

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities

The Hon. Yasmin Catley MP
Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism and
Minister for the Hunter

Hearing: Wednesday, 12 March 2025

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Answers due by:

8 April 2025

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Mr Hudson, when did New South Wales police first communicate with the AFP about the Dural caravan?

DAVID HUDSON: On 19 January, and they deployed to the scene.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Was it the New South Wales police who told the AFP or the AFP who told the New South Wales police?

DAVID HUDSON: It was the New South Wales police who contacted the AFP.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: And you did that because?

DAVID HUDSON: Because the caravan, with explosives and the literature found within that caravan, treated at its highest, amounted to acts in preparation for a terrorist event.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Can you, on notice, provide the documentation about the communication that occurred between New South Wales police and the AFP?

DAVID HUDSON: I didn't make that communication. I would suggest it was probably a phone call in a joint counterterrorism team environment.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: There wouldn't be a file note or dates about that?

DAVID HUDSON: Potentially, but I'm not 100 per cent sure of that.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: On notice, can you undertake to look and provide the details that do exist.

DAVID HUDSON: We can do that.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The notification to the AFP was made by Assistant Commissioner Mark Walton to Assistant Commissioner NUTT of the AFP within an hour of the caravan being located.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Perhaps this is to the commissioner as well. Did you ever receive any instructions or advice on how this information should be handled?

KAREN WEBB: In terms of the leak to the media?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: In terms of public disclosure of the information or the leak to the media—all of it.

KAREN WEBB: Certainly I understand there has been a referral to professional standards in the event that there's a suggestion it could be from the NSW Police Force. But, as I said earlier, it can't be ruled out there's actually players inside the—those with a motive to leak it.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Sorry, is it your suggestion that people who were trying to construct a false antisemitic terror plot would be leaking that it wasn't an antisemitic terror plot?

KAREN WEBB: We've just got to keep an open mind. I think you've asked the questions—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Okay, I just find that a confusing suggestion. Are you able to table all the communications between your office, the Premier's Department and the NSW Police Force regarding the leaks?

KAREN WEBB: I can't table them right now.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could take it on notice?

KAREN WEBB: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: That would be great, thank you. Commissioner Webb, when exactly were your deputy commissioners and senior counterterrorism officials briefed about the Dural caravan incident?

ANSWER

I am advised:

This information will not be provided on the basis it would be subject to a Public Interest Immunity (PII) claim.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Ms Meagher, when did the Premier's Department or senior staff in the Premier's Department become aware of the Dural caravan and the implications?

KATE MEAGHER: I did attend one briefing; I think it was 23 January. Our secretary was on leave, so I attended one just as a support official and because I have a relevant security clearance.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Would you undertake to provide on notice all the correspondence between the Premier's Department and police about this, the leak and the management of that leak?

KATE MEAGHER: We haven't been asked to undertake any work around a leak. The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: No, briefings, contact, any correspondence.

KATE MEAGHER: Sure. I doubt very much, respectfully, that there would be a lot to provide, but I will certainly check with colleagues.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question should be directed at the Premiers Department.

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: On a different topic, Minister, do you think that the Early Drug Diversion Initiative is doing the job it was intended to do?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: No. We have talked of this before, of course. Unfortunately, no, it is not.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Why is that?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: As police have described to me, we need to make some changes. Police have never opposed this, as you know. This is something that we're happy to work together on. From the Drug Summit, we'll see some changes, but police are certainly supportive of some changes to be made to EDDI.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Since 29 February last year, which is when it came into force, what's the latest data in terms of the number of people charged for drug possession offences, and up until what date is that data?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Can I come back to that? I will answer it at the end but just so I can give you the correct response.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was subsequently answered on page 57 and 58 of the Transcript.

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Minister, just in terms of EDDI and training, what has happened? I think I asked you questions last time around the fact that police in some local area commands just didn't seem to be across it and didn't know it was even in place. The difference between Auburn and Bankstown suggests that there may be differences in how it's being applied. There can't be that many differences in the people who are caught. What's happening there?

DEAN SMITH: In terms of the training environment, there is the training which is available. However, in terms of the application of the scheme itself, I would have to defer to one of the other deputies in relation to that. But the training environment is in place. The training has been undertaken. I would have to take on notice the numbers who have taken up that training.

ANSWER

I am advised:

11,370 police officers have completed the training in EDDI scheme, between 15 February 2024 to 10 March 2025.

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: —there is the ability for police to continue to impose conditions, including exorbitant fees, which are killing music festivals in New South Wales. That is still in this law. Is that appeals process established, firstly?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Yes.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Have any music festivals appealed, over the summer, since that legislation was reformed?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Pete will know if there are any.

PETER THURTELL: Since the change of our policy in relation to user pays, which you have correctly pointed out, it does allow for appeals at a local level. However, I'd just need to point out that that's a formalisation of existing practices that have been around for many years; it has just been put into our documents. There have been 10 reviews of user pays across the State. Eight of those were successful. Four of those eight were for music festivals. Two of the four were successful. However, one of those was because of a reduction in the anticipated crowd numbers, so therefore less police were required.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: That's very useful. Thank you. Would you be able to table, on notice, the details of that in terms of which festivals they were?

PETER THURTELL: I've just got it written on a scrap piece of paper, but eventually I can, yes.

ANSWER

I am advised:

To date, there have been ten (10) reviews of user pays across the state.

- The Newcastle Show (event on 28 February 2025 to 2 March 2025)
- Mullet Fest (event on 22 February 2025)
- Dreamstate (event on 8 February 2025)
- Women's International Cricket at SCG (event on 20 January 2025)

- Juicy Festival (event on 18 January 2025)
- New Years Eve in the Park at Bathurst (event on 31 December 2024)
- Mode Festival 2024 (event on 12 December 2024)
- Subsonic Stroud Show (event on 29 November 2024 to 1 December 2024)
- Postie Ride (event on 27 October 2024)
- Ride for Cancer (unknown event date)

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Were there any senior bureaucrats from the Premier's Department engaging with the police about public disclosures of information?

KAREN WEBB: Later on, and on occasion, the Secretary of the Premier's Department were in briefings, but that was just the nature of the briefings, not for advice or anything else.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Can you take on notice—releasing emails or correspondence between New South Wales police and Premier's Department about this issue?

KAREN WEBB: I'll take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This information will not be provided on the basis it would be subject to a Public Interest Immunity (PII) claim.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: To help us for this afternoon—and I've got a list of things that possibly go to you, Deputy Commissioner Smith. The numbers for the authorised strength, the current strength and the number of people who are on leave, and those stats for each command over the last five years—would we be able to have a look at that this afternoon? Are they stats that you can pull together on notice for this afternoon?

DEAN SMITH: We'll have a look at that. Probably the higher level stats we can talk to. The individual commands in terms of vacancies and operational capacity for—are you talking about every command across the State?

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Yes, please.

DEAN SMITH: Okay.

ANSWER

I am advised:

As at 16 February 2025, the total number of police officers across the State is 15,978 with a total number of authorised police positions of 18,374.

This question was also subsequently answered on page 81 of the Transcript regarding the number of officers on leave and the types of leave.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: How many people have been charged under the "post and boast" laws that were introduced in April last year?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will get that for you.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Charged and convicted—are you able to provide that?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will get that for you today. I do have that, but I don't have it in front of me.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was subsequently answered on page 24 of the Transcript.

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Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Minister, is it possible for you to please provide to the Committee the full breakdown of charges laid against the 14 individuals arrested under Strike Force Pearl? I'm happy for you to just provide that, if you're able to do so.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Yes, there are 29 all up.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Sorry, I apologise, there is now. I've got numbers all over the place. There are 29 now. Is that possible for you to provide to the Committee, or take on notice?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I'd like to check with Mr Hudson. It depends on what details you want, Mr Hudson has advised. We'll provide what we can. How about that?

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: All I'm looking for is the full breakdown of the charges laid. Minister, given the NSW Police Force itself has now ruled out antisemitic ideology as a motivating factor in the Strike Force Pearl arrests, does the Government acknowledge that it misrepresented these incidences as antisemitic to justify the rushed legislative changes your Government has done?

ANSWER

I am advised:

The following are the charges laid against the individuals:

- Destroy or damage property in company > \$50
- Accessory before the fact – Destroy or damage property in company > \$2000 & <=\$5000 – T2
- Accessory before the fact – Destroy or damage property in company > 5000 – T1
- Accessory before the fact to an offence – Break and enter house etc destroy etc property > \$60,000 – S1
- Accessory before the fact to an offence - Damage property by fire or explosives >\$2000 &<=\$5000 - T2
- Accessory before the fact to an offence - Damage property by fire or explosives >\$15000 - T1
- Armed with intent to commit indictable offence – T1
- Behave in offensive manner in or near public place/school
- Carried in conveyance taken without consent of the owner – T2
- Contravene Apprehended Domestic Violence Order
- Cultivate prohibited plant>small & <=indictable quantity – T1
- Damage property by fire or explosion >\$15000 - T1

- Deemed supply prohibited drug >small & <=indictable quantity - T1
- Destroy or damage property intend criminal activity of group – T1
- Destroy or property in company use fire etc <=\$2000 – T2
- Destroy or property in company use fire etc >\$2000 – T1
- Destroy or property in company use fire etc >\$5000 – T1
- Destroy or damage property
- Destroy or damage property intend criminal activity of group - T1
- Destroy or damage property in company <=\$2000-T2
- Destroy or damage property in company >\$2K <=\$5K – T2
- Destroy or damage property in company use fire etc >\$50
- Drive conveyance take without consent of owner – T2
- Drive motor vehicle during disqualification period - 1st offence
- Drive motor vehicle during disqualification period - 2nd+ offence
- Enter building or land with intent to commit indictable offence – T1
- Face blackened or disguised with intent to commit indictable offence – T1
- Fail to comply with digital evidence access order direction – T2
- Give false etc info re digital evidence access order - T2
- Good in personal custody suspected being stolen (not motor vehicle)
- Good suspected stolen in or on premises (not motor vehicle)
- Hinder or resist police officer in the execution of duty
- Knowingly direct activities of criminal group – T1
- Knowingly display by public act Nazi symbol without reasonable excuse
- Larceny - T2
- Never licensed person drive vehicle on road – Prior offence
- Owner not disclose identity of driver or passenger vehicle occupants
- Participate in criminal group contribute criminal activity – T2
- Participate in criminal group
- Possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit – T2
- Possess prohibited drug
- Possess prohibited Weapon
- Possess unregistered firearm – pistol – T2
- Possess, or attempt to, prescribed restricted substance
- Supply prohibited drug
- Supply prohibited drug >indictable & <commercial quantity - T1
- Supply prohibited drug >small & <=indictable quantity – T1
- Take a conveyance without consent of owner
- Threaten violence to group – SI
- Use carriage service to menace/harass/offend
- Use carriage service to threaten to kill

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Minister, can you advise the release date for the report on the Drug Summit?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I'm not sure of that date, I'm sorry.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Can you take that on notice?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Sure. I'll have to find out. I don't know. It's not something led by police. It's not police led. You might be best to direct that to Health.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Drug Summit report was released in April 2025.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: What impact is that having on police time? For example—I know it's a "piece of string" question—what would be a typical time period that police may have to retain someone in police cells?

KAREN WEBB: I can't give you a typical time, suffice to say that we charge a lot of people every year and we are holding more people in custody awaiting various stages. As an executive, we've met and added a CAD category so we can better account for that time so that we get a better picture over time of the time that we're holding people for different purposes. We did a pilot and found that we could free up officers' time if we were able to move those people on.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: On notice, could you provide the most recent figures of the time that police are spending in relation to bail matters?

KAREN WEBB: If that's available, I'll provide it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

CAD category is intended to capture the time dedicated by the NSW Police Force officers to conduct prisoner transport duties. These are the duties which would normally be undertaken by officers from Corrective Services NSW. The trial does not capture the time an individual is remanded in custody.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Minister, can you tell me how much money is allocated to the Rural Crime Prevention Team?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will tell you that before we finish here.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was subsequently answered on page 60 of the Transcript.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Minister, in a question on notice from my colleague Leslie Williams you answered, on 20 November last year, that you anticipated an outcome in relation to the issue of confiscation of the proceeds of crime acquired by Eddie Obeid and his family by early 2025. We're now in early 2025. Can you provide an update on the investigation and the confiscation of those proceeds of crime, please?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I can't at this point in time, but when I do know that, that will be provided.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was subsequently answered on page 54 of the transcript.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Minister, we still hear reports of stations closing at night due to understaffing. Can you outline which stations have the worst record for this? I hesitate to use the term "worst" because I don't want to criticise the police for doing this, but which stations are shutting the most often and how often is that occurring?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: That information hasn't been provided to me. Mr Smith or Paul?

PAUL PISANOS: It depends. Are you talking about regional and rural police stations?

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: I'm happy for you to take that one on notice. There is a bit of detail.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has a vast property portfolio, with over 400 police stations across the state. Police officers are generally allocated to Police Area Commands (PACs), Police Districts (PDs) or Specialist Commands, not to individual police stations.

All police positions attached to PACs and PDs are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Staffing at any police station can fluctuate daily in response to crime trends and other intelligence-led operational requirements. All local resources are supplemented by specialist police (highway patrol, major crime squads, covert resources), which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

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The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Minister, we spoke earlier about paying student police officers—a great idea. What's the actual cost to the NSW Police Force per year of paying students? How unusual—a budget estimates question that goes to budget!

The CHAIR: Why haven't we got a call to order?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will have to get that exact figure for you.

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: That's fine.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I do have that, but I just haven't got it here in front of me.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question was subsequently answered on page 45 and 81 of the Transcript.

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The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Further to that, I'm aware of the existence of a document—one of those infamous yellows: document No. D2024/843707, authored by Nicole O'Connell, of which you're a signatory to, I believe, that talks specifically about the need that FABS have said the need to quarantine positions. Are you aware of that?

DEAN SMITH: Mr Roberts, you've quoted a number. I would hate to know how many yellows that I see and sign and go through each and every day of the week. I'm happy to look at that. I am aware of the work that is undertaken in that space. But without specifically having a look at that specific yellow, I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment on the context or the content.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This topic was subsequently discussed in more details after lunch break and later on the day.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: One of the measures that I presume you were alluding to are some of the diversionary programs in Moree. What evaluation is happening of those programs?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: We don't evaluate that at police. They are not police programs—just so you know—except for, obviously, the PCYC. The youth command works closely with the PCYC. We get figures on how many interactions they have and how many times they go to school to do those education programs. I don't have the number in front of me, but it was in the vicinity of more than 10½ thousand kids.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: In Moree?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: No, just generally. But, in Moree, they also have the programs there, the Fit for Life program and others. But police—

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Could you provide some of those?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: —don't evaluate the diversionary programs that you're referring to.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: You said you have those figures. Are you able to provide some of them for us on notice?

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I might not have them direct—would we have those direct from Moree?

PAUL PISANOS: Yes.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Yes. Can I just be very clear, though? That's what police do with the PCYC.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) received \$6.5 million from the NSW Government as a result of the Premier's Youth Task Force (2022). This funding was to be spent on

programs across NSW including Moree between July 2023 and June 2025. Under the funding deed, the PCYC is required to complete an evaluation of the programs.

The proposed programs and locations appear below from the executed funding deed.

- PCYC - POS data for Moree at 1.50pm 12/03/2025
Filters: 01/03/2023 – 28/02/2025 (2yrs), Moree club, Police Activity

Months 01/03/2023 - 28/02/2025		Total	
Club Name and Code	Session Description	Planned Sessions	Attendance
235 - Moree	U-NITES PCYC AFTER DARK	96	842
	UNITES	50	758
	FIT FOR LIFE	209	394
	FIT FOR CHANGE	8	0
Total		363	1994

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: The Government proposes to send a message about knife crime. The laws are structured in such a way that they can't be run in the Local Court; they have to be run by indictment, which means the DPP. The DPP is saying no to two-thirds of the matters sent to them by police. The police are arresting, but if the prosecutions aren't being made, then the higher sentences aren't being awarded. Is this legislation faulty because it's not sending the message that the Government hoped it would send?

KAREN WEBB: I'll have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Since 9 December 2024, the NSW Police Force has been able to use new powers, modelled on Queensland's 'Jack's Law'. New powers allow the NSW Police Force to use handheld scanners – or electronic metal-detecting 'wands' – to stop and scan individuals without a warrant at designated areas. Designated areas may include shopping precincts, public transport stations and certain sporting venues.

As at 11 March 2025, there have been 34 declarations which include:

- Central railway station (12 Dec 2024)
- Liverpool Westfield shopping centre (13 Dec 2024)
- Liverpool public transport station (railway station, commuter carpark and bus interchange) - (13 Dec 2024)
- Crown Street shopping mall precinct (19 Dec 2024)
- Parramatta railway bus transport interchange (19 Dec 2024)
- Wollongong public transport station railway station, commuter carpark and bus interchange (19 Dec 2024)
- Blacktown railway station (20 Dec 2024)
- Blacktown Westpoint shopping centre (20 Dec 2024)
- Mt Druitt railway station, Dawson Mall and Westfield Mt Druitt (9 Jan 2025)

- Parramatta Westfield shopping centre and Parramatta railway and bus (16 Jan 2025)
- Newcastle Transport interchange (24 Jan 2025)
- Marketown shopping centre (24 Jan 2025)
- Campbelltown CBD shopping precinct (30 Jan 2025)
- Campbelltown railway station, Hurley Street (30 Jan 2025)
- Macarthur railway station, Menangle Road (30 Jan 2025)
- Macarthur Square shopping complex (30 Jan 2025)
- Dubbo (8 Feb 2025)
- Wagga Wagga Public Transport Station (13 Feb 2025)
- Wagga Wagga CBD Shopping Precinct (13 Feb 2025)
- Coffs Harbour Drive retail strip (13 Feb 2025)
- Coffs Harbour Railway Station (13 Feb 2025)
- Coffs Harbour Park Beach Plaza, including surrounding bus stops and retail outlets (13 Feb 2025)
- Wagga Wagga CBD Shopping Precinct (14 Feb 2025)
- Wagga Wagga Public Transport Station (14 Feb 2025)
- Blacktown Transport Interchange, related carparks and Westfield retail precinct (20 Feb 2025).
- Bomaderry Public Transport Station, including Bomaderry shops directly opposite Railway Street (27 Feb 2025)
- Nowra CBD Shopping Precinct (27 Feb 2025)
- Bomaderry Public Transport Station, including Bomaderry shops directly opposite Railway Street (28 Feb 2025)
- Nowra CBD Shopping Precinct (28 Feb 2025)
- Tuggerah (6 Mar 2025)
- Gosford (6 Mar 2025)
- Albury Central Business District (6 Mar 2025)
- Lavington Shopping Precinct, including Lavington Square (7 Mar 2025)
- Albury Central Business District (7 Mar 2025)

Additionally, the NSW Police Force provides the following data:

- Number of people scanned: 4,147
- Number of unlawful weapons seized: 91
- Number of persons charged with weapon offences: 67
- Number of charges laid for weapon offences: 71
- Number of persons charged with Section 45N fail to comply (with scan or fail to produce an item when scanned): 7

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: I just thought I picked up in one of the reports—it was talking about "Mongoose crimes".

KAREN WEBB: It's a term that we use. We call them "Mongoose offenders" et cetera.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: How many new recruits were sworn into the NSW Police Force in the last calendar year?

KAREN WEBB: I'll refer to Mr Smith to get the exact numbers, but the numbers are growing. I think the Minister mentioned this morning that the numbers anticipated for this calendar year are 1,000 officers.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Possibly in this tranche as well, how many police officers left in that calendar year?

KAREN WEBB: I'll get that number for you too.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Recruits sworn in 2024: 747

Total Police separations in 2024: 1,390

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Commissioner, in relation to social media, do police have the ability to reach out to social media and ask them to pull certain pages down?

KAREN WEBB: We do. I understand that we have a relationship with the big media platforms, whether they agree to or not. We also work with the eSafety Commissioner to try and manage the content. That's not always possible. We often use social media platforms in the investigative space rather than the prevention and disruption space.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: For example, I understand that in the northern suburbs of Sydney there's a Facebook page with a fairly offensive title where very young people really are stealing cars and posting pictures, and essentially taunting the police to come and get them. Is it possible to go to the social media platforms and have that shut down?

KAREN WEBB: In the regional areas we've got Operation Mongoose. In the city we've got Strike Force Sweetenham, which has a similar mandate. I've met with those investigators and seen the work that they've done. They do work with the social media companies to take content down but also disrupt and investigate matters that they come across.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: What's the typical time frame if you wanted something taken down?

KAREN WEBB: I'd have to take that on notice. That might just depend on the provider and whether they're in country or not.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has relationships with the following third-party content provider (TPCP):

- Google (inc YouTube)
- Matchgroup
- Meta (Facebook/Instagram/Whatsapp)
- Only Fans
- Snapchat
- TikTok
- Discord
- Microsoft

The NSW Police Force will attempt to submit Content Removal requests to any TPCP using the TPCP's, Law Enforcement / Legal Request Portals, or contacts provided by the e-Safety Commissioner. Once content removal requests are submitted to the TPCP, response times can vary, but on average a response is received within 24 hours.

- Meta and TikTok usually action requests within 24 hours.
- Reddit usually respond within 24 hours.
- Snapchat and Google usually take several weeks.
- X usually responds within 24 hours.
- Telegram do not respond.
- Discord usually responds within 24 hours.
- Quora usually responds within 48 hours.

Although the TPCP will usually respond within the above time frames, they will reject content removal requests if the content does not breach their own Community Standards Policies.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How many police would be available to respond from Young?
KAREN WEBB: It's part of the Hume command, so I'd have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The Hume Police District has a 24/7 mobile police response across the District and in terms of staff specifically attached to Young Police Station, they have authorised strength of:

- One (1) Inspector
- Three (3) General Duties Sergeants
- Twelve (12) General Duties Constables

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I understand that New South Wales police infrastructure and asset command has commissioned a condition assessment report. Is that right?

DEAN SMITH: Yes, but I'd have to take the detail of that on notice. I'm not aware of the detail.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I believe it's due at the end of March. Is that right? I'm happy for you to take it on notice.

DEAN SMITH: I am. We normally would across a cycle of maintenance programs, and that would inform decisions as to where we go and what we do.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How is that report made public?

DEAN SMITH: I'd have to have a look at that. Whether it's in the annual report, I can't remember if that is in it, but I'll take it on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I wonder if you could undertake to provide us with a copy of that report when it's finished?

DEAN SMITH: Yes, that's fine.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The condition assessment report is a voluminous living document held by the NSW Police Force property service provider that is reviewed annually. The report informs the NSW Police Force's Asset Management Plans, which are Cabinet-in-confidence document and therefore, it is not available for public release.

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Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Deputy Commissioner, do you have any knowledge about any conversations that may have been happening with the harbourmaster and the harbourmaster suggesting that allowing ships coming in and out in the circumstances was not a good idea or was unsafe?

PAUL PISANOS: To be honest, I can't be 100 per cent certain. There may very well have been. I would suggest, if that was the case, it probably would have formed part of the proceedings of the Supreme Court in regard to the objections. The objection, as you know, was taken on public safety grounds in terms of the operation of the shipping lane itself.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Sorry, I'm not meaning to cut you off, but I'm referring to post those proceedings and when the event actually was taking place—was there any communications? I'm happy if you want to take this on notice and provide any detail back to the Committee. I'm very interested, and I think the Committee should be informed, about whether there was any communication from the harbourmaster to the police—whether it be on the ground or the senior officers—of the harbourmaster suggesting that he thought it was too unsafe for ships to be going in or out of the coal port during the people's blockade of that coal port.

PAUL PISANOS: I'm comfortable to say there were ongoing discussions and I was being briefed on it, but I can't say specifically. I'd have to take that on notice. There were live and enduring conversations that were going on. That was the focus of the risk—was activation of the shipping lane and the movements within the shipping lane. So it would have been, definitely, a point of ongoing discussion. I'll take the specifics on notice.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: I'm particularly interested if the police on the ground did any well-intentioned

but pushback on the harbourmaster of his views about whether it was safe or unsafe in the circumstances.

PAUL PISANOS: I'll take it on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

There were ongoing communications between police and the Harbour Master during the planning and actual operation conducted during the Rising Tide Protests in Newcastle. In fact, Police were in ongoing consultation with the Harbour Master before all inbound and outbound shipping movements.

This information related to the numbers of persons on the water, types of vessels, locations etc, so that the Harbour Master could make a proper safety assessment and determine the movement of any vessels. Whilst the police provided advice, decisions in relation to the movement of vessels rested with the Harbour Master.

On Sunday 24 November 2024, there were occasions where police informed the Harbour Master that numerous people on kayaks and other craft were in the shipping channel and that these individuals were ignoring police directions. The Harbour Master was able to make decisions on shipping movements based on this information.

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Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: Is all of that captured in terms of looking at the reasons why this is failing? The Minister said that there are problems. I think every police representative that spoke at the drug summits that I was at in Lismore and Sydney also suggested that this needs to be reformed. Is the data collected to the level that you know what is going on beyond—

KAREN WEBB: It might take some work to delineate. We know that from 1 March last year to 31 December that the EDDI rate is 15 per cent. It's up from the year before, which was seven.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: What was that first date, sorry?

KAREN WEBB: From 1 March 2024 to 31 December.

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: It's only been in place for that long.

KAREN WEBB: I mean previous diversion programs. It's consumed at 15 per cent in that period. It may not be possible to draw out if people are charged for something else and the drug is part of that. I'd have to take that away.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Noting EDDI is still in its early stages of implementation, the NSW Government is monitoring the scheme and will consider the appropriateness of the eligibility criteria.

The NSW Government is aware that the eligibility criteria were one of the issues discussed at the Drug Summit. The NSW Government is considering the final report on the outcomes of the Summit which the Summit Co-Chairs delivered in April 2025.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Mr Smith, just a follow-up question for you in relation to buildings. You said you've got the plan of capital works. The demountable in the backyard of Gladesville Police Station, where offenders are currently charged, was described as a "temporary fix" over two years ago. When will a proper building be built there?

DEAN SMITH: I'll have to take that on notice. In terms of that level of detail around that body of work, I'll take that on notice, if that's okay.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The temporary custody arrangements at Gladesville will cease when custody return to Ryde Police Station post remediation. The NSW Police Force is unable to provide a timeframe at present.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You would be aware that police officers are actually forced to breach the commissioner's own directions every day by walking unarmed through public areas due to the poor design, where change rooms are located outside of the secure area of the station, where arms and appointments are kept. That didn't make the business case for a new police station?

DEAN SMITH: I'd have to take that component on notice. I'm not aware of the details of the business case.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could take it on a notice and perhaps also provide details of which police stations were funded ahead of this police station. I also understand that mould and rodent infestation and numerous electrical issues are logged by officers, yet it won't get funding for at least two years?

KAREN WEBB: As you can imagine, ma'am, they're not decisions that we make but, to the deputy's point, we have put up a business case for Ryde. We continue to prosecute that case for them.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Eastwood Police Station has secure pathways to enable officers to access appointments. Helensburgh Police Station was most recently funded.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Then I believe a business case was to be put to the Government for wands. Was a business case put to the Government?

PETER THURTELL: No. That was in anticipation that some of the technology that we envisaged being exposed to over in the UK would require significant expenditure on our behalf and, therefore, a business case would be required. Unfortunately, the technology isn't where it needs to be in order for us to justify that purchase. In fact, I think it's fair to say that the technology that we went over to see has already been superseded in the minds of what the UK are doing. I think it's fair to say that they've now moved on beyond that, and they're looking at other technology in the future.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: What is the UK doing?

PETER THURTELL: They're looking at things like even the cameras that are set up in railway stations et cetera would have the ability to determine whether somebody has a metal device, specifically down to a knife, on their person. That's how far advanced it could and will be.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You looked at the—I think they were called radar detection wands.

PETER THURTELL: Radar detection devices.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: You looked at those?

PETER THURTELL: Yes, they just weren't—the technology for them is not where it should be. They're the devices that I say are probably being superseded already before they've even got off the ground.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Which wands did you purchase?

PETER THURTELL: In terms of the wands that we've purchased since, we have done that within our own existing budget.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: But which wands did you purchase?

PETER THURTELL: The brand, you mean?

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Were they the ones from the UK? Were they the ones from the USA? PETER THURTELL: No, the ones from Australia. Yes, ones that are already—

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Again, I'm confused because last time I think I specifically asked whether they would be sourced from Australia. I'm sure the answer was no and that you were looking to the UK and the USA.

PETER THURTELL: Yes.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So where are they made in Australia?

PETER THURTELL: Don't know.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Okay. Can you take that on notice, please?

PETER THURTELL: Yes. I can go to the website and have a look.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Garrett Tactical Handheld metal detectors (THD). They are made in the USA.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So that means that command travels to that particular place?

PETER THURTELL: Correct.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: What's the cost involved in having them travel to that particular place?

PETER THURTELL: I don't have that specifically.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Can you take that on notice, please—the cost both in the dollars that it takes but also the time that it takes, so time away from where they would normally be operating.

PETER THURTELL: That's where they would normally be operating.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The following regional deployments have occurred since December 2024, which encompassed knife scanning operations (Operation Ares). It is difficult to quantify the exact amount for each Knife Scanning Operation as they are combined in multi-functional operations.

Majority of these multi-functional operations/deployments include Operation Explorer (which is cost recovery from Sydney Trains for Regional deployments), Operation Ares, Operation Generate and Operation Mongoose.

These costings vary between Operations, although majority include meal and incidental allowances, accommodation, motor vehicle costs, shifts and overtime for officers deployed.

Please note the costings below do not include payroll tax and police salaries.

- Dubbo (5 – 9 February 2025)
 - o Total cost: \$13,746.98
- Casino/Coffs Harbour (10 – 14 February 2025)
 - o Total cost: \$22,998.90 (\$13,775 was recouped from Sydney Trains via cost recovery)
- Wagga Wagga (12 – 15 February 2025)
 - o Total cost: \$9,061.64 (amount to be recouped from Sydney Trains via cost recovery)
- Nowra (27 – 28 February 2025)
 - o Total cost: \$8,819.88
- Albury (5 – 8 March 2025)

- Total cost: \$13,371.05 (amount to be recouped from Sydney Trains via cost recovery)

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How often, absent a wandering operation, would you expect the Police Transport Command to be in Wagga?

PETER THURTELL: I'd have to take that on notice, but they do go to regional areas.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I would love it if you could take it on notice and tell me how many times in the last five years the Police Transport Command have been to Wagga, absent a wandering operation. So the decision has been made operationally that it will be that command and that command only that will have the wands?

PETER THURTELL: No.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Which other commands will have the wands?

PETER THURTELL: No, that's what I said: We are transitioning now to regions, police area commands and police districts to use the legislation. What I told you last September was we wanted to iron out any issues in terms of our standard operating procedures, in terms of our technical ability to record the operation et cetera. As recently as 5 February this year, we had to make some amendments to our COPS to accurately record data properly. That's now done. I'm now satisfied that we have sound SOPs, we have sound training and we have sound operating procedures. I'm also satisfied that BOCSAR can pull the data out accurately, as required.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's Police Transport Command (PTC) Operational deployments to Wagga Wagga (1 March 2020 to 28 February 2025):

PTC regularly deploys officers to regional NSW with a view to providing additional security and support to our key stakeholder "NSW Trains" and to assist Police Districts. These regional deployments are referred to as "Operation PTC Explorer". As part of these operational deployments, two or more officers travel to the regional area via an XPT service while the remaining officers travel via road, shadowing the XPT service.

Officers involved in these deployments provide support to the on-board NSW Trains crews and the NSW Trains staff, working at the various railway stations along the regional railway route. Once in the Regional town, PTC officers assist the local Police District address local crime and anti-social issues. PTC officers subsequently travel back to their home commands via the same method (a combination of XPT and road travel).

The Town of Wagga Wagga lies within the PTC South/West catchment. Over the past five (5) years PTC South/West have deployed officers to Wagga Wagga on eight (7) occasions, which are detailed as follow:

- 18 – 21 June 2020: 5 officers deployed for 4 days/3 nights
- 21 – 23 May 2021: 8 officers deployed for 3 days/2 nights
- 23 – 26 November 2022: 4 officers deployed for 4 days/3 nights
- 3 – 6 May 2023: 4 officers deployed for 4 days/3 nights
- 26 – 29 April 2024: 6 officers deployed for 4 days/3 nights
- 19 – 22 September 2024: 4 officers deployed for 3 days/2 nights

- 12 – 15 February 2025: 10 officers deployed for 4 days/3 nights (2 of these 4 days were devoted to knife scanning operations within the Wagga CBD - Operation ARES).

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: How many police officers have been trained?

PETER THURTELL: That, I don't have.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Could you take that on notice, please?

PETER THURTELL: Yes.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Person searching training is provided for every student at the Academy, including the Garrett Super Scanner, since approximately 2001.

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Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Just briefly, Commissioner, why did the NSW Police Force—or if I'm wrong, correct me—choose not to launch a criminal investigation into the incident involving an officer filming and distributing a colleague's genitals on camera?

KAREN WEBB: I'll have to take that one on notice. I don't know which matter you're referring to.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: It was reported, and it was a matter—I'd have to go back now, but it was not that long ago. It was an awfully—it was a reported incident about a police officer in a vehicle, travelling at distance, and somebody—

KAREN WEBB: I'd have to take that on notice.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Thank you. I understand that the investigation is on, but I'd be very interested to know why that wasn't investigated as a criminal matter and what you specifically are doing to deal with those forms of toxic behaviours now, not just wait until the investigation is completed.

ANSWER

I am advised:

In late 2023, a police sergeant was returning from a deployment in Northern NSW and following from that return, a complaint of bullying and harassment was lodged against the officer. The matter was classified as criminal and was investigated by a senior officer independent from that officer's normal unit. After a comprehensive investigation, based on legal advice, there was insufficient evidence to prove any criminal offence beyond a reasonable doubt.

Notwithstanding that the officer was not charged with a criminal offence, the officer was found departmentally to have acted in an unprofessional manner, and a sustained finding was made against the officer.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the matter was then progressed through internal panels chaired by the Professional Standards Command. The officer has received numerous sanctions.

This matter and the whole decision-making process was made accessible to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC). LECC is a permanent and independent investigative commission, and it has a statutory role in overseeing complaint handling of the NSW Police Force.

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Ms SUE HIGGINSON: I just wanted to ask you about strip searches, specifically, at train stations. There was data from the Redfern Legal Centre that between 2016 and 2024, averaging about 100 per year, there were 900 strip searches. Does that concern you in terms of the amount of strip searches being undertaken at train stations? Why is that such a frequent occurrence?

KAREN WEBB: It would be up to the officers running those operations. Trains, of all modes of transport, carry a lot of passengers. Some of our train station operations coincide with different things and events. I can't speak to any of those specifically, but I can take some more of that on notice, if you wish.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Thank you. Just in relation to the other matter, it was reported on 27 January this year in the ABC. Could you provide me an answer?

KAREN WEBB: Okay.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force (NSWPF) has implemented significant operational changes recommended by the Law Enforcement Conduction Commission (LECC) and the Coroner's Court in relation to strip searches.

Strip searches are governed by a comprehensive legislative framework, which includes safeguards to maintain the privacy and dignity of individuals, especially minors. Strip searching of children under 10 is prohibited under section 34 of the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 (LEPRA)*. There are also additional safeguards whenever a young person is searched, as they must occur in the presence of the young person's parent, guardian or other person capable of representing their interests, in the circumstances.

Under section 31 of the LEPRA, a strip search can be undertaken 'in the field', that is, outside of a police station, where police reasonably suspect that the strip search is necessary for the purposes of the search and that the seriousness and urgency of the circumstances make the strip search necessary. Police will continue to follow extensive safeguards to preserve a person's privacy and dignity.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I want to talk about workers compensation and doing one of those rare things where I look in the budget. I didn't bring it with me, but in the annual report there was a figure of \$737,184,000 in premiums paid. It says that there's been a just over \$200,000

adjustment that was made. It must have been at the end of the 2023-24 year. Does the \$737 million include the \$200 million or does that roll over into the 2024-25 year?

KAREN WEBB: I'll have to defer to my deputy.

DEAN SMITH: If I could take that component on notice, because it depends on the cycle. There are what are called hindsight adjustments in terms of the way premiums are paid and then accounted for, and where that is. I don't want to mislead or give an answer. I would like to be sure about the timing of that and what that looks like, if that's fine, Ms Boyd.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: That would be really good. I also understand the latest agency performance adjustment calculation came out on—I think it is 31 December now. Are you able to take on notice what that impact was as well?

DEAN SMITH: Yes, I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The \$737,184,000 does not include pricing or agency adjustments. For the financial year ended 30 June 2024, the NSW Police Force reported workers' compensation payments of \$737,184,000, as detailed in *Note 2(a) 'Employee Related Expenses' on page 68 of the annual financial report*.

Additionally, the NSW Police Force incurred expenses amounting to \$240,244,000 for the Agency Performance Agreement (APA), as disclosed in *Note 2(b) 'Other Operating Expenses' on page 69 of the annual report*.

Preliminary indicative advice from icare indicates that the Agency Performance Agreement (APA) expense for the financial year 2024-25 is expected to be \$156,700,000.

The NSW Police Force will record the actual final amount as advised by icare as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Source data: NSWPF 2023-24 Annual Report

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/890805/FINAL_Annual_Report_2023-24.pdf.

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Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: Sorry, just in the time I've got left, though, just look at the premiums paid. They have doubled since 2015. That indicates that it's not just rates of claims; it's also time off and the amount being paid out. Perhaps you can take it on notice—I'm looking for what is being done from a prevention perspective in response to this. If you have any thoughts about whether this is to do with under-resourcing or any of those things, I'd really welcome hearing that on notice as well.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Through PULSE, additional Recover at Work Advisors (RAW) and Recover at Work Specialists were able to be recruited to reduce individual case load and increase delivery of proactive, outcome driven return to work and injury management services. RAW Advisors

and Specialists hold proactive case conferences with workers and their nominated treating doctors / treatment providers to discuss barriers and opportunities for recovery at work.

Where treatment and/or rehabilitation are deemed reasonably necessary to support recovery and return to work EML approve and fund this for officers. Where officers are certified as having capacity for work, even if not preinjury duties, this can usually be accommodated, and officers are supported by the Recover at Work Team to undertake a graded return to work plan. Higher claims cost is attributable to high weekly compensation payments and medical/treatment related costs.

An officer's capacity for work is determined by their nominated treating doctor and whilst all efforts by the Recover at Work Team are taken to influence the doctor, inclusive of providing suitable work options both within the NSW Police Force and externally through rehabilitation work trials with private sector employers and other government departments, officers with psychological injuries are often certified unfit for any employment for extended periods of time. Whilst certified unfit for work officers are in receipt of weekly compensation benefits paid through their workers compensation claim. In addition, as there is no threshold on the number or variety of reasonably necessary treatment options an officer can engage in, for officers with significant physical and/or psychological injuries who access an array of services, this can result in high medical costs on the claim.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: I presume this will be you, again, Deputy Commissioner Pisanos. The different zones in regional New South Wales that come with different incentives, how are they set?

PAUL PISANOS: They apply a formula. It's the Modified Monash Model in terms of determining whether a location or a zone or a sector or whatever is remote or special remote, and with that comes a particular drop in of either a cash incentive and/or rental dispensation and the like. Those things are managed, I think, as part of the award, but certainly through our people capability command. I can go into detail in regard to the amounts of the incentives and that to attract police to remote and special remote locations, if it would assist.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Can you explain for me the process of getting a different area put into a different zone? You say they apply for it. Is that the police officer going to that area, or are areas already designated in different zones?

PAUL PISANOS: The area is designated through a particular method, and the method is to do with the infrastructure and what's available in the community. The incentive is attached to the more difficult and challenging the area, the less facilities, infrastructure, and obviously there's a compensatory amount that attaches to being posted to that location. It's preset for a particular location and, unless I'm mistaken, it's certainly linked up and categorised in our award, from memory.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: How many different zones are there?

PAUL PISANOS: I'm not sure if zones is the correct terminology. I can provide it to you either in writing or we can go through it now.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: As long as we understand what we're talking about, if you can provide that for me in writing, that'd be fine.

PAUL PISANOS: Yes, no problems at all. I'm happy to do that.

ANSWER

I am advised:

In February, the NSW Government announced additional funding to enable a reform of existing attraction and retention incentives provided to officers in remote/special remote locations. Commencing 1 July 2023, the new incentive scheme consolidated existing arrangements (annual incentive payments) and includes a bonus payment (as approved/funded for a five-year period to 30 June 2028).

In consultation with the Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW), the Modified Monash Model (MMM) (as amended/updated) will be used to inform the NSW Police Force classification of a location as remote or special remote. Consideration will also be given to local knowledge and any other relevant factors as part of the classification process.

The following locations are classified remote locations:

- Southern Region:
 - Murray River PD - Moulamein
 - Murrumbidgee PD - Coleambally, Goolgowi, Hay, Rankins Springs, Ungarie
- Western Region:
 - Barrier PD - Balranald, Broken Hill, Buronga, Dareton, Euston, Wentworth
 - Central West PD - Condobolin, Peak Hill, Tullamore
 - New England PD - Ashford, Garah, Moree, Pallamallawa, Wialda, Yetman, Gravesend
 - Orana-Mid Western PD - Baradine, Coonabarabran, Warren Oxley Wee Waa, Bellata

The following locations are classified as Special Remote locations:

- Western Region: (Required tenure after location)
 - Barrier PD - Ivanhoe 2 years, Menindee 3 years, Tibooburra 2 years, Wilcannia 2 years
 - Central North PD - Bourke 3 years, Brewarrina 2 years, Burren Junction 3 years, Carinda 3 years, Cobar 3 years, Collarenebri 3 years, Enngonia 2 years, Goolooga 2 years, Lightning Ridge 3 years, Nymagee 3 years, Nyngan 3 years, Walgett 3 years, Wanaaring 2 years
 - Central West PD - Lake Cargelligo 3 years, Tottenham 3 years, New England Boggabilla 3 years, Boomi 3 years, Mungindi 3 years
 - Orana Mid-Western PD - Coonamble 3 years, Gulargambone 3 years
 - Oxley PD - Gwabegar 3 years, Pilliga 3 years
- Southern Region:
 - Murrumbidgee PD - Hillston 3 years

One Remote Offshore location:

- Northern Region:
 - Mid North Coast PD – Lord Howe Island

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: And some or maybe all of those regions come with housing?
 DEAN SMITH: Yes, depending upon remote and special remote. I'll stand corrected, but special remote all would come with the housing. But, again, there are like 80, 100 locations

which are classified into those different areas, and I'd have to take on notice what that looks like in terms of the housing classifications for each of those as well.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Officers working within Special Remote locations are generally afforded housing. An allowance, in lieu of housing, being a deduction from salary of 3% (and where an official police residence is not available, reimbursement of accommodation costs over and above the allowance may be considered).

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Does New South Wales police contract that role to Housing NSW?

DEAN SMITH: That's correct.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Who sets the amount? Is it a per house amount? Do you just give them a budget and they have to meet a certain standard? How does that work?

DEAN SMITH: Are you talking about for repairs and maintenance?

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: For the management of those houses.

DEAN SMITH: I'd have to take that on notice. I think there is a funding envelope which is allocated to manage our portfolio of police houses, and the exact figure I would have to get. The way that that is managed I don't believe is part of our role, but we obviously would know what's going on and keep track of anything that comes up or is reported to us to make sure that we have an ongoing relationship with Housing NSW in regard to how that is managed and what is being done, and the funding envelope from within that exists.

ANSWER

I am advised:

A Memorandum of Understanding is in place that sets out the Service Charge (and increase mechanism) for the portfolio as an annualised amount.

The Service Charge takes into account the operating and maintenance costs for the police residential portfolio which is managed by Property and Development NSW (Housing NSW).

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: What I'm getting to is we're hearing about a lot of disparity between police housing and teacher housing or nurse housing. How would that come about? I presume they are all managed by or through Housing NSW.

DEAN SMITH: I wouldn't be able to answer that question. I'd have to take it on notice, and I don't know that it's a question that I, as an agency, would be appropriate to give without consulting with Housing NSW.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question should be referred to Homes NSW.

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PETER THURTELL: I think you'll find Paddington Police Station has always been open. It's not a manned general duties police station. The highway patrol are based out of there, but it is a functioning police station.

he Hon. SUSAN CARTER: So it's 24/7?

PETER THURTELL: I doubt it's 24/7, but it may be. I'd have to check.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Paddington Police Station is operating as a 24/7 station.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: If you could take that on notice, I'd be grateful. The other police station was Swansea. Is that open?

PAUL PISANOS: I'd have to get back to you in terms of Swansea itself.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Swansea Police Station is no longer operational. Belmont Police Station has continued to service the Swansea community since 2016.

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Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Commissioner, while the deputy commissioner is looking for that, why is it that in 124 allegations of police failing to comply with body-worn video SOPs between April 2023 and 2024, 46 have been declined to be investigated by the New South Wales police? Can you explain why that is and what that's about?

KAREN WEBB: I'd have to take it on notice, but it might be that an officer bumped it—who knows. The device could have broken or malfunctioned. The point you raise is that we've had a stock of old body-worns that have been breaking down. We've had to buy some additional resources to get us over the line until the new product comes online. There could be a variety of reasons. But I'll have to come back to you with a more fulsome answer.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The extract from the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) report refers to the outcome for 57 allegations, or 46% of the total number of allegations, being that the NSW Police Force declined to investigate.

Section 131 the *Police Act 1990* (Police Act) outlines the ways in which the Commissioner of Police can choose to deal with a misconduct matter (which is what an allegation, or a complaint, is called). This includes deciding to take no further action as action has already

been taken, or to decline to investigate an allegation which as reflected above is permitted under the legislation.

The NSW Police Force has a process of assessment (triaging) of a complaint which involves a review of the complaint allegation by a member of the NSW Police Force at the rank of Inspector or above obo the delegate. In undertaking this assessment, the Triage officer will review all NSW Police Force holdings in existence at that time, such as body worn video CCTV footage, rosters etc to assess the veracity of the allegation and decide on the best option to deal with the allegation at hand.

Whilst this may result in a decision to decline to investigate, it is due to there being sufficient information available to the delegate to make a decision regarding the allegation without needing to conduct an investigation. On page 18 of the LECC report from which this data set has been extracted notes that in 58% of the matters management action (ie remedial action) was undertaken despite the allegation being declined for investigation.

It should also be noted that the 57 allegations in the data set relate to 37 misconduct matters. Whilst the LECC does not review every misconduct matter that the NSW Police Force receives, the organisation reviewed 23 of the 37 misconduct matters (62%), and ratified (or agreed with) the final decision of the NSW Police Force delegate to decline to investigate the misconduct matter.

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The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Given this is probably my last opportunity, I just want to thank the police force in general for the work they're doing. I don't like implications that we're not doing that. We're very appreciative of the work that you're doing, in often very trying circumstances. As I wrap up, do we track response times?

KAREN WEBB: We do.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Do we have a breakdown of them as per regions?

KAREN WEBB: We do. We've got some statistics about P1 and P2, particularly. We've got a coded system for priority—priority one, two, particularly for urgent important jobs. Then to priority five, which are like administrative tasks. It helps divide the work. P1, P2 jobs—most important—we do measure those. We've got targets or benchmarks for how quickly we'd like to attend those jobs. I can talk to you about some of the response times. We've got a statewide target of 12 minutes to respond to urgent calls for service. The average response time remains within the target time. The average statewide urgent response time for 2023 to 2024 was 10 minutes and 57 seconds. The average metropolitan was eight minutes and 19 seconds. The average regional field operations urgent response time was 13.55 minutes. Given the workload, given the roads, given all the other complexities, I'm very pleased with how it's tracking.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Are you able to provide those numbers historically as well. I don't mean now; on notice?

KAREN WEBB: Sure.

The Hon. SCOTT BARRETT: Five years?

KAREN WEBB: I think we can do that on notice. I can try and do that for you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Average Response Time – Statewide

Financial Year	Average Response Time
2020-21	10:47
2021-22	10:60
2022-23	11:00
2023-24	10:57
2024-25 (as at 22/03/2025)	11:03

Average Response Time - Metropolitan Field Operations

Financial Year	Average Response Time
2020-21	8:09
2021-22	8:22
2022-23	8:36
2023-24	8:19
2024-25 (as at 22/03/2025)	8:19

Average Response Time - Regional Field Operations

Financial Year	Average Response Time
2020-21	13:45
2021-22	13:58
2022-23	13:50
2023-24	13:55
2024-25 (as at 22/03/2025)	14:04

Average Response Time - Breakdown by Region

	Average Response Time in				
Responsible Region	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 (as at 22/03/2025)
Central Metropolitan	6:34	6:43	6:56	6:49	6:45
North West Metropolitan	9:10	9:20	9:30	8:56	8:42
Northern	13:49	14:29	13:54	13:39	13:51
South West Metropolitan	8:19	8:40	8:57	8:49	9:08
Southern	13:24	13:08	13:18	13:44	13:46
Western	14:05	13:49	14:27	14:55	15:00

Average Response Time - Breakdown by PACs/PDs

Responsible PAC/PD	Average Response Time in				
	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25 (as at 22/03/2025)
Auburn Pac	8:17	8:53	8:29	7:41	7:55
Bankstown	9:17	9:02	8:58	9:24	10:23
Barrier Pd	17:05	15:32	16:08	15:29	18:21
Blacktown	8:26	8:26	8:26	7:37	7:20
Blue Mountains	11:51	10:40	11:37	11:22	11:15
Brisbane Water	11:20	11:33	11:32	11:31	12:11
Burwood	6:55	7:30	7:41	7:48	8:23
Camden	10:14	10:15	11:25	11:45	12:06
Campbelltown City Pac	7:49	8:43	9:02	9:15	9:10
Campsie	7:33	7:36	7:37	7:13	7:37
Central North Pd	17:18	20:32	16:09	15:04	13:29
Central West Pd	11:12	11:28	14:22	14:16	13:42
Chifley Pd	13:30	12:33	13:19	13:08	14:53
Coffs/Clarence	15:21	14:54	14:16	14:32	14:46
Cumberland Pac	8:30	8:59	9:00	7:43	7:59
Eastern Beaches	6:01	6:30	6:35	7:13	7:19
Eastern Suburbs Pac	6:36	5:47	6:15	6:25	6:01
Fairfield City Pac	7:49	7:56	8:46	9:23	9:41
Hawkesbury	11:54	11:46	11:22	11:06	10:30
Hunter Valley Pd	14:15	14:01	14:43	14:13	14:11
Inner West Pac	5:41	6:12	6:08	5:47	6:14
Kings Cross	5:16	4:06	4:36	4:23	3:55
Ku-Ring-Gai	10:01	9:52	10:30	9:56	10:23
Lake Illawarra	13:12	12:48	12:45	13:10	12:50
Lake Macquarie	12:52	13:15	13:60	14:04	14:47
Leichhardt	5:46	6:14	6:35	6:16	5:42
Liverpool City Pac	8:29	8:53	9:13	8:51	8:52
Manning/Great Lakes	16:01	13:05	14:02	13:01	12:55
Mid North Coast	18:07	15:25	16:14	16:32	16:46
Monaro	13:58	14:43	13:13	12:49	14:48
Mt Druitt	7:48	8:10	8:47	8:10	7:30
Murray River Pd	14:29	13:43	14:40	14:21	14:07
Murrumbidgee Pd	14:22	12:27	14:09	17:22	16:20
Nepean Pac	9:58	10:33	9:45	9:08	8:23
New England	14:43	13:08	14:35	15:08	15:36
Newcastle City	12:06	12:19	12:02	11:34	11:43
North Shore Pac	7:27	7:14	8:13	8:16	7:52
Northern Beaches	8:05	8:30	8:29	8:19	8:39

Orana Mid Western Pd	13:59	14:03	14:02	16:03	15:11
Oxley Pd	14:06	14:26	14:30	14:46	14:24
Parramatta	8:00	7:18	8:11	7:48	8:01
Port Stephens/Hunter Pd	12:45	12:29	14:14	13:33	13:27
Richmond	12:49	22:03	14:01	13:40	13:37
Riverina Pd	11:02	11:44	12:17	12:32	13:39
Riverstone Pac	8:59	9:51	9:46	9:11	9:17
Ryde	9:52	10:12	11:00	9:22	9:18
South Coast Pd	15:48	15:39	15:18	15:37	15:58
South Sydney Pac	6:24	6:48	7:39	7:05	7:01
St George	8:03	8:41	8:46	8:20	8:17
Surry Hills	4:05	4:31	4:23	4:25	5:06
Sutherland	8:18	8:39	8:39	8:32	7:52
Sydney City	5:52	5:45	5:60	6:01	6:01
The Hills	11:27	11:29	11:38	11:06	11:15
The Hume Pd	15:01	14:13	14:34	14:44	14:47
Tuggerah Lakes	14:31	12:51	14:41	14:04	14:39
Tweed/Byron	14:15	19:32	14:18	14:24	14:04
Water Police	16:51	16:14	16:44	16:39	15:40
Wollongong	10:12	9:54	10:00	11:05	10:21

Data Notes:

- Data source: EDW_CAD
- Data extracted: 24/03/2025
- Data current to: 22/03/2025
- Financial year: 2020-21 to 2024-25 (to 22/03)
- Priority (final): P1, P2
- Call type: Primary
- Measure: average response time (minutes)

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I am happy for you to take this on notice: Could you tell me the first time you were in contact with the Great Synagogue in relation to potential threats?

DAVID HUDSON: Potential threats? They would go back. The hate crime unit has a good relationship with the Jewish community and is constantly visiting. I can get that to you.

ANSWER

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force's Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command has a well-established relationship with the Jewish Community. Its Engagement and Hate Crime Unit have met regularly with Jewish Community leaders over a number of years, including formal quarterly meetings with the Community Security Group to discuss all security-related matters, including concerns, threats, and antisemitic attacks.

The Community Security Group is the conduit to the broader Jewish community in Sydney in relation to security and safety of the Jewish community. Since 7 October 2023, the Engagement and Hate Crime Unit's meetings with the Community Security Group have increased in frequency significantly, with threats, incidents and security related matters discussed.

Police have increased their taskings around the Great Synagogue and other places of interest (Jewish and non-Jewish), with a significant increase in police resources to investigate, high visibility policing, increased patrols and other tasking under Strike Force Pearl. On 4 February 2025, the Strike Force Pearl Commander, relevant Police Area Command Commanders, and Engagement and Hate Crime Unit, Community Security Group, The Great Synagogue and the Sydney Jewish Museum met to discuss security matters.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Ms Meagher, this question may be for you. I don't know whether you can help me. I understand that industry pipeline analysis shows that the Hunter needs about \$500 million to get up to speed and allow zoned land to be delivered. When will the Hunter get the enabling infrastructure to unlock the existing pipeline for that region's housing and jobs?

KATE MEAGHER: Thanks, Ms Carter. I think I would probably answer that in a couple of ways. Largely this work would be driven by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as you can imagine. The Hunter regional plan is in place. It's Hunter Regional Plan 2041, so obviously it's on a long lead time, but the things that you mentioned there obviously are long-term initiatives. My understanding is that there is a review of that plan underway at the moment. I can take on notice any specifics around how they might address those individual elements. Certainly I know the Minister's interest, as the Minister for the Hunter, in particular is around Broadmeadow. There's work underway, again, with Planning and the City of Newcastle with regard to feedback on the place strategy and, obviously, resulting jobs and housing from that as well.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: I might put that question on notice.

KATE MEAGHER: No worries.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Are you able to help me with the status of the Salamander Bay Fire Station upgrade?

KATE MEAGHER: I'm not, I'm afraid. I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: All right. I might put those other questions on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised:

This question should be directed at the Minister for Emergency Services.

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The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: Thank you. If you can assist me with this: Given our population increase in that area, is the situation in Swansea likely to be revisited?

PAUL PISANOS: Again, I can't clarify that. I apologise. I don't have that available.

The Hon. SUSAN CARTER: No, I just thought you may know.

ANSWER

I am advised:

Belmont Police Station has continued to service the Swansea community since 2016.