

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

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF THE REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK FOR CANNABIS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Hearing: Wednesday, 2 April 2025

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Answer due by:

1 May 2025

**Committee Secretariat**

Phone 9230 2156

**[PortfolioCommittee1@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PortfolioCommittee1@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

### **Question 1 (page 45 of Transcript)**

**The CHAIR:** What cost is there to the NSW Police Force's budget of enforcing cannabis laws? Do you have a line item in your budget for the police who are out there detecting cannabis grows, arresting people, enforcing it and searching people? How much does it cost annually for the New South Wales police to enforce our current cannabis laws?

**DAVID HUDSON:** We don't have a particular line item in relation to commodities like that. We have a cannabis eradication team that sits within the Drug and Firearms Squad of State Crime Command. Their responsibility is to investigate major crops, whether they be hydroponic or in public parks. In the growing season up north they visit commands with a helicopter, identifying large-scale plantations of cannabis plants, sometimes unearthing over 10,000 plants in one crop; then they remove and destroy them to try and reduce that supply. They also look at hydroponic set-ups and target them as well. But that's just a particular unit of a squad at State crime that focuses specifically on cannabis.

**The CHAIR:** Could you take that on notice, the budget for just that unit? I think that would be interesting for the inquiry.

**DAVID HUDSON:** Yes, I certainly can.

### **ANSWER**

In 2024-25 Financial Year, the overall budget for the NSW Police Force's Cannabis Diversion Team is \$2,212,129, which relates to police salaries and on-costs (payroll tax and superannuation).