

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Budget Estimates, 2 September 2025

Minister the Hon. Courtney Houssos MLC (Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Natural Resources)

Supplementary Questions

(1) What roles and/or responsibilities does the Natural Resources Regulator have in relation to the remediation of contaminated sites, where contamination from past and current mining activities has been a source of contamination?

(a) A 2016 study into “Lead risk and remediation strategies in public areas of Broken Hill, NSW” found lead levels above the NEPM Health Investigation Limits in a number of public parks and residential streets. What, if any, further investigations have been undertaken by the Natural Resources Regulator to assess current lead levels at these sites and the potential role of mining activities in contributing to elevated lead levels?

i. What, if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to remediate sites identified as having elevated lead levels?

(b) Please outline all remediation and/or abatement activities that the Natural Resources Regulator have undertaken or contributed to in relation to the remediation or abatement of lead contamination in Broken Hill since 2016. For each activity please describe:

i. The site where remediation or abatement occurred

ii. The time period when remediation or abatement activities took place

iii. The remediation or abatement method used

iv. The lead contamination levels before and after abatement

v. The role the Natural Resources Regulator played in the remediation or abatement activity.

(c) A 2017 assessment of legacy soil lead contamination of ten public parks in Broken Hill, conducted for the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program, identified “ongoing accessions of Pb-rich dust from mining works” as a factor contributing to elevated soil lead levels and identified five sites for high or medium priority abatement. What, if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to remediate or abate these sites?

(d) For any other sites where soil abatement has been undertaken to address lead contamination in Broken Hill since 2000, has the soil abatement been repeated after 10 years when lead levels have again increased above safe levels?

i. If yes, please provide details for all sites where follow-up abatement activities have occurred.

ii. If no, are there any plans to repeat soil abatement activities at these sites? What, if any, funding has been allocated for this?

(e) Have phosphate amendments been tested as a possible additional soil

abatement strategy in Broken Hill ?

- i. If yes, what were the outcomes and what additional funding has been allocated?
- ii. If no, will it be tested?

I am advised:

The Resources Regulator regulates rehabilitation of work undertaken by titleholders of mine sites.

Questions relating to the remediation of pollution on non-mine sites should be referred to the Environment Protection Authority.

(2) Mark Taylor's report, "Environmental Lead Risks at Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia: Sources, Exposures and Forward Solution", included a recommendation to "Determine and set an acceptable trigger value for Pb in deposited dust and introduce environmental licensing regulations limiting Pb in deposited dust". What, if any, actions have the Natural Resources Regulator taken or contributed to in response to this recommendation?

(a) Please detail any work that the Natural Resources Regulator has done or contributed to, or any work that is underway, to identify a trigger value for lead in deposited dust.

I am advised:

This is a matter for the EPA.

(3) Regarding the Gomeroi People vs Santos NSW Pty Ltd and Santos NSW (Narrabri Gas) Pty Ltd before the NNTT, did you or the department receive input from DCEEW regarding the submission made by the government?

(a) If so, was it included in the submission? How?

I am advised:

All relevant policies and information were considered for inclusion in the State's contentions.

(4) Did you or the department receive input from the EPA regarding the submission put together by the government's lawyers for the above case?
(a) If so, was it included in the submission? How?

Please refer to the answer to question 3.

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

I am advised:

Any materials that may be filed by the State in this matter will be in accordance with directions and orders of the Federal Court and will reflect the Government's position.

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

I am advised:

NSW Resources has been liaising with the applicant about the assessment of the application.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinetoffice/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>).

(7) Please list all mines, and their locations, that test the blood lead levels of their workers.

(a) How often do these mines test? Please provide details of each mine if the testing regime differs between mines.

I am advised:

A stringent testing regime exists for metalliferous mine workers and mine operators when undertaking work which may involve lead risk work. Prior to commencing lead risk work, workers must undergo a series of testing including biological monitoring.

Further testing may include:

- Medical & physical examination
- Demographic information
- Occupational history

Mines currently undertaking testing:

Mine	Location
North Mine (Perilya Broken Hill)	Broken Hill
Southern Operations (Perilya Broken Hill)	Broken Hill
Potosi (Perilya Broken Hill)	Broken Hill
Rasp Mine (Perilya Broken Hill)	Broken Hill
Pinnacles Mine	Broken Hill
Hera Mine (now Federation)	Nymagee
Wonawinta Mine	Nymagee
CSA Mine	Cobar
Endeavor Mine	Cobar
Peak Gold Mine	Cobar
Mineral Hill Gold Mine	Condobolin

Ongoing blood testing is provided to individual workers over regular intervals dependent on an individual's results.

Females of reproductive age are required to be tested every 3 months if the most recent test results show <5ug/dL; or, every 6 weeks if the most recent test show >5ug/dL and <10ug/dL.

Males and non-reproductive females are required to be tested every 6 months if the most recent test results show <10ug/dL; or, every 3 months if the most recent test results show >10ug/dL and <20ug/dL; or every 6 weeks if the most recent test results show >20ug/dL.

Mine operators have an obligation to notify the Resources Regulator and remove workers from lead risk work if:

- An individual's most recent test results exceed 10ug/dL for females of reproductive age or 30ug/dL for workers of non-reproductive age,
- The registered medical practitioner who supervised the health monitoring recommends that the worker be removed from carrying out the lead risk work
- There is an indication that a risk control measure has failed and, as a result, the worker's blood lead levels are likely to reach the relevant level for an individual worker.

Further conditions are placed on mine sites where lead is present. These include:

- Relevant signage and warning alerts.
- No eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking or carrying of materials used for smoking is allowed in lead mining and processing areas.
- Washing facilities for removing lead or lead compounds (hand washing and boot washing) are required to be readily available and maintained.
- Decontamination of equipment must be undertaken and documented. This includes equipment from lead mining and processing areas which may be removed from site.

(8) Between 2015 and 2025, for every mine site across NSW where lead is mined or is a byproduct of mining, how many workers have shown blood lead levels above 10 ug/l, 20ug/l and 30ug/l?

(a) Please provide a breakdown by:

- i. Year
- ii. Mine site
- iii. Gender
- iv. Any other required reporting criteria (e.g. women of reproductive age)

(b) Please present the information provided at 8(a)i-iv as both a total number and a proportion of the total mine workers on site during the relevant reporting period.

I am advised:

Mine operators have an obligation to notify the Resources Regulator of positive notifications. Notifications given to workers' blood lead levels in ug/dL. This data may include multiple notifications to the same individual worker. The Resources Regulator does not hold the total number of tests undertaken.

(i) Year

Year of Blood Test Date (Object date)	BLL Range			Grand Total
	>10 and <=20	>20 and <=30	>30	
2019			1	1
2020			1	1
2021				
2022	2	6	6	14
2023	5	13	1	19
2024	5	25		30
2025	3	13	11	27
Grand Total	15	57	20	92

(ii) Mine site

Location	BLL Range			Grand Total
	>10 and <=20	>20 and <=30	>30	
Peak Gold Mine	14	21		35
Endeavor Mine	1	8	10	19
Perilya Broken Hill		9	2	11
Southern Operations		5	2	7
Potosi (Perilya Broken Hill)		6		6
Mineral Hill Mine		4		4
Contractor - Boss Construction BH		2		2
Wonawinta Mine / Manuka			2	2
Contractor - Grenfell Fab. & Maint. BH		1		1
Hera Mine			1	1
Pinnacles Mine			1	1
Rasp Mine		1		1
Unknown			1	1
Null			1	1
Grand Total	15	57	20	92

(iii) Gender

Year of Blood Test Date (Object date)	BLL Range / Gender									Grand Total
	>10 and <=20				>20 and <=30			>30		
	Male	Female reproductive	Female non- reproductive	Total	Male	Female non- reproductive	Total	Male	Total	
2019								1	1	1
2020								1	1	1
2021										
2022		1	1	2	5	1	6	6	6	14
2023		5		5	13		13	1	1	19
2024	1	4		5	24	1	25			30
2025		3		3	13		13	11	11	27
Grand Total	1	13	1	15	55	2	57	20	20	92

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

(a) Please provide a breakdown by:

- i. Year
- ii. Mine site
- iii. Gender
- iv. Any other required reporting criteria (e.g. women of reproductive age)

(b)

Please present the information provided at 9(a)i-iv as both a total number and a proportion of the total mine workers on site during the relevant reporting period.

I am advised:

The Resources Regulator is notified of positive notifications. The Resources Regulator does not hold the total number of tests undertaken. Data is available from 2019. This data may include multiple notifications to the same individual worker.

(a) (i)

Year	Lung Dust Disease Type											Total
	Simple Silicosis	Possible Silicosis	CWP	COPD	Emphysema	Sarcoidosis	Pneumoconiosis	Respiratory Bronchitis	Dust related diffuse fibrosis	Other Lung Dust Disease	Unknown	
2019		1				1		1				3
2020	1				1					1		3
2021	1		3					1		2		7
2022	5		1	1				1				8
2023	2		3	1		1	1		1	1		10
2024	2		1	9	7		3		1	1		24
2025	3		2	29	24	2					2	62
Total	14	1	10	40	32	4	4	3	2	5	2	117

**82 individuals diagnosed with lung dust diseases, some having multiple conditions, totaling 117 lung dust disease cases.*

(ii)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cadia - All Operations	1				1		
Mt Owen Theiss		1					
Sydney Trains Bombo Quarry		1		1			
Peats Ridge Quarry			1				
Rix's Creek				1			1
Ulan UG				1		1	2
Gosford Quarries (all)				1	1		
Cadia East UG				1			
Springvale UG					1		
Mt Arthur North					1	2	8
Hazeldel Quarry					1		
Northparkes Mine					1		
Moolarben					1		
Appin					1		1
Bulga Surface						1	1
Mt Arthur South						1	
Wondabyne Quarry						1	
Mandalong						1	
Metropolitan Colliery						1	1
Hunter Valley Operations						1	3
Bengalla						1	
Ashton Coal UG							1
Boggabri OC							1
Dendrobium							2
Mangoola							1
Mt Owen Glendell							1
Mt Thorley CHPP							1
Narrabri Colliery							2
North Wambo UG							1
Ravensworth & CHPP							2
Tahmoor Colliery UG							1
United Wambo JV							1
Contractor Companies							7
Unknown						7	4
Other - Coal Services			4	1	1		
Total	1	2	5	6	9	17	42

(iii)

	Gender	
Year	Male	Female
2019	1	
2020	2	
2021	5	
2022	6	
2023	9	
2024	17	
2025	40	2
Total	80	2

(10) Has Bowdens Silver Mines paid their bond for exploration work?

I am advised:

Yes.

(11) What bond will be required for remediation of the mine?

(a) Will this bond adequately cover the risks of lead contamination in the local environment and for the lead poisoning in the local community?

I am advised:

As the mining lease applications associated with the Bowdens Silver Mine are yet to be determined, there is no current bond requirement for mining operations. The security deposit amount required for any mining lease(s) would be the estimated cost of fulfilling rehabilitation obligations under those leases as assessed under the relevant provisions of the Mining Act 1992.

(12) What assessment has been undertaken to ensure that Bowdens Silver Mines has the necessary financial resources and expertise to carry out this exploration and mining project?

I am advised:

An applicant's financial and technical capability are considered for all exploration licenses and mining lease applications in NSW.

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

I am advised:

Please refer to the Resources Regulator Annual Report 2023-24.

(14) How much is owed in royalties by the owners of Tahmoor mine?

(a) How much was owed when the expansion was approved in May?

I am advised:

The NSW Government cannot disclose the tax affairs of individuals or companies.

(15) Is the Government considering placing the Tahmoor mine into administration, as occurred for the Whyalla Steelworks in South Australia?

To protect the interests of NSW taxpayers, the NSW Government has created a fixed charge on mining leases associated with Tahmoor Colliery, ensuring the NSW Government is a secured creditor in the event of administration.

The NSW Government is continuing to monitor the situation at Tahmoor Colliery closely and supports the recommencement of mining operations, either by Tahmoor Coal or a new operator.

(16) The Tooloom Creek mining company's current Mining Operations Plan and

Final Work Program asserts that there are no threatened species present within or near the operational area, despite the original Environmental Impact Statement for the mine identifying the 5 brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) as present in the region and Bionet records confirming the existence of a colony within 50 metres of the mine site. What, if any, action has the Natural Resources Regulator undertaken to review and assess the adequacy of the Mining Operations Plan and Final Work Program?

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

I am advised:

Consideration of environmental impacts are managed through the development consent process. The Resources Regulator works with mine operators to ensure they meet all obligations and conditions of the mining lease over the life of the mine.

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

(a) Which countries have provided the Government with an estimate or indication of the time from which they will no longer buy any of that coal at all?

(b) What are those estimated or indicated times, for each country?

I am advised:

Information on future global coal demand is available in the Future Jobs and Investment Authorities Issues Paper, at page 10.

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

(a) If yes, how many risk assessments have EnRisks conducted for the Natural Resources Portfolio in the 10 years between 2015 and 2025?

i. Can you provide details for each risk assessment, including what the assessment covered, when it was commissioned, when it was finalised and whether it has been publicly released (including a link to the final assessment where available)?

(b) If yes, of all the risk assessments for which an agency in the Natural Resources Portfolio engaged an external consultant, what proportion were conducted by

EnRisks?

I am advised:

The Office of Coal Seam Gas engaged EnRisks in 2014. No risk assessments have been conducted by EnRisks between 2015 and 2025. The functions of the Office of Coal Seam Gas were merged into other agencies in 2015.

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

(a) How many businesses had a payroll of \$1.5 million or more?

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

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

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

I am advised:

39,407 businesses had a liability for payroll tax for the 2024-25 payroll tax year.

32,428 businesses had a payroll of \$1.5 million or more.

\$14,541,651,362 was received.

3,856 had a payroll of more than \$1.2 million but less than \$1.5 million.

\$96,251,648 was collected.

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

I am advised:

Information about payroll tax is included in Chapter 5 of Budget Paper No. 1.

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

I am advised:

216,386 landholders were liable for land tax in the 2023 land tax year.

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

I am advised:

212,971 landholders were liable for land tax in the 2024 land tax year.

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

I am advised:

221,344 landholders are liable for land tax in the 2025 land tax year.

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

I am advised:

Division 5 of Part 10 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1996* provides for the Hardship Review Board established under Part 7 of the State Debt Recovery Act 2018 to exercise its functions in relation to a tax liability. In addition to the Hardship Review Board, Revenue NSW provides payment plans for taxpayers who are having difficulty in meeting their tax liability.

(25) What is the definition of exceptional circumstances?

I am advised:

Exceptional circumstances are set out in the published guidelines as

a. a default is due to financial system network and/or payment platform failure;

- b. acts or omissions of Revenue NSW affected the receipt of payment, including processing problems;
- c. payment is not possible due to the direct impact of fire, flood or other natural disaster;
- d. the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue (CCSR) has made a declaration on the Revenue NSW website as to how interest will apply to particular persons or classes of persons for a specified period of time under any circumstances that the CCSR considers appropriate.

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

I am advised:

Division 5 of Part 10 of the Taxation Administration Act 1996 provides for the Hardship Review Board established under Part 7 of the State Debt Recovery Act 2018 to exercise its functions in relation to a tax liability.

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

I am advised:

Revenue NSW offers a variety of support options for individuals, families, households, and businesses facing cost-of-living pressures. These may include flexible payment arrangements, Work and Development Orders, and access to the Hardship Review Board

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

I am advised:

Prior to the guidelines being published, Revenue NSW consulted with a number of liaison groups including the Law Society, the Property Council, the Tax Institute,

the Small Business Group and the Joint State Taxes Liaison Committee (representing accountancy groups). A news alert was also issued to subscribers through the Revenue NSW website.

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

I am advised:

This information is contained in Chapter 5 of Budget Paper No. 1.

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

I am advised:

This information is contained in Chapter 5 of Budget Paper No. 1.

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

This question is best directed to the Treasurer.

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

This question is best directed to the Treasurer.

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

I am advised:

Total government sector expenditure on consultants is published in the NSW report on state finances.

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

I am advised:

The Minns Labor Government has delivered more than \$450 million in savings on external consultants and individual contractors in its first full year in government.

The savings include a \$72 million reduction in consultant spend across agencies, down from \$130 million in 2022-23 to \$58 million in 2023-24.

(35) In total and by Local Government Area how many parcels of land in the register have been classified as:

- (a) Government land
 - i. Vacant government land
- (b) Public benefit land
 - i. Vacant public benefit land
- (c) Farmland
 - i. Vacant public land
 - ii. Pensioner owned farmland
- (d) Residential land
 - i. Vacant residential land
 - ii. Pensioner owned residential land
- (e) Industrial land
 - i. Vacant industrial land
- (f) Commercial land?
 - i. Vacant commercial land?

I am advised:

The following is the total across all local government areas..

(a) 135,919

i. Not classified as part of scope

(b) 18,491

i. Not classified as part of scope

(c) 99,206

i. Not classified as part of scope

ii. 4,063

(d) 2,563,607

i. 75,118

ii. 404,168

(e) 55,916

i. 2,608

(f) 134,622

i. 6,668

(36) How many FTE employees at Revenue NSW are currently working on matters related to ESL reform?

(a) What specific tasks is this team working on?

I am advised:

The ESL BAU functions have been re-assigned to the Land Tax Business Unit (3 FTE) and continue to act as a primary point of contact with Treasury on the reform program.

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

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinetoffice/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

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

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and

individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

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

I am advised:

The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office. I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.

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

I am advised:

Information about any redundancies within agencies is published in the agency annual reports. Published annual reports can be accessed on agency websites.

(41) Do you have plans to print the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department /

agency in your portfolio?

(a) If yes, what is the budgeted expenditure for printing for each department / agency?

I am advised:

Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Framework for Financial and Annual Reporting (TPG25-10).

(42) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?

(a) If yes, when?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.

Further information is available on State Records NSW's website:
(www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw).

All Ministers' offices are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

(43) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?

(a) If yes, is it available online?

i. If yes, what is the website URL?

I am advised:

Revenue NSW / Department of Customer Service, NSW Procurement / NSW Treasury and NSW Resources / Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development each maintain a gifts and benefits register.

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

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

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff attached to the Ministers' Office Handbook and available on the NSW Government website.

(45) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.

The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

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

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

I am advised:

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.

The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.

Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:

- disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier
- seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests')
- identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest
- disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.

A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*.

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

I am advised:

No senior executive employed in departments within my portfolios have a driver.

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

(a) If yes, what is the URL?

I am advised:

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's Office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009 is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act. The

information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with section 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

An agency must maintain a disclosure log of access applications where access was provided to some or all of the information applied for, and where the agency considers the information to be of interest to other members of the public.

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

I am advised:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nsw-treasury/about-us/right-to-information/open-access-information-proactive-release>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/customer-service/access-to-information/departments-and-agencies/customer-service-disclosure-log>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dpird/access-information/disclosure-logs>

(50) Are you on TikTok?

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

I am advised:

The Circular DCS-2025-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Restricted Applications List advises how NSW Government agencies are required to appropriately manage risks to NSW Government information on government-issued devices, or personal devices that are used for government business.

(51) Are you on Signal?

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

(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

I am advised:

Like the former Coalition Government, the NSW Government uses a range of digital systems and communications that have been approved for use and may be utilised where there is a valid business requirement. This has been established practice under successive governments.

State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government. I comply with my obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

(52) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

(a) If yes, what is the description of training?

(b) If yes, how much?

I am advised:

Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.

Members of Parliament are provided with a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination.

Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.

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

(a) If yes, why?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides that the Premier's Department transport services may be used by Parliamentary Secretaries for official business trips in connection with their duties as Parliamentary Secretaries, with costs paid from the

Ministers' office budget.

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

(a) If no, why?

I am advised:

The Department of Customer Service is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.

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

I am advised:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: <https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>

Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Framework for Financial and Annual Reporting (TPG25-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports.

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

(a) If yes, what is the website?

I am advised:

Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly

available a data breach policy. The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.

Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, it is conclusively presumed that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for the assessment of an eligible data breach under the PPIP Act, Part 6A, if the information could worsen a public sector agency's cyber security or lead to further data breaches.

(57) As Minister, so you have a discretionary fund?

(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

I am advised:

Information about NSW Government grants can be found online.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>

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

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

"Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation."

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any

direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not.

Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

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

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

"Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation."

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not.

Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

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

(a) If yes, was this application accepted?

I am advised:

Ministerial overseas travel information is published online.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiersdepartment/access-to-information/ministerial-overseas-travel-information>

(61) Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your Ministerial capacity?
 (a) If yes, was this value for money for taxpayers?

I am advised:

Premier and Ministers' domestic travel information is published on the Premier's Department's website at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-domestic-travel>

(62) Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated? (a) If yes, how much was the expenditure?

I am advised:

Leasehold improvements for Ministerial Offices are reported within the Premier's Department annual reports.

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

I am advised:

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times. The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.

Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:

- disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier
- seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares,

directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests')

- identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest
- disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.

A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*.

(64) When can we expect the Jobs First Commission to be established?

I am advised:

The Minns Labor Government has committed to legislating to establish the Jobs First Commission in this term. We are establishing the Jobs First Commission to support local businesses, grow local industries, drive productivity and create jobs in NSW.

(65) Will you be releasing a consultation draft?

Please refer to the response to question 64.

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

I regularly engage with businesses, industry leaders and unions on a range of matters.

(67) When will you commence formal consultation?

Please refer to the response to question 64.

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

This question is best directed to the Minister for Water.

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

This question is best directed to the Minister for Water.

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

This question is best directed to the Minister for Transport.

(71) What measures will the Jobs First Commission put in place to prevent low-road contractors winning government contracts purely on price?

These matters are being considered as part of the establishment of the Jobs First Commission.

(72) Will the Jobs First Commission have the authority to ensure procurement contracts deliver quality, sustainable jobs and local content rather than simply the lowest cost?

These matters are being considered as part of the establishment of the Jobs First Commission.

(73) How will the Commission monitor and enforce compliance with principles of transparency, local content, and ethical procurement?

These matters are being considered as part of the establishment of the Jobs First Commission.

(74) Will the Commission have the power to review and, if necessary, intervene in government procurement contracts that undermine local jobs or wages

These matters are being considered as part of the establishment of the Jobs First Commission.

(75) What is the current process for assessment of economic claims in coal mining EIS's and authoring of content for Department of Planning's Assessment reports that are relied upon by the Independent Planning Commission in its determinations of consent?

I am advised:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.