



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism, Sport (Kamper)

Hearing: Wednesday 28 August 2024

Answers due by: 5pm, Wednesday 25 September 2024

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Domestic violence

- (1) What additional steps is the NSW Government taking to address domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, particularly in relation to:
 - (a) funding,
 - (b) building a workforce of multicultural specialist workers,
 - (c) co-designed and community-led primary prevention and early intervention, and
 - (d) access to income support, health care and housing for people on temporary visas?
- (2) Will the NSW Government commit to establishing a Domestic and Family Violence Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and domestic and family violence?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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SMALL BUSINESS

Issues with DNSP (Distribution Network Service Provider)-owned Businesses

- (3) Electrical SMEs are increasingly finding themselves at a disadvantage, competing against DNSP-owned entities that exploit lax ring-fencing regulations to cross-subsidise operations and share staff. While the regulation of this issue largely falls under federal jurisdiction, what steps is the state government taking to address this dysfunction and advocate for the interests of SMEs within our jurisdiction?
 - (a) How is it fair to those local business owners who invest in their workforce and equipment to compete against DNSP-owned entities legitimately?
 - (b) What is the impact on electricity consumers who, as a result, are burdened with inflated costs in their electricity bills?

Challenge the government's fairness in handling COVID-19 grant repayments

- (4) What action has the Government taken to ensure fairness in determining fraudulent activity with regard to the COVID-19 grant?
- (5) How many small businesses have been asked to pay back the micro business loan?
 - (a) Of those businesses how many have paid the money back?

Interest rates

- (6) Could you provide more insights into how current economic factors, including interest rates, are impacting small businesses?
 - (a) What specific measures are being considered to address these challenges?
- (7) In light of the ongoing difficulties faced by small businesses, could you elaborate on the types of support being prioritized to alleviate these pressures?

Red Tape:

- (8) Regarding the reduction of red tape, could you share some examples or success stories that illustrate how these efforts are benefiting small businesses in practical terms?

Minister's diary

- (9) Can the Minister clarify why there has only been one roundtable and two other meetings with small business representatives?
 - (a) How does this level of engagement align with the needs of the small business community?
- (10) Could the Minister provide specific examples or data to support his claim of daily interactions with small businesses, and how these interactions have informed his policy decisions?
- (11) How does the Minister plan to address concerns about the perceived lack of stakeholder discussion?
 - (a) What steps will be taken to ensure more comprehensive engagement moving forward?
- (12) What measurable outcomes or actions have resulted from the Minister's reported daily interactions with small businesses, particularly in light of the limited formal meetings?

Retrospective Application of Payroll Tax

- (13) What is the NSW Government's position on the retrospective application of payroll tax to the mortgage and finance broking industry following the Loan Market Group Pty Ltd vs Chief Commissioner of State Revenue decision?
- (a) Has the Government considered the potential financial impact on small broking businesses due to the retrospective application of payroll tax?
 - (b) What measures, if any, are being considered to mitigate these impacts?
 - (c) Given the critical role mortgage brokers play in facilitating competitive loan pricing, what assessment has the government made on how this payroll tax interpretation might affect the cost of mortgages for first-home buyers in NSW?
 - (d) What is the Government's response to concerns that this tax interpretation could lead to the closure of small broking businesses, and consequently reduce competition in the lending market?

Future of Small Businesses in Finance Industry

- (14) With the reported rise in insolvencies among small businesses in NSW, particularly in the finance industry, how does the government justify increasing costs for these businesses at this time?
- (a) What is the government's plan to ensure the viability of small broking businesses, which are essential in helping NSW residents and small businesses secure finance?
- (15) The NSW Government has recognised the importance of providing healthcare by assessing the application of payroll tax to GPs. Will the government apply similar consideration to the finance broking industry given its critical role in economic growth and home ownership?
- (a) Has the government considered a moratorium or other relief measures for the mortgage and finance broking industry, similar to those considered for the healthcare sector?
- (16) What is the government's response to the estimate that the payroll tax burden could increase the cost of an average mortgage in NSW by over \$273 per month?
- (a) How does the government plan to address the concern that this increase could completely erode the benefits of the Stamp Duty Reforms for first-home buyers?
- (17) Is the government considering any legislative changes to clarify or limit the application of payroll tax in the finance broking industry, particularly in light of the Loan Market decision?

Sydney Fish Market

- (18) How will the substantial increase in the Sydney Fish Market construction costs, from \$250 million to \$836 million, affect the small businesses that depend on the market for their operations?
 - (a) What support is the NSW Government providing to mitigate potential impacts?
- (19) Given that only two out of 38 subtenants have agreed to move to the new Sydney Fish Market due to design concerns, what steps is the government taking to address these design issues to ensure that small businesses can operate effectively in the new facility?
- (20) Why has Infrastructure NSW denied the Sydney Fish Market's request for documents related to the construction project, and how is the government ensuring that small businesses affected by the project have access to the information they need to understand the implications for their operations?
- (21) What specific measures is the NSW Government implementing to address the concerns of small businesses that have been raised in the context of the ongoing issues with the Sydney Fish Market construction and its impact on their business viability?

LANDS AND PROPERTY

Crown land issues in Regional NSW

- (22) Will more Crown land sites be identified in rural and remote communities for the construction of social and affordable housing?
 - (a) Will this be at a cost that will make it economically unviable?
- (23) Too many LAHC houses in Griffith are currently unliveable and could be redeveloped to dual occupancy or medium density housing to create safe and secure housing and an inclusive community. Will redevelopment such as this be approved for Griffith Local Government Area in the near future?
- (24) Does the Government acknowledge that local Councils, charities and other non-government organisations, not only by the nature of their business but by being closer in touch with communities and to local land resources, are especially well placed to identify and deliver affordable housing initiatives in NSW, including identifying opportunities to repurpose Crown land?

- (25) What is the Government doing to facilitate and remove barriers for local Councils, charities and non-government organisations who take the initiative, identify opportunities to repurpose Crown land for affordable housing, and take responsibility for delivering it?
- (26) Will you undertake to expedite the request from Griffith City Council to provide access to two small parcels of Crown land to incorporate into an affordable housing initiative in partnership with Argyle Housing?

Land Audit

- (27) Are there any “delivery agencies” apart from Homes NSW for housing and other infrastructure on land identified in the audit?
 - (a) Please list every one that has been considered by the Government.
- (28) How many lots have been analysed to date as part of the land use audit?
 - (a) Please list all the possible suitable uses of land as part of the land use audit.
 - (b) How many lots have been determined as suitable for housing?
- (29) For this surplus land intended for housing development, have you investigated any alternatives for the development of the land, where the Government holds long-term leases and the land is developed by another entity?
 - (a) What could these other entities be?
 - (b) Has modular housing been considered on this surplus land?
 - (c) Have build-to-rent properties been considered on this surplus land?
- (30) Have you assessed lots just for the provision of housing on the site or have you assessed them to support housing in neighbouring areas, for instance, such as public open space or roadways to support housing? Have you made that assessment?
 - (a) For lots earmarked for housing, what assessments have been conducted for supporting infrastructure?
 - (b) If not, when will these assessments be conducted?

Adaptive Re-use

- (31) The 2022-23 Year in Review report stated Property and Development NSW is leading “Government Property Framework policy reform to increase the adaptive reuse of surplus government property”. Is this correct?

- (a) What work has been done on adaptive reuse?
 - i. What progress has been made in this regard?
- (b) Has it been considered to use surplus government property for housing?
 - i. What progress has been made in this regard?

Parramatta Female Factory

- (32) What progress has been made on the World Heritage Nomination for the Parramatta Female Factory?

Crown Land Claims

- (33) How many Crown Land Claims remain unresolved as of today?
- (34) How many Crown Land Claims were resolved in FY 2023-24?
- (35) How many Crown Land Claims were granted in FY 2023-24?
- (36) How many Crown Land Claims have been resolved in FY 2024-25?
- (37) How many Crown Land Claims have been granted in FY 2024-25?
- (38) How many Aboriginal Land Claims remain unresolved as of today?
- (39) How many Aboriginal Land Claims were resolved in FY 2023-24?
- (40) How many Aboriginal Land Claims were granted in FY 2023-24?
- (41) How many Aboriginal Land Claims have been resolved in FY 2024-25?
- (42) How many Aboriginal Land Claims have been granted in FY 2024-25?
- (43) What is the average length of time taken to resolve an Aboriginal Land Claim?
- (44) Can you please provide a list of every ongoing social housing development that has not yet been finished on Crown Land, including the following:
 - (a) Address
 - (b) Number of dwellings proposed
 - (c) Types of dwelling (eg. Free standing house, apartment etc)
 - (d) Date announced
 - (e) Date started
 - (f) Status of progress

- (g) Estimated completion date
- (45) How many Crown Lands Claims remained unresolved on 30 June 2024
- (46) What are the 20 longest land claims still on the books?

Crown Lands Staffing

- (47) How many staff are currently employed by Crown Lands?
- (48) How many of FTE staff are assigned to work on Crown Land Claims?
- (49) How many of FTE staff are assigned to work on Aboriginal Land Claims?

Aboriginal Land Agreements

- (50) What has DPHI Crown Lands budgeted to Aboriginal Land Agreement negotiations in terms of operational costs, number of FTE positions, and for land transfers themselves for FY24/25?
 - (a) Provide a percent variation for the budgeted FY24/25 figures as against the expenditure figures for FY23/24?
- (51) By way of contrast what has DPHI Crown Lands budgeted to ordinary determination of Aboriginal Land Claims in terms of operational costs, number of FTE positions, and for land transfers themselves for FY24/25?
 - (a) Provide a percent variation for the budgeted FY24/25 figures as against the expenditure figures for FY23/24?
- (52) Can the minister provide an update and estimated timeframe for the finalisation of the Aboriginal Land Agreements (commenced in 2016) involving:
 - (a) Tamworth City Council and separately Tamworth & Nungaroo LALCs,
 - (b) Randwick City Council and La Perouse LALC,
 - (c) Northern Beaches Council and Metropolitan LALC,
 - (d) Central Coast Council and Darkinjung LALC,
 - (e) Hilltops Council and Young LALC, and
 - (f) The State and Eden LALC.

Land Leaving the Crown Estate

- (53) How much land (by area and value) has left the Crown Estate in the last financial year?
- (a) Can a breakdown be provided of the purpose of each transfer?
 - (b) Under what mechanisms did these vestings or transfers occur (excluding the Roads program). Can a breakdown be provided for each category including the following:
 - i. Sales Programs
 - ii. One off vestings
 - iii. Transfers to government agencies, including Property NSW
 - iv. Transfers to local councils under the Crown Lands Management Act
 - v. Transfers to non-government agencies
 - vi. Aboriginal Land Rights transfers
 - vii. Native Title transfers

Redevelopment of Reflections Wyangala Water Holiday Park

- (54) Now that your Government has scrapped plans to raise the wall of Wyangala, where is the master plan to redevelop the Reflections Wyangala Water Holiday Park site up to?
- (a) How much money has been allocated in the 2024-25 budget for repairs and maintenance and capital improvement at the Reflections Wyangala Water Holiday Park site?
 - (b) How does this compare to other Reflections sites across the state?
 - (c) Can you give us a breakdown?

Interment Services Levy

- (55) As the Interment Services Levy has been extended to cemetery operators outside of metropolitan New South Wales from 1 July 2024, and the additional \$5.05 million revenue this will generate in 2024-2025 and additional \$5.15 million in 2025-2026 will allow Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW to expand its staff from 14 FTE to 23 FTE, can the Government undertake to ensure a proportionate number of staff and regulatory activity will be in regional areas?

Statutory Review of Crown Land Management Act 2016

- (56) The Statutory Review of the Crown Land Management Act was due to report on 1 July 2024, and this has now been extended to the end of 2024. The review began in January 2023, with the discussion paper released in February 2024 and public consultation closing on 19 March. What has led to the delay of this Review?

MULTICULTURALISM

Domestic Violence in Multicultural Communities

- (57) What additional steps is the NSW Government taking to address domestic and family violence in multicultural communities, particularly in relation to:
- (a) funding,
 - (b) building a workforce of multicultural specialist workers,
 - (c) co-designed and community-led primary prevention and early intervention, and
 - (d) access to income support, health care and housing for people on temporary visas?
- (58) Will the NSW Government commit to establishing a Domestic and Family Violence Multicultural Committee as part of the NSW Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Council to inform whole-of-government strategies at the intersections of multiculturalism and domestic and family violence?

Budget Funding

- (59) The Labor Government has committed \$85 million over the next four years, including a record ongoing investment to MNSW. What is the record ongoing funding that MNSW will be receiving towards operational expenses?
- (60) The 2024-25 budget papers list the operating expenses for MNSW at \$71.3 million and CapEx at \$0.3 million, however, the budget overview says there is \$73 million in a permanent boost through MNSW. Can you explain why there may be a discrepancy in these figures?
- (61) Minister, \$14.5 million has been allocated over four years to boost social cohesion and countering violent extremism. How much of this funding will go towards the COMPACT grants?
- (a) What programs and/or initiatives is the remainder of this funding allocated towards?
- (62) Minister, \$4 million was allocated in 2024-25 to bolster Community Connection and Wellbeing – what exactly is this funding going towards?

- (a) What was the reasoning for it not be an initiative/s that rolls over several financial years?
- (63) \$5 million has been allocated for Community Cohesion Grants – is this funding over a four-year period?
 - (a) How many rounds will be opened in each financial year in order for community groups to access this funding?
- (64) \$1.2 million is also being directed towards supporting significant state events to be held in Sydney, particularly in the West and Southwest – is this funding over a four-year period?
 - (a) How will this funding be distributed?
 - (b) Who will be able to receive this funding?

Multicultural Media

- (65) IMMA Members were reportedly told pre-election by the Labor Party that a Labor Government would develop “ways to support digital transformation and journalistic excellence in the multicultural media sector.” This was said to be fulfilled through grants and government funding. Is the Government still looking to fulfil this commitment?
 - (a) If so, when are the relevant funding programs going to be announced and what will they look like?
 - (b) If not, why have you decided to renege on this commitment?
- (66) Minister, have you met formally with IMMA since this review to discuss their concerns in response to the release of this report?

NSW Grow Pilot Program and NSW Settlement Strategy

- (67) Minister, can you tell the Committee how many objectives in the NSW Settlement Strategy that had completion dates of both April and June 2024 have been completed on time?
 - (a) Which items has the Government not completed on time?
 - i. What is the reason for their delay?
- (68) Several of Multicultural NSW’s items were to “resource” the non-government sector. What exactly does this look like?
- (69) What was the benchmark to determine that these items would be “completed”?

- (70) For items that do not fall under the remit of Multicultural NSW – who is responsible for monitoring these action items to ensure they are completed?
- (71) The independent evaluation of the GROW pilot program had commenced in late February, are you able to provide any updates on the evaluation and when a final report may be provided to you?
- (a) Minister, will you make this report public?
- (72) It has also been advised that Federal Department's of Home Affairs and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations are on the GROW Steering Committee. Whilst State and Federal agency collaboration is key in this space, what representations have you made directly to your Federal counterparts regarding the programs?
- (73) Have you personally written to any Federal Minister's regarding either the GROW Pilot Program or the re-settlement of refugees and asylum seekers in NSW?

Safe Spaces for Faith Communities Program

- (74) Are you able to provide the committee with the list of the 103 successful applicants and the projects they received funding for?
- (75) How many applicants applied under this round and were unsuccessful?
- (76) Are you able to provide the committee with a list of those applicants who were unsuccessful?
- (77) For the first round, an initial \$3 million that groups were going to have access to was increased to \$5 million.
- (78) Is the Government going to consider increasing the funding available in the next round to ensure as many organisations as possible can improve security to their places of worship and other facilities eligible under the program?

Interpreting and Translation

- (79) Regarding the School-based Language Services Career Strategy:
- (a) How much funding has been allocated in the 2024-25 Budget to continue the strategy?
- (b) How many outcomes are in the strategy?
- (c) Are the outcomes of the strategy being monitored? If so, how?
- (d) When will the strategy be reviewed?

- (80) Strategic planning for an improved Scholarship program began in 2023. What is the status of this?
- (81) What universities and other educational institutions are partnered with MNSW as part of the scholarship program?
- (82) How long are these partnerships negotiated for before the partnerships are reviewed?
- (83) Over the past 12 months, how many people have:
- (a) Registered interest for the Interpreter Scholarship Program?
 - (b) Been accepted into the Interpreter Scholarship Program?
 - (c) Graduated from the Interpreter Scholarship Program?

Stronger Together Events Grants Programs

- (84) How many organisations have received funding over the past 12 months under the Stronger Together Events and Festivals Grants Program?
- (a) Which organisations have received funding?
 - (b) What was the funding amount provided to each successful organisation?
 - (c) What was the successful event or festival that each organisation received the funding for?
 - i. When will each of these events take place?
- (85) How many organisations applied for funding over the past 12 months under the Stronger Together Events and Festivals Grants Program but were unsuccessful?
- (86) How many organisations applied for funding over the past 12 months under the Stronger Together Projects Grants Program and were successful?
- (a) Which organisations received funding?
 - (b) What was the funding amount provided to each organisation?
 - (c) What are the individual projects that were successful?
- (87) How many organisations applied for funding over the past 12 months under the Stronger Together Projects Grants Program but were unsuccessful?

Multicultural NSW Board

- (88) In relation to the MNSW Advisory Board Members:

- (a) Between 1 January 2024 and 1 September were any existing MNSW Board members whose terms had not yet expired, requested to resign?
- (b) If so
 - i. Which Board members?
 - ii. How much of their term remained?
 - iii. When were they asked to resign?
 - iv. Who instigated the request(s)?
 - v. Who communicated the request(s) to the board members?
 - vi. What was the basis for the request?
- (c) Did the Minister instigate the request(s)?
- (d) Was the Minister advised of the request(s)?
- (e) Was the Minister advised of the resignation(s)?
- (f) What advice was provided to the Minister regarding the resignation(s)?
- (g) Why were they asked to resign?

(89) What are the current expiry dates for each Multicultural Advisory Board Member?

COMPLAN

- (90) Following meetings of the COMPLAN Committee, who is tasked to monitor and ensure any action items and follow up tasks are completed?
- (91) How many meetings have taken place since 1 January 2024?
 - (a) What dates did these meetings take place?
 - (b) Did any Minister's attend these meetings?
 - (c) If so, who?
- (92) How many actions items have arisen from meetings since 1 January 2024?
- (93) What were the committee's action items?
- (94) How many were successfully actioned?
- (95) Have there been any changes to the membership of the Committee in the past 12 months?
 - (a) If so, what are the changes that have occurred?

SPORT

Access to playing fields during wet weather

- (96) What support have you and the Office of Sport provided to local sporting organisations that have been left worse off as a result of these field closures due to wet weather?
- (97) What support have you and the Office of Sport provided to local sporting organisations such as the North West Sydney Football Association that have been left worse off as a result not being refunded field hire?
- (98) Will the Office of Sport offer support to impacted community organisations?
- (99) Given that better quality playing surfaces and drainage would avoid field closures in some instances, will the Office of Sport take steps to rectify this situation and provide better access for our communities to these facilities?
- (100) Please provide a list of grant programs offered by the Office of Sport that can be used and provide sufficient funding for drainage works?
- (101) Please provide a list of the “400-odd projects that are currently in delivery across the state” which included that grant program they were funded through, the round of funding, total funding amount, location and estimated completion date.

Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation

- (102) The Manly Warringah Little Athletics wrote to the CEO of the Office of Sport on 12 June requesting an on-site meeting be facilitated with iCare and posing alternatives. This has not been done. Will you commit to arranging this meeting to support track users?
- (103) Is the Government committed to fully funding the necessary repairs at the Sydney Academy of Sport 400m athletics track?
- (104) When do you anticipate these works will be completed?
- (105) Are you aware that the alternative facility offered by the Office of Sport has often been unavailable due to weather conditions?
- (106) Has the Office of Sport received complaints that the alternative facility offered is uneven and used by other sporting codes, making it difficult to coordinate sharing space?
- (107) Will the Office of Sport work with community users like Manly Warringah Little Athletics to identify more appropriate alternative facilities?

Accor Stadium Roof

(108) Which design firms were/are being used in formulating the business case for a roof at Accor Stadium?

Levelling the Playing Field Grant – Bob Proudfoot Pavilion

(109) Before funding for this project was returned, did the Member for South Coast make formal representations seeking to amend the scope of the project?

(110) Since Shoalhaven City Council returned the funding, has the Member for South Coast made formal representations to you to on the importance of funding this project?

(111) Are there other projects from the Levelling the Playing Field Program that will not be proceeding?

(112) Will the available funds be reallocated and if so, what will be the process?

(113) Based on current information, will there be an underspend for the Levelling the Playing Field Grant Program? If so, how much?

Active Kids Vouchers

(114) In the 2023 financial year how many children were eligible for Active Kids Vouchers in total and by electorate?

(115) In the 2023 financial year how many Active Kids Vouchers were created in total and by state electorate?

(116) In the 2023 financial year how many Active Kids Vouchers were redeemed in total and by electorate?

(117) In the 2023 financial year what was the total funding budgeted for the Active Kids program?

(118) In the 2023 financial year was there an underspend of the allocated funds for the Active Kids program?

(119) Noting that the Active Kids voucher program was axed by the Minns Labor Government on 31 January 2024, please advise for the 2024 financial year until the program's completion how many children were eligible for Active Kids Vouchers?

(120) Please advise for the 2024 financial year until the program's completion how many Active Kids Vouchers were created in the 2024 financial year?

- (121) Please advise for the 2024 financial year until the program's completion how many Active Kids Vouchers were redeemed in the 2024 financial year? Please provide a breakdown of the redemption of Active Kids Vouchers by electorate.
- (122) What was the total funding budgeted for the Active Kids program in the 2024 financial year?
- (123) Was there an underspend of the allocated funds for the Active Kids program in the 2024 financial year?
- (124) What was the total funding budgeted for the Active and Creative Kids program in the 2024 financial year?
- (125) Was there an underspend of the allocated funds for the Active and Creative Kids program in the 2024 financial year?

Sydney International Regatta Centre and Penrith Whitewater Stadium

- (126) Following on from the questions asked on Wednesday, 28 August of the Minister for Sport, the Hon Steve Kamper MP concerning the blue green algae blooms at the Penrith Lakes, would you please confirm the exact allocation of responsibilities that exist between the Office of Strategic Lands and the Office of Sport for the Penrith Lakes, the SICR facility and the paddle and rafting facilities? Who is responsible for what?
- (127) For each financial year since 2019, how many events have been cancelled or postponed as a result of algae blooms at the Sydney International Regatta Centre?
- (128) For each financial year since 2019, how many events have been cancelled or postponed as a result of algae blooms at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium?
- (129) For each financial year since 2019, what was the revenue lost as a result of algae blooms at the Sydney International Regatta Centre?
- (130) For each financial year since 2019, what was the revenue lost as a result of algae blooms at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium?
- (131) How many local community organisations, as well as local, state, national and international sporting organisation use the Penrith Lakes precinct and facilities?
- (132) For each calendar year since 2019, how many organisations have been impacted by the blue-green algae blooms that shut down the Penrith Lakes and the water sports facilities?

- (133) For each calendar year since 2019, how many local, regional, state, national and international sporting events have been cancelled and/or postponed as a result of blue green algae blooms?
- (a) If so, please provide a breakdown of the impact on each organisation.
- (134) Given the interconnecting responsibilities of the Office of Strategic Lands for the maintenance of the precinct and its facilities, and the Office of Sport for operating the facilities, do these matters form part of joint discussions/meeting between the two organisations as to how the precinct can be effectively managed?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If so, when did these discussions start and what has been the outcome of these discussions?
- (135) Is the Office of Sports aware of the broader economic impacts on the Penrith region and its business community that result from these events being cancelled and/or postponed due to blue green alga blooms?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (b) If so, please provide details of these economic impacts
- (136) Given that the Penrith Lakes are a strategic asset, do you recognise the negative national and international reputational impact that results from the Lakes not being a for purpose and reliable event asset?
- (137) Are you aware that a number of national and international sports are considering completing bypassing the Penrith Lakes facilities to the unreliability of the asset and the high risk of blue green algae blooms?
- (a) If so, what steps have been taken to alleviate these concerns?
- (138) On Wednesday, you and the Office of Sport told us that work between the Office of Strategic Lands and the Office of Sport had only just started in trying to find a solution to this problem. Why has it taken you so long?
- (139) Are you aware that in the lead up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games there are numerous opportunities for multiple national and international water sports events to be hosted at the Penrith Lakes?

- (140) Do you agree that none of these opportunities can be capitalised on if the Penrith Lake facilities are not for purpose and present too high a risk for event cancellation due to blue green algae blooms?
- (141) Do you concede that the high risk of event cancellation at Penrith is likely to result in sporting organisations bypassing NSW completely and hosting their events elsewhere?

Surf Club Facility Program

- (142) Are you aware that the advice from the Office of Sport to the Club President is that “the chances of getting approval for this variation is very slim”, that they should return the milestone payment and apply again for the full-funding of the original project? Why is the Office of Sport discouraging community organisations from utilising available funding that has already been awarded?
- (143) Will the Office of Sport assist organisations like Copacabana SLSC to repurpose allocated funding where it is appropriate?
- (144) What is the average length of time for the variation of scope requests to be considered under the Surf Club Facility Program?
- (145) Are any other Surf Clubs that have been awarded funding under this program experiencing similar difficulties, and if so, how are they are being dealt with?

2024-25 Budget – Agency Information Statements

- (146) On page 4-26 of Budget Paper No.2- Agency Information Statements a revised figure of \$282,054,000 for 2023/24 has been provided for Grants and Subsidies down from \$477,638,000. Please explain the reasons for this underspend and provide a list of grant programs and the relevant underspend for each?
- (147) On page 4-26 of Budget Paper No.2- Agency Information Statements a revised figure of \$288,871,000 for 2023/24 has been provided for the funding distribution from the Department down from \$464,027,000. What is the reason from this reduction in revenue from the Department?
- (148) On page 4-26 of Budget Paper No.2- Agency Information Statements a revised figure of \$29,268,000 for 2023/24 has been provided for Grants and Contributions revenue, down from \$64,643,000. What is the reason from this reduction in revenue?

- (149) Please provide a list of the land and building assets owned by the Office of Sport that make up the figure contained in the Office of Sport balance sheet?
- (150) On Budget Paper No.2- Agency Information Statements page 4-27 under liabilities a payables figure of \$27,878,000 is provided for 2023/24, up from \$11,285,000 what is the reason for this increase in liabilities?

Proposed NFL Game in Australia

- (151) If the bid is successful to have an NFL game in Sydney:
- (a) What Government Agency is responsible for working with the NFL to organise the game in Sydney?
 - (b) It was said in the hearing the Government was believing the game would occur in the 4th quarter of the year – which is the NFL season. Is there a specific month that is being considered?
 - (c) The NFL bye window is during weeks 5 to 14 of the season – and teams will likely take a bye the week before or after the game. Is the Government aware of this?
 - i. Is this period under discussion to host the game?
 - (d) Would the Government together with the NFL prepare wrap around and activation events throughout the week before the game for Australian NFL fans, of all 32 teams?
 - (e) Because of broadcast guidelines for football in the United States, games cannot be broadcast on a Saturday U.S. Time during the College Football season, preventing a Sunday game in Australia during most of the NFL season. Is the Government aware of this predicament?
 - i. What day of the week does the Government seek to host this NFL game in Sydney?
 - ii. Is the Government aware of any issues with hosting a game on a Saturday afternoon in Australia (which would be Friday night in the U.S.)?
 - iii. Would a game on a Monday public holiday be a consideration (because it would be able to be broadcast into the United States on a Sunday night)?
- (152) Philadelphia Eagles left tackle Jordan Mailata grew up in Sydney – has the NSW Government suggested to the NFL that the Eagles be one of the teams involved in this game?

(153) Has the NFL raised any issues concerning bye weeks for teams before or after the game in Sydney?

Qantas Chairman's Club

(154) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?

- (a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
- (b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
- (c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?
- (d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
- (e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

Union membership

(155) Are you a member of a union?

- (a) If yes, what union?

Union membership fees

(156) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:

- (a) 2022-23?
- (b) 2023-24?
- (c) 2024-25?

CFMEU membership

(157) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?

- (a) If yes, when?

CFMEU meetings

(158) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

ETU membership

(159) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?

(a) If yes, when?

ETU meetings

(160) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Paper shredder

(161) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(162) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

(163) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(164) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) 28 March 2023?

(b) 1 July 2023?

(c) 1 January 2024?

(d) 1 July 2024?

(165) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

(166) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary?

ii. Forced?

(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Former Ministerial Employees

(167) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

(a) If yes, how many?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(168) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

(169) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

State Records Act

(170) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?

(a) If yes, when?

Consultants

(171) Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) What was the individual amount of each contract?

(b) What is the purpose of each contract?

(c) Who was the contract with?

(d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

Legal Costs

(172) How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?

(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Advertising

(173) How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

- (a) Facebook
- (b) Instagram
- (c) LinkedIn
- (d) TikTok
- (e) YouTube
- (f) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Catering

(174) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

(175) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

(176) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Gin

(177) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

Stationery

(178) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?

(179) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?
- (b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

(180) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

(181) As a driver since 28 March 2023:

- (a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?
- (b) Have you been fined for speeding?

- (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?
- (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?
- (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?
 - i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

Speeches

- (182) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?
- (183) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

- (184) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?
- (185) What local government(s) did they serve?

Ministerial Advisers

- (186) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?
- (187) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Police Commissioner Gin

- (188) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Cabinet Sub Committees

- (189) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

E-Toll

- (190) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?
 - (a) If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

- (191) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?
 - (a) If yes, is it available online?

- i. If yes, what is the URL?

Workplace complaints

- (192) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?
- (193) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

- (194) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?
- (195) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
 - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

- (196) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?
- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

- (197) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, under what circumstance?
 - (b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?
- (198) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (Please provide a break-down of this information by grade)
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period?

- (e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?
- (f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
- (g) What was the cost to replace them?
- (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

(199) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Senior Executive Drivers

(200) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

Mobile phones

(201) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

(202) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Efficiency dividends

(203) 201. Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:

- (a) 2023-24?
 - i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
 - ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?
- (b) 2024-25?
 - i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
 - ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

(204) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?

(a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?

(205) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(206) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:

(a) 2077?

(b) 2079?

(c) 2080?

(d) 2081?

(e) 2082?

(f) 2083?

(g) 2117?

(h) 2118?

(i) 2119?

(j) 2120?

(k) 2121?

(l) 2125?

(m) 2126?

(n) 2151?

(o) 2154?

(p) 2156?

(q) 2157?

(r) 2158?

(s) 2159?

(t) 2756?

(u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified?

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(207) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

(208) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?

(a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

(209) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(210) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

(211) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

(b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

(212) What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) Taxi hire?

(b) Ridesharing services?

(c) Limousine/private car hire?

(d) Hire car rental?

TikTok

(213) Are you on TikTok?

- (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

(214) Are you on Signal?

- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

Training

(215) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

- (a) If yes, what is the description of training?
(b) If yes, how much?

Cabinet documents

(216) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary

(217) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(218) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Website usage

(219) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

(220) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial visits

(221) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
(b) 2079?

- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u):

1. What was the purpose of the visit(s)?
2. Did you make a funding announcement(s)?

Hard hats and/or vests

(222) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?

- (a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(223) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:

- (a) Handheld camera?
- (b) Handheld video recorder?
- (c) Microphone?
 - i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

Media releases and statements

(224) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?>

- (a) If no, why?

Questions from Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC
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SPORT

Women and Girls in Sport

(225) Why does the NSW Government defer to the Australian Human Rights Commission's Guidelines for the Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Diverse People in Sport instead of adhering to the clear exemptions provided under both the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 and the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984?

- (a) How does the NSW Government justify this approach when, by deferring to them, it effectively undermines the protections and exemptions these laws afford to female athletes?

(226) Given that the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 explicitly allows for the exclusion of transgender individuals from sex-specific sporting categories, what is the NSW Government's response to concerns that the inclusion of male athletes in female sports is creating unfair competition, compromising safety, and disadvantaging women and girls?

- (a) What specific measures is the NSW Government taking to restore safety, fairness, and the integrity of female sporting categories?

(227) Current NSW Government policy of allowing males to self-identify into female sporting categories effectively entrenches discrimination against women and girls, unlawfully disadvantaging them in sports. Does the NSW Government intend to continue sanctioning this practice of unlawful sex-based discrimination, or will it take steps to uphold the existing

exemptions under the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 that are designed to protect the integrity and safety of female sports?

(228) Women and girls in NSW have reported injuries, privacy violations, religious concerns, safety risks, and psychological harm resulting from the inclusion of males who self-identify as female in female sports competitions. This has led to issues of lack of consent, unfairness, forced silence, and ultimately, the displacement and exclusion of women and girls from their own sporting categories. How does the NSW Government reconcile these significant risks with its duty to protect female athletes?

(a) Why does the NSW Government continue to support policies that effectively lead to increased harm, despite the legal exemptions available under NSW and Commonwealth laws?

(229) If sports codes are best placed to develop guidelines for inclusion, how does the NSW Government ensure these codes are aligning their policies with the NSW and Commonwealth legal frameworks, which prioritise fairness and safety over inclusion?

(a) What accountability measures are in place to prevent sports organisations from implementing guidelines that effectively contravene NSW and Commonwealth laws, thereby putting female athletes at a disadvantage and in harm's way?

(230) Does the NSW Government intend to conduct a public consultation or similar assessment to determine the impact of allowing males to compete in female sports categories?

(a) If not, why has the NSW Government not sought specific input from female athletes and coaches, especially given the significant concerns regarding fairness and safety?

(231) Given the potential impact of the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 on the current sporting exemptions in the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977, have you and the Office of Sport sought legal advice regarding the ramifications of Schedule 1 of the bill particularly with respect to women and girls?

(232) If the proposed changes in Schedule 1 of the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 to the sporting exemptions in the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 proceed through the Parliament, the result would be a significant erosion of protections for female athletes, making it extremely difficult for sporting organisations to maintain the integrity of the female sports category. As the Minister for Sport, have you, or do you intend to recommend that the NSW Government support Schedule 1 of the bill?

Transcript extract

Dr AMANDA COHN: My questions are for you, Ms Jones. I was hoping to follow up on the Level the Playing Field program. I understand that it was oversubscribed. Will it be extended or repeated next year?

KAREN JONES: There is no funding allocation to continue the Level the Playing Field grant program this financial year.

Dr AMANDA COHN: The primary objective of that program, as I understand it, was equitable access for women and girls, and there was an additional objective to increase utilisation of sports facilities for people with disability, First Nations people, LGBTQIA+ people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Level the Playing Field

- (233) Why was the decision taken to discontinue funding for the oversubscribed Level the Playing Field program?
- (234) What program with shared objectives has been funded in its place?
- (235) What, if any, programs exist and are funded to improve infrastructure for the intended audience of Level the Playing Field.
- (236) With “no funding allocation to continue the Level the Playing Field grant program this financial year,” does this comment apply to all parts of the Level the Playing Field program?

Organisation Support Program

- (237) What are the criteria and accountabilities of the Organisation Support Program relating to women’s representation?