

Question 1 (Page 3)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Ms Jones, I'm wondering what representations you have made to the Minister on the lead contamination risk posed by the proposed Bowdens lead mine to the Mudgee regions visitor economy? Have those discussions happened?

KAREN JONES: I will take that on notice. I'm not aware of any direct representations. Certainly no direct representations have been made to myself on that matter. But, again, I'm more than happy to engage with the local community to work through those issues on our behalf.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Ms. Jones. Please refer to Page 57 of the hearing transcript.

Question 2 (Page 3)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Has there been any modelling undertaken to determine the impact of lead contamination from lead exploration or lead mining to the Mudgee regions visitor economy that you're aware of?

KAREN JONES: Not that I'm aware of. But, again, I'm more than happy to take up that point with my colleagues who might be considering or assessing that mining proposal to ensure that the visitor economy is taken into account.

Answer:

I am advised: Destination NSW has not undertaken modelling to determine the impact of lead contamination from lead exploration or lead mining to the Mudgee region's visitor economy.

Destination NSW works closely with Destination Central West NSW to drive awareness of, and promote, the Mudgee region as a tourism destination.

Question 3 (Page 10)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, do you see your role as the tourism Minister as just about New South Wales or about intrastate tourism as well?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I see it as intrastate and New South Wales.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, one of your—

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: As I said earlier, there's a very large percentage of visitor expenditure spent in our regions, so it's important to continue to encourage, focus and assist in whichever way we can to attract people.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Since becoming the tourism Minister, can you outline some of the regional tourism businesses you've visited?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I've visited a number of them; I can't remember them all off the top of my head.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Any particular highlights that you had?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I've been out on the road. I'll get back to you with a list of those things, if you like.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Okay. You'll take that on notice then. But nothing comes to mind? No trip to the Big—

Answer:

I am advised: Meetings with stakeholders are recorded in the Minister's Diary Disclosures, which are published on The Cabinet Office website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>.

Question 4 (Page 12)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: One of the areas in New South Wales where I would think there has been some jobs growth has been in your office, because we've seen your office expenses have increased by 32.34 per cent when it comes to your staff salary expenses. Why is that the case?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'd like to compare an office that has the responsibilities that my portfolio mix has and compare it to what some of the office costs were of the previous Government, if you compared apples for apples.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Year on year, your employee expenses have increased by 32.34 per cent.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: We were running fairly lean early on, and there have been some greater responsibilities—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So you're starting to boost up now, hey?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Obviously, we've got to do our job well. That requires staff and it requires the level that we're currently sitting at.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With that 32.34 per cent increase in your expenses for your employees in your office, how many more staff have you hired?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't give you an exact number, if it's 1½ or two or what it is.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Was that as a result of your new portfolio of Jobs and Tourism?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: That would have required additional need.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: In terms of your employee expenses, were the new staff brought in before your change of portfolio allocations or were they brought in after that point in time?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: From what I understand, it was after. Don't hold me to that. I'd rather take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Ministers' Office Staff numbers and salary bands are published on the NSW government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

Question 5 (Page 13)

The Hon. WES FANG: We expect that from all ministerial officers. The question I asked, though, was: Has your chief of staff ever disclosed a conflict of interest regarding Multicultural NSW activities and programs and his role as a mayor? Has there been a declaration?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct provides that all office holder staff must take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interests (real or apparent), noting that staff are required to provide their office holder with a statement of private interests and update accordingly.

The Premier's determination of conditions under section 7 of the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013* requires that political office holders' staff complete and lodge a Personal Interest Declaration and provide updated declarations as required.

Political office holders' staff must provide details of any other paid employment or business activity that they undertake outside of the employment in the political office holder's office.

Question 6 (Page 13)

The Hon. WES FANG: How much Multicultural NSW funding has Bayside Council received since the 2023 State election?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I couldn't tell you that off the top of my head.

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you want to take it on notice?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take it on notice, yes.

Answer:

I am advised: Nil.

Question 7 (Page 14)

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: They are reported by virtue of the fact that anything that's of conflict, anything to do with Bayside Council or any conflict, there's another officer, the deputy chief of staff, who actually manages it.

The Hon. WES FANG: So you record it, you make declarations, you do the appropriate things and there's a file where you have these things. Can you provide, on notice, examples of those declarations of conflicts of interest?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: No, we do it by practice.

The Hon. WES FANG: That's great, Minister, but what we want to know is—

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: We do it by practice.

The Hon. WES FANG: You know, under the State Records Act, you need to record the appropriate actions of your office. Can you just provide them? Can you provide, on notice, those declarations?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It's the responsibility of the relevant officer to manage that conflict.

The Hon. WES FANG: I've asked you, on notice, can you provide examples of this?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It's very well managed within our office. Anything that has a hint of conflict, we—

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, that's not an answer to the question I asked.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It is an answer to the question.

The Hon. WES FANG: Can you take it on notice and can you provide examples of those declarations of conflict of interest from your chief of staff and provide them to us as a Committee?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Please refer to the answer provided for Question on Notice 5.

Question 8 (Page 14)

The CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. He has taken it on notice. Minister, how many parcels of Crown land across New South Wales are currently underutilised or locked up without purpose?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I wouldn't be able to give you that number.

The CHAIR: Why not? I'm joking. Is there someone here that can help you? How many parcels of Crown land across New South Wales are currently underutilised or locked up without a clear purpose?

MELANIE HAWYES: I think that depends on what you mean by "underutilised", because there are multiple uses of Crown land, including for passive open space, so it's a bit difficult to answer a question as open as that. It depends what you consider to be utilised or underutilised.

The CHAIR: Okay, what about not being utilised at all?

MELANIE HAWYES: It's very rare that something is completely unutilised. Most of Crown land is actually under pastoral lease in the western parts of the State, and in the east it's a very diverse multi-use portfolio. Reserve purposes are as broad as commercial use—commercial marinas—or we have things like beaches and estuaries. Would they be underutilised?

The CHAIR: Are you able to provide a breakdown in terms of what's being used for commercial leases versus recreational?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can provide statistics on what is under a commercial lease, but that is a very slim view about what is utilised in the Crown land portfolio because, as I say, it covers things like open space and beaches, which people would have very different views about what utilisation really means.

The CHAIR: Are you able to provide a breakdown of the varied uses and their percentages?

MELANIE HAWYES: At a macro level but, because it's so huge it wouldn't be—

The CHAIR: I'm happy for that.

MELANIE HAWYES: Absolutely, and I can provide you with data on what is under commercial lease.

Answer:

I am advised: As of June 2025, the Department directly managed Crown tenures (licences or leases) over an area covering more than 91% of the Crown estate.

The land directly managed under tenure includes:

- 5,836 Western Lands leases
- 2,268 permissive occupancies
- 16,634 licences
- 1,774 leases, including 589 leases being converted to freehold, predominantly in the Western Division of NSW
- 23,523 enclosure permits (over Crown roads)

As of June 2025, approximately 6.4% of land within the Crown estate did not have a tenure in place. This included:

- Coastal areas to the 3 nautical mile zone (2.9%)
- Crown waterways (1.3%)

- Crown roads (0.9%)
- Other Crown land (1.3%) (most of this is in regional NSW)

Leases are issued to individuals, companies, non-government organisations, government agencies, and community and sporting groups for a range of purposes.

- Of the 1,774 leases, 245 are commercial leases with a net rent greater than \$20,000 per annum.

Crown land is generally reserved for a purpose and used by the community for a variety of uses. These include:

- Conservation purposes (approx. 128,000 hectares)
- Parks and passive recreation areas (approx. 4,000 hectares)
- Community facilities; including community halls, surf clubs, Scout and Guide halls (approx. 850)

Question 9 (Pages 14-15)

The CHAIR: Thank you, Minister, how many government-owned properties in regional New South Wales are currently vacant or underutilised?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Again, it's not a number that I'd have in my head. If there are, it'd be a moving feast. I don't know.

The CHAIR: Are you able to take it on notice?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice, yes.

Answer:

I am advised: There is no centralised register of vacant or underutilised NSW Government-owned buildings. Each government department and their agencies are responsible for managing their land and property holdings.

The NSW Government has policies and processes in place for assessing government-owned land and property to ensure it directly supports Government priorities, especially identifying land for housing.

To date, the NSW Government property audit has assessed over 23,000 government-owned lots to identify if they continue to be required for service delivery or infrastructure purposes, or if they can be repurposed for housing or other productive uses, such as public open space, environmental land and employment land.

Question 10 (Pages 20-21)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, I'll declare a long conflict of interest in this: I was formerly a member of Strathfield Golf Club. Strathfield golf course completely abuts Rookwood Cemetery. Was that investigated as a potential site?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It may have been considered. I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, what about Hudson Park? It was formerly a golf course and, again, abuts Rookwood Cemetery. I think a railway line was put through it, but it is not used as a golf course anymore. Was that investigated as a site?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Metropolitan Memorial Parks has assessed over 1,000 sites against a set of criteria, which included location, proximity, size, site typology, environmental and planning considerations.

Question 11 (Page 25)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So far, as part of the land audit, in the majority of cases they're not required by those two delivery agencies. I will ask the question with respect to that as well. Minister, what's the process in terms of either Homes NSW or Landcom if they are to take control of those sites? Are they paying consideration for those sites to either Property and Development NSW or to the agency responsible for that land?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Absolutely. You might want to—

LEON WALKER: Yes, they are.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: They are, yes. It's market—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: They are? So they're paying consideration? And how is that consideration determined?

LEON WALKER: It's a market value assessment in accordance with Treasury policy.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So it's a market valuation. Is that conducted by the Valuer General or do you have an independent process in terms of determining that?

LEON WALKER: Value NSW plays a role in determining the market value of the site.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So Value NSW makes an evaluation of that site, and then those agencies, either Landcom or Homes NSW, then pay consideration for that site. Is that paid to Property and Development NSW, or is that paid to the agency that is responsible for that land?

LEON WALKER: It goes to the landowning agency.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So far, how much has been paid as a result of those valuations by both Homes NSW and by Landcom with respect to the sites that they've had transferred to them?

LEON WALKER: Can we take that on notice and come back to you in the afternoon session?

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Mr. Walker. Please refer to Page 71 of the hearing transcript.

Question 12 (Page 26)

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, can I just quickly check, is Canarvon golf course on a flood plain? You don't know?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't answer that question. I don't know.

The Hon. WES FANG: Are you unsure? You shook your head. So you don't think it's on a flood plain?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice. I don't know.

The Hon. WES FANG: You'll take it on notice?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

Answer:

I am advised by Metropolitan Memorial Parks that:

- Based on local council flood mapping and the Land IQ tool, Carnarvon Golf Course has limited overland flooding risk, which is localised to specific areas;
- The site has some areas identified as subject to flooding during extreme weather events, which is not dissimilar to conditions at other existing Crown land cemetery sites managed by Metropolitan Memorial Parks; and
- Good site design strategies and landscaping are used to mitigate and manage residual risks.

Question 13 (Page 26)

The CHAIR: Could you separate the per athlete funding for the metro academies versus the regional academies, perhaps on notice?

ADAM BERRY: Yes, I would have to do that on notice. I don't believe that we actually differentiate them. In terms of the changes that they may be contemplating, the first thing I'd say is that we haven't had any specific conversations with the academies around what roles, but we do know that the academies as a network are going through a process, driven by them, of amalgamations that are intended to try to save money and reduce duplication across the network so that they do free up funds for their core services. So there is that bit of work—again, being led by the academies, but that is happening. We've been very much led to believe by the academies that they will be able to get more efficient and save funds through their amalgamations.

Answer:

I am advised: The two Metropolitan Academies receive a combined \$474,000 in operational grant funding, plus \$472,724 in additional project funding for their combined 659 athletes.

The nine Regionally based Academies receive a combined \$1,986,000 in operational grant funding plus \$2,127,258 in additional project funding for their combined 3,171 athletes.

Question 14 (Page 28)

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Ms Mather, at Venues NSW what testing have you done about the infiltration rate? There's a graph here from Labosport showing it was faulty from day one.

KERRIE MATHER: Labosport—the report that you referred to in January was a report that was commissioned by Football Australia, ahead of their international in January. They actually confirmed a drainage rate of 300 millilitres an hour. They referred to the 300 millilitres that you previously referred to, which was what it was before the turf was replaced. It showed an improvement, and at the lower end of the range of drainage. So there was nothing in there to say that there was anything fundamental per se. But what has happened is it has actually degraded over time. From that 300 millilitres drainage rate, as part of the Labosport that was conducted in January, by the time the investigation was conducted recently, it's draining at 40 millilitres an hour. So it has continued to degrade over time.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: But what testing did you do from the day that the stadium was opened?

KERRIE MATHER: What has happened is it has degraded over time. As the drainage has become more challenged over time, the team has actually worked exhaustively—

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: That's not answering my question. What testing did Venues NSW do, because the Labosport graph here shows it was never any good at the beginning of time. Don't worry about degraded.

KERRIE MATHER: In fact, Labosport's report to Football Australia said, "The improved surface layer drainage from late last year will significantly reduce the risk of weather interference—"

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: But can you see the graph on page 4?

KERRIE MATHER: —and overall we consider Allianz is on track to produce a good surface for the Socceroos match in March."

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Ms Mather, can you see the graph on page 4, that for 18 months—

KERRIE MATHER: I haven't got the report in front of me.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Can you take that on notice?

KERRIE MATHER: I can.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: And can you provide any Venues NSW assessment of the infiltration rate from the opening of Allianz to present, on notice?

KERRIE MATHER: Yes.

Answer:

I am advised: Venues NSW has undertaken testing on four occasions.

Testing showed that the infiltration rate was less than optimal at different stages since the stadium opened and degraded over time.

Question 15 (Page 29)

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: You're not answering my question, Ms Mather. The question is very simple. Why was the tender specification that the site must be well drained and unaffected by flooding that applied to Parramatta Stadium turf supply removed for Evergreen, which was completely flooded, when it came to Allianz?

KERRIE MATHER: I can't comment on that because—

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Can you take that on notice?

KERRIE MATHER: No, I can't take that on notice because it's not in my area of responsibility.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Why?

KERRIE MATHER: Because the former SCG Trust was responsible for developing the project brief—

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: You must have all their records.

KERRIE MATHER: —and the tender specification was developed by Infrastructure NSW at the time.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: You've consumed their records and their responsibilities in running all these grounds—not very well at Allianz.

KERRIE MATHER: I can speak to Infrastructure NSW and see if they can provide you with the information.

Answer:

I am advised: Infrastructure NSW provided a project brief to John Holland as the main contractor for the Sydney Football Stadium. The project brief included requirements for pitch drainage, and flood and storm resilience provisions. John Holland arranged the tendering and procurement of the turf subcontractor.

Question 16 (Page 31)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: At the last budget estimates, we discussed concerns flagged by your department about the conflict of interest in Racing NSW acting as both Crown land manager for New South Wales and the regulator of the racing industry itself. I was advised that Racing NSW was developing policies to address how they will address that conflict of interest. Can you provide me an update on where that is up to?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Racing NSW has advised Crown Lands that the above-mentioned Conflict of Interest Policy was approved in principle by its Audit and Risk Committee in August 2025 and will shortly go to the full Board for endorsement.

Question 17 (Pages 31-32)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: But I would have thought that any conflict of interest would be of interest to both portfolios. I'm assuming that if I spoke to Minister Harris, he would say that a conflict of interest with being a Crown land manager would also fall under your portfolio. I'm just wondering then, Minister, with that in mind, what measures are in place to ensure that Racing NSW, acting as the Crown land manager, doesn't give preferential or lenient treatment to itself also as the regulator?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Look—

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Are there any measures in place?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: At this stage, no. The Crown land focus, as the Minister, is to make sure that all these facilities are well maintained and kept. As far as I'm concerned, racing does a pretty good job of that and of providing the adequate expenditure or capital expenditure on those sites to keep them maintained and managed.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: But, Minister, what I'm asking about is the measures around the fact that Racing NSW is acting as both the Crown land manager and is itself the regulator.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You're saying that there are no measures in place and the conflict of interest policy that was in draft form in February is still sitting in draft form. That's what you're providing us today?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Crown Lands holds quarterly meetings with Racing NSW on the governance and management of the four reserves.

Question 18 (Page 32)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Minister, when did you first become aware of the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025 that was introduced to the upper House?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: At the time it was introduced, I suppose, or around the time it was introduced.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: The meetings that you discussed with Ms Sue Higginson occurred after the bill itself was introduced, rather than prior?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't recall exactly when those conversations about—

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Would you be able to take that on notice?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes, I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: At the inquiry into the bill last week, we were advised that Crown Lands gave advice on that bill. Was that before the bill was introduced or after?

MELANIE HAWYES: Like I said, we provide advice, as you'd expect, on any of these sorts of proposals. We provided advice to our Minister's office and to the lead department, DPIRD, so there'll be different times at which we provided advice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Was that before the bill was introduced into the upper House or after?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can't give you the exact date, but I know that at the time of the discussions about the bill we provided advice in different ways to different parties.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Could you take on notice whether or not it was before the bill was introduced into the upper House or after?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, sure.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Minister, the bill makes considerable changes to the Crown Land Management Act. I guess I'm just trying to understand what level of consultation you were involved with. I understand that you did meet with the member introducing the bill that you indicated earlier this morning. But I wonder what input that you or your department may have had in the earlier stages while the bill was still being developed.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: My department's probably consulted with other agencies as well.

MELANIE HAWYES: DPIRD.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: DPIRD, yes. The extent of the consultation—we're consulting on many things every day of the week so I can't give you a timeline of when or what. I'm happy to give that to you on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The Department provided advice on the proposed bill to the Minister's office and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development throughout this year.

Question 19 (Page 33)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, we talked about your ministerial staffing allocation previously and you said it was off a fairly low base. Would it surprise you now to learn that, in terms of staff expenses, you're number eight in the Government?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: That wouldn't surprise me, no.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It doesn't surprise you?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: No.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So you're above cluster Ministers and above, in fact, the planning Minister. You have a higher staffing expense allocation than the planning Minister. That doesn't surprise you?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Given the exposure I've got in terms of the ministries that I hold, there's a broad level of activities there. It wouldn't surprise me, no.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, how many staff are in your office?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: You can't recall? There's that many?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: No, mate, I can't recall. I don't have that number in my head.

The Hon. WES FANG: Surely you know how many staff you have in your office, Minister?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can sit here and do a count, and I'll think about everyone's names out loud.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How about you take it on notice, Minister, as to how many staff are in your office?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

Answer:

I am advised: Please refer to the answer provided for Question on Notice 4.

Question 20 (Page 45)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr La Posta, was there any consultation with the Faith Affairs Council?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: About the last protest?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: About the march on the Harbour Bridge.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Not that I recall, but I'm happy to take the specifics on notice if I'm incorrect, Mr Farlow.

Answer:

I am advised: The NSW Faith Affairs Council was not consulted on this matter.

Question 21 (Page 46)

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, in relation to your support or otherwise for displays, public parades or protests, do you support the right of the Sikh community in Western Sydney to hold an annual parade? Do you think that it's a reasonable thing for councils to support a once-a-year parade from the Sikh community?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: We're aware this issue has come up in the last couple of days. Happy to take the specifics on notice and give you a response. It's a democratic right, in terms of protests and these sorts of things. That's not to say that we're completely understanding of the intended—it literally has just hit the media as of yesterday.

Answer:

I am advised: Multicultural NSW supports the right of all communities to peacefully gather and celebrate their cultural traditions, provided such events comply with relevant laws, council regulations, and public safety requirements.

Question 22 (Pages 47-48)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Are the Faith Affairs Council minutes published publicly?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I can take the specifics of that on notice. They're not published, but I can take the specifics in terms of what the Government requirements are around the subcommittee on that. You're exactly right. The minutes—the secretariat function of the Faith Affairs Council is provided by Multicultural NSW, under our legislation, as a subcommittee. And then in terms of the agenda being set, that's set by Right Reverend Dr Michael Stead, who is an outstanding chair of that group. I do want to commend him for his work.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, how many times has the Faith Affairs Council met? Mr La Posta, do you want to take that on notice?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I can give you an answer in about 30 seconds. I think it's 13, but I'll just double-check.

Answer:

I am advised: The NSW Faith Affairs Council 2024 statement of activities was published in the Community Relations Report 2024 and tabled in both Houses of the Parliament of New South Wales on 9 April 2025.

The NSW Faith Affairs Council has met nine times since it was established. There have also been several out-of-session consultations and working group meetings.

Question 23 (Page 48)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: We might return to that this afternoon. Minister, how much funding has the New South Wales Office of Sport committed to a new aquatic facility at Carss Park?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice in terms of the specific amount.

Answer:

I am advised: A final funding allocation will be confirmed by the Office of Sport at the completion of detailed design.

Question 24 (Page 51)

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Well, it's in relation to the conflict of interest and also the public expense we have in paying your chief of staff who wears the two hats. Can I take you back to the Andrew Denny email about the turf tender, dated 14 February. He cc's in the usual characters at Venues, Adam Lewis and Johnny Naofal—

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Can I get a copy of that?

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: —but also Rob Cooper from Living Turf. Why was Rob Cooper told of the fact that there were two applicants for the tender, Evergreen and HG Sports? Given that Rob Cooper consults for Evergreen, didn't this run the risk that he would be telling Evergreen, "When you present your tender on the Wednesday, you only have to beat HG Sports, and you're the winner"? Why was Rob Cooper, external to Venues NSW, cc'd in on the news that there were two applicants, given that Rob Cooper consults for Evergreen?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I've got no idea. I'll take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in session by Ms. Mather. Please refer to Page 52 of the hearing transcript.

Question 25 (Page 52)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I just have a couple more questions, Minister. Going back to this particular bill, at the inquiry that occurred just recently, we heard from groups such as the Australian Gun Safety Alliance and Outdoors NSW, saying that they're concerned about the impact this bill will have on the ability for the public to use and enjoy Crown land spaces safely, and that includes school groups and families. We heard from Outdoors NSW that school groups may actually have to pull out from outdoor activities where there is an overlay of Crown land. Minister, I wanted to get your response to this in regard to the public safety around Crown land spaces.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: In terms of the profile of the Crown land that we're referring to that could be potentially eligible for the purposes, I'm not sure whether it does currently have public access or—

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I will come back to it this afternoon, but I just wanted to hear from you, Minister, in regard to any concerns from those advocacy organisations around the fact that these are shared public spaces.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Crown Lands has identified particular land parcels that would—

MELANIE HAWYES: Sorry, just quickly, the hunting regime that already exists utilises State forest land, and opens and closes that land.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I understand all this. We did hear this at the inquiry. I just want to get the Minister's response specifically in regard to the concerns that were raised at that inquiry by the Australian Gun Safety Alliance and Outdoors NSW about this expansion of shared public spaces, where other people will be using access to those lands. I understand that there is currently hunting in State forests already, but this is a large extension of lands and so I want to get a response from you, Minister, in regard to Crown land.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice for you.

Answer:

I am advised: Any Crown land proposed as designated for hunting under the Bill, if passed, would undergo a thorough risk assessment to determine if and under what conditions it could be opened for hunting.

This risk assessment would align with the approach taken to risk-assess other public land, such as State Forests, for suitability for hunting under the existing Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 pathways.

The risk assessment would confirm if the site is suitable and determine any conditions to be placed on hunting activities such as exclusion or buffer zones required to manage public safety.

It would also consider the impact on public use and access, and the impact on any interest holders, such as licence holders, adjoining landholders, and the local community.

There may be cases where sites will be assessed as unsuitable for hunting. The Bill allows for this discretion.

Question 26 (Page 53)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: On 9 April this year you announced that the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital had been given a secure home on almost two hectares of Crown land. That's a great use of public land. Are you able to indicate how long the hospital has secured that land for and whether they're required to pay for the lease or whether it's a peppercorn lease?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I've got to take that on notice, if that's okay.

Answer:

I am advised: A licence was executed for the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital Limited on 28 October 2022 for the occupation of Crown land at the Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute. There is no end date for the licence.

The hospital is a community-owned, not-for-profit charity run by volunteers. This means they are eligible for a Community Volunteer Service Group (Category 1) financial concession. They will be required to only pay the statutory minimum rent, which is currently \$613.

Question 27 (Page 53)

Dr AMANDA COHN: I've got some questions for the Office of Sport; I think that's Mr Berry online. Firstly, I want to ask about the Level the Playing Field fund. I understand that funding wasn't extended past the previous program, but there was a comment from the Minister this morning about his focus on lighting and women's facilities for football, which led me to believe there might be further opportunities for funding infrastructure that supports inclusion. Are there any opportunities moving forward for those kinds of grant applications?

ADAM BERRY: There's quite a lot to that. At the moment we're still delivering, with partners, 305 sports infrastructure grants, and a number of those are grants that enable participation—as the Minister said, improved lighting, improved accessibility to fields, improved drainage and a number of things. That's very much a pipeline that is still being delivered. Today, do we have a Level the Playing Field grant program available? We don't today, but we are doing a number of other things in the Play Her Way space; you might be familiar with our women in sport strategy, released last year. We are delivering a whole lot of initiatives in the Play Her Way strategy that enable better participation by women and girls in sports. I could list a number of those things, but they are on a slightly different tack to the question.

Dr AMANDA COHN: I'll come to those other initiatives in a second. While we're on the physical infrastructure—change room and lighting upgrades et cetera—you might need to take this one on notice. How many applications were there for Level the Playing Field that were unsuccessful? What is the unmet need?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice, definitely, yes.

Answer:

I am advised: A total of 212 applications were received under the Level the Playing Field Program.

There were 182 unsuccessful applications, which included four (4) ineligible applications.

Question 28 (Page 54)

Dr AMANDA COHN: In terms of the broader aims of the Organisation Support Program, you're talking about a specific target in terms of gender equity. Do any of the agreements reflect broader inclusion initiatives for people with disability or from multicultural backgrounds, and LGBTIQ+ people?

ADAM BERRY: That's kind of what a lot of the Organisation Support Program does. I'll have to get the details on notice, but a lot of the intention of the program is to support organisations to be more inclusive, to be better governed and to be meeting their obligations under a range of legislation—child safety, inclusion and a whole range of measures. I could essentially get a model agreement to the Committee, if that would be helpful.

Answer:

I am advised: The Organisation Support Program aims to provide flexible financial support to build capacity, invest in governance processes, increase participation, including of underrepresented groups in sport at all levels, create and deliver sporting activities and competitions at all levels in NSW and support Office of Sport and NSW Government priorities.

Funded programs must align to one or more of six objectives, two of which are “increase the capability of the sector to create fair, safe and inclusive environments for everyone, including children” and “increase participation, including of under-represented groups (particularly the participation of women and girls).”

The Organisation Support Program Guidelines are published here:

<https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/Organisation-Support-Program-Guidelines-2024-25-2025-26.pdf>.

Question 29 (Pages 55-57)

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I'm going to throw to Mr La Posta. In March 2025 the Government announced that it would deliver New South Wales' first standalone migrant workers centre. Are you able to provide an update on where the work on this centre is up to—where it will be located, when it's expected to open and those sorts of details?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Thanks, Ms Hurst, for the question. Multicultural NSW, in partnership with SafeWork NSW and the industrial relations team in the Premier's Department, went through a scoping and a feasibility exercise and then ultimately a tender spec. The tender was opened and closed, and Unions NSW were the successful organisation to provide the services for the Migrant Workers Centre. The centre is scheduled to open, in my understanding, based off the contractual agreements that we've signed, in early 2026. They're just doing all of the preparatory work now and gearing that up for opening in early 2026.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Do we have any idea at this point where it might be located?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: No, I can take that on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: In terms of deciding that location, is there any select criteria that will be used to determine the best site for that centre?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I think the intention is—obviously because of the reality that, whilst there's a significant concentration of migrants in metropolitan Sydney, as Mr Fang and others will attest one in five people in Wagga is now born overseas, one in four in Griffith is born overseas, and nearly one in five in Coffs Harbour is born overseas, it's impossible for the centre to be all things to all people throughout New South Wales. It's more around what are the services, what's the literature, how can they connect them through hotlines and these sorts of things to be able to provide the migration specifics, the community legal contacts and all of the things that sit around that. I don't think the focus is necessarily about having a drop-in space; it's more around how to create the resources and the contacts to be able to get to as many people as possible across the State.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Will there still be some consideration around setting up this office in a regional area, given what you've raised?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: The Government's allocated \$6.5 million over four years to this centre. Are you able to provide any kind of indication in regard to what this funding will be predominantly spent on or what the plans are for the breakdown of that funding?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I can. Can I provide that on notice? Is that okay?

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Yes.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It's along the lines of my previous answer in terms of the elements around migration law, but also in terms of access to legal support and so forth, and workers entitlements and safe work conditions. Obviously, the safe work component is a really important part, more than 50 per cent of the funding is associated with safe work. The general breakdown, and I'm happy to provide specifics on notice, is the industrial relations support to our newest Aussies and our migrant workforces, also acknowledging that there are some who aren't Australian citizens—PALM workers, temporary migrants and these things as well—that may wish to access the centre as well. But given the sheer volume of the number of migrants we have in New South Wales, I'm happy to take the specifics on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Will any of the funding, to your knowledge, be used to fund cover for emergency accommodation or financial relief for anyone leaving exploitative work situations?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: That is an excellent question. Not that I'm aware of. That's not to say that there aren't other government services available to citizens to do those sorts of things. I know, particularly with PALM schemes and other things, there is increasing concern. I know representations have been made by anti-slavery commissioners in New South Wales—and the new Anti-Slavery Commissioner appointment now for the Commonwealth—where they're trying to really shine a light on this, and rightly so. That's not the focus of the Migrant Workers Centre. But if there is any elements of that tender spec which cover it, I'm happy to take that on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I'd be interested to know, if it's not specifically in there, whether there's going to be any consideration of opening up pathways to ensure that any workers in crisis can actually be referred quite easily to those immediate support networks.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: You've nailed it. I think it's more around how they connect them to the referral agencies that are there and are able to assist.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Do we know what languages might be prioritised for service delivery, and if there's any budget that's been allocated already for translation and interpretation?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Yes. Absolutely a part of it is the capacity to be able to communicate to those affected migrants in language. That's always a challenge because, as I said before to Mr Ruddick, we speak over 283 different languages, so you don't want to produce material if it's not relevant to those languages. We'll probably prioritise the significant languages—your Mandarin, your Arabic, your Vietnamese—but then also have a focus on communities that we may identify as at risk: Have we got large cohorts of skilled migrants coming from Nepal? So then prioritising languages around need as well.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You talked a bit about the centre working as a kind of information hub to distribute a lot of information. Is it intended that the centre will cover issues such as employment law, workplace health and safety and immigration advice in that one service?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Yes, that's probably why Unions NSW are well placed to be able to do all of those things, because of the contacts and the relationships they have. A part of their DNA is to shine light on issues where there are those workplace-related issues or exploitation or these sorts of things as well. In some respects they're a very logical partner and probably best placed to assist us in this process.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: How will the centre coordinate its work with related services such as SafeWork NSW, the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner and the Fair Work Ombudsman?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'm happy to take this on notice, but SafeWork NSW has regular—I believe quarterly—meetings around the objectives of the safe work Act and ensuring that the Migrant Workers Centre delivers on their objectives that are required to be able to access the funding that comes through that fund. With regards to IR, and also with the anti-slavery commission, the Anti-slavery Commissioner is aware of the establishment of the Migrant Workers Centre and is interested. I'll be guided by him, as a statutory entity, in terms of the appropriateness of how often he engages with those, and which cases, potentially, the Migrant Workers Centre and the anti-slavery commission choose to highlight or shine a light on. That's really at their discretion. But those links are established—so structured meetings through the arms of government in terms of entities such as SafeWork. In terms of anti-slavery commission, IR New South Wales and others, if there's a requirement to connect them, we will, but they've already got those pre-existing relationships, if I'm honest.

Answer:

I am advised: The Migrant Workers Centre is due to open in early 2026. Discussions remain ongoing about the design of the project and its outreach model.

In relation to the breakdown of what the funding will be spent on, the funding is focussed on, but not limited to, the following areas: the development and implementation of a legal casework framework; Safety Ambassadors Network; regional and rural communities

training program; case management services; referrals to community legal centres; legal assistance in dispute resolution on matters involving workplace exploitation; and educational material in language to educate and promote services for sexual harassment.

This funding will ensure NSW migrant workers have equitable access to services and receive coordinated information, advice, assistance, and advocacy services relating to policy issues.

Funds will not be used to cover emergency accommodation or financial relief for anyone leaving exploitative work. The Migrant Workers Centre is focussed on connecting individuals to the services that provide such support.

In relation to the question about the Centre coordinating its work with related services, see the answer given by the CEO of Multicultural NSW on page 57 of the Hansard Transcript.

Question 30 (Page 58)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr Berry, has the Office of Sport discussed the closure of its eight regional offices that support regional sport?

ADAM BERRY: I'll take the opportunity just to correct a little bit of a misunderstanding there: None of our regional offices have in fact closed.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Have staff been cut from those offices?

ADAM BERRY: We still have staff operating at all of our regional locations that we had previously. I think the reference you're making is we did go through a reorganisation of our staff, and we changed some of our staffing structures. We did have some vacant roles that no longer exist. But we certainly—no staff members. I'll check the detail on that, but I don't believe that we that we actually removed any roles that were filled by people. I will need to confirm that on notice, though, Mr Farlow.

Answer:

I am advised: Three (3) staff members had their roles removed from the regional office structure following the cessation of internal placement processes to fill roles in the new structure.

Those three staff members are currently on the Workforce Mobility Placement Program operated by the Premier's Department.

Question 31 (Page 58)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to the reorganisation as you outlined it, what are the costs of any redundancies?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice. I don't have that to hand.

Answer:

I am advised: No staff have been made redundant to date therefore the cost is zero.

Question 32 (Page 59)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: As I understand it, the website—similar to the program that we had with the defibrillators program—says that it actually is based on a socio-economic assessment. Is that incorrect?

ADAM BERRY: No, there was socio-economic assessment, but the learn to swim provider market also needed to be able to provide the services.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So there were two criteria, were there? One was on a socio-economic basis and the other was on a provider basis.

ADAM BERRY: There would have been—I don't have it in front of me—more criteria than that. But certainly that was part of the process. Let me get the full criteria.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Can you tell us—and I appreciate probably on notice—what areas were excluded on a socio-economic basis?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: No areas in NSW were excluded from the Learn to Swim program on any basis, including socio-economic.

An open and competitive procurement process allowed for applications from anywhere in NSW.

The program's primary target market is:

- people from low socioeconomic groups; and
- other high-risk demographics, including multicultural communities, First Nations people, and people living in rural locations.

Applicants were asked to identify the target group who they proposed to deliver swimming lessons to, along with projected numbers, engagement strategies, and how they would mitigate risks of low uptake.

All locations in NSW were eligible for participation in the program. The applicant provider needed to identify that they could deliver to a target population in their location.

Question 33 (Page 59)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So Bayside would have been excluded on a service provision basis rather than a socio-economic basis?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take the details of location by location on notice, Mr Farlow.

Answer:

I am advised: No providers submitted a tender application to deliver in the Bayside Local Government Area.

Question 34 (Page 59)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It seems like the criteria on the website then is somewhat misleading. Was there a criterion in terms of non-English-speaking background that was applied to this program?

ADAM BERRY: I'll need to check the criteria. It's definitely communities of disadvantage because that's what the evidence and the data was telling us were groups most in need and most vulnerable when it came to drowning risk. Disadvantage can take a number of forms, obviously.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If you could perhaps take on notice what the criteria were for each area, that would be appreciated. Of course, we've ventilated this in estimates before—there's \$6.7 million that's been allocated in the budget to the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation. What improvements will be delivered as part of this investment?

Answer:

I am advised: The program's primary target market included multicultural communities which can include non-English speaking backgrounds.

There are no specific criteria for each area. Instead, a uniform set of criteria applies across the program.

Question 35 (Page 60)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr Berry, have you received any communication or correspondence about community sporting facilities in Wentworth Point at all?

ADAM BERRY: Wentworth Point specifically? I may have, but I don't recall receiving it, Mr Farlow. I'd have to take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: In June 2024, the then Chief Executive of the Office of Sport, Karen Jones, met with executive officers of the Wentworth Point Titan Sport Club regarding community sport facilities in Wentworth Point.

Question 36 (Page 60)

The Hon. WES FANG: In relation to the Dubbo sports hub again, did the Office of Sport provide any advice to the New South Wales Government that it supported the PCYC's request to relocate the sports hub?

ADAM BERRY: We certainly provided advice to Government. We were the lesser funding partner in that program, Mr Fang; I believe \$9.6 million out of a \$50 million project.

The Hon. WES FANG: Nine point three, I believe.

ADAM BERRY: Ultimately, when the department—the now department of regional development—chose to terminate the funding agreement, there was no project for us to be a funder of anymore, so that was kind of the end of it.

The Hon. WES FANG: I appreciate that. However, was advice given to the Minister in relation to a position that the Office of Sport had around the PCYC's request to relocate?

ADAM BERRY: I'd have to take it on notice, Mr Fang. I was actually not involved in the grant program for the Office of Sport around the time that the termination was made, which was final quarter, I think—December last year.

The Hon. WES FANG: When you say you weren't involved, do you mean you weren't involved in relation to the relocation requests from PCYC?

ADAM BERRY: No, sorry. Prior to January I worked with the Office of Sport, but very much in the operation of our centres and venues. I had no role in the grant program. I'm just saying whatever conversations there were or briefings, I don't believe I would have been part of in my role at the time. I certainly can't recall.

The Hon. WES FANG: If you could take that on notice, I'd appreciate that. In relation to the \$9.3 million that was committed to the project that is now not going ahead because the Government's pulled the majority funding through Regional, what has happened to that allocation of \$9.3 million?

ADAM BERRY: The funds that were unspent—so PCYC went through an acquittal process. The project had existed, you are aware, for a number of years and there were funds expended. PCYC went through an acquittal process, and I do know that whatever was unspent was returned to the Office of Sport into our grant programs and reallocated across a number of programs. I don't think it went to anything in particular. Essentially, it came back to the organisation and rebalanced into other programs.

Answer:

I am advised: Yes. On 29 November 2024, the Office of Sport provided informal advice to the Minister for Sport that stated that *“Office of Sport is supportive of PCYC NSW’s proposal in-principle but is yet to receive confirmation from DPIRD or Minister Moriarty on whether the proposed project changes are endorsed.”*

Question 37 (Page 60)

The Hon. WES FANG: In relation to that, are you able to tell me how much was acquitted and how much was returned?

ADAM BERRY: I could take that on notice, Mr Fang. I don't have it in front of me. It was the bulk of the \$9 million, but I don't remember the exact proportion. I'll take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The acquittal confirmed PCYC had spent \$2,991,270.00 on the project.

Based on pro rata calculations of expended funds, PCYC returned \$6,678,022.59 in total. Of this, an additional \$280,816.30 was returned to DPIRD, and the remainder (\$6,397,206.29) was retained by the Office of Sport.

Question 38 (Pages 60-61)

The Hon. WES FANG: Let's assume it was, say, 50 per cent plus a bit—\$4½ million, 4.6 or thereabouts. In that instance, we've expended \$4.6 million on this project to this date to have it effectively shut down. What are we doing now in relation to the other, say, \$4½ million that was returned? Has that money been reallocated to projects in the Dubbo region, or has it been allocated through just general grants programs throughout the State?

ADAM BERRY: I think it's been reallocated to a range of grant programs across the State, but I would need to take the details on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: Effectively, the decision by Regional to pull that bulk of the funding has meant that Dubbo has missed out on, say, \$4½ million from the Office of Sport, plus they've already spent \$4½ or \$4-point million on a project that's gone nowhere because they've pulled that funding. Is that a fair assessment, do you think?

ADAM BERRY: I don't know the exact amounts. The amounts I would have to take on notice. I understand how you're phrasing it. I'd see it as the funds that were returned went to other sporting priorities across the State, and there's, I think it's been covered, there's no shortage of—

The Hon. WES FANG: But they went to other regions other than the region it was committed to originally.

ADAM BERRY: I'd have to take on notice exactly where it went. I think it'd be very difficult for us, actually, to track exactly where every dollar went, Mr Fang, but we'll do our best.

Answer:

I am advised: Information relating to grants administered by the Office of Sport is available in the agency's Annual Report.

Published Annual reports can be accessed on the Office of Sport website.

Question 39 (Page 62)

The CHAIR: Mr Gellibrand, I'll just go to you. How many of the current priority projects in the State infrastructure strategy are located in regional New South Wales? Do you want to take that on notice?

TOM GELLIBRAND: Yes, that would be best. The actual State infrastructure strategy doesn't so much list projects, it's more in State infrastructure plans where we've got a compendium of projects that are in the pipeline. I get the tenor of the question, so I'll take that on notice.

The CHAIR: You might need to take this on notice as well: What percentage of the total infrastructure spend over the next four years is going to be allocated to regional projects?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I will undertake to answer that as well. I may need some support from Treasury.

The CHAIR: How many regional projects recommended by Infrastructure NSW in the last five years have ended up not being funded?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I think that might relate to our Restart program that we administer.

The CHAIR: I'm happy for you to take it on notice.

TOM GELLIBRAND: I'll take it on notice, because we'll be able to get the data from there.

Answer:

I am advised: The state's \$118.3 billion capital infrastructure program is not easily categorised as metropolitan or regional as it contains a range of projects that service the whole State rather than a specific metro or regional area, such as:

- Specialised medical equipment – this equipment is often used for patients who live in other locations rather than only those who live in the location where the hospital is;
- Emergency services equipment including fleet – this is available for deployment across the state;
- Transport infrastructure – many roads and rail lines serve people travelling within and between metropolitan and regional areas; and
- National parks walking trails – these are for the benefit of people from across the state as well as visitors beyond State boundaries, not just communities that live in the area.

Budget paper 3 sets out funding for major works by project and includes a location where relevant.

Funding has not been declined for any regional projects recommended by INSW under the Restart NSW Fund in the two years since March 2023.

Cabinet conventions dictate that information on Restart funding decisions by the previous Government cannot be provided for the three years prior to March 2023.

Question 40 (Page 63)

The CHAIR: In the last budget, how many major events were funded in regional locations outside of Hunter, North Coast, Southern Highlands?

KAREN JONES: This is just for Destination NSW, I just want to make it clear that we fund a certain amount of events, but, of course, as mentioned already by Mr La Posta, there are a number of other events held in regional New South Wales that are funded by other government agencies.

The CHAIR: Sure, only speaking of Destination NSW, how many have you funded in those locations outside of the ones I listed?

KAREN JONES: Just doing a quick count now, there was about 15 funded in 2024-25. I will take it on notice, though, to confirm those figures.

The CHAIR: I'm happy for you to take it on notice, and detail as to where they were and amounts.

KAREN JONES: Yes, absolutely.

Answer:

I am advised: In 2024/25, Destination NSW invested in 20 major events held in regional locations outside Hunter, North Coast, Southern Highlands. Please the table below for more details:

Regional major events by Destination Network	
Destination Network	Number of events
Destination Central West NSW	5
Destination Country & Outback	2
Destination Riverina Murray	3
Destination Southern NSW	4
Destination Sydney Surrounds South	5
Multiple event locations	1

Destination NSW also provided grants to 50 events through the 2024/25 Regional Event Fund.

Question 41 (Page 64)

The Hon. WES FANG: Ms Jones, I alluded to the Snowy Classic earlier. How did it go this year?

KAREN JONES: Since you've mentioned the Snowy Classic, I'm actually asking for some information on it now so I can answer your questions, because it is not an event that we've funded this year, to my knowledge.

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you know why?

KAREN JONES: I'm going to get that information for you.

The Hon. WES FANG: I can possibly help you: It got cancelled. Do you know why it got cancelled?

KAREN JONES: I've just quickly had a read of an article that suggests that it was cancelled because of increasing operational costs.

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes, and do you know who those increasing operational costs were blamed on?

KAREN JONES: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you know how much it would have raised for the local economy had it gone ahead?

KAREN JONES: No. Again, I'm sorry, Mr Fang, I will take that on notice and I'll hopefully try to come back to you during this session.

Answer:

I am advised: The event owner made the decision to cancel the Snowy Classic 2025, citing increased event operational costs as a key factor. Destination NSW continues to support other cycling events in regional NSW.

Question 42 (Page 65)

The Hon. WES FANG: That's good. In relation to the questions that the Deputy Chair was asking you about the workers hub, which you indicated was a tender won by Unions NSW—

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Correct.

The Hon. WES FANG: —could you provide to me how many organisations tendered?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I don't think I can, but I can outline the procurement process for you.

The Hon. WES FANG: I'm actually more interested in understanding how many organisations were responsive to the tender and the decision-making around the tender.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Okay, I'll do my best. You tell me if there are any holes that you still need me to take on notice. The Migrant Workers Centre was identified by SafeWork NSW as a particularly vulnerable group to workplace health and safety risks. The Premier's Department, Multicultural NSW and SafeWork NSW collaborated in building the scope of services the Migrant Workers Centre will deliver. The procurement process undertaken involved, one, market analysis through a request for information to identify organisations that could deliver the service and progress to the second stage of the tender process; two, following the market analysis, a limited tender being distributed to eligible organisations; three, tender evaluation undertaken by an evaluation team; and, four, a successful tender identified. The successful organisation was identified and entered into a human services agreement with Multicultural NSW. All stages of the tender were published on buy NSW, so they're public. Following the procurement process, Unions NSW Property and Services Limited was identified as successful and engaged to establish the Migrant Workers Centre, delivering critical support to migrant workers in New South Wales.

The Hon. WES FANG: Excellent answer, Mr La Posta.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Thank you, Mr Fang.

The Hon. WES FANG: The hole that I've identified in that answer was this: During the limited tender process, how many organisations were involved in responding to that?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I am happy to take that on notice, noting that I am no expert in terms of our procurement and tender processes, so I don't know if I can actually share that information. But, if I can, I will take the question on notice and give you the whole list.

The Hon. WES FANG: Mr Tidball, we've finally got a question for you. Are you able to provide some further indication around that process? Was DCJ involved in that process?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: No, Mr Fang, DCJ was not. In terms of the statute under which Mr La Posta operates, it would fall within the purview of Multicultural NSW, subject to the New South Wales procurement guidelines, but I'm not familiar with this particular matter at all.

The Hon. WES FANG: So DCJ had no oversight or involvement in relation to that tender process?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I am, out of an abundance of caution, going to double-check after giving my evidence now, but not to my knowledge.

Answer:

I am advised: The Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) under financial delegations approved the limited tender. DCJ provided Multicultural NSW with some support to assist in reviewing and endorsing procurement documentation to ensure consistency with the NSW Procurement Policy Framework. Multicultural NSW was responsible for the development of the scope of works, approvals, and the evaluation committee.

Question 43 (Pages 66-67)

The Hon. WES FANG: I'm not suggesting that that's the case. What I'm suggesting is that where you've got such a narrow scope—

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Understood.

The Hon. WES FANG: —that only one organisation is eligible to tender. The information you provided around the process, from the original recommendation from SafeWork all the way through to the actual signature on the tender, and the approval of the tender, would indicate to me that there was a very limited ability for other organisations to tender. I also note—and this is the difficult part—that Unions NSW is probably one of the biggest donors to the New South Wales Labor Party, which is the current party in government. You've now got a tender that has been released to Unions NSW. They were effectively the only organisation that could tender for it.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'm hearing what you're saying. I'm reading between the lines here. If I can share the number—the specificity on that—I will share that with you with complete transparency. I'm just not sure of the nuances around the specs on this sort of tendering process. I don't want to divest information that may be commercial in confidence, or may potentially put other unsuccessful parties at risk if I share that information, because then they're perceived in a negative light.

The Hon. WES FANG: Whilst I understand that, I don't think knowing the number of organisations that tendered is in any way commercial in confidence or a matter of Cabinet in confidence. It would seem to me that it would be a reasonable question that could be pushed for an answer.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I don't have an issue providing that question on the basis that I can.

Answer:

I am advised: Five expressions of interest were received.

Question 44 (Page 67)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Of course. Apologies. Mr Tidball, with respect to a range of operations within the Department of Communities and Justice, including the Child Protection Helpline, the Domestic Violence Line, the Link2Home homelessness line, the jury service inquiries, the New South Wales Victims Access Line and the LawAccess NSW line—do all of these services have interpreting or translation services attached to them?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: A number do. I would not want to give a generalised response, so if I can take that on notice, Mr Farlow?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Yes. Can you take on notice the number of telephone interpreting services that are available when calling DCJ helplines?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

Answer:

I am advised: While each of these operation lines under the Communities and Justice Agency portfolio do not sit within the ministerial portfolio of multiculturalism, I can confirm that each of these lines offer interpreter services for anyone wanting to access these lines.

Question 45 (Page 67)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That would be helpful. Also, does the Department of Communities and Justice provide written information in languages other than English?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Can I—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Take that on notice as well?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I believe it does, but you'll want some specificity around that, and I'm happy to provide it.

Answer:

I am advised: The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) provides translated information in a range of community languages to support access to its programs and services.

Examples of published translated resources include:

- Information on helplines and contact numbers for accessing services or reporting issues such as Link2Home and the NSW Domestic Violence Line in 25 community languages;
- Fact sheets for landlords to give to tenants available in over 70 community languages;
- Coercive control information resources in 18 community languages; and
- Information for religious and community leaders providing guidelines for responding to domestic and family violence has been translated into 13 community languages.

Question 46 (Page 67)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: When calling through to any of these access lines where there are interpreter services, how is that accessed or how is that made known to the public?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: For example, in relation to the Child Protection Helpline, there is comprehensive website information. There are also prompts when people come in and they're queued. It is my understanding that there are also appropriate prompts at that juncture. I'm happy again—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: To take that on notice?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: —to elaborate. It's quite a detailed question and a very legitimate question. I'd like to provide you with the specifics.

Answer:

I am advised: I can confirm that information for clients in regard to the interpreter services available for the operation lines is available on the Department of Communities and Justice and Legal Aid NSW websites.

If a client calls any of these lines without contacting the interpreter service line first, operators can assist clients with organising an interpreter for the call.

Question 47 (Page 67)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Are there any costs involved for those who are using interpreter services through any of the DCJ lines?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: No. Again, that is subject to me verifying that answer, but I believe that it is not the case.

Answer:

I am advised: There are no costs for clients accessing any of these operation lines.

Question 48 (Page 67)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I have some questions with respect to the Department of Communities and Justice *Multicultural Plan 2022-2025*, ensuring that people have equitable access to and experience with DCJ services. Of course that plan aligns with both the Multicultural NSW Act and the Multicultural Policies and Services Program. How is DCJ tracking progress on the goals that have been set out in that multicultural plan?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Can you repeat the years of the plan?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It's 2022 to 2025.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: My belief is that all of the priorities and actions are on track, but I would appreciate the opportunity to verify the response I've just given.

Answer:

I am advised: The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) reports annually on progress against the DCJ Multicultural Plan 2022–2025 (the Plan) through the Multicultural Policies and Services Program (MPSP) reporting process, alongside all NSW Government agencies. Progress has also been reported in the DCJ Annual Reports for 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Implementation of the Plan is monitored by the DCJ Multicultural Plan Steering Committee, which meets and reports on progress every six months. The internal committee is chaired by the Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning, and includes senior representatives from across the department.

Question 49 (Pages 67-68)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to the multicultural plan, considering we're at 2025 now, are there any views to refreshing that plan and creating a new plan within DCJ?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes, there are.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Has consultation begun on that process at this stage?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I do not believe so. I would need to take that on notice. I will make the point, though, that Mr La Posta and I have been in discussion to ensure that there is a really tightly knitted dovetailing between the work of the DCJ multicultural team and Multicultural NSW.

Answer:

I am advised: The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is currently refreshing its Multicultural Plan for the period 2026 to 2029.

A comprehensive consultation process is underway and nearing completion. This process includes the establishment of a DCJ Multicultural Plan Working Group, with representatives from across DCJ to support the Plan's development.

Consultation has also involved internal and external stakeholders. External stakeholders have included representatives from other government agencies, non-government organisations, peak bodies, and faith-based groups.

Question 50 (Page 68)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I take it that that plan would cover at least 2026 to 2029.

MICHAEL TIDBALL: Yes.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: When do you envisage that that plan will be made public?

MICHAEL TIDBALL: I would be responding to that on the fly. I'm happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The Department of Communities and Justice aims to publish the refreshed Multicultural Plan by the end of 2025.

Question 51 (Pages 68-69)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Can you confirm whether the million dollars to combat Islamophobia is a one-off grant or recurrent funding?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Two years.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So \$500 million a year?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Yes, correct.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Is that already allocated within the 2025-26 budget, or is that an initiative that has been announced following the budget and wasn't envisaged at the time of the budget?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It doesn't impact on my operational costs in 2025-26.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Does it impact on the Premier's Department operational costs in 2025-26?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: No.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So all funding will be in 2026-27, I take it.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: No.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I take it that this is new money from somewhere.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It's money that doesn't impact on our operational budget for this year. In the same way that I gave Mr Ruddick the answer to the question before about our operational budget, which is obviously public and all of those things, the allocation of budget we have for 2025-26 is \$74.4 million, and we don't need to absorb the costs for the Islamophobia register in 2025-26 or 2026-27.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Where is it coming from, then?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Can I take that on notice?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Yes, you can—and any split with any departments that it might be coming from.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Sure.

Answer:

I am advised: Multicultural NSW and the NSW Premier's Department co-funded a \$1 million grant to the Australian National Imams Council to deliver the Action Against Islamophobia initiative over two years.

The Multicultural NSW contribution of \$500,000 was funded from the 2024-25 Designated Grant - Project grants budget.

The NSW Premier's Department contribution of \$500,000 was funded from the 2024-25 Premier's Contingency Fund.

Question 52 (Page 69)

The CHAIR: Ms Hawyes, how many Crown land parcels in regional New South Wales are currently listed as inaccessible or restricted for any reason? It could be for weather events et cetera.

MELANIE HAWYES: I'm not really sure how to answer that because, obviously, the portfolio is made up of millions of parcels and we have reserves. The reasons we might close a reserve could be temporal reasons, such as safety or, for example, when we have floods we might close reserves for those reasons.

The CHAIR: Can we break it down in terms of temporary versus more long term?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can have a look. I can probably commit to getting you a list of reserves that we have consciously closed, but every single parcel I can't do—there are millions and millions of parcels of land across the State.

The CHAIR: I'm after a number rather than an exhaustive list identifying each single parcel.

MELANIE HAWYES: Sure. I can commit to that. It's for those sorts of reasons, though, such as there's a natural disaster or there's some safety-based reason why we might have to close a reserve.

Answer:

I am advised: At this time, approximately forty-two (42) sites on Crown land have been identified as closed to public access. Of these, thirty-eight (38) sites were closed to protect public safety due to site contamination or the condition of the built assets on the site. Four sites are currently closed for security purposes.

Thirty-one (31) sites are closed for public safety reasons and are likely to remain closed for the immediate future. Eleven (11) sites are expected to reopen in timeframes of between six (6) to thirty-six (36) months.

Some fire trails on Crown land have restricted vehicular access, for example, to protect them from inappropriate use, wear, and degradation and to ensure they remain operationally safe for fire combat and management activities.

Question 53 (Page 69)

The CHAIR: Are we up to date in terms of renewing any Crown land leases that are up for renewal? How is the department tracking in terms of processing those?

MELANIE HAWYES: Again, I'll probably have to take some of that on notice because, obviously, leases are temporal. They'll expire at particular stages and sometimes those negotiations can be quite protracted, so it is a dynamic part of the business. I don't know, off the top of my head, how many are currently up for renewal.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Ms. Hawyes. Please refer to Page 92 of the hearing transcript.

Question 54 (Page 69)

The CHAIR: And are in that process.

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes.

The CHAIR: I've had some representations of concerns around Reflections Holidays parks operating on Crown land and evicting long-term residents and then hiking-up site fees, particularly in the Clarence Valley and Tumut. Has your department had any representations around this matter in terms of concerns about long-term residents being evicted and them having to try to come back but the site fees have been hiked up?

MELANIE HAWYES: I'd probably have to take on notice any current representations. In the past there were a few. I forget exactly the area, but it was some changes they were making in terms of long-term stays—because they are holiday parks; they're designed for short stay. Not currently, but I'd have to take that on notice, or I'll try to get back to you after the break. You've quoted Tumut and Clarence, did you say?

The CHAIR: Yes, that's predominantly where the concerns have come to my office from.

MELANIE HAWYES: I'll find out in the break if there are any issues there.

Answer:

I am advised: I can advise Reflections Holidays does not manage any holiday parks in the Clarence Valley.

Clarence Valley Council is the appointed Crown land manager of those holiday parks and as Crown land manager it is Council's role to manage the allocation of sites and site fees.

The Council is preparing a draft Plan of Management for its holiday parks to formalise future management plans for the land.

The Department has received four pieces of Ministerial correspondence this year related to long-term casuals at the Council managed parks.

The Council issued a media release and Q&As on the matter which can be viewed, at: <https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/News-articles/Clarence-Valley-casual-holiday-van-sites-to-be-retained-to-the-community>.

Reflections Holidays manages the Riverglade Caravan Park in Tumut. However, it does not have any long-term casual or permanent residents. The Department has not received any Ministerial correspondence regarding fees at this site this year.

Question 55 (Pages 69-70)

The CHAIR: Mr McLachlan, I have a couple of questions around Value NSW. I've heard constituents' concerns around regional land valuations jumping up and, obviously, that having an impact on their rates and the cost of living. I know that southern New South Wales has seen a \$9 billion increase in total valuation. Have you done any work to understand what's driving that increase? We have heard through my REZ inquiry that there are concerns around speculative development offers from renewable energy providers potentially artificially inflating land values. Has your department done any work in that space at all, in terms of the impact of speculative renewable energy developments on land values?

STEWART McLACHLAN: Is there a specific paper or something like that that we've undertaken? No. Our role, in terms of determining land values on behalf of the Valuer General, is done under the Valuation of Land Act, and the primary method of valuation relies on sales evidence. So if, in fact, prices have risen, then land valuations, obviously, logically rise, and that's our legislative remit. I'm happy to take on notice if there's a specific area that—but what I would say is every year we undertake valuations across every single parcel in New South Wales as at 1 July, and then in about October or November we do regional and LGA-based media releases around how land values may have moved and the drivers for that movement. So if there's a specific area that you're interested in—

The CHAIR: Let's look at all the areas that are impacted by a REZ: Central West, New England, South West, Illawarra and Hunter. Are you able to, on notice, break down how those land values have changed since the announcement of REZs back in 2022?

STEWART McLACHLAN: We can certainly itemise the relevant changes in those areas annually from 2022 to now, yes.

The CHAIR: Could you, perhaps on notice, provide that?

STEWART McLACHLAN: Sure. I'm assuming you'll want it for different categories—so, residential, industrial, commercial and rural type properties.

The CHAIR: Yes—predominantly rural, because that's obviously where a lot of the REZ infrastructure is going. But yes, if you can, break it down.

STEWART McLACHLAN: Sure. I think it's just important to note as well, though, that—and this is a common misconception—just because a property's land value goes up, it does not mean that in fact your rates go up. If everyone's land value moves arguably the same, then unless council has sought a larger rate base, you pay the same amount of rates.

The CHAIR: But I guess if there's a significant proportion of land being bought up in an area to facilitate large-scale development, like we have in renewable energy, then there'd be a greater propensity for the overall land value to go up and, potentially, for council to consider rate rises.

STEWART McLACHLAN: Potentially, but there's another complicating factor: that council apportions different types of rating classes to the types of land. So they could arguably lower that proportion. That's within their remit under the relevant Act.

Answer:

I am advised: Tables showing the value movement of properties in the Central-West, Hunter-Central Coast, Illawarra, New England, and South renewable energy zones are included below.

Table 1 and 2: Renewable energy zone (REZ) average land value changes – 1 July 2022 to 1 July 2024

Table 1		Industrial			
REZ NAME	Formal declaration	Properties	2022	2023	2024
Central-West Orana	Nov-21	817	28.2%	11.3%	16.7%
Hunter-Central Coast	Dec-22	3,459	46.1%	14.7%	4.2%
Illawarra	Feb-23	1,1687	50.0%	6.9%	11.5%
New England	Dec-21	411	36.2%	1.2%	18.8%
South-West	Nov-22	75*	29.1%	31.5%	9.3%
REZ Total		5,929	43.6%	11.9%	8.5%
NSW Total		41,403	40.0%	10.2%	7.5%

Table 2		Rural			
REZ NAME	Formal declaration	Properties	2022	2023	2024
Central-West Orana	Nov-21	7,728	33.2%	9.4%	4.1%
Hunter-Central Coast	Dec-22	13,314	67.2%	-6.3%	1.9%
Illawarra	Feb-23	406	29.7%	0.1%	11.8%
New England	Dec-21	6,173	48.1%	2.5%	3.3%
South-West	Nov-22	1,534	44.3%	2.2%	4.9%
REZ Total		29,154	52.7%	0.3%	3.0%
NSW Total		266,934	45.3%	2.9%	3.1%

Question 56 (Page 71)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I don't know if this is for you or Mr Walker to answer. After evaluation has been provided, how many sites have been rejected by Homes NSW and then subsequently by Landcom?

LEON WALKER: I'd have to take that on notice. It wouldn't be a large number.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Mr. Walker. Please refer to Page 92 of the hearing transcript.

Question 57 (Page 71)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That's why I'm trying to work out at what stage of the process it is that this is offered to Homes NSW or Landcom. Are they then provided with how much the value of the site would be determined by government at that stage, or do they say, "This looks good because it's well located", close to public transport or the like, and then evaluation is sought after that determination is made, and then they have another chance to determine whether it's within their funding envelope or not?

LEON WALKER: There's quite a comprehensive review undertaken by Property and Development NSW. That provides enough information for a group called the Land Audit Working Group, which includes Landcom and Homes NSW, to make an assessment of whether the site is suitable for residential use. From that, as I think has been noted on previous occasions, Homes NSW gets the first run at it. If they determine that they have an interest in the site, they'll go through their due diligence process, and part of the subsequent work that is done is the work of Value NSW to assess the value of the site. They might express or determine that they're not interested in the site as a result of having done that work. It will then be offered to Landcom. They go through the same process and either quickly determine that it's not of interest to them or do their own due diligence. Coming out the back end of that process, if they wish to acquire the site, the acquisition price is determined by that valuation that Value NSW undertakes.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: To date, there have been quite a few sites that have actually sold on the private market. Have you done any assessment following those sales as to the closeness of your evaluations of those properties as a result of the auction or sale process?

LEON WALKER: I'll take it on notice to give you an exact answer, but my understanding is that they've all sold at or above valuation to this point.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I think that might be all I have for you, Mr McLachlan. I might stick with the land audit, however, Mr Walker, for the remaining session. Firstly, I might ask if you've got that information to hand that you took on notice and promised to come back with this afternoon.

LEON WALKER: Yes, I do. This was in regard to the sites—

Answer:

I am advised: All sales have occurred at, or above, the valuation amount.

Question 58 (Page 72)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What's the status of the transfer of sites at Woolloomooloo, Sydney Olympic Park and Hurstville that were announced to be transferred to Homes NSW?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Woolloomooloo is also a Transport for NSW site.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: And Sydney Olympic Park?

LEON WALKER: Sydney Olympic Park was completed. Sorry, I'll correct that. I'll take it on notice just to make sure I give you exactly the right information. The agreements have been exchanged. I don't think the transfer of ownership has occurred yet.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Which is why it's not part of that list of three sites that you outlined?

LEON WALKER: Yes. Sorry, what was the third one?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Hurstville.

LEON WALKER: Hurstville is another one with Transport for NSW where there's transport infrastructure that just needs to be separated from the land that will be developed.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Box Hill has been transferred. Does that include Riverstone as well or not at this stage?

LEON WALKER: Sorry, just bear with me. You're jumping around a bit. Perhaps let me take it on notice. I'll come back to you after the break.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Mr. Walker. Please refer to Page 92 of the hearing transcript.

Question 59 (Page 74)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With that being said, the budget had 8,200 homes, which is what was indicated in the budget release on 24 June. To my knowledge, there haven't been any further announcements from the budget of sites. Where have those 800 homes come from then?

LEON WALKER: The numbers do get adjusted progressively. For example, there was a number of additional dwellings able to be identified on the Landcom site at Camperdown. We conduct the initial assessment based on the prevailing planning controls, but then as approvals come through or there's rezoning, we update our numbers so it's sort of a live tally. Where sites have been upzoned or there's been approvals come through, we update the numbers to account for that.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: That's why I stressed that these are indicative figures.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I understand. We have a large variance in what some of these indicative figures appear to be. With respect to that point in terms of approvals, have there been any approvals on any of the sites to date?

LEON WALKER: I'd have to take that on notice. The Camperdown site is a good example where there has been an increase in the numbers, but I can take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Mr. Walker. Please refer to Page 92 of the hearing transcript.

Question 60 (Page 74)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Have there been any development applications lodged on these sites as of today?

LEON WALKER: I'd have to take that on notice. A number of the smaller sites wouldn't require it because they'd be within existing zoning. For some of the larger sites, yes, that will be subject to subsequent approvals.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect, these questions, I anticipate, you might take on notice as well, or I might just put them on notice to be fair to you in terms of the position of many of these sites, but there is one that I will go to. There are a number of sites that have already been sold at auction. That's correct?

LEON WALKER: Yes.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Mr. Walker. Please refer to Page 92 of the hearing transcript.

Question 61 (Page 74)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to those sales as well, what's been the commission paid to real estate agents as a result of the marketing campaigns and any commission payable.

LEON WALKER: I'd have to take that on notice. We run it by a competitive process, procure the agents and it would vary so I'd have to take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: Total commission, for properties sold at auction as of 20 August, totalled \$431,969.64 ex GST.

Question 62 (Page 74)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Of the 22 sites that have been included in the expression of interest campaign, how many have been matched to a preferred proponent at this stage?

LEON WALKER: I'll have to take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: As of 20 August, six (6) of the original twenty-two (22) sites have been sold by public auction to the private market.

Of the three sites currently at tender, all have progressed to shortlisting, being Wallarah, Wakeley, and 870 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill.

Question 63 (Page 74)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: We might come back to some of those on notice. I suspect that might be the best use of our time. Ms Hawyes, I might turn to you now with respect to the Swansea seawall, if you're familiar with this at all. Has your agency provided advice to the Government recommending funding for the Swansea seawall repairs?

MELANIE HAWYES: I think I'll have to take that one on notice. I'm not completely across the status of that one in terms of funding status. I'll try and find out while we're still in session, though.

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Ms. Hawyes. Please refer to Page 79 of the hearing transcript.

In addition, for any part of the seawall that is on submerged Crown land, Crown Lands would have an authorising role, i.e., Crown Lands could issue a licence to Council, as it has done for the seawall immediately adjacent.

Question 64 (Page 75)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Is the Metropolitan Memorial Parks board considering any sites on the urban fringe, like Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria have done with Varroville?

MELANIE HAWYES: I think I'll take that on notice; it's a matter for them. My understanding is that they have done assessments of multiple sites, including how to do more with the sites they already operate. They're doing the most they can to respond to the exhaustion projections that they're facing. They have multiple things in play at the same time to try to respond to that, including getting more out of the cemeteries they already operate.

Answer:

I am advised: Metropolitan Memorial Parks assessed over 1,000 sites against a set of criteria, which included consideration of location, proximity, size, site typology, environmental, planning constraints, and the local community and cultural needs.

Question 65 (Page 76)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr Gellibrand, the fish markets is a site that you and I both love and will love, no doubt, in the new fish market configuration. What are we anticipating with respect to its scheduled opening date? Are we going to see the new fish markets operational before Christmas Eve this year?

TOM GELLIBRAND: Thank you for the question. The precursor to the beginning of operations is the completion of the building, which we're responsible for. We're confident that we'll have that building finished in the coming months. Subsequent to the building completion—actually, it's happening now—is the tenants are progressively fitting out their retail spaces. Then when we reach practical completion, there's an obligation on the fish markets to commence operations, commence retailing within a four-week period after that. A very long response, perhaps, but we're confident that trading will happen well prior to Christmas. We're also confident and working closely with Sydney Fish Market, their tenants and the organisation itself to make sure that they're familiar with the building and its operations so that when the tenancies are fitted out, they are familiar with the building, they're confident that they can operate successfully and the building will be a huge success.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Some concern has been expressed with respect to the power supply in the new fish markets being insufficient to support the operations of the tenants. Would you like to address those concerns and whether they're warranted?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I was about to say, if I start backwards and address the issue of whether or not it's warranted. I shouldn't do that because I think people are entitled to express their concerns about anything, especially things delivered by government. Sydney Fish Market were very effective in doing that. They made their concerns known to many people. We worked closely with the fish markets to talk to them about the assumptions we'd made in terms of all the plant and equipment that were going to be in the building. Each electrical piece of equipment has a draw on power, and we calculate all those things. We make provision for peak loads, and also a redundancy and an allowance for growth. We shared all that information with Sydney Fish Market.

They still had concerns. Under the agreement for lease that we have with them, there's an ability for them to raise a formal dispute, which they did, along with a couple of other matters as well. We had independent peer reviewers. We hired them, but they were independent. Collectively, between ourselves and the fish markets, we agreed to the experts; it wasn't done unilaterally. Those experts did an assessment, again finding that the power we were supplying was adequate for the foreseeable operations, in terms of plant and equipment, and a growth. The fish markets were still concerned about that, so it did proceed to dispute. There was an expert determination. That determination also found that we had complied with our obligations in terms of power.

Since that time, it's gone quiet. What we've done, and I think prudently, is to look not just at the existing operations but look at potential pathways for increasing power if, at some time in the future, it was required. There is a spatial allocation outside of the building for an additional substation, which would increase the power. We've also made provision within the building itself to enable conduits to take, effectively, cables from a power source back into the building and into the meter box, for want of a better expression. So we have futureproofed it in terms of additional power. We're still not really in a position where we can foresee that that's required, but we have made that prudent adjustment, and there's a pathway for increasing the supply of power, if required, in the future. We're still of the view that it's not required, but in the event—perhaps they might change their operations. They might actually want to introduce new activities which could increase the power over and above what they currently do. If they were to do that, we think there's a pathway for accommodating that.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If that were to occur, at whose cost would that be? Would that be at the cost of the fish markets or the taxpayers?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I think that would have to be a negotiated outcome. I'll take that on notice because, when we've completed the building, we anticipate handing it over to Place Management NSW to operate. They operate similar buildings in Darling Harbour and The Rocks and places like that, so we see them as being the natural government agency to run the facility. I'll confer with them and take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: I can confirm that the Chief Executive of Infrastructure NSW was accurate.

After completion, the new Sydney Fish Market will be handed over to Place Management NSW and any requirement to provide further energy would have to be a negotiated outcome between the Government and the tenant (Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd).

Question 66 (Page 77)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What case management and support services will the Australian National Imams Council be operating then?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'll need to take that on notice. I don't know the answer to that.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Also in that respect, what training and frontline services will they be providing?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It's an element of it. Let me take that on notice and come back to you with the specifics.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Do you have any visibility on the advocacy and awareness campaigns that will be provided as well by the ANIC?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: No.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to this, do you know how many staff they will be employing to operate those programs?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I do not.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So none of these are part of the funding agreement?

Answer:

I am advised: The Action Against Islamophobia initiative, led by the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), delivers support, education, and advocacy to address anti-Muslim hate across New South Wales. With this grant, ANIC will deliver a targeted series of events and engagement activities aimed at prevention, response, and healing. These include:

- Community education workshops empowering Muslim individuals—especially women and youth—to understand their rights and safely report hate incidents;
- Public forums and panels sharing lived experiences, building cross-community understanding, and promoting community-led solutions;
- Training sessions for teachers, police, councils, and frontline workers to improve their response to Islamophobia;
- Awareness campaigns and digital media content that challenge harmful stereotypes and foster inclusive public dialogue; and
- The Report Islamophobia Support Line—a free and confidential service connecting victims to caseworkers, legal professionals, and mental health support.

The grant will support five project staff members.

Success will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative indicators across each activity stream. The funding agreement requires six (6) and twelve (12)-monthly project progress reports and a final project evaluation report.

Multicultural NSW and the NSW Premier's Department are members of the project steering committee.

Question 67 (Page 79)

MELANIE HAWYES: While Mr La Posta is looking at that, just to let you know, I've got some information on the seawall you were interested in, whenever you're ready.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you. How about we let Mr La Posta find that and I'll return to him.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Yes, thanks.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: In terms of the seawall?

MELANIE HAWYES: Belmont Street at Swansea is a council managed road corridor with public roads, footpaths, paved areas, foreshore access, landscaping et cetera, and an adjoining seawall, which is there to protect those council managed assets. There's a coastal management program for Lake Macquarie for which council is the lead, which contemplates upgrades to coastal protection works. From our perspective, council is the appropriate authority to manage any coastal protection works at that site. I do note it's not within my remit, but council would be eligible to apply for funds through the Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program to assist with any erosion upgrades or mitigation strategy and works. But to answer your question, it's a council managed coastal protection asset.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: From your perspective, you don't see any role for Crown lands at all in this?

MELANIE HAWYES: If there's to be works done on Crown lands, we would be involved in that. Similarly, my understanding is that council has a licence for a jetty and a wet area in that area too. If you want to get into some more detail, I'd probably need to take that on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If you can, that would be good. At the moment the Government doesn't have any intention of funding or contributing?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can't answer that. I just can say that there is a funding—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If you could take that on notice in terms of whether the Government has any intention to fund any of the repair works for the seawall.

MELANIE HAWYES: That would be a question for the environment Minister with responsibility for the coastal program. But I do know that that funding program exists. We can take that on notice and get that information for you via our colleagues.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you very much.

Answer:

I am advised: The NSW Government's Coastal and Estuary Grants Program underpins the implementation of the coastal management framework and supports local councils and communities to achieve the state's long-term vision for the coast. This program is administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Question 68 (Pages 81-82)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Very similar. Mr La Posta, with respect to the Language+ app for the NSW Police Force, do you know how many police devices now use the Language+ application?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Mr Farlow, this is uncanny; it's almost as if you were watching what I was doing on Friday, because we met with the police—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I wasn't, I can assure you of that.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It's a little bit alarming. It's like when you say something and then suddenly all your social media feed pushes you sheds in the garden or new fishing rods, perhaps, or whatever it is. In this instance, yes, we were talking with the police the other day about exactly that. We asked them for some statistics in terms of their download numbers across the Language+ app. For those that don't know, we've built this really cool app. It's available for the police and it goes on their MobiPOL device. It effectively now allows them—it's in the thousands of commonly used phrases in different languages, such as, "Can you count to 10 in the breath-testing device," to "Show us what's in your bucket," if you're the water police, to "I'm wearing a body camera," to "I need to detain you"—all of these different things. It's really cool.

If, for whatever reason, that doesn't work, which is why Mr Farlow is asking, it then connects you directly to an interpreter. It means that they no longer have to pull someone off the side of the M4 who only speaks Mandarin and take them back to the police station to talk to them. It now allows them to have a three-way conversation with an interpreter on the side of the road, issue their fine and their notice, explain to the person what they need, then everyone gets on with their day. It was incredibly popular first round that it was pushed to the police. We're asking and working with the senior leadership again, the executive leadership of the police, to now do another round and another round of those communications. Our hope is that every police officer downloads the app on their MobiPOL.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Who developed the app?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Multicultural NSW.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: But yourselves, or through a third party?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: We got in a third-party provider that helped. We are not app experts.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: No, I suspected not. Who was that third-party provider?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Can I take that on notice?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: You can take that on notice. What was the cost of the app's development?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Was that borne by Multicultural NSW or by the police?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It was actually part of our—I should check this and take this on notice, but I'm 99 per cent sure it was part of the Digital Restart Fund that allowed us to develop that app.

Answer:

I am advised: The Language+ app was developed in partnership with a third-party vendor, Accelerate Tech. They were the developers.

The cost of the app was \$751,508, and funding was provided through the Digital Restart Fund.

Information about the app is available at: <https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/new-technology-brings-interpreters-on-every-police-beat/>.

Question 69 (Page 82)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Sure. The NSW Settlement Advisory Council was announced on 20 June 2025. How was the chair selected and how will the members be selected?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: We're still going through that at the moment. The chair will be Professor Peter Shergold, AC, who is the New South Wales Coordinator General for Settlement. He was in that role under the former Government and has been reappointed to that role under the current Government. The continuity is incredibly important and we're very fortunate to have someone of Professor Peter Shergold's time and passion in this space. He sort of transcends politics and breaks a lot of things down. So he will be the chair of that group, but in terms of the membership, we're still working through that at the moment.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How often do you anticipate that it will meet?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Four times per year.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What's the annual budget for the operations of the council?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: That's a good question. In terms of how much they're paid, or in terms of the costs?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Both. How much they're paid to be on the council and how much as well it will cost in terms of Multicultural NSW to support its operations.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: The four Settlement Advisory Council members (excluding the Chair) will be remunerated via a fee structure consistent with the NSW Boards and Committees process.

The allocated annual budget to remunerate Council members is \$4,800.

One Multicultural NSW staff member will support the Council's operations, within the existing budget.

Question 70 (Page 83)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Regarding the Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety at the Adira Centre, is the \$4.4 million allocated for the establishment of the centre provided over four years a one-off or is it a recurrent annual allocation?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Is this the Department of Communities and Justice's domestic violence hub?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Yes.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: That would have been a good question to ask Secretary Tidball, because it doesn't sit under my purview. Sorry.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Okay. We'll bring him back.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I've been told to take on notice the evaluation question. They're still chasing up the number.

Answer:

I am advised: Questions relating to the NSW Multicultural Centre for Women's and Family Safety (Adira Centre) should be referred to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Question 71 (Page 83)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What was the cost of the Premier's Harmony Dinner?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I get in trouble for this, because we get lots of sponsorship, ticket sales and all of those things, so I continually try and say that it's almost cost neutral, which it is, but it actually has a hard cost. Let me just see if I can find that for you in the immediate future and I will answer it. If not, I will take it on notice, but I'll try and find the cost for you.

Answer:

I am advised: The cost of the Premier's Harmony Dinner is \$686,000. This does not include the offset from revenue generated from ticket sales and sponsorships. This is similar to previous years, taking into account inflation.

Question 72 (Page 84)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: To your knowledge, is part of that an extension of the lease to the Korean Society of Sydney?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: That is one of the conditions, which is, I think, a Minister Hoenig question. But that is one of the considerations, that they have the extension of their lease through Canterbury-Bankstown council and the Office of Local Government, on the basis that they undertake these essential repairs to bring the site up to basic building compliance standards and occupational standards.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: And there's a lease extension for the Korean community as part of that.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: My understanding is that that's already been granted, conditional on them getting this funding, which has now been secured. So there is no risk, to the best of my knowledge, in terms of their continued tenancy at that site.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I don't think OLG has a role in that. I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: On 18 June 2024, the Minister for Local Government approved Canterbury-Bankstown entering into a five (5)-year lease, with an additional five (5)-year option to the Korean Society of Sydney.

Obtaining funding was not a condition of the lease. The terms of the lease require the Korean Society to itemise annual repairs and maintenance throughout the lease period to ensure ongoing compliance of the premises with relevant building standards.

Council has confirmed that the new lease has been granted.

In addition, the decision on whether or not to grant the additional five (5)-year option is a matter for the Council to make at a local level.

Question 73 (Page 85)

The Hon. WES FANG: Ms Hawyes, in the last budget estimates, the Minister advised that the intention of the 2024-25 round of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund grants was to focus on reserves with the most visitors. Is that why the eligibility criteria for that round of CRIF grants included heavily weighted visitation criteria and a minimum application amount of \$100,000, which could not consist of multiple projects?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, that was included as one of the criteria, but there are a number of criteria that we look at—utilisation is one—in the funding.

The Hon. WES FANG: Of the 98 successful applicants, how many received grants for projects over \$100,000?

MELANIE HAWYES: I might need to take that on notice. I don't think I've got the full list of every single project with me. Can I take that one on notice?

Answer:

I am advised: The answer to this question was provided in the hearing by Ms. Hawyes. Please refer to Page 91 of the hearing transcript.

In the FY24/25 CRIF general funding round there were:

- Twenty-three (23) grants for over \$100,000 – Nineteen (19) general grants and four (4) weed grants; and
- Seventy-five (75) grants for under \$100,000 – Six (6) pest grants and sixty-nine (69) weed grants.

Question 74 (Page 85)

The Hon. WES FANG: And there's still \$200,000 in the kitty. Is that correct?

MELANIE HAWYES: It might be a bit more—I'll have to take that on notice as well—but, give or take, yes.

Answer:

I am advised: \$189,093 was unallocated as at the end of FY24/25.

Question 75 (Page 85)

The Hon. WES FANG: Did you put out a media release this year announcing the outcomes of the 2024-25 funding round?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, we have. My understanding is we have. We've announced them recently.

The Hon. WES FANG: Did you do a media release relating to the outcomes of the 2023-24 funding round?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, we do it every year.

The Hon. WES FANG: So there's been a media release for both 2023-24 and 2024-25?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, I'm pretty sure.

The Hon. WES FANG: Could you perhaps take that on notice, just to double-check?

MELANIE HAWYES: Yes, will do. But it's a standard annual cycle and it's a really well-established grants program. We go out and the results are public.

The Hon. WES FANG: I don't disagree. I suspect the reason that the question is in my little notes is that there may be some question as to: one, if it went out; two, where it was distributed; and, three, what information was provided on it.

MELANIE HAWYES: It is a regular grants program and I will confirm it, but the answer is yes.

Answer:

I am advised: Yes. Both are available on the Crown Lands website.

Question 76 (Pages 85-86)

The Hon. WES FANG: The 2023-24 round of CRIF funding received 609 applications, and in 2024-25 there were only 297 applications. Do you believe this is due to there being more restrictive eligibility criteria?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can't answer that definitively. We will obviously look at the spread of applications that we've got and take on board feedback, such as the feedback you're giving me now, and have a look at it. But I can't really answer that definitively today.

Answer:

I am advised: Applications are open to all who meet the criteria. Groups seeking grant funding can investigate other options available on the NSW Government's Grants and Funding website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

Question 77 (Page 86)

The Hon. WES FANG: I agree. Are you aware of any small communities who have humbler needs and would have applied for grant funding for projects under \$100,000 if they were eligible?

MELANIE HAWYES: We have relationships at the local level with Crown land managers, and those sorts of interactions and needs are made apparent through our regional networks and escalated up through to our funding areas all the time. I wouldn't be able to give you a number today. We have so many relationships with Crown land managers where we are live to their needs, whether it's a museum that needs something fixed or all kinds of local works, and we funnel those to grants programs where we can.

The Hon. WES FANG: What would be an example of a grants program that would provide funding to a smaller community that has a request for funding that's under the \$100,000 application limit that was in the CRIF?

MELANIE HAWYES: The CRIF itself—as I said, utilisation is one criterion, but there are others too. We also have a small provision for emergency works for things like power boards and that kind of thing. Those requests can come in as the need arises. There's a range of avenues to raise those needs with us and a range of ability to respond.

The Hon. WES FANG: Are you able to take on notice, perhaps, the number of requests that you've received that would match the criteria that I've described—that's similar in scope but under that \$100,000 floor limit—and also how many were actually funded through Crown Lands?

MELANIE HAWYES: I can take on notice formal applications. As I said, people raise their needs and what's going on at the local level informally first. Obviously, I can't take that on notice, but I can take on notice any formal applications that have been put to the department.

Answer:

I am advised: Seventy-four (74) of the seventy-nine (79) pest- and weed-specific projects funded through CRIF were under \$100,000.

Three (3) of the ten (10) grants funded through closed ad hoc grants via the Crown Lands Project Support Program were under \$100,000.

All eight (8) grants funded through emergency funding under departmental delegation were under \$100,000.

Question 78 (Page 88)

The Hon. WES FANG: In relation to that new proactive program, how many sites were visited, how many audits were conducted and what were the results of those inspections?

DAVID RAPER: We undertook—if maybe I can talk to that March-July period rather than strictly the quarter?

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes. From the first inspection, let's call it four months—a quarter and a bit.

DAVID RAPER: For four months, yes. We've done 13 audits during that time. We have a robust process of selecting the providers that includes their size; their potential level of risk; rural or metro; and private, local government or Crown. We've done those and I would characterise what we've found is either compliance or what I would call minor noncompliance at this stage. And where we do find that, we just send a very clear letter, "These are the areas of noncompliance. You need to bring yourself into compliance by this date," and we follow up. What we're finding in the main, or so far, in totality, is when operators get that very clear message about what needs to happen, actually there is quite a willingness to move into compliance. So far we haven't had to go beyond that to achieve the outcomes that we need to achieve.

The Hon. WES FANG: Are you able to take on notice the regions where these inspections have occurred? Maybe by LGA would be the best way to do that, if you're able to. I'm not asking you to name operators at the moment. That's probably going to be my next question: At what point do we start to name and shame, if that's the will of the government of the day? Could you take on notice the LGAs, the number that you found noncompliance in and the remedial steps that have been undertaken? That would be most appreciated. I'm just trying to understand how we're spending this 600 per cent increase in the levy being taken from New South Wales people during a cost-of-living crisis.

MELANIE HAWYES: Just on that, if I can, the previous setting was a levy applied to only a couple of operators.

Answer:

I am advised: Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW (CCNSW) commenced proactive compliance activities in March 2025, and by 30 June 2025, had delivered 13 site audits. In total the operators audited operated 100 facilities. The audits assessed compliance with regulatory requirements and licence conditions.

The 13 site audits were undertaken in the following local government areas: Bathurst Regional Council, Liverpool City Council, Dubbo Regional Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Penrith City Council, Broken Hill City Council, Central Darling Shire Council, Camden Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Canterbury-Bankstown Council, and one operator with facilities across multiple local government areas.

Six operators were found to have non-compliances, including inadequate and incomplete consumer contracts, and no arrangement for dealing with complaints or disputes.

Question 79 (Page 89)

The Hon. WES FANG: Has there been an increase in the number of Crown roads sold and converted to freehold since the removal of concessions for Crown road enclosure permit fees from 1 July 2024?

MELANIE HAWYES: There has certainly been an uptick in people expressing an interest in purchasing those areas. I'll take on notice the exact amount, unless I can quickly find it now.

The Hon. WES FANG: Whilst you're having a look for that, you might stumble across the answer to my next question. Has there been an increase in the number of Crown road enclosures relinquished by permit holders since 1 July 2024 in comparison to previous years?

MELANIE HAWYES: Okay, bear with me. As you know, this is about phasing out concessions, because we are obliged to charge minimum statutory rent, and that is what we've moved to, with a phase-in period for people to adjust, including an extra year for people who hold multiple permits. I might have to take it on notice, because I can't quickly find it.

The Hon. WES FANG: That's all right.

MELANIE HAWYES: You're asking how many people have applied to purchase their permit?

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes.

MELANIE HAWYES: I'll take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: There has not been an increase in the number of Crown roads sold and converted to freehold since 1 July 2024.

From 30 June 2024 to 1 July 2025, 444 Crown road purchase applications were received that had a related enclosure permit.

Question 80 (Page 91)

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I didn't want you to think I'd forgotten about the role of Destination NSW in that. What had Destination NSW previously funded to support the Australian Rowing Championships?

KAREN JONES: That's a good question. I will take that on notice but, as per my previous answer, they did submit a proposal to Destination NSW. We did go through that assessment process and then they decided to take the championships to Tasmania.

The Hon. WES FANG: Shame!

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Was the amount that Destination NSW was offering less than what it had previously offered with respect to those championships?

KAREN JONES: I'll take that on notice, but I think you'll find that that figure will be commercial in confidence anyway.

Answer:

I am advised: The Event Organiser submitted an Expression of Interest, and an offer of investment was made. The Event Organiser did not accept the offer and chose Tasmania as the event location.

The amount offered and/or invested in individual events is commercial-in-confidence to enable the agency to bid for, and acquire, events in a competitive market. Contractually, neither party can publicly disclose the investment amount.

Question 81 (Page 91)

The Hon. WES FANG: Is Crown Lands actively negotiating a long-term lease with the Cammeray Golf Club to provide certainty for its ongoing operation?

MELANIE HAWYES: I need to take that on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: What is the time frame for finalising a new lease to replace the current rolling six-month arrangements for the clubhouse and the car park?

MELANIE HAWYES: I'll have to take it on notice. I also can answer your question. You asked me about CRIF releases. They are both out. They were both released respectively in July 2024 and June 2025 on the CRIF grant funding.

Answer:

I am advised: Crown Lands has received a lease application from Cammeray Golf Club for consideration of a new long-term lease over the existing clubhouse site.

The application is under assessment.

Question 82 (Pages 91-92)

The Hon. WES FANG: It is a hypothetical. I think that's probably the concern that the person who was assisted with these questions was raising. Will the Government consider consolidating the existing split leases under Crown Lands to allow for a unified approach to the management of the entire golf course site for Cammeray?

MELANIE HAWYES: I'll take it on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: Given North Sydney Council's open hostility to the continued use of Cammeray Park as a golf course, what measures will the Government take to ensure the lease renewal process in 2026 is fair, transparent and free from bias?

MELANIE HAWYES: I will take it on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: You might have a swing? I'm sure the Minister is not paying attention. You can just announce policy.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I thought you were talking about a golf swing, Wes.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: The question itself does have an element of bias in the way it is structured.

MELANIE HAWYES: I'll take it on notice.

Answer:

I am advised: No decision has been made. Crown Lands has issued a licence to permit the Clubhouse to continue operating whilst the lease application is being assessed.

Question 83 (Page 92)

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes, it will be supplementary. Are you aware of the Government's position—see, I got around that, Greg—on the future of Cammeray golf course following its recent multimillion-dollar State-funded reconfiguration?

MELANIE HAWYES: I'm going to take it on notice, because these are questions that probably could have been put to the Minister this morning.

Answer:

I am advised: Please refer to the answer provided for Question on Notice 82.