



Ref: AF24/6805

12 March 2024

Dr Amanda Cohn  
Chair  
Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health  
Parliament of NSW

[budget.estimate@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimate@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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Re: Clarification of evidence/transcript for 28 February 2024 Budget Estimates hearing

Dear Chair,

I write to clarify evidence I gave on 28 February 2024 during the 2023-24 Budget Estimates hearing for Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 2 – Health: Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, the North Coast.

On page 54 of the uncorrected transcript, I incorrectly stated *“in terms of percentages—we’re going live with the new maintenance contract from 1 July this year, and we’re hoping to have that on track to go live at the same time. That’s our timeframe”*. Whilst the go live date for the new maintenance contract is 1 July 2024, the app go live date is later in the year, expected to be November 2024.

The correct response should have been: *“The new maintenance contract will go live on 1 July 2024, and the maintenance app will go live soon after, in November 2024”*.

Additionally, on page 57 I incorrectly agreed there are 750 projects to be completed this year. The correct response should have been 750 homes. Also, on my following statement I mentioned these projects were being delivered on existing Land and Housing Corporation sites and included upgrades, this is incorrect as it does not include upgrades, which are subject to separate funding arrangements.

The correct response to both questions should have been: *“The Land and Housing Corporation is planning to deliver 750 social homes this financial year.”*

I ask that these corrections be included as a footnote in the final transcript.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Rebecca Pinkstone**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Homes NSW

**Attachment B – Clarifications and corrections to statements made by the Minister and Deputy Secretary Water during the Budget Estimates hearing on 28 February 2024**

Page	Speaker	Original statement/figures	Proposed correction statement/figure
17	MINISTER JACKSON	<p><i>'We've made a \$13 million commitment to upgrade their water treatment plant.'</i></p>	<p>We've made a \$13.55 million commitment to deliver major upgrades to the town's water treatment infrastructure, subject to the recommendations that come out of the Final Business Case (FBC) currently being independently reviewed.</p> <p>This is on top of the \$10 million committed under the NSW Government's Housing Acceleration Fund for the FBC/future infrastructure works, subject to the recommendations that come out of the Final Business Case currently being independently reviewed.</p> <p>The FBC will recommend what the preferred infrastructure options are. Should the funding required by the recommendations exceed the current combined \$23.55 million commitment by the NSW Government, we will work with Council to identify appropriate funding sources.</p>

MINISTER  
JACKSON

*'No. We're providing \$13 million of funding. There is obviously a gap between \$13 million and \$18 million, and that is the portion that we would seek to secure from the Commonwealth through the National Water Grid Fund.'*

The FBC will recommend what the preferred infrastructure options are. Should the funding required by the recommendations exceed the current combined \$23.55 million commitment by the NSW Government, we will work with Council to identify appropriate funding sources.

23	AMANDA JONES	<p><i>'The department will review the business case. The business case is done by the council.'</i></p>	<p>The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCCEEW) is not undertaking the independent review of the Yass Final Business Case (FBC). The department's Water Group has provided technical advice during the development of the FBC.</p> <p>The Audit and Assurance Company BDO Australia is currently undertaking the independent review and is nearing completion. Upon the independent review's completion, the NSW Government will consider the review's findings in the context of the remaining funding allocation in the House Acceleration Fund and the further \$13.55 million NSW funding commitment.</p>
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23	MINISTER JACKSON	<p><i>'Apologies, I think it's independent to the extent that we are doing it independent of the council. The council have done that work; we are now doing an independent review.'</i></p>	<p>The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) is not undertaking the independent review of the Yass Final Business Case (FBC). The department's Water Group has provided technical advice during the development of the FBC.</p> <p>The Audit and Assurance Company BDO Australia is currently undertaking the independent review and is nearing completion. Upon the independent review's completion, the NSW Government will consider the review's findings in the context of the remaining funding allocation in the House Acceleration Fund and the further \$13.55 million NSW funding commitment.</p>
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23	MINISTER JACKSON	'No, apologies.'	<p>The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) is not undertaking the independent review of the Yass Final Business Case (FBC). The department's Water Group has provided technical advice during the development of the FBC.</p> <p>The Audit and Assurance Company BDO Australia is currently undertaking the independent review and is nearing completion. Upon the independent review's completion, the NSW Government will consider the review's findings in the context of the remaining funding allocation in the House Acceleration Fund and the further \$13.55 million NSW funding commitment.</p>
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67	AMANDA JONES	<p><i>Yes, there is. We've got five stages of that work. I think I explained at the last estimates that one of the challenges for setting sustainable diversion limits—which the Natural Resources Commission has been recommending we do since about 2018—on the coast is that outside the metropolitan areas there is very little metered data and there are very few dams. That's the first stage of the work—how could we, without the metered data available, start to do this work? So we've identified a method and we're now in the second stage, which is we're developing a detailed project plan. That was the commitment last budget estimates. It's that by June this year we'll have a detailed project plan, and that will be able to indicate, catchment by catchment, the priority order in which we'll go about doing this work.</i></p>	<p>Yes, there is. We've got five stages of that work. I think I explained at the last estimates that one of the challenges for setting sustainable diversion limits—which the Natural Resources Commission has been recommending we do since about 2018—on the coast is that outside the metropolitan areas there is very little metered data and there are very few dams. That's the first stage of the work—how could we, without the metered data available, start to do this work? We're developing a detailed project plan. That was the commitment last budget estimates. It's that by June this year we'll have a detailed project plan, and that will be able to indicate, the priority order in which we'll go about doing this work.</p>
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68	AMANDA JONES	<p><i>No, the project plan will be known by the middle of this year. The actual work to get sustainable diversion limits in place for every catchment will then take up to another two years, but we'll have a priority order in which we'll go about the work.</i></p>	<p>No, the project plan will be known by the middle of this year. We'll then develop a preferred method for piloting in a priority catchment. The final phase of the project in 2026 is an implementation program for the roll out of sustainable extraction across NSW coastal water sharing plans.</p>
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