



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**Finance, and Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement,  
and Natural Resources**

**(Houssos)**

Hearing: Tuesday 2 September 2025

**Answers due by: 5.00 pm Monday 29 September 2025**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

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## BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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| Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC |
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#### PORTFOLIO: NATURAL RESOURCES

##### Remediation or soil abatement in Broken Hill

- (1) What roles and/or responsibilities does the Natural Resources Regulator have in relation to the remediation of contaminated sites, where contamination from past and current mining activities has been a source of contamination?
  - (a) A 2016 study into “Lead risk and remediation strategies in public areas of Broken Hill, NSW” found lead levels above the NEPM Health Investigation Limits in a number of public parks and residential streets. What, if any, further investigations have been undertaken by the Natural Resources Regulator to assess current lead levels at these sites and the potential role of mining activities in contributing to elevated lead levels?
    - i. What, if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to remediate sites identified as having elevated lead levels?
  - (b) Please outline all remediation and/or abatement activities that the Natural Resources Regulator have undertaken or contributed to in relation to the remediation or abatement of lead contamination in Broken Hill since 2016. For each activity please describe:
    - i. The site where remediation or abatement occurred
    - ii. The time period when remediation or abatement activities took place
    - iii. The remediation or abatement method used
    - iv. The lead contamination levels before and after abatement
    - v. The role the Natural Resources Regulator played in the remediation or abatement activity.
  - (c) A 2017 assessment of legacy soil lead contamination of ten public parks in Broken Hill, conducted for the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program, identified “ongoing accessions of Pb-rich dust from mining works” as a factor contributing to elevated soil lead levels and identified five sites for high or medium priority abatement. What,

if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to remediate or abate these sites?

- (d) For any other sites where soil abatement has been undertaken to address lead contamination in Broken Hill since 2000, has the soil abatement been repeated after 10 years when lead levels have again increased above safe levels?
  - i. If yes, please provide details for all sites where follow-up abatement activities have occurred.
  - ii. If no, are there any plans to repeat soil abatement activities at these sites? What, if any, funding has been allocated for this?
- (e) Have phosphate amendments been tested as a possible additional soil abatement strategy in Broken Hill ?
  - i. If yes, what were the outcomes and what additional funding has been allocated?
  - ii. If no, will it be tested?
- (2) Mark Taylor's report, "Environmental Lead Risks at Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia: Sources, Exposures and Forward Solution", included a recommendation to "Determine and set an acceptable trigger value for Pb in deposited dust and introduce environmental licensing regulations limiting Pb in deposited dust". What, if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator taken or contributed to in response to this recommendation?
  - (a) Please detail any work that the Natural Resources Regulator has done or contributed to, or any work that is underway, to identify a trigger value for lead in deposited dust.

### **State Party proceedings in National Native Title Tribunal**

- (3) Regarding the Gomeroi People vs Santos NSW Pty Ltd and Santos NSW (Narrabri Gas) Pty Ltd before the NNTT, did you or the department receive input from DCEEW regarding the submission made by the government?
  - (a) If so, was it included in the submission? How?
- (4) Did you or the department receive input from the EPA regarding the submission put together by the government's lawyers for the above case?
  - (a) If so, was it included in the submission? How?

- (5) Regarding the appeal to the ruling of the NNTT for the above case filed in the Federal Court, will there be any further opportunity for the government to introduce new evidence into the appeals process?
- (a) If so, will the government ensure that the state's net zero commitments along with the Net Zero Commission's findings regarding how New South Wales is tracking against these commitments are included in its submission?

### **Peabody Energy proposed expansion**

- (6) Please list any discussions you, or your Portfolio, have had with Peabody Energy in relation to their application for EL 6929?
- (a) Have you or the NSW Resources Regulator any experts on the water catchment area been contacted in relation to the applications?

### **Elevated blood lead levels in mine workers**

- (7) Please list all mines, and their locations, that test the blood lead levels of their workers.
- (a) How often do these mines test? Please provide details of each mine if the testing regime differs between mines.
- (8) Between 2015 and 2025, for every mine site across NSW where lead is mined or is a byproduct of mining, how many workers have shown blood lead levels above 10 ug/l, 20ug/l and 30ug/l?
- (a) Please provide a breakdown by:
- i. Year
  - ii. Mine site
  - iii. Gender
  - iv. Any other required reporting criteria (e.g. women of reproductive age)
- (b) Please present the information provided at 8(a)i-iv as both a total number and a proportion of the total mine workers on site during the relevant reporting period.

### **Silicosis in mine workers**

- (9) Between 2015 and 2025, for every mine site across NSW, how many reports have been made to the Natural Resources Regulator regarding workers showing signs of a disease like silicosis?

- (a) Please provide a breakdown by:
  - i. Year
  - ii. Mine site
  - iii. Gender
  - iv. Any other required reporting criteria (e.g. women of reproductive age)
- (b) Please present the information provided at 9(a)i-iv as both a total number and a proportion of the total mine workers on site during the relevant reporting period.

### **Bowdens Silver Mines**

- (10) Has Bowdens Silver Mines paid their bond for exploration work?
- (11) What bond will be required for remediation of the mine?
  - (a) Will this bond adequately cover the risks of lead contamination in the local environment and for the lead poisoning in the local community?
- (12) What assessment has been undertaken to ensure that Bowdens Silver Mines has the necessary financial resources and expertise to carry out this exploration and mining project?

### **Key Performance Indicators for the Natural Resources Regulator**

- (13) In budget estimates, Ms Tripodi, in response to a question from the Hon Sarah Mitchell, stated that the Natural Resources Regulator reports against key performance indicators. Please outline the key performance indicators that the Natural Resources Regulator reports against.

### **Tahmoor Colliery**

- (14) How much is owed in royalties by the owners of Tahmoor mine?
  - (a) How much was owed when the expansion was approved in May?
- (15) Is the Government considering placing the Tahmoor mine into administration, as occurred for the Whyalla Steelworks in South Australia?

### **Tooloom Creek**

- (16) The Tooloom Creek mining company's current Mining Operations Plan and Final Work Program asserts that there are no threatened species present within or near the operational area, despite the original Environmental Impact Statement for the mine identifying the

brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) as present in the region and Bionet records confirming the existence of a colony within 50 metres of the mine site. What, if any, action has the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to review and assess the adequacy of the Mining Operations Plan and Final Work Program?

- (a) Has the company been required to submit an updated Mining Operations Plan and Final Work Program

### **Black coal exports**

(17) Which countries have indicated to the Government that they will be buying less black coal from NSW in the future?

- (a) Which countries have provided the Government with an estimate or indication of the time from which they will no longer buy any of that coal at all?
- (b) What are those estimated or indicated times, for each country?

### **Human health and environmental risk assessments**

(18) Have any agencies in the Natural Resources Portfolio ever engaged EnRisks to conduct human health and/or environmental risk assessments?

- (a) If yes, how many risk assessments have EnRisks conducted for the Natural Resources Portfolio in the 10 years between 2015 and 2025?
  - i. Can you provide details for each risk assessment, including what the assessment covered, when it was commissioned, when it was finalised and whether it has been publicly released (including a link to the final assessment where available)?
- (b) If yes, of all the risk assessments for which an agency in the Natural Resources Portfolio engaged an external consultant, what proportion were conducted by EnRisks?

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| <b>Questions from the Opposition</b> |
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### **Payroll tax**

(19) How many business paid payroll tax for the 2024-25 payroll tax year?

- (a) How many businesses had a payroll of \$1.5 million or more?
  - i. How much payroll tax was received from these businesses?

(b) How many had a payroll of \$1.2 million or more but less than \$1.5 million?

i. How much payroll tax was collected from these businesses?

(20) How much payroll tax was collected for the 2024-25 payroll tax year?

### **Land tax**

(21) How many landholders were liable for land tax in the 2023 land tax year?

(22) How many landholders were liable for land tax in the 2024 land tax year?

(23) How many landholders were liable for land tax in the 2025 land tax year?

### **Remission of Interest**

(24) Given that remission of interest is limited as of 1 July even in circumstances outside the taxpayer's control, what measures are in place to ensure that low and middle income families who are genuinely unable to pay on time are not penalised with high interest charges?

(25) What is the definition of exceptional circumstances?

(26) Why is general financial hardship not considered an "exceptional circumstance" for full interest remission?

(27) What support is available for taxpayers facing financial hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis?

(28) What steps has Revenue NSW taken to communicate these changes?

### **Build to Rent**

(29) What is the impact on state revenue from making the foreign land tax surcharge and foreign purchaser duty surcharge exemptions for Build-to-Rent developments indefinite?

(30) What is the expected revenue loss in FY 2026 as a result of the Build-to-Rent land tax concession, the foreign land tax surcharge and foreign purchaser duty surcharge exemption?

(31) Why has the requirement that a proportion of the construction labour for new Build-to-Rent development be performed by specified classes of workers been removed as part of the eligibility criteria for the 50% land tax concession?

(32) What plans are in place to ensure that these changes in eligibility criteria do not negatively impact local employment opportunities and labour standards?

### **Use of consultants**

- (33) What were the overall costs associated with external consultants in the 2025 financial year?
- (34) What were the overall costs associated with external consultants in the 2024 financial year?

### **ESL Land Classification Register**

- (35) In total and by Local Government Area how many parcels of land in the register have been classified as:
- (a) Government land
    - i. Vacant government land
  - (b) Public benefit land
    - i. Vacant public benefit land
  - (c) Farmland
    - i. Vacant public land
    - ii. Pensioner owned farmland
  - (d) Residential land
    - i. Vacant residential land
    - ii. Pensioner owned residential land
  - (e) Industrial land
    - i. Vacant industrial land
  - (f) Commercial land?
    - i. Vacant commercial land?

### **ESL Team Revenue NSW**

- (36) How many FTE employees at Revenue NSW are currently working on matters related to ESL reform?
- (a) What specific tasks is this team working on?

### **CFMEU meetings**

- (37) 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**

- (38) 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**

- (39) 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**

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

**Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports**

- (41) 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**

- (42) 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**

- (43) 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**

- (44) 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?
- (45) 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**

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

### **Senior Executive Drivers**

- (47) 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**

- (48) 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**

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

### **TikTok**

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

### **Signal**

- (51) 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**

(52) 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**

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

(a) If yes, why?

### **Media releases and statements**

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

(a) If no, why?

### **Overseas Travel**

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

### **Data Breaches**

(56) 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**

(57) 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**

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

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

### **Ministerial Overseas Travel**

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

(a) If yes, was this application accepted?

### **Private Jet Charter**

(61) 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**

(62) 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**

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

(a) If yes, why?

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| <b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b> |
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(64) When can we expect the Jobs First Commission to be established?

(65) Will you be releasing a consultation draft?

(66) You said in your quotes in December that you were looking forward to continuing to engage with the community prior to legislating the formation of the Jobs First Commission. Does that mean you have already commenced consultation?

(67) When will you commence formal consultation?

(68) How does awarding Sydney Water's high-voltage switching contract to a company without an industrial instrument align with the Government's stated procurement principles?

(69) Is the Minister aware that workers on this contract will lose nearly \$80,000 each over five years compared to previous arrangements? What steps will the Government take to address this?

(70) Why was a company with limited track record and a non-union agreement awarded electrical contracts on the Orchard Hills Metro Station, when this meant qualified electricians would earn up to 45% less than under union agreements?

- (71) What measures will the Jobs First Commission put in place to prevent low-road contractors winning government contracts purely on price?
- (72) Will the Jobs First Commission have the authority to ensure procurement contracts deliver quality, sustainable jobs and local content rather than simply the lowest cost?
- (73) How will the Commission monitor and enforce compliance with principles of transparency, local content, and ethical procurement?
- (74) Will the Commission have the power to review and, if necessary, intervene in government procurement contracts that undermine local jobs or wages
- (75) What is the current process for assessment of economic claims in coal mining EIS's and authoring of content for Department of Planning's Assessment reports that are relied upon by the Independent Planning Commission in its determinations of consent?