

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 8 – CUSTOMER SERVICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026 Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service

Small Business, Recovery, North Coast (Saffin)

Hearing: Friday 5 September 2025

Answers due by: 5pm Thursday 2 October 2025

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone (02) 9230 2581 BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025-2026

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

RECOVERY

Resilient Homes Program

- (1) Are you continuing to advocate within Cabinet for \$1.5 Billion for 6000 house-raises, retrofits and buybacks in the Northern Rivers?
- (2) Specifically, do you support 2000 buybacks and 4000 house-raises and retrofits?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Do you acknowledge that the media pack sent out on 4 November 2022 detailed "Approximately 6,000 Northern Rivers residents are eligible for Resilient Homes Program assistance. This includes approximately 2,000 residents who will be eligible for voluntary buybacks'?
 - (a) If so, will you clarify that the intended scope of the Program was 6,000 homes and that that number has been intentionally reduced?
- (4) Do you acknowledge multiple documents prove that 6000 homes at \$1.5 billion in cost was the anticipated scope of the Resilient Homes Program, including:
 - (a) An email from Kristie Clark on 14 June 2023 saying "the... Program was scoped/estimated to deliver roughly 2000 home buybacks, 2000 home raising and 2000 home retrofits... a budget of \$1.5 billion was requested to deliver this"?
 - i. If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?
 - (b) An October 2022 Presentation to Cabinet?
 - i. If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?
 - (c) A March 2023 briefing from Kristie Clarke to Lismore City Council which says they will let "6000 people know...which stream they fall into: buybacks, house raising or retrofitting"?
 - i. If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?

- (d) Given this, will you concede that the \$1.5 billion figure for 6000 homes was the original plan for the Resilient Homes Program, rather than an error made by senior public officials?
- (5) Can you please detail the exact conversations had in the Community Elected Leaders Forum that led you to conclude that \$1.5 billion for 6000 homes "wasn't going to be a reality under any government"?
 - (a) Who suggested that \$1.5 billion was not the anticipated funding?
 - (b) When did you personally reach this conclusion?
 - (c) Did anyone push back against this recommendation?
 - (d) On what basis did the NSW Government inform this panel that future funding would not be allocated?
- (6) Can you please detail exactly when "an extra \$100m that we managed to get from Premier Minns" was allocated?
 - (a) Was all of this funding spent on buybacks, raises and retrofits?
 - (b) Was this funding as part of the Community Flood Restoration Fund, or within the original funding envelope of the Resilient Homes Program?
- (7) If the Program has been allocated \$700m originally from state and federal governments, an additional \$100m from the state in 2023, and then an additional \$180 million in state and federal funding in 2024, why in questions on notice did you detail just \$880m in total funding?
 - (a) Could you please clarify exactly which tranches of funding have been allocated and when?
- (8) Is it correct that the 2023-24 budget delivered on the 19th of September 2023, an additional \$100 of state money was allocated to buybacks, raises and retrofits as tranche 2 of the Resilient Homes Program, so the total went up to \$800m?
- (9) On 19 Sep 23, you posted to Facebook you had secured "\$100m MORE FOR BUYBACKS, HOUSE RAISING, RETROFIT" as part of "tranche 2 funding". Was this \$100 million in addition to the \$700m original allocation?
 - (a) Was this a reference to the \$100m cut in funding in raises and retrofits for more buybacks?

- (10) The Premier told the Legislative Assembly on 19 Sep 23 that "an additional \$150 million for Tranche 2" and that "4000 homes would be eligible for tranche 2" was this correct?
- (11) Were 2000 buybacks, house-raises and retrofits possible within the \$700m of original funding?
 - (a) If not, when was this realised?
 - (b) If not, did the \$100m reduction in funding for raises and retrofits impact this?
 - (c) Given an additional \$180m has been allocated, are you still working toward 2000 homes or has that number been increased?
 - i. If so, how many homes are now eligible specifically as a result of the additional funding allocation?
- (12) Is it misleading to suggest that 6000 households as a figure was an error, when this was the figure NRRC officials were given, the figure advertised to the community, and the figure necessary?
- (13) Will you acknowledge that at some point a decision was made to reduce this figure from \$1.5 billion for 6000 homes?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, when was this decision made and by whom?
- (14) Are you aware of an email sent by an NRRC media advisor on 3 July 2023 with regard to adjustments to the 6000 homes figure saying "The content was approved by all tiers of government. Community members have screenshots of this content. We did not make it up. Simply removing the number perpetuates the perception that the NRRC has lied... this is simply UNTRUE, the cabinet papers and all internal government communications have clearly referred to 2 tranches of funding"?
- (15) Was the \$1.5 billion funding figure for 6000 homes presented to Cabinet?
- (16) Were these figures presented to the community?
 - (a) If so, on what dates and where?
 - (b) If you're unsure, will you undertake to conduct a full investigation into what promises were made and when?
- (17) Given you are now the Minister responsible for Recovery, and your Government is in power, will you take the position that 6000 homes is what you will deliver?

- (18) It was reported that Labor Premier Chris Minns acknowledged "1.6 Billion was promised" to both the Resilient Homes and Lands Program. Is it the Government's position that they know what was promised and they are intentionally breaking that promise?
- (19) If more raises and retrofits as part of the Resilient Homes Program have been refused by the Labor Government, will there be the development of a State Mitigation Fund by which raises and retrofits can be accessed?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, when?
- (20) Can you please outline a timeframe for the completion of the raises and retrofits within the current funding arrangements of the Resilient Homes Program?
 - (a) By when do you anticipate this stream of the Resilient Homes Program being concluded?
- (21) Specifically with regard to the \$100m reduction in house-raises and retrofits to fund more buybacks:
 - (a) Were you aware of this decision specifically before it was made, or did you become aware after the fact?
 - (b) Is this an appropriate decision given it removes funding for at least 1000 households to access house-raises and retrofits?
- (22) Were the 1000 homeowners indicatively prioritised for house-raises and retrofits, who lost funding for those works to be completed because of the Prime Minister's deal with the Premier, informed that a decision had been made to remove their support?
 - (a) If so, when and how?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (23) How does the Minns Labor Government's decision to cut funding for 1000 house raises and retrofits to fund more buybacks align with their stated goal of transparency?
- (24) With regard to Resilient Homes Program mapping, will you undertake to ensure that maps are available on a case-by-case basis, where residents can search their address and which priority they fall within?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, when?

- (25) Are you aware of an email from 28 Oct 2022 that reads "We won't be releasing zone mapping case-by-case nature of program could make maps a rod for our backs! Cheers A"
 - (a) Is this still the policy of the Reconstruction Authority?
 - (b) Is this consistent with the stated goal of transparency?
- (26) Are you aware of an email sent by former Reconstruction Authority CEO Simon Draper on 18 June 2023, in which a table was included identifying "1091 buybacks in priority A, 565 in future priorities (unfunded)"?
 - (a) Could you please outline how many homes remain in, broken down by LGA?
 - (b) The total cost of 565 additional buybacks is over \$300 million. Why did the Reconstruction Authority have so many more buybacks outlined as prioritised if they believed no future funding was available?
- (27) Are you aware that the October 2022 Presentation to Cabinet identified that RHP funding "can also be deployed for compulsory acquisition / enabling infrastructure works in exceptional circumstances"?
 - (a) How much funding has been allocated from the RHP to compulsory acquisition?
 - (b) How much funding has been allocated to enabling infrastructure works?
 - (c) How much funding has been allocated for anything that is not buybacks, raises and retrofits?
 - i. Please provide a breakdown of what these funds have been spent on.
 - (d) Was the October 2022 presentation to Cabinet agreed to or contested in any way, given it explicitly named \$1.5 billion in total funding with an initial \$700m allocation?
- (28) How many emails were sent in 2023 indicating to homeowners their eligibility for the Resilient Homes Program?
 - (a) How many emails indicated eligibility for a buyback?
 - (b) How many emails indicated eligibility for a raise?
 - (c) How many emails indicated eligibility for a retrofit?
 - (d) How many emails indicated ineligibility?
- (29) 6700 texts were sent out by the NRRC on 14 June 2023 with regard to the Resilient Homes Program to affected households. What was the content of those texts?

- (30) What is the current assumed value per buy-back?
- (31) How many homeowners have chosen to proceed with the buyback process?
- (32) The NRRC's Strategic Plan overview anticipated a tranche 2 funding announcement in Q2 of 2024. Why did this not occur in Q2 of 2024?
 - (a) When was tranche 2 funding approval decided?
 - (b) The Plan anticipated a Program Review and Evaluation in Q1 of 2024. Did this occur?
 - i. If so, who contributed to the review?
 - ii. If so, how many households were identified as having additional need of buybacks, house raises, retrofits or relocations in addition to tranche 1 funds?
 - iii. If so, what were the review's findings?
- (33) What is your understanding of the proposed total of "tranche 2" funding for the Resilient Homes Program?
 - (a) Has "tranche 2" funding been delivered?
- (34) You are on the record saying "Land swaps and house relocations need to be given additional prioritization, again as was originally envisioned" Is this still your policy as Minister?
- (35) Do you support a coordinated and government-run program for training and supporting community volunteers but done by community?
- (36) On the 19th of May 2023, an NRRC briefing to the RHP Steering Committee stated that "tranche 2 buy-backs, raising and retrofit analysis ongoing"
 - (a) What was the buyback analysis for tranche 2?
 - (b) What was the raising analysis for tranche 2?
 - (c) What was the retrofit analysis for tranche 2?
- (37) Exactly how much of the \$150m Community Flood Restoration Fund was spent on buybacks, raises and retrofits in the Northern Rivers?
 - (a) If none, why did a government media release identify that this Fund would be a "second installment" of the Resilient Homes Program?
- (38) On exactly what date was a formal request made by the state government to the Commonwealth government for the additional contribution of \$180m in funding for the Resilient Homes Program?

- (a) What was the exact dollar amount requested by the state government from the Commonwealth?
- (b) What was the exact dollar amount proposed to be spent from the state government on the Resilient Homes Program?
- (39) The Prime Minister had previously instructed the Minns Government to "consider the range of approved programs agreed by the Commonwealth under Category D of the DRFA relating to the February-March 2022 and July 2022 flood events, and write to me with options to use savings in the first instance." before requesting further funding for the Resilient Homes Program. Have you made any written representations to the Prime Minister identifying savings from approved programs under Category D of the DRFA relating to the February-March 2022 and July 2022 flood events?
 - (a) If so, which savings were identified? Please include a list of which programs were proposed to have a reduction in funding.
- (40) Does the Minister anticipate more homes becoming eligible for raises and retrofits under the Resilient Homes Program?
- (41) On what date did you send the Premier a letter calling for \$1.5 billion in funding for the Resilient Homes Program?
 - (a) On what date did the Premier respond to the letter?
 - (b) What was the Premier's response to the letter?
- (42) In answers to questions on notice, you provided that only 59 homes would be eligible for house-raises and retrofits. But the Member for Ballina was given information that 72 raises and retrofits would be announced in the Ballina Electorate. Can you explain this discrepancy?

Northern Rivers Flood Recovery

- (43) Are you comfortable with the Premier making public statements criticizing squatters when, under your government, just 1% of the 4000 raises and retrofits that were promised to flooded homes have been delivered?
- (44) The Minns Labor Government initially identified 7800 new dwellings to be built as a result of the Resilient Lands Program. In answers to questions on notice, the Premier said the RLP would deliver "over 4000" homes. What is the actual projected figure?

- (a) Is it more or less than 7,800?
- (45) Do you support evicting people into homelessness from empty properties?
 - (a) Specifically, what steps did you take as Minister to ensure that Homes NSW negotiated with the former occupants of 122 Stuart St, Mullumbimby?
- (46) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
- (47) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
- (48) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
- (49) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
- (50) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
- (51) How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?

- (52) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (53) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (54) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (55) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (56) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (57) How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
- (58) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
- (59) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?

- (60) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
- (61) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
- (62) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
- (63) How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
- (64) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
- (65) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the
- (66) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
- (67) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
- (68) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
- (69) How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Clarence Valley Council area?

- (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
- (70) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (71) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (72) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (73) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (74) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (75) How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
- (76) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?
- (77) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?
- (78) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

- (79) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?
- (80) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?
- (81) How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?
- (82) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
- (83) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
- (84) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
- (85) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
- (86) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?

- (87) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
- (88) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (89) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (90) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (91) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (92) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (93) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
- (94) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (95) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Byron Shire Council area?

- (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (96) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (97) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (98) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (99) How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Clarence Valley Council
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
- (100) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
- (101) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
- (102) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

- (103) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
- (104) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
- (105) How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
- (106) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (107) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (108) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (109) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (110) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

- (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (111) How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (112) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (113) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (114) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (115) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (116) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (117) How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?

- (118) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (119) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (120) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (121) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (122) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (123) How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (124) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (125) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area?

- (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (126) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (127) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (128) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
- (129) How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?

Nature-Based Flood Mitigation

- (130) Given \$4.2 billion of state and federal money will support disaster relief and recovery over the next four years, and given disaster spending has increased more than 1,000 percent since 2020, how much is the government currently investing in pre-emptive, nature-based and hybrid flooding solutions, such as wetland restoration, to reduce future disaster spending requirements?
- (131) What proportion of the budget is currently going to nature-based and hybrid, pre-emptive action and long-term adaptation projects, as opposed to flood/erosion/storm recovery and response?
- (132) What steps have you taken to support the acquisition of privately owned land surrounding the Tuckean Swamp under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme?

- (133) Are you concerned some of the CSIRO's proposed hard-engineered solutions under the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative could worsen fish kills and River health?
- (134) Could you please provide an update on Richmond Landcare Inc's grant from Disaster Ready (NEMA) for a pilot project using nature based solutions (reforestation) to slow flooding in the Wilsons River upper sub-catchments?
- (135) Can you rule out supporting drainage of the Tuckean Swamp?
- (136) At recent consultation meetings with the CSIRO, participants were given a list of 15 proposed solutions, none of which were nature based, and asked to rank them. Participants got 40 words or less to put forward other solutions. Is this an appropriate method of consultation?
- (137) Logging native forests has a negative impact on flooding and River health in the Richmond River catchment. Will you call for an end to native forest logging in NSW, if for no other reason than reviving our river?
- (138) Why did the CSIRO not propose soft-engineered and nature-based solutions for the Richmond River catchment?
- (139) What oversight, if any, did you have over this process?
- (140) What steps are you taking to ensure the CSIRO's proposed Tuckean Swamp drainage and Bagotville Bypass upgrade does not increase blackwater runoff from low-lying flood prone land?
- (141) Would you consider appointing an independent Statutory Commissioner to oversee recovery of the Richmond River?
- (142) Do you support an end to native forest logging in the Richmond River catchment, to prevent further degradation of River health?
- (143) Do you support a 30m riparian buffer for plantations and private native forestry in the Richmond River catchment to prevent further degradation of River health?
- (144) It's been reported that you opposed the Nature Conservation Council's campaign seeking nature-based solutions for Richmond River Flood Mitigation. Can you confirm whether you support or oppose the NCC in this case?

Questions from the Opposition

SMALL BUSINESS, RECOVERY & NORTH COAST

Insolvencies

- (145) Will you confirm that NSW recorded 7,643 business insolvencies in FY25, the highest in the country and a 26.2% increase from FY24?
- (146) Why do you state insolvencies are "back to pre-pandemic levels" when NSW figures are higher than any other state?
- (147) What KPI has your Government set to demonstrate a reduction in business insolvencies in FY25–26?
- (148) What programs introduced since March 2023 have reduced business failures, and what evidence is there of measurable impact?

Business Connect

- (149) How will the replacement Business Bureau match the nearly 54,000 hours of one-on-one advisory support delivered by Business Connect in 2024–25?
- (150) Will you table the KPIs measuring Business Connect's effectiveness in improving business survival and growth?
- (151) How will the Business Bureau guarantee independent, face-to-face advice for businesses in regional NSW?

Workers Compensation

- (152) Do you confirm that icare has increased average workers compensation premiums by 8% in 2024–25 and a further 8% in 2025–26?
- (153) What is the Government's premium reduction target for small business premiums in 2026–27?
- (154) On what dates did you or your office respond to the submissions from NDS, HIA and NIBA warning that your changes would further damage small business viability?
- (155) Which clauses in your current Bill will directly reduce a small employer's premium in dollar terms in 2025–26?

Energy

- (156) Do you accept the AER's 2025–26 Default Market Offer determination that small business electricity prices will rise by up to 8.5%?
- (157) Beyond the Commonwealth's \$150 rebate, what specific measures will the NSW Government introduce to address rising energy bills for small business?
- (158) Has your Government set a target to reduce small business energy costs over the forward estimates?

Insurance

- (159) Do you accept that one in three NSW small businesses faced insurance premium increases of 30% or more over the last year?
- (160) Why has reform of the Emergency Services Levy stalled despite it adding up to 30% to small business insurance premiums?
- (161) Has the Government modelled the cumulative impact of rising insurance costs and the ESL on small business viability? If so, will you table the modelling?

Payroll Tax

- (162) Will you commit to raising the payroll tax threshold to ease the burden on small businesses compared with interstate competitors?
- (163) Has your Government assessed how many jobs are lost each year because payroll tax discourages small businesses from hiring?
- (164) Why has the payroll tax threshold not been indexed to wages or CPI to prevent bracket creep?

Toll Relief

- (165) Do you confirm that under your current policy, only personal toll accounts are eligible for toll relief, with no support for business or fleet toll accounts?
- (166) Why did the Government abolish the Coalition's sole trader toll relief scheme, which provided up to \$1,605 per year?
- (167) Will you reinstate or extend toll relief eligibility for sole traders and small business fleets?

CFMEU meetings

(168) 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

(169) 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

(170) 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

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

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

- (172) 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

- (173) 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

- (174) 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

- (175) 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?
- (176) 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

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

Senior Executive Drivers

(178) 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

- (179) 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

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

TikTok

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

Signal

- (182) 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

- (183) 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

- (184) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool?
 - (a) If yes, why?

Media releases and statements

- (185) 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

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

Data Breaches

- (187) 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

- (188) As Minister, so 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

- (189) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?
- (190) Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?

Ministerial Overseas Travel

- (191) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?
 - (a) If yes, was this application accepted?

Private Jet Charter

- (192) 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

- (193) 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

- (194) Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?
 - (a) If yes, why?