



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – REGIONAL NSW

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
(Moriarty)

Hearing: Monday 1 September 2025

Answers due by: Friday 26 September 2025

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Mark Latham MLC

Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales

- (1) To the Minister: when did Gallagher Animal Management first request the meeting with you that went ahead on 6 May 2025?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the Premier declaring an interest and abstaining from the government's consideration of the legalisation of virtual fencing due to his close personal relationship with Brent Thomas, a financial beneficiary of the government's plan?
- (3) At her 7 May meeting with Mr Thomas did the Minister discuss his longstanding friendship with the Premier?
- (4) What representations did you receive prior to 30 April 2025 regarding approval for virtual fencing from
 - (a) Halter,
 - (b) Gallagher and
 - (c) Vence? What are the details?
- (5) At the hearing you said you didn't know whether or not you had discussed virtual fencing with Chris Minns, can you now answer that question having had time to think about it?
- (6) At page 14 of the Hansard, the Minister could not say for sure whether she had discussed the legalisation of Virtual Fencing with the Premier. Now with time to think about it, Minister, what is the answer? And did you have any discussion with anyone from the Premier's office? What are the details?

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

2024 State of the Environment report

- (7) For each of the following key findings in the 2024 State of the Environment, please provide full details of the data provided by your portfolio to inform each of the following key findings:
 - (a) Most estuaries and coastal swimming sites have water quality that is suitable for swimming, but this varies, especially after heavy rainfall.

- (b) Coastal vegetation and habitats (saltmarsh, mangroves and seagrass) continue to be threatened by coastal development and climate change. While in some locations they are declining, in others coverage has improved due to good management.
- (c) Kelp forest area declined in all sampled locations between 2019 and 2023, from 25% to 60%.
- (d) Despite limited data for assessing statewide trends of coastal fish species, current monitoring of fisheries suggests fish stocks are stable, although some species are under threat.

Fisheries compliance

- (8) Please provide details of all occasions that an independent observer has been on board a fishing vessel in NSW between 2015 and 2025, including:
 - (a) The date the observer was on board
 - (b) The fishery in which the vessel was operating
 - (c) The location in which the vessel was operating
 - (d) The observer's records from the visit, including but not limited to any documented bycatch recorded and any potential breaches of regulation recorded.
- (9) Please provide all reports of bycatch of threatened or protected species submitted by fishing vessel operators in NSW between 2015 and 2025. For each report, please include:
 - (a) The date the bycatch was recorded
 - (b) The date the bycatch was reported
 - (c) The fishery in which the vessel was operating
 - (d) The location in which the vessel was operating
 - (e) The threatened or protected species recorded, including number of individuals recorded for each species and whether the individuals were dead or alive.

Targeting and destruction of large sharks by recreational fishers

- (10) Does Fisheries NSW undertake any monitoring and compliance of the targeting of large sharks by recreational fishers in NSW?
- (11) Does Fisheries NSW undertake any monitoring of the potential illegal sale of shark jaws, teeth and heads in NSW or beyond?
- (12) Have Fisheries NSW investigated the activities of Hunter Shark Jaw Restoration?

- (a) Please provide details of any actions taken to prevent the potential illegal trade of shark jaws by Hunter Shark Jaw Restoration or any other private sellers in NSW.

Fish stock assessments

- (13) Please list all fish stock assessments undertaken by NSW Fisheries or the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development over the period 2015 to 2025.

- (a) For each assessment, please include:
- i. the species assessed
 - ii. the year in which the assessment was undertaken
 - iii. a link to the assessment report or, where assessment reports are not published, copies of the assessment results.

Fisheries management in a changing climate

- (14) Please list any actions undertaken to reform NSW-managed fisheries in the face of a changing climate. Please include details of:

- (a) Each NSW-managed fisheries that has been assessed in regards to its sustainability under future climate scenarios, including:
- i. when the assessment was undertaken
 - ii. the fishery that was assessed
 - iii. the species affected
 - iv. the predicted impacts of different climate scenarios on fish stocks
 - v. the methodology used to predict these impacts.
- (b) Any changes made to the management of any NSW-managed fishery in response to the findings of the assessment, including but not limited to changes in:
- vi. regulatory settings
 - vii. policies
 - viii. processes
 - ix. compliance and enforcement efforts.

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme

- (15) Why has your Department continued to ignore the recommendations made by independent consultants, AUSTECO Environmental Consulting, commissioned by the EPA following the 2019/20 fires to: 'protect all unburnt and lightly burned areas from logging for 20-120 years; protect 50% of the least burnt area of every logging compartment across the entire landscape; and develop new conditions that ensure 'permanent protection of large forest patches across regions and landscapes that capture and include fire refuges...old growth and link all retained forest patches larger than 5 hectares in size in a network of permanent wildlife corridors'?
- (16) Can you provide an estimate of the savings in GHG emissions likely to result from creating The Great Koala National Park?
- (17) What volume of carbon credits do you anticipate will be generated by the GKNP?
- (18) What price do you anticipate the GKNP carbon credits will receive?
- (19) How will carbon credits generated by the creation of the park be marketed?
- (20) What new regulatory arrangements will be established to satisfy 100 year permanence requirements?
- (21) Which state agency will take on the responsibilities, legal obligations and liabilities of the project proponent?

Cultural Fishing

- (22) What oversight does the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPI) have over Fisheries Officer's surveillance and compliance of First Nations communities engaging in cultural fishing?
 - (a) How many cases of non-compliance has the DPI identified among First Nations communities engaging in cultural fishing in:
 - i. 2020?
 - ii. 2021?
 - iii. 2022?
 - iv. 2023?
 - v. 2024?
 - vi. 2025?

- (b) What is the text of the explicit methodology and procedures used by Fisheries Officers to determine compliance?
- (23) Does the DPI track the exercising of powers by Fisheries Officers against individuals under section 255 and 255A of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?
- (a) Does this include explicit tracking of the exercising of powers against First Nations communities engaged in cultural fishing?
 - (b) If not, will the Minister act to ensure this occurs, with explicit direction for Fisheries Officers to monitor the exercising of powers against First Nations communities engaged in cultural fishing?
 - (c) If so, in how many instances did Fisheries Officers determine that fishing evaluated was Aboriginal cultural fishing or fishing in line with Native Title rights in:
 - i. 2020?
 - ii. 2021?
 - iii. 2022?
 - iv. 2023?
 - v. 2024?
 - vi. 2025?
 - (d) If so, in how many instances did Fisheries Officers determine that fishing evaluated was *not* Aboriginal cultural fishing or fishing in line with Native Title rights in:
 - i. 2020?
 - ii. 2021?
 - iii. 2022?
 - iv. 2023?
 - v. 2024?
 - vi. 2025?
- (24) Does the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training and Education that Fisheries Officers receive include specific education on:
- (a) The history of cultural fishing in First Nations communities?

- (b) The practices involved in cultural fishing for First Nations?
 - (c) The responsibility of Fisheries Officers in determining which fishing activities fall under the definition of Aboriginal cultural fishing or fishing in line with Native Title rights?
- (25) At what stage does the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training and Education that Fisheries Officers receive occur during the onboarding process for a Fisheries Officer?
- (a) What is the name of the training module?
- (26) Which Aboriginal stakeholders have been consulted with during the development of the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training and Education?
- (a) How regularly is this training module reviewed?
 - (b) Who is it reviewed by?
- (27) Does the DPI track the number of Fisheries Officers who have completed Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training and Education with explicit training on cultural fishing practices?
- (a) If so, how many Fisheries Officers have completed the training?
 - (b) If so, how many Fisheries Officers have not completed training?
- (28) How many reviews has the DPI undertaken regarding prosecutions and Penalty Infringements derived from the enforcement of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 in:
- (a) 2020?
 - (b) 2021?
 - (c) 2022?
 - (d) 2023?
 - (e) 2024?
 - (f) 2025?
 - (g) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure these reviews occur?
- (29) Does the government support an independent review of the culture and regulatory practices of the DPI Fisheries compliance division?

- (30) Was Schedule 1 of the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009 commenced by the 30 June 2023 deadline as recommended by the 2022 inquiry into the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009?
- (a) If not, will the government commit to commencing this process, and when?
 - (b) If so, have supporting regulations been developed in consultation with First Nations communities?
 - i. Which specific First Nations peak bodies were consulted with, and when?
 - (c) If so, how many consultation sessions were held with the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council specifically regarding the supporting regulation development?
- (31) In light of the recommendation from the Inquiry into the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009 what steps has the Minister taken to ensure section 21AA will be commenced with supporting regulation?
- (32) Given that in 2022, Labor members voted in committee to support a recommendation from the Inquiry into the Fisheries Management Amendment Act 2009 that the Department of Primary Industries “cease all surveillance, compliance actions and prosecution actions against Aboriginal cultural fishers”, what steps has the Minister taken to ensure this occurs?
- (33) How many South Coast Aboriginal communities have successfully applied to the Aboriginal Fisheries Business Development Program since 2022?
- (a) How many applications were not successful?
- (34) What specific dollar amount has been allocated to support Aboriginal communities' access to the commercial fishing industry in the financial years:
- (a) 2021-22?
 - (b) 2022-23?
 - (c) 2023-24?
 - (d) 2024-25?
 - (e) 2025-26?
- (35) Has the strategic communications plan to educate the broader fishing community about Aboriginal cultural fishing practices been fully implemented?
- (a) If so, what measurable outcomes have been achieved?

(36) How many individuals were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 17 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 in?

- (a) 2009?
- (b) 2010?
- (c) 2011?
- (d) 2012?
- (e) 2013?
- (f) 2014?
- (g) 2015?
- (h) 2016?
- (i) 2017?
- (j) 2018?
- (k) 2019?
- (l) 2020?
- (m) 2021?
- (n) 2022?
- (o) 2023?
- (p) 2024?
- (q) 2025?

(37) How many First Nations individuals were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 17 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?

- (a) 2009?
- (b) 2010?
- (c) 2011?
- (d) 2012?
- (e) 2013?
- (f) 2014?

- (g) 2015?
- (h) 2016?
- (i) 2017?
- (j) 2018?
- (k) 2019?
- (l) 2020?
- (m) 2021?
- (n) 2022?
- (o) 2023?
- (p) 2024?
- (q) 2025?

(38) How many First Nations individuals on the South Coast were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 17 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?

- (a) 2009?
- (b) 2010?
- (c) 2011?
- (d) 2012?
- (e) 2013?
- (f) 2014?
- (g) 2015?
- (h) 2016?
- (i) 2017?
- (j) 2018?
- (k) 2019?
- (l) 2020?
- (m) 2021?
- (n) 2022?

- (o) 2023?
 - (p) 2024?
 - (q) 2025?
- (39) What is the total amount of revenue derived from penalty units paid by individuals charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 17 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 since the Act's commencement?
- (40) How many individuals were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 18 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 in?
- (a) 2009?
 - (b) 2010?
 - (c) 2011?
 - (d) 2012?
 - (e) 2013?
 - (f) 2014?
 - (g) 2015?
 - (h) 2016?
 - (i) 2017?
 - (j) 2018?
 - (k) 2019?
 - (l) 2020?
 - (m) 2021?
 - (n) 2022?
 - (o) 2023?
 - (p) 2024?
 - (q) 2025?
- (41) How many First Nations individuals were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 18 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?

- (a) 2009?
- (b) 2010?
- (c) 2011?
- (d) 2012?
- (e) 2013?
- (f) 2014?
- (g) 2015?
- (h) 2016?
- (i) 2017?
- (j) 2018?
- (k) 2019?
- (l) 2020?
- (m) 2021?
- (n) 2022?
- (o) 2023?
- (p) 2024?
- (q) 2025?

(42) How many First Nations individuals on the South Coast were charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 18 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?

- (a) 2009?
- (b) 2010?
- (c) 2011?
- (d) 2012?
- (e) 2013?
- (f) 2014?
- (g) 2015?
- (h) 2016?

- (i) 2017?
 - (j) 2018?
 - (k) 2019?
 - (l) 2020?
 - (m) 2021?
 - (n) 2022?
 - (o) 2023?
 - (p) 2024?
 - (q) 2025?
- (43) What is the total amount of revenue derived from penalty units paid by individuals charged with an offence under Division 2 Section 18 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 since the Act's commencement?

Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council

- (44) What is the Chair of the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council paid?
- (45) What are the members of the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council paid?
- (46) Is it the same or different from the payment to members of the Rec Fishers Advisory Group?
If it's different, why?

Abalone Industry Advisory Committee

- (47) When is the first meeting of the industry advisory group scheduled and where?
- (48) Will NTSCorp or the Native title claim group (or both) be invited to join the industry advisory committee in order to participate in the review of the Abalone Industry if they wish to?

Shark Management Program

- (49) What is the total cost (including staff costs) and the cost per target shark caught in the beach netting program in:
- (a) 2023-24 financial year?
 - (b) 2024/25 financial year?

- (50) What is the total cost (including staff costs) and the cost per target shark caught in the drumlines program in:
- (a) 2023-24 financial year?
 - (b) 2024/25 financial year?
- (51) What is the total cost (including staff costs) and the cost per target shark caught in the drone surveillance program in:
- (a) 2023-24 financial year?
 - (b) 2024/25 financial year?

River Restoration Plans

- (52) When will the government proceed with implementing their restoration plans for the:
- (a) Tweed River?
 - (b) Richmond River?
 - (c) Clarence River?
 - (d) Macleay River?
 - (e) Hastings River?
 - (f) Manning River?
 - (g) Shoalhaven River?
- (53) Will the needs of wetland and water quality restoration be included in current government planning on the future use of coastal floodplains following devastating floods in 2022 and 2025?
- (54) Has a budget been made available for the purchase of all properties in the Tuckean Swamp area and the removal of the Bagotville Barrage?

Manly Little Penguins

- (55) What is the current conservation condition of the listed Posidonia Seagrass Meadows of the Manning-Hawkesbury Ecoregion that occur within the Critical Habitat (An Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value - AOBV) of the Manly Little Penguin Population?
- (56) What current and extra conservation measures are being taken to maintain this listed Posidonia TEC within the AOBV for the particular benefit of the Little Penguin Population?

- (57) Is the condition uniform across this area of Posidonia, or are some parts less intact than others?
- (58) What particular current and extra actions are being taken to protect the Little Penguin Population at Manly from the threat of boat strike in the AOBV and Sydney Harbour in general?
- (59) What number of Little Penguins killed/injured by boat strike over the last three breeding seasons in the AOBV and Sydney harbour broadly?

Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025

- (60) What made you allocate 7.9 million in the budget for the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill ahead of any law that changed the scheme?
- (61) Is it ordinary to allocate funding for a private members initiative before the respective laws are passed in Parliament?
- (62) If this bill were to be passed do you have an idea of what risk assessments will be undertaken on crown lands before hunting is permitted?
- (63) For each of the designated lands identified in the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025 listed in ‘Reservation Number: Gazettal’, could you please advise what feral and invasive species have been identified on this land that require additional management in the form of non-professional shooting?
 - (a) R2978: 17 July 1882, page 3742
 - (b) R55907: 15 December 1922, page 6619
 - (c) R72876: 15 October 1948, page 2758
 - (d) R74354: 27 July 1951, page 2185
 - (e) R74498: 28 September 1951, page 2813
 - (f) R79302: 25 January 1957, page 280
 - (g) R79648: 31 May 1957, page 1723
 - (h) R79838: 30 August 1957, page 2810
 - (i) R90547: 22 November 1974, page 4511
 - (j) R90716: 25 February 1977, page 778
 - (k) R91633: 23 November 1979, page 5873

- (l) R93566: 12 September 1980, page 4800
- (m) R93695: 26 September 1980, page 5065
- (n) R95390: 19 June 1981, page 3290
- (o) R96041: 11 June 1982, page 2690
- (p) R130040: 29 September 1989, page 7922
- (q) R750940: 29 June 2007, page 4186
- (r) R750963: 29 June 2007, page 4186
- (s) R750969: 29 June 2007, page 4186
- (t) R751276: 29 June 2007, page 4188
- (u) R752129: 29 June 2007, page 4192
- (v) R755272: 29 June 2007, page 4205
- (w) R1011188: 16 December 2005, page 11028

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

- (64) In light of the proposal to cut 165 staff from the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, how will you as Minister assure that the state's agriculture and biosecurity systems will not be compromised given this \$22 million reduction in budget?
- (65) In regard to the 10 change management plans for the DPI, what was your rationale for shutting down Wollongbar AgEnviro Labs given that in the last 2 years Wollongbar Lab has conducted over \$2 million worth of internal analysis?
- (66) In regards to the same change management plans, could you explain why the Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute will experience role delimitation considering that the service this institute provides is unique to Australia?

NSW Resources

- (67) How many, if any, specialist inspectors employed to proactively manage hazards associated with psychosocial risks to workers does the NSW Resources Regulator currently employ?
- (68) What steps has the Regulator taken to recruit additional specialist inspectors to ensure it can effectively conduct pro-active assessments and investigations appropriately?

- (69) What safeguards ensure the Executive Director of NSW Resources cannot compromise the independence or resourcing of the NSW Resources Regulator, given NSW Resources' dual role in both promoting and regulating the mining industry?
- (70) Is there any plan to separate NSW Resources and the NSW Resources Regulator to follow in the footsteps of SafeWork NSW and the Department of Customer Service?

State Significant Farmland

- (71) Is it still Labor's position that development on Cudgen State Significant Farmland should not proceed, given the risks to local food security and the loss of farmland?

Forestry Corporation

- (72) What entities or stakeholders were consulted with in relation to the Forestry Industry Action Plan?
- (a) When did the development of the plan commence?
 - (b) When did consultation with entities commence?
 - (c) Will the scope of the Forestry Industry Action Plan change over time depending on:
 - i. The results of public consultation?
 - ii. Advice from the Independent Forestry Panel?
- (73) How many hectares of land have been purchased by the Forestry Corporation in the 2024-25 financial year of existing plantation or land that was suitable for plantation establishment?
- (a) How much was established hardwood plantation?
 - (b) How much was suitable for hardwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (c) How much was established softwood plantation?
 - (d) How much was suitable for softwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (e) How much was suitable for either softwood or hardwood plantation?
- (74) How many native forest hardwood logging operations were subject to mandatory stop work orders in the 2024-25 Financial year?
- (a) What forests were the operations in, for each order?
 - i. What was the reason for each order?

- ii. What was the estimated costs associated with worker costs for each order?
 - iii. How many workers were impacted by each order?
 - iv. What was the estimated volume of wood that was not harvested as a result of each order?
 - v. What was the outcome of each order?
- (75) How many native forest hardwood logging operations were subject to voluntary stop work orders in the 2024-25 Financial year?
 - (a) What forests were the operations in, for each order?
 - i. What was the reason for each order?
 - ii. What was the estimated costs associated with worker costs for each order?
 - iii. How many workers were impacted by each order?
 - iv. What was the estimated volume of wood that was not harvested as a result of each order?
 - v. What was the outcome of each order?
- (76) What surveying has been undertaken by the Department or Forestry Corporation to assess the health and density of koala populations that does not rely on the acoustic records?
- (77) Has any public consultation been undertaken since February 2024 to assess public support for native forest logging?
 - (a) If yes, what were the results of that public consultation?
 - (b) If no, why not?
- (78) How many entities are contracted by the NSW Forestry Corporation to conduct wood harvesting operations?
 - (a) List the entities.
 - (b) How many employees, within each entity, are directly engaged in forestry operations?
 - i. How many are working in softwood?
 - ii. How many are working in hardwood?
- (79) How many sites have been identified as being appropriate for new development of plantation timber?

- (a) What is the total area identified in NSW as being appropriate for plantation timber?
 - (b) How many sites within the estate currently managed by the Forestry Corporation?
 - i. What is the total area of these sites?
 - (c) How many sites are there that are not within the estate currently managed by the Forestry Corporation?
 - i. What is the total area of these sites?
- (80) What specific actions have been undertaken since February 2024 to reduce the chances of Forestry Corporation breaching conditions under the CIFOA?
- (a) Have any work policies been updated since February 2024?
 - i. If yes, which ones and when?
 - (b) Have any new compliance policies been updated since 2024?
 - i. If yes, which ones and when?
 - (c) Have any additional employees been dedicated to compliance activities since 2024?
 - i. If yes, how many, when, and in which regions?
 - (d) Have any additional employees been provided to conduct broad area habitat surveys
 - i. If yes, how many, when, and in which regions?
 - (e) Since February 2024, how many times has the Minister written to the Forestry Corporation raising concerns about, or directing the need for, compliance with rules governing native forest logging?
 - i. Can you list the dates of correspondence?
 - (f) How many formal letters have you sent to the Forestry Corporation since February 2024?
- (81) What is the current gross capacity for annual carbon recovery in public native forests?
- (a) What is the total estimated carbon emissions from public native forest logging?
 - i. List carbon emissions by source?
- (82) Have any estimates been produced since February 2024, that show potential annual carbon recovery if public native forests were not subject to logging?
- (a) What are those estimates?

- (83) How many Private Native Forestry approvals have been granted since 1 February 2024?
- (84) How many compliance checks of Private Native Forestry operations have been conducted since 1 March 2023?
- (a) When were these checks conducted?
 - (b) What were the outcomes of these checks?
- (85) How many Private Native Forestry operations have been and are being investigated for breaches of approvals since 1 March 2023?
- (a) When were they investigated?
 - (b) What were the outcomes of these investigations?

Questions from the Opposition

AGRICULTURE

Hudson Pear

- (86) In December 2022, an allocation of funding was made for the purposes of treating Hudson Pear in north-western NSW. As of July 1, how much of that funding remained?
- (a) Will the last of that allocation be utilised in the 2025/26 Financial Year?
 - (b) To date, what has been the outcome of the program, as announced in December 2022?
 - (c) Since March 25, 2023, has Local Land Services sought additional funding for its Hudson Pear program?
 - i. If so, how much additional funding has been requested?
 - ii. If so, what was the outcome of that request?
 - (d) Has work commenced on plans for the program to continue post June 30, 2026?

Red Imported Fire Ants

- (87) On what date was the first confirmed report of Red Imported Fire Ants being located in NSW?
- (88) Since that date, how many further times has the Department had to launch a response to confirmed reports of Red Imported Fire Ants being detected in NSW?
- (89) Does the department have figures on the number of ants that have been eradicated in NSW?

- (a) If so, what is that figure?

Great Koala National Park

- (90) Minister, National parks cost \$121 per hectare to manage in 2019. The same year state forest cost \$8.50 per hectare, can you please tell us what state forest costs to manage in 2023, 2024.
- (a) Do you agree that the 14 fold cost differential is likely to remain given the income streams of each land tenure have remained the same?
- (b) Minister, how are you going to manage the cost associated with illegal protestors blocking access, chaining themselves to machines, and living in trees that prevent community members from going about their lawful employment?
- (91) Minister can you quantify the costs associated with legal fees and additional costs with surveys following regulatory changes?
- (92) Minister there have been a lot of standdowns of harvesting crews secondary to disproportionate claims made by green group activists. Do you believe that this is affecting forestry corps ability to generate income?
- (93) On August 30th, Mr Tony Chappel, CEO of EPA declared “that forestry is a license to harm the environment”. Do you believe this to be true? If not, are you going to write to the Minister for the Environment and demand his sacking?
- (94) Given the significant private investments required in the forestry industry? What reassurance can you provide industry that they are going to be able to continue receiving their log resources from the public state forests and private native forests?
- (95) When are you going to ensure Forest Corporation of NSW is recognised by the parliament and the people of NSW for the valuable contribution they have played in managing forest health for all values including environmental, social and economic to the state of NSW for over a century?
- (96) Why isn't the work that Forest Corporation of NSW do for National Parks and the community costed fairly? The provision of hardwood timber products, social and healthy activities such as mountain climbing, fire protection through trail maintenance, and 4WD access roads, are all quoted as a loss by its detractors. Are you going to assist this importantly sustainable department to correct the narrative?
- (97) What area of the forest estate managed by Forest Corporation of NSW was actually harvested last reporting period?

- (98) What are the costs associated with legal fees, standdowns and additional costs with surveys following regulatory changes?
- (99) When are you going to recognise the skills, experience and expertise that are maintained within Forestry Corporation of NSW and their strong environmental commitment
- (100) If 2m hectares of State Forest has large numbers of koalas, and 8m hectares of national park do not, do you think that transferring 0.176m hectares for a name change will make a difference?
- (101) Where is the evidence to suggest that a GKNP is of environmental, social and economic value to the state of NSW?
- (102) Can you tell me the forest products that are produced from the NSW hardwoods?
- (103) Acknowledging that \$6 billion dollars worth of hardwood was imported into Australia already, won't making our highly regulated industry forestry product harder to get, just export our environmental responsibility off shore?

Agriculture Plan

- (104) Minister, would you agree an articulated and well-supported agricultural plan is essential for providing certainty and enabling investment in the sector's future?
- (105) Can the Minister provide an update on the status, development timeline, and key components of a comprehensive NSW Plan for Agriculture?
- (106) Minister, how does the NSW Government intend to prioritise the plan to ensure sustainable growth, climate resilience, biosecurity, and ongoing support for farmers and regional communities?
- (107) Minister, what consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders, including landholders, industry bodies, and local governments, to ensure the plan effectively addresses current and future challenges facing NSW agriculture?
- (108) Minister, how will this plan align with other land management and environmental policies, including the Land Management Code, to balance agricultural productivity with conservation outcomes?

REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Discretionary Funding

- (109) When was the Minister first allocated funding for the purposes of a discretionary fund?
- (a) How much was the original allocation, and where did the allocation come from?
 - (b) How many funding allocations have been made, to whom and what was the value?
 - (c) For each of these funding allocations individually, what was the process whereby the Minister was made aware of the need for funding?
 - (d) For each of these allocations individually, on what dates were they signed off by the Minister?
 - (e) Has the Minister ever rejected a submission for funding through her discretionary fund?
 - i. If so, how many submissions have been rejected?
 - ii. If so, what were the projects for which funding was requested?
 - (f) What is the current balance of the minister's discretionary fund?
- (110) The Minister allocated \$6 million through her discretionary fund to the NRL for the NRLW Magic Round. Did the Minister or the Department select Newcastle as the venue for the 2025 event?
- (a) If not, how was the decision made to play the 2025 Magic Round in Newcastle?
 - (b) Did the Minister or the department suggest any regional locations for the 2025 event?
 - (c) Has the Minister stipulated that the 2026 and 2027 NRLW Magic Rounds are to be played in regional locations, and not taken back to Newcastle?
 - (d) If so, has the Minister identified a list of suitable locations for the 2026 and 2027 events to be held?
 - (e) If the Minister has identified suitable locations for the 2026 and 2027 events to be held, what are those locations?

Budget Appropriation

- (111) How much money was appropriated to the Department, through the Budget process, in the 2022/23 Financial Year?
- (a) How much money was appropriated to the Department, through the Budget process, in the 2023/24 Financial Year?

- (b) How much money was appropriated to the Department, through the Budget process, in the 2024/25 Financial Year?
- (c) How much money was appropriated to the Department, through the Budget process, in the 2025/26 Financial Year?

Regional Development Trust Fund

- (112) As of September 1, 2025, what was the balance of the Regional Development Trust Fund?
- (113) Outside of the funding programs already announced as part of the Regional Development Trust Fund, how many applications have been received for funding through the Trust?
 - (a) Of these applications, how many have been successful?
 - (b) Of the successful applications, what is the total dollar value of these projects?
 - (c) Of these applications, how many have been rejected?
 - (d) How much of the remaining funds will be utilised in new programs during the 2025/26 Financial Year?

Dubbo Sports Hub

- (114) On October 4, 2024, an executive brief was created by DPIRD (REF: BN24/7879) with a recommendation that the Secretary approve and sign the new funding agreement (Attachment E) at page 43 to alter the project name, location, scope and timeframes of the Dubbo Sports Hub project. Why did that brief never reach the Secretary?
 - (a) Did the secretary have financial delegation to sign the new funding agreement, as was stated in the brief?
 - (b) The brief states “The DPIRD Commercial Legal team have reviewed the approach and confirmed the change in instrument and method to vary the agreement is appropriate.” Is this correct?
 - (c) Since December 17, 2024, has PCYC submitted an application for funding that would allow the project to proceed at the Dubbo Sports World site?
- (115) In February, a delegation of people from Dubbo attended NSW Parliament to raise the issue with parliamentarians. Did the Minister meet with this delegation?
 - (a) Was the Minister invited to meet with the delegation?
 - i. If so, on what date was the meeting invitation received?

- (b) If the Minister did not meet with the delegation, why not?
 - (c) During the day of the delegation's visit, did the Minister have a staff member stationed outside the room where meetings were taking place?
- (116) Since December 17, 2024, has the Minister met with representatives from PCYC to discuss a way forward for the project?
- (a) If so, on what date did this meeting take place?
- (117) Since December 17, 2024, has the Minister received an invitation from Dubbo Regional Council to meet with stakeholders?
- (a) If so, on what date/s were invitations received?
 - (b) If so, has the Minister met with representatives from Dubbo Regional Council or other stakeholders to discuss the project?
 - (c) If the Minister has met with representatives from Dubbo Regional Council, on what date did this meeting take place?
 - (d) If the Minister has not met with representatives from Dubbo Regional Council, why not?

Job Cuts

- (118) Of the 165 jobs slated to be cut in the Department as part of its change management plan, how many of these are based in locations outside of Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong?
- (a) For each of these individual location, what is the number of roles being cut?
- (119) On what date did the Secretary first communicate to the Minister, or her office, details of the draft change management plan?
- (120) How many of the people that are slated to lose their positions within the department have been awarded Public Service recognition for their work during natural disasters?
- (121) Was a recruitment freeze implemented by the Department prior to the change management plan being communicated to staff?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (122) Prior to the draft change management plan being communicated to staff, on what date did the most recent new staff member join the Department?

Concrete Industry Supplies

- (123) Has the Department had contact with the owner of Concrete Industry Supplies in relation to unpaid invoices for materials supplied to the Australian Opal Museum project in Lightning Ridge?
- (a) If so, when was contact made?
 - (b) If not, will the Department reach out to the owner to discuss the issue?
- (124) Has the Department had contact with the Head Contractor or Proponents of the Australian Opal Museum project in relation to these unpaid invoices?
- (125) Has the Department investigated the circumstances surrounding GQ Concrete Pty Ltd demobilising from the project?
- (126) Was the Department aware of the fact Concrete Industry Supplies was unpaid for its materials when it committed to providing an additional \$1 million to the project in the 2025/26 Budget?
- (127) Will the Department ensure payment of these invoices is included as a provision for the allocation of the additional funding?
- (128) Has the Department had contact with the Head Contractor or Proponents of the project since it was revealed work had stopped due to another shortfall of funds?
- (a) If so, when was contact made and with whom?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (c) What reasons have been given for the need for additional funding to ensure completion of the project?
 - (d) Has the Department been approached by the Proponents or Head Contractor seeking additional funding to ensure completion of the project?
- (129) Will the Department ensure full payment of these invoices as a condition for the consideration of any future allocations of funding to ensure the completion of the project?
- (130) Does the Department have concerns about the project, given the demobilisation of GQ Concrete in 2024, the fact Concrete Industry Supplies remains unpaid for the materials it provided, and the fact that despite a tender was accepted in 2023, further funding is required for the project's completion?

WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Western NSW Visits

- (131) How many local government areas within the defined Western NSW portfolio has the Minister personally visited since March 25, 2023?
- (132) By location, on what date/s did the Minister visit these local government areas?

CFMEU meetings

- (133) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

ETU meetings

- (134) Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

- (135) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

- (136) In relation to redundancies, will this be made available in your respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

- (137) Do you have plans to print the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio?
- (a) If yes, what is the budgeted expenditure for printing for each department / agency?

State Records Act

- (138) 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?

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

(139) 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 website URL?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

(140) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

- (a) If yes, what is the website URL?

(141) 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

(142) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Senior Executive Drivers

(143) As at 1 August 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Ministerial Offices

(144) Does your Ministerial Office have a disclosure log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009?

- (a) If yes, what is the URL?

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Departments/Agencies

(145) What is the website URL for the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

TikTok

(146) Are you on TikTok?

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

Signal

(147) Are you on Signal?

- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?
- (b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

Training

(148) 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?

Parliamentary Secretary & Ministerial Vehicle

(149) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool?

- (a) If yes, why?

Media releases and statements

(150) 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?

Overseas Travel

(151) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

Data Breaches

(152) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?

- (a) If yes, what is the website?

Discretionary Fund

(153) As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?

- (a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?
- (b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Airline Lounges

(154) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

(155) Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?

Ministerial Overseas Travel

(156) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?

- (a) If yes, was this application accepted?

Private Jet Charter

(157) Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your Ministerial capacity?

- (a) If yes, was this value for money for taxpayers?

Ministerial Office renovations

(158) Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated?

- (a) If yes, how much was the expenditure?

Conflict of Interest

(159) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?

- (a) If yes, why?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs)

(160) Globally, jurisdictions like the European Union and Canada have implemented strict regulations or outright bans on the retail sale of SGARs to protect ecosystems and reduce wildlife poisoning. A national ban in Australia would prevent cross-border sales and ensure a consistent approach to protecting wildlife across all states and territories. Given this, will

the Minister commit to advocate through the joint Commonwealth-States Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM) for a national ban on the retail sale of SGARs?

- (a) Will the Minister commit to change the state government's pest management practices for state-owned properties to stop the use of SGARs?
- (b) Will the Minister commit to encourage landholders through Local Land Services to avoid the use of SGARs and responsibly manage pest issues through licensed professionals?

Rodeos

(161) What is the timeline for the review of the Rodeo Code of Practice?

- (a) There are currently no requirements for on-site veterinary care at rodeo events. Will this be considered in the review?

(162) In answers to supplementary questions in the March 2025 Budget Estimates, you advised that between 2023 and 2024 there were 88 rodeos held in NSW. Can you please break down the number of rodeos and bull riding events held in NSW in each of the following calendar years:

- (a) 2025 (to date)?
- (b) 2024?
- (c) 2023?
- (d) 2022?
- (e) 2021?
- (f) 2020?

(163) In each of the following calendar years, how many NSW rodeo and bull riding events have been overseen by RSPCA NSW or AWL NSW, and how many inspections resulted in cruelty or non-compliance actions or penalties:

- (a) 2025 (to date)?
- (b) 2024?
- (c) 2023?
- (d) 2022?
- (e) 2021?

(f) 2020?

Retail sale of fur

- (164) In light of the UK's Fur (Import and Sale) Bill currently progressing through Parliament, which seeks to ban the import and sale of real fur including mink, fox, raccoon dog, chinchilla, and coyote, and Switzerland's recent decision to prohibit the import of fur produced under cruel conditions, what steps is the NSW Government taking to align with these international standards and protect consumers from unethical fur products?
- (165) Can the Minister provide data on the current economic value of the fur trade in New South Wales, including its contribution to retail trade and employment?
- (166) How many jobs in NSW are directly or indirectly linked to the sale, import or distribution of fur products?
- (167) Has the NSW Government conducted any recent assessments on the viability or future of the fur trade in the state, given global declines in fur farming and production?
- (168) What steps is the NSW Government taking to ensure that fur products sold in the state are accurately labelled, particularly in light of recent forensic investigations revealing mislabelled cat and dog fur in Victoria?
- (169) Is NSW Fair Trading currently conducting any audits or investigations into the labelling of fur products sold in NSW retail outlets and markets?
- (170) What mechanisms are in place to prevent the sale of fur from prohibited species such as cats and dogs, and how often are these mechanisms reviewed or enforced?
- (171) Given the recent public outrage over the sale of cat fur in Victoria, will the NSW Government consider introducing a retail ban on the sale of fur products, similar to bans enacted in other jurisdictions globally?
- (172) What traceability standards are currently in place for fur products sold in NSW, and how does the Government ensure that imported fur complies with ethical and legal standards?

Battery cages

- (173) When will the NSW government commit funding to implement the National Poultry Standards which outline a phase-out of conventional cages for egg-laying hens by 2036?
- (174) The Cook Government in Western Australia was the first state to adopt the nationally agreed Poultry Standards, improving animal welfare for hens and aligning with consumer

expectations and the latest scientific evidence. As Australia's largest battery cage-egg producing state with 33% of the national caged layer flock, when will NSW finally phase-out cages?

Live lamb cutting

(175) Currently, the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep (2016) which are prescribed in the POCTA Regulations require that mulesing should be accompanied by pain relief 'where practical and cost effective methods are available'. Given the Minister has previously dismissed calls to make live lamb cutting illegal, will the Minister consider making it a criminal offence to carry out the practice of live lamb cutting on a sheep without using pain relief, similar to changes made in Victoria in 2019?

Biosecurity and assistance animals

(176) Australia is preparing for the arrival of a new H5N1 variant via migratory birds that we have seen jump species in the northern hemisphere. Do plans for zoonotic disease control in NSW take into account the needs, numbers and variety of species that serve as assistance animals in NSW?

- (a) Has the Minister planned to count the numbers and species of assistance animals in service in NSW?

Biosecurity plans

(177) A biosecurity plan is a crucial way to manage biosecurity risks and protect against the entry and spread of infectious plant and animal diseases, however they are only voluntary under the Biosecurity Act 2015 and are not centrally registered or reported. The statutory review of the Biosecurity Act recommended the government strengthen and embed the adoption and use of Biosecurity Management Plans for biosecurity risk management, to provide a basic level of protection across the State. Given this, what is the NSW government doing to monitor and increase the use of biosecurity plans, particularly amongst animal agribusinesses?

Regional NSW portfolio

(178) Domestic and family violence services in regional, rural and remote areas do not receive a loading despite the additional costs they incur to deliver services across vast geographical

areas. As the Minister for Regional NSW, what are you doing to advocate for regional domestic and family violence specialist services?

- (179) Have you met with the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Treasurer to advocate for the additional barriers faced by victim-survivors in regional areas?
- (180) As the Minister for Regional NSW, will you advocate to your colleagues for the NSW Government to introduce a regional loading for all funding streams that provide domestic and family violence specialist services?
- (181) As the Minister for Regional NSW, will you advocate to your colleagues for funding for safe spaces for young people in regional areas to access family violence and other supports, to prevent young people engaging with the criminal justice system?
- (182) As the Minister for Regional NSW, will you advocate to your colleagues for the NSW Government to finally work with Gender and Disaster Australia to incorporate the National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines into NSW disaster planning, response and recovery?

Sale yards

- (183) Between 2015 and 2025, to date, how many inspections have been undertaken on NSW sale yards and from those inspections, how many resulted in cruelty or non-compliance actions or penalties?

Animal welfare

- (184) What is the timeline for the establishment of the Independent Office of Animal Welfare?
- (185) Can you please provide a detailed breakdown of the \$16.7 million in the 2025-26 Budget allocated “to support the establishment of an Office of Animal Welfare and the animal welfare compliance and enforcement functions of approved charitable organisations”?
- (186) Is the RSPCA NSW puppy farm squad still operating?
- (a) If yes, how many inspections have they undertaken in 2024 and 2025 (to the end of August), and from those inspections, how many resulted in cruelty or non-compliance actions or penalties?
- (187) When will the public have access to the new draft version of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?

Animal agriculture

- (188) Since your appointment as Minister, have you or your office had any meetings with Australian Pork Limited?
- (a) If yes, when were they, and what was the purpose of each meeting?
- (189) How many NSW piggeries have been inspected for the 2024 and 2025 (to date) calendar years?
- (a) From those inspections, how many resulted in cruelty or non-compliance actions or penalties?
- (190) What is the total volume of pig effluent which requires storage and management in NSW based on the industry's current number of pigs raised for human consumption?
- (191) The scientific evidence is overwhelming that pig gassing is not humane. When will NSW ban the gassing of pigs as a cruel method of pre-slaughter stunning?
- (a) Has the Minister ever watched any footage of pig gassing inside a NSW pig slaughterhouse?
- (192) When will the NSW government ban pig farrowing crates?
- (a) Has the Minister discussed this matter with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee?
- (b) Has the Minister discussed this matter with Australian Pork Limited?
- (c) Has the Minister discussed this matter with the federal Minister for Agriculture?
- (193) How many spent egg laying hens have been killed by gassing for the 2015-2025 (to the end of August) in NSW?
- (194) Switzerland has introduced new food labelling laws, effective from 1 July 2025 to disclose whether the fabrication of products of animal origin involved specific painful practices such as castration or dehorning of cows, or castration, tail docking or teeth clipping for pigs and whether they were performed without anaesthesia or stunning. What impacts will these new laws have on NSW produced and exported products and does NSW have any similar plans to improve consumer awareness and transparency?
- (195) The Eurobodalla Shire Council confirmed in a submission to the [Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment \(Conservation Hunting\) Bill 2025](#) Inquiry that they have arrangements in place with a number of private landholders to shoot animals. Does the

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development have any similar such arrangements in place with NSW councils?

(196) What food labelling licences apply to NSW camel dairies?

(197) For each camel dairy:

(a) When was the last animal welfare inspection and who undertook this inspection?

(b) Were there any animal welfare or non-compliance issues identified and what action was taken?

(198) How many MOUs does the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development have with other agencies and departments, who are those agencies and departments and when were each of these MOUs reviewed?