplementary Question No. 15(a) above so they do not cross the line into sexual harassment?
17. Aren't the Broderick Recommendations about increased "diversity" and correcting "power balances" purely woke political statements, free of any evidence that they could make the parliament house building a safer place?
18. What is the evidence base for the Broderick Recommendations referred to in Supplementary Question No. 17 above?
19. Given that Indigenous in NSW have the highest rate of sexual assault, how will the Broderick Recommendations to bring more Indigenous into the building make the workplaces safer?
20. In practice, how can "power imbalances" referred to in Supplementary Question No. 17 above be corrected given that MPs, and in particular the executive government, have been elected into relatively powerful positions and other staff have not?
21. What will be the cost of the Broderick Report Recommendations concerning:
  - (a) extra training,
  - (b) external investigators,
  - (c) trauma counsellors, and
  - (d) information campaigns?
22. How will "hotspots" be identified and what will anyone do about them?

## **Building Works and Related Matters**

23. Has the Efficiency Dividend been applied to the Parliament House budgets (as the Government promised two budgets ago)
  - (a) How much has been paid under the Efficiency Dividend and what efficiencies were achieved?
24. What is Mark Webb's annual salary?
25. Why has Mark Webb turned the building into a permanent construction zone, unbearable in its noise levels for working effectively in political offices?
26. How often have the office TVs been replaced over the past decade and in each replacement cycle?
  - (a) What was the cost?
27. Why was the Macquarie Room closed for renovation work twice within 6 months and why has a third closure now been notified?
  - (a) What does it involve and how much will it cost?
  - (b) How much did the earlier two renovations cost?
  - (c) Why wasn't the room closed just once to allow the works to take place efficiently in one time period?
28. What is the Parliament policy on the placement of political flags and symbols on and near the Legislative Assembly front desk, in a building that should welcome ALL VISITORS with political neutrality?
29. What did the Measurement consultants achieve and what was the final cost of their work?
30. Over the past 5 years, which
  - (a) Consultants, and
  - (b) Other external providers... have been engaged by the parliament? Moreover:
  - i. What did each cost, and
  - ii. What work did they undertake?
31. What outcomes is the parliament seeking to achieve under Outcome-Based budgeting in the 2022 budget?

32. What is the total cost of the Fountain Court ceiling “upgrade”?
33. Over the past 5 years:
  - (a) What DPS training programs have been undertaken,
  - (b) What was the cost of those programmes?
  - (c) What was the purpose of those programmes?
  - (d) How long did staff spend at each training activity associated with those programmes?
34. In Supplementary Question No. 33 above, in each case, was there a competitive process for awarding the training work?
35. What is the projected cost of the works to be undertaken inside the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council Chambers? Furthermore:
  - (a) What does it involve and why is it necessary, including the recent scaffolding?
  - (b) When will all of these works be finished?
36. What is the cost of the water tower to be installed on Tower Block?
37. What is the cost of the new display cabinets near the Legislative Assembly front desk and why were they necessary?
38. What is the projected cost of the new ceilings on Levels 6 and 7?
39. What is the cost to “install new flooring across the building which is more resilient against wear and tear”?
  - (a) What is the evidence to say the current flooring is inadequate?
  - (b) What complaints have been received about the current flooring, something busy MPs don’t seem to notice?
40. Which DPS staff have duties that include the promotion of “diversity and inclusion”?
  - (a) How much are they paid and what have they achieved?

#### **Composition of PAG and Social Media Comments by Former Member**

41. Is the President and Parliamentary Executive aware that Ms. Catherine Cusack is claiming on social media to still be a member of the PAG, even though she has resigned from parliament?
  - (a) How can this keen drinker who brought so much adverse comment to the parliament be part of a committee passing judgement on the behaviour of others?

## THE LEGISLATURE

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

#### **Independent Complaints Officer**

42. Will the Independent Complaints Officer Rose Webb be based onsite at Parliament House or at an offsite location?

#### **Staffing levels**

43. In the current financial year, have any budget cuts been made to the Parliamentary library?
44. What is the current number of full-time equivalent staff in the Parliamentary library?
45. Are there any current vacancies in the Parliamentary library?
46. Over the past 5 financial years, have the staffing levels in the Financial Services department of Parliament changed?
- (a) If yes, please explain the reasons for any changes.
47. Over the past 5 financial years, what were the number of full-time equivalent staff in the Financial Services department of Parliament?
48. Over the past 5 financial years, have any positions within the Financial Services division been made redundant?
- (a) If yes, how many?
- (b) If yes, why were the positions made redundant?
49. What proportion of staff in the Financial Services department of Parliament are on temporary contracts or in casual positions currently compared to 5 years ago?

#### **Closed-circuit television and security access control systems policy**

50. Has the review into the Closed Circuit Television and Security Access Control Systems (NSW Parliament House) Policy commenced?

#### **Budget**

51. How much of this financial year's allocated budget has been spent to date?
52. What was the outcome of the bicentenary budget bid?

- (a) In the March 2022 Budget Estimates Hearing for this portfolio, the President advised that, “In the vicinity of \$20 million is what we are looking at for the capital side in order to address all the issues”, was this amount allocated?
53. In the March 2022 answers to Questions on Notice for this portfolio, it was advised that 56% of the 2021-22 Financial Year recurrent budget had been spent as of 31 January 2022, and it was on track to be fully spent by 30 June 2022. Was the full budget spent?
54. What minor works are planned for this financial year?
55. What digital transformation projects are planned for this financial year?
56. What proportion of items procured for the Parliament have been sourced in New South Wales this financial year to date?

### **Disability inclusion**

57. How many people with disabilities are employed by the Parliament currently?
58. How many members of staff who work in the Parliament in senior management identify as having a disability currently?
59. Mr Webb indicated at the last Budget Estimates that engineering studies were underway to assess what could be done regarding the accessibility of the stairs between the level 9 lift lobby and the Fountain Court building. What was the outcome of the engineering studies?
- (a) Mr Webb also advised that a budget bid would need to be made regarding works on the level 9 stairs, was a budget bid successfully won?
- i. If yes, is there a timeframe for these works to be completed?
60. Have engineering studies commenced regarding the accessibility of the Parliament gym for people with disabilities?
- (a) If no, has any funding been allocated to undertake these engineering studies this financial year?
- (b) If yes, Mr Webb indicated at the March 2022 Budget Estimates Hearing for this portfolio that the works would need to include a ramp to enter the gym, refurbishment of the gym bathrooms and consideration of the placement and type of gym equipment available. Is this consistent with the findings of the engineering studies?
- (c) If yes, has any funding been allocated for works to make the gym accessible for people with disabilities?



## **Staff training**

61. At the Budget Estimates Hearing for this portfolio in March 2022, Mr Webb said he would consider offering relief staff for members' staff undertaking training paid for under the Skills Development Allowance. Has there been any progress on offering relief for members' staff attending training paid with the Skills Development Allowance?

## **Technology**

62. Have there been any developments on securing additional laptops for Members' staff who job-share?
- (a) Has a submission to Treasury been made?
  - (b) If not, why not?
63. Are you able to provide an update on the project into establishing an eReturns platform?
- (a) What is the cause of the delay?
64. In the March 2022 Supplementary Questions for this portfolio, it was advised that the LC eDivisions item was placed on the Digital Parliament Applications "products for prioritisation" list at the 6 December 2021 Digital Parliament Applications Board Meeting. Has there been any further developments on this item?
- (a) Has a timeline been developed to determine when eDivisions can be delivered?
65. Have countdown clocks been made available for all Budget Estimates Hearings?

## **Stream**

66. Why was the Stream platform chosen?
- (a) Were Members and Members staff consulted?
67. There is a limit of 360 downloads of TV and Radio clips annually across all Stream users in Parliament. With 135 Members in total, this means that each Member wouldn't even be able to download 3 TV or Radio clips each per year on average. Of course, if a member or group of members downloads a disproportionately higher volume of clips then this leaves limited capacity for everyone else. On the previous platform there were no restrictions on the number of TV and Radio downloads allowed per year. What will be done to address this issue?
- (a) Is there any plan to extend the download limit?
  - (b) If yes, what is the timeframe for this?

- (c) If not, why not?
68. If you are fortunate enough to have not exceeded the download limit, then there is further restrictions on being able to share the content without express permission from Stream. This is extremely restrictive as part of the role of modern-day politicians is to communicate with their electorate about what they are doing on social media. Will there be consideration about subscribing to a service that is not so restrictive?
69. Several other issues have also been raised regarding Stream including, the less efficient search engine, the inability for staff to receive instant email notifications on media mentions, the lack of summaries included in the items listed on email notifications and the inability to filter results via geography. What will be done to address these issues?

### **NSW Parliament Policies**

70. How many NSW Parliament policies have been reviewed in the last year?
- (a) Please provide a list of policies that have been reviewed?
    - i. Which of these policies have an impact on Members' staff?
71. Is there a way to easily find out when policies have been reviewed and how they may have changed in the review process?
- (a) How are these changes communicated to Members and staff?
72. Last estimates it was discussed that an undertaking was made by Mark Webb and DPS to take any policies with a staffing impact to the JCC for consultation, prior to them being reviewed. How many policies have been through this process since this undertaking was made?

### **Parking in NSW Parliament**

73. How many parking spots are there overall downstairs in NSW Parliament?
- (a) How many are permanently held by Members or Staff?
  - (b) How many are currently set aside for contractors?
  - (c) How many are provided to Ministerial staff?
  - (d) How many are casual visitor spots?
74. What proportion of the parking downstairs in NSW Parliament is in the full control of NSW Parliament?
75. Has any of the parking in NSW Parliament been leased or sold to the executive government?

- (a) If yes, what proportion of the parking is subject to this arrangement?
  - (b) If yes, how much income does the NSW Parliament receive from this arrangement?
76. What is the current waitlist for a staff member to have a paid parking space in NSW Parliament?
77. What is the annual cost of a parking space in NSW Parliament?
78. How many staff members currently have access to a permanent parking space in NSW Parliament?
79. How many disabled parking spaces are available in NSW Parliament?
- (a) If those are full, can staff or guests with a valid disability permit be accommodated in the building without incurring additional charges?

### **Fitness Passport**

80. How many people filled out the survey for the fitness passport program?
81. How many have signed up to the fitness passport program?
82. How were facilities under the program chosen?
83. How many preferred facilities that staff indicated they wanted to use under the plan were not included in the eventual fitness passport offering?
84. What proportion of the fitness facilities included in the eventual fitness passport offering were previously nominated by staff as preferred facilities in the survey?

### **Microsoft Teams**

85. What percentage of DPS staff and Members have access to Microsoft teams?
86. Are Members and staff able to use Microsoft Teams for video conferencing with people/constituents external to the NSW Parliament organisation or people/constituents without a Microsoft Teams account?
- (a) If not, why not?
87. How much did the implementation of Microsoft Teams cost?
- (a) How many training sessions has DPS conducted regarding Microsoft Teams?
    - i. Who was invited to these sessions?

### **Wage Overpayment or Underpayment**

88. How many staff have had their wages or salaries underpaid in any way in the following years:

- (a) FY 2019/20?
  - (b) FY 2020/21?
  - (c) FY 2021/22?
  - (d) FY 2022/23 (to date)?
89. How many staff have had their wages or salaries overpaid in any way in the following years:
- (a) FY 2019/20?
  - (b) FY 2020/21?
  - (c) FY 2021/22?
  - (d) FY 2022/23 (to date)?
90. What was the total value of those underpayments for each financial year:
- (a) FY 2019/20?
  - (b) FY 2020/21?
  - (c) FY 2021/22?
  - (d) FY 2022/23 (to date)?
91. What was the total value of those overpayments for each financial year:
- (a) FY 2019/20?
  - (b) FY 2020/21?
  - (c) FY 2021/22?
  - (d) FY 2022/23 (to date)?
92. How many of these underpayments between FY 2019/20 and FY 2022/23 (to date) were identified and staff notified within:
- (a) 1 month of occurring?
  - (b) 1-6 months of occurring?
  - (c) 6-12 months of occurring?
  - (d) 12 – 24 months of occurring?
  - (e) Greater than 2 years of occurring?

93. How many of these overpayments between FY 2019/20 and FY 2022/23 (to date) were identified and staff notified within:
- (a) 1 month of occurring?
  - (b) 1-6 months of occurring?
  - (c) 6-12 months of occurring?
  - (d) 12 – 24 months of occurring?
  - (e) Greater than 2 years of occurring?
94. What is the average time it takes for a staff member to be notified (from the date of underpayment occurring) of an underpayment in the past 10 years?
- (a) What was the longest time period it took (from the date of underpayment occurring) for a staff member to be notified of an underpayment?
95. What is the average time it takes for a staff member to be notified (from the date of overpayment occurring) of an overpayment in the past 10 years?
- (a) What was the longest time period it took (from the date of overpayment occurring) for a staff member to be notified of an overpayment?

### **One Drive**

96. What is the capacity (in GB) of individual staff One Drive storage?
97. What is the capacity (in GB) of individual Members' One Drive storage?
98. What is the capacity (in GB) of individual Members' Offices and Electorate Offices One Drive storage?
99. Will the individual's or Office's One Drive capacity be increased if it is exceeded?
100. What is the total annual cost of One Drive storage for DPS?

### **360° Virtual Tour**

101. What was the total cost of the new 360° Virtual Tour?
102. How many people have accessed the tour so far?
103. Could invoices for expenditure relating to the tour be provided?
104. Which company was contracted to complete the tour?
105. Was extra website development needed to accommodate the tour?

106. Was an external company engaged to complete this work?
- (a) What was the total cost of this?
107. Has there been any changes to the schedule or frequency of in-person tours since the virtual tour has been launched?
- (a) Are there any changes planned in future to the schedule or frequency of in-person tours?
- i. Who will be consulted if changes are proposed?