

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 8 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

SMALL BUSINESS, RECOVERY, NORTH COAST

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

RECOVERY

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

RESILIENT HOMES PROGRAM
QUESTION # 1: Are you continuing to advocate within Cabinet for \$1.5 Billion for 6000 house-raises, retrofits and buybacks in the Northern Rivers?
ANSWER # 1: I am advised: No state or federal government has committed \$1.5 billion to the Resilient Homes Program in the Northern Rivers. The \$1.5 billion figure was used in the media by the former head of the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation when talking about the projected costs of buybacks, raises and retrofits.
QUESTION # 2: Specifically, do you support 2000 buybacks and 4000 house-raises and retrofits? (a) If not, why not?
ANSWER # 2: (a) The Australian and NSW Governments have co-funded an \$880 million investment in the Resilient Homes Program (RHP). The number of properties that have received assistance under the RHP program can be found at https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nsw-reconstruction-authority/our-progress.
QUESTION # 3: Do you acknowledge that the media pack sent out on 4 November 2022 detailed “Approximately 6,000 Northern Rivers residents are eligible for Resilient Homes Program assistance. This includes approximately 2,000 residents who will be eligible for voluntary buybacks’?” (a) If so, will you clarify that the intended scope of the program was 6,000 homes and that that number had been intentionally reduced?
ANSWER # 3: (a) The media release on 4 November 2022 was authored and issued by the former government so it would not be appropriate to comment on its contents.
QUESTION #4: Do you acknowledge multiple documents prove that 6000 homes at \$1.5 billion in cost was the anticipated scope of the resilient homes program, including: (a) An email from Kristie Clark on 14 June 2023 saying “the... program was scoped/estimated to deliver roughly 2000 home buybacks, 2000 home raising and 2000 home retrofits... a budget of \$1.5 billion was requested to deliver this”? (a)i. If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?

- (b) An October 2022 presentation to cabinet?
- (b)i If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?
- (c) A march 2023 briefing from Kristie Clarke to Lismore city council which says they will let "6000 people know...which stream they fall into: buybacks, house raising or retrofitting"?
- (c)i If not, on what specific basis was this correspondence incorrect?
- (d) Given this, will you concede that the \$1.5 billion figure for 6000 homes was the original plan for the resilient homes program, rather than an error made by senior public officials?

ANSWER #4:

Please refer to Question 1.

QUESTION #5: Can you please detail the exact conversations had in the Community Elected Leaders Forum that led you to conclude that \$1.5 billion for 6000 homes "wasn't going to be a reality under any government"?

- (a) Who suggested that \$1.5 billion was not the anticipated funding?
- (b) When did you personally reach this conclusion?
- (c) Did anyone push back against this recommendation?
- (d) On what basis did the NSW Government inform this panel that future funding would not be allocated?

ANSWER #5:

Please refer to Question 1.

QUESTION #6: Can you please detail exactly when "an extra \$100m that we managed to get from Premier Minns" was allocated?

- (a) Was all of this funding spent on buybacks, raises and retrofits?
- (b) Was this funding as part of the Community Flood Restoration Fund, or within the original funding envelope of the Resilient Homes Program?

ANSWER #6: I am advised:

The Government announced the \$150 million Community Restoration Flood Fund in 2024 to support recovery programs in the Northern Rivers and Central West which were matched by the Australian Government.

\$90 million of the Fund was allocated to the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program (RHP) in 2024 by the NSW Government. This funding was matched by the Australian Government. The combined contributions of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments resulted in an additional \$180 million being provided to the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program. \$10 million of this fund was set aside to support small and medium businesses.

QUESTION #7: If the Program has been allocated \$700m originally from state and federal governments, an additional \$100m from the state in 2023, and then an additional \$180 million in state and federal funding in 2024, why in questions on notice did you detail just \$880m in total funding?

- (a) Could you please clarify exactly which tranches of funding have been allocated and when?

ANSWER #7: I am advised:

The RHP was established as a \$700 million program, with an additional \$90 million in State funding allocated from the Community Restoration Flood Fund, which was matched by the Australian Government, taking the total program funding to \$880 million.
QUESTION #8: Is it correct that the 2023-24 budget delivered on the 19th of September 2023, an additional \$100 of state money was allocated to buybacks, raises and retrofits as tranche 2 of the Resilient Homes Program, so the total went up to \$800m?
ANSWER #8: I am advised: The 2023-24 Budget delivered the \$150 million Community Flood Restoration Fund (CFRF), which allocated \$90 million to the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) in 2024, which was matched by the Australian Government.
QUESTION #9: On 19 Sep 23, you posted to Facebook you had secured “\$100m MORE FOR BUYBACKS, HOUSE RAISING, RETROFIT” as part of “tranche 2 funding”. Was this \$100 million in addition to the \$700m original allocation? (a) Was this a reference to the \$100m cut in funding in raises and retrofits for more buybacks?
ANSWER #9: The Resilient Homes Program was established as a \$700 million program, with an additional \$90 million in State funding allocated from the Community Restoration Flood Fund, which was matched by the Australian Government, taking the total program funding to \$880 million. The figure of \$100m referred to in Sept 23 included a \$10million amount that was utilised to support small and medium businesses
QUESTION #10: The Premier told the Legislative Assembly on 19 Sep 23 that “an additional \$150 million for Tranche 2” and that “4000 homes would be eligible for tranche 2” was this correct?
ANSWER #10: I am advised: The \$150 million CFRF was announced in September 2023. \$90 million was allocated to the RHP with the intention of supporting additional homeowners.
QUESTION #11: Were 2000 buybacks, house-raises and retrofits possible within the \$700m of original funding? (a) If not, when was this realised? (b) If not, did the \$100m reduction in funding for raises and retrofits impact this? (c) Given an additional \$180m has been allocated, are you still working toward 2000 homes or has that number been increased? i. If so, how many homes are now eligible specifically as a result of the additional funding allocation?
ANSWER #11: I am advised: The Government continues to monitor the implementation of the Resilient Homes Program, seek feedback from community, and align the program funding to recovery needs
QUESTION #12: Is it misleading to suggest that 6000 households as a figure was an error, when this was the figure NRRC officials were given, the figure advertised to the community, and the figure necessary?
ANSWER #12: I am advised:

6,000 homes were identified by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) at the time to be in the highest risk flood areas.
QUESTION #13: Will you acknowledge that at some point a decision was made to reduce this figure from \$1.5 billion for 6000 homes? (a) If not, why not? (b) If so, when was this decision made and by whom?
ANSWER #13: I am advised: Following the catastrophic flooding events across NSW in 2022, the NSW Government at the time sought funding from the Australian Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for a range of programs to support recovery and resilience initiatives, including the RHP. Program estimates were collated in 2022 soon after the floods, followed by more detailed analysis of the flood risk. The State and Australian Governments at the time agreed on an initial \$700 million for the RHP, which was announced in 2022. Funding was prioritised to homes in the highest risk areas in future flood events.
QUESTION #14: Are you aware of an email sent by an NRRC media advisor on 3 July 2023 with regard to adjustments to the 6000 homes figure saying “The content was approved by all tiers of government. Community members have screenshots of this content. We did not make it up. Simply removing the number perpetuates the perception that the NRRC has lied... this is simply UNTRUE, the cabinet papers and all internal government communications have clearly referred to 2 tranches of funding”?
ANSWER #14: I commenced as Minister for Recovery on 17 March 2025. The email to which you refer pre-dates my appointment as Minister for Recovery and Parliamentary Secretary for Recovery. As such, I was not privy to the information to which you refer
QUESTION #15: Was the \$1.5 billion funding figure for 6000 homes presented to Cabinet?
ANSWER #15: I am advised: Cabinet receives a range of advice on many matters. It is essential that the confidentiality of Cabinet documents is maintained to enable full and frank discussions to be had prior to Cabinet making decisions.
QUESTIONS #16: Were these figures presented to the community? (a) If so, on what dates and where? (b) If you’re unsure, will you undertake to conduct a full investigation into what promises were made and when?
ANSWER #16: I am advised: Between November 2022 and March 2023 over 50 community meetings and stakeholder sessions were run by the NRRC. The presentation included a heat map to outline how risk would be determined and explained the aim of the program. It was presented verbally that the goal of the program would be 6000 households supported (2000 Buybacks, 2000 raises and 2000 retrofits). It was also presented that the full 2nd tranche of funding would be required to deliver this target
QUESTION #17: Given you are now the Minister responsible for Recovery, and your Government is in power, will you take the position that 6000 homes is what you will deliver?

ANSWER #17:

I am advised:

The Government continues to monitor the implementation of the Resilient Homes Program, seek feedback from community, and align the program funding to recovery needs. The number of properties that have received assistance under the RHP program can be found at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nsw-reconstruction-authority/our-progress>.

QUESTION #18: It was reported that Labor Premier Chris Minns acknowledged “1.6 Billion was promised” to both the Resilient Homes and Lands Program. Is it the Government’s position that they know what was promised and they are intentionally breaking that promise?

ANSWER #18:

Please refer to the answer to Question 1.

QUESTION #19: If more raises and retrofits as part of the Resilient Homes Program have been refused by the Labor Government, will there be the development of a State Mitigation Fund by which raises and retrofits can be accessed?

(a) If not, why not?

(b) If so, when?

ANSWER #19: I am advised:

A business case for a mitigation fund is in development as identified by Action 32 in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan (SDMP).

QUESTION #20: Can you please outline a timeframe for the completion of the raises and retrofits within the current funding arrangements of the Resilient Homes Program?

(a) By when do you anticipate this stream of the Resilient Homes Program being concluded?

ANSWER #20: I am advised:

The Allowable Time Limit for the RHP is 30 June 2027.

QUESTION #21: Specifically with regard to the \$100m reduction in house-raises and retrofits to fund more buybacks:

(a) Were you aware of this decision specifically before it was made, or did you become aware after the fact?

(b) Is this an appropriate decision given it removes funding for at least 1000 households to access house-raises and retrofits?

ANSWER #21: I am advised:

The RA has carefully monitored rollout of the program and continues to respond to community feedback.

Initially the program focused on buybacks for areas where people and property were at the highest risk in future flood events. In 2024, there was strong community support for more funding for Resilient Measures, which resulted in program amendments to ensure more homeowners can access support.

QUESTION #22: Were the 1000 homeowners indicatively prioritised for house-raises and retrofits, who lost funding for those works to be completed because of the Prime Minister’s deal with the Premier, informed that a decision had been made to remove their support?

(a) If so, when and how?

(b) If not, why not?
ANSWER #22: I am advised: The Government continues to monitor the implementation of the Resilient Homes Program, seek feedback from community, and align the program funding to recovery needs.
QUESTION #23: How does the Minns Labor Government’s decision to cut funding for 1000 house raises and retrofits to fund more buybacks align with their stated goal of transparency?
ANSWER #23: I am advised: The Resilient Homes Program prioritised buybacks for those homes identified as having the highest risk to life. During Ex Tropical Cyclone Alfred this meant that over 600 properties in high-risk areas were not required to be evacuated because they had been bought back by the NSW Government. The Government has engaged extensively with the community and through the Northern Rivers Community Leaders Forum throughout the implementation of the Resilient Homes Program and will continue to do so.
QUESTION #24: With regard to Resilient Homes Program mapping, will you undertake to ensure that maps are available on a case-by-case basis, where residents can search their address and which priority they fall within? (a) If not, why not? (b) If so, when?
ANSWER #24: I am advised: The RHP mapping is publicly available online. Many councils have property-specific flood mapping available to help homeowners understand their flood risk. Flood mapping is not the only consideration for the RHP, with a range of other factors also considered.
QUESTION #25: Are you aware of an email from 28 Oct 2022 that reads “We won’t be releasing zone mapping - case-by-case nature of program could make maps a rod for our backs! Cheers A” (a) Is this still the policy of the Reconstruction Authority? (b) Is this consistent with the stated goal of transparency?
ANSWER #25: Please refer to Q24.
QUESTION #26: Are you aware of an email sent by former Reconstruction Authority CEO Simon Draper on 18 June 2023, in which a table was included identifying “1091 buybacks in priority A, 565 in future priorities (unfunded)”? (a) Could you please outline how many homes remain in, broken down by LGA? (b) The total cost of 565 additional buybacks is over \$300 million. Why did the Reconstruction Authority have so many more buybacks outlined as prioritised if they believed no future funding was available?
ANSWER #26: I commenced as Minister for Recovery on 17 March 2025. The email to which you refer pre-dates my appointment as Minister for Recovery and Parliamentary Secretary for Recovery. As such, I was not privy to the information to which you refer. I am advised:

As at the first quarter of 2025, 672 homes had been prioritised for buyback in Group A, including:

Lismore – 489

Tweed – 129

Richmond Valley – 46

Byron – 2

Ballina – 0

Clarence Valley – 3

Kyogle – 3

The RHP is a voluntary program. The lower numbers may relate to homeowners opting out of the RHP or not being eligible for the RHP.

QUESTION #27: Are you aware that the October 2022 Presentation to Cabinet identified that RHP funding “can also be deployed for compulsory acquisition / enabling infrastructure works in exceptional circumstances”?

(a) How much funding has been allocated from the RHP to compulsory acquisition?

(b) How much funding has been allocated to enabling infrastructure works?

(c) How much funding has been allocated for anything that is not buybacks, raises and retrofits?

i. Please provide a breakdown of what these funds have been spent on

(d) Was the October 2022 presentation to Cabinet agreed to or contested in any way, given it explicitly named \$1.5 billion in total funding with an initial \$700m allocation?

ANSWER #27: I am advised:

(a) The Resilient Homes Program is a voluntary program. No funding has been allocated to compulsory acquisition.

(b) Enabling infrastructure works are not eligible under the Resilient Homes Program Guideline.

(c) Program administration costs are also allocated to the RHP. The State can claim up to 5% under the DRFA for these costs including, staffing costs, engagement activities, supporting systems, project monitoring and financial control. Buyback and Resilient Measures streams include support functions such as assessments/valuations of properties, property management of buyback properties (e.g. make safe, demolition/removal) in addition to the grant funding provided to homeowners.

(d) This pre-dates the election of the Minns Labor Government and my appointment as Minister.

QUESTION #28: How many emails were sent in 2023 indicating to homeowners their eligibility for the Resilient Homes Program?

(a) How many emails indicated eligibility for a buyback?

(b) How many emails indicated eligibility for a raise?

(c) How many emails indicated eligibility for a retrofit?

(d) How many emails indicated ineligibility?

ANSWER #28: I am advised:

No detailed data is available on emails regarding eligibility, however, approximately 11,000* emails were sent to homeowners in 2023 regarding the RHP, which included 677 letters of offer to buyback applicants.

QUESTIONS #29: 6700 texts were sent out by the NRRC on 14 June 2023 with regard to the Resilient Homes Program to affected households. What was the content of those texts?

ANSWER #29: I am advised:

Text message quoted below:

"SMS 13 June 2023 - NRRC Update - Eligibility Map (3) Thanks for registering for the NRRC's Resilient Homes Program. New flood mapping has been released at nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram. We will contact you about your prioritisation and registration outcome in the near future."

QUESTION #30: What is the current assumed value per buy-back?

ANSWER #30: I am advised:

The current average cost of buyback properties is \$596,622.

QUESTION #31: How many homeowners have chosen to proceed with the buyback process?

ANSWER #31: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 824 Buyback offers have been accepted by homeowners in the Northern Rivers.

QUESTION #32: The NRRC's Strategic Plan overview anticipated a tranche 2 funding announcement in Q2 of 2024. Why did this not occur in Q2 of 2024?

(a) When was tranche 2 funding approval decided?

(b) The Plan anticipated a Program Review and Evaluation in Q1 of 2024. Did this occur?

i. If so, who contributed to the review?

ii. If so, how many households were identified as having additional need of buybacks, house raises, retrofits or relocations in addition to tranche 1 funds?

iii. If so, what were the review's findings?

ANSWER #32: I am advised:

The Government announced the \$150 million Community Restoration Flood Fund in 2024 to support recovery programs in the Northern Rivers and Central West which were matched by the Australian Government.

\$90 million of the Fund was allocated to the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program (RHP) in 2024 by the NSW Government. This funding was matched by the Australian Government. In 2023, an independent review of the Resilient Homes Program led to recommendations for improving risk assessment, prioritisation, and support for vulnerable homeowners. The report was released in December 2023.

i. The independent peer review panel included:

Steven Molino, Director, Water Technology Pty Ltd

Andrew Gissing, Chief Executive Officer, Natural Hazards Research Australia

Professor Seth Westra, Director, University of Adelaide Water Research Centre.

ii. Prioritisation is informed by local Council flood mapping.

iii. Information on the review and the findings is available at the following link:

www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nsw-reconstruction-authority/our-work/resilient-homes-program/prioritisation-review.

QUESTION #33: What is your understanding of the proposed total of “tranche 2” funding for the Resilient Homes Program?

(a) Has “tranche 2” funding been delivered?

ANSWER #33: I am advised:

The Government announced the \$150 million Community Restoration Flood Fund in 2024 to support recovery programs in the Northern Rivers and Central West which were matched by the Australian Government.

\$90 million of the Fund was allocated to the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program (RHP) in 2024 by the NSW Government. This funding was matched by the Australian Government.

QUESTION #34: You are on the record saying “Land swaps and house relocations need to be given additional prioritization, again as was originally envisioned” Is this still your policy as Minister?

ANSWER #34:

The RHP resilient measures stream continues to undertake home assessments, these assessments will further assist eligible homeowners to progress grant applications.

QUESTION #35: Do you support a coordinated and government-run program for training and supporting community volunteers but done by community?

ANSWER #35: I am advised:

The role of the RA is to support community-centred recovery. This includes ensuring that spontaneous or informal volunteering efforts are aligned with local needs and are safely and effectively integrated into recovery activities via local government and supporting community organisations.

To support this, the RA is leading three (3) strategic initiatives informed by the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry and 2023 Emergency Services Volunteering Review to strengthen community and volunteer support in disaster recovery:

1. Community Capability Building Project
2. Recovery Services Capacity Grants
3. Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program

QUESTION #36: On the 19th of May 2023, an NRRC briefing to the RHP Steering Committee stated that “tranche 2 buy-backs, raising and retrofit analysis ongoing”

(a) What was the buyback analysis for tranche 2?

(b) What was the raising analysis for tranche 2?

(c) What was the retrofit analysis for tranche 2?

ANSWER #36: I am advised:

The quote provided from the 19th of May 2023 RHP Steering Committee paper is in response to progress against an identified milestone regarding hazard mapping and eligibility criteria.

The RHP analysis of Tranche 1 prioritisation was close to completion and it was noted that Tranche 2 analysis would continue.

The Government continues to monitor the implementation of the Resilient Homes Program, seek feedback from community, and align the program funding to recovery needs.
QUESTION #37: Exactly how much of the \$150m Community Flood Restoration Fund was spent on buybacks, raises and retrofits in the Northern Rivers? (a) If none, why did a government media release identify that this Fund would be a "second instalment" of the Resilient Homes Program?
ANSWER #37: Refer to Q6.
QUESTION #38: On exactly what date was a formal request made by the state government to the Commonwealth government for the additional contribution of \$180m in funding for the Resilient Homes Program? (a) What was the exact dollar amount requested by the state government from the Commonwealth? (b) What was the exact dollar amount proposed to be spent from the state government on the Resilient Homes Program?
ANSWER #38: I am advised: 19 June 2024 (a) \$90 million (b) \$440 million
QUESTION #39: The Prime Minister had previously instructed the Minns Government to "consider the range of approved programs agreed by the Commonwealth under Category D of the DRFA relating to the February-March 2022 and July 2022 flood events, and write to me with options to use savings in the first instance." before requesting further funding for the Resilient Homes Program. Have you made any written representations to the Prime Minister identifying savings from approved programs under Category D of the DRFA relating to the February-March 2022 and July 2022 flood events? (a) If so, which savings were identified? Please include a list of which programs were proposed to have a reduction in funding.
ANSWER #39: I am advised: That since the program's commencement, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments have maintained open communication regarding recovery support for communities impacted by the 2022 floods, including the Resilient Homes Program.
QUESTION #40: Does the Minister anticipate more homes becoming eligible for raises and retrofits under the Resilient Homes Program?
ANSWER #40: I am advised: The RHP resilient measures stream continues to undertake home assessments, these assessments will further assist eligible homeowners to progress grant applications.
QUESTION #41: On what date did you send the Premier a letter calling for \$1.5 billion in funding for the Resilient Homes Program? (a) On what date did the Premier respond to the letter? (b) What was the Premier's response to the letter?
ANSWER #41: As the Member for Lismore, I joined with local members in advocating for as much support for our Northern Rivers community as possible. I have always and will continue

to ensure the community is supported in its recovery. I formally wrote to the Premier alongside Northern Rivers' community leaders on 15 June 2023. I continue to maintain an open dialogue with all ministerial and parliamentary colleagues with regard to the recovery from the devastating 2022 floods.

QUESTION #42: In answers to questions on notice, you provided that only 59 homes would be eligible for house-raises and retrofits. But the Member for Ballina was given information that 72 raises and retrofits would be announced in the Ballina Electorate. Can you explain this discrepancy?

ANSWER #42: I am advised:

The RHP is a voluntary program and the number of homes moving through is constantly shifting, depending on the stage in the process that homeowners are at.

NORTHERN RIVERS FLOOD RECOVERY

QUESTION #43: Are you comfortable with the Premier making public statements criticizing squatters when, under your government, just 1% of the 4000 raises and retrofits that were promised to flooded homes have been delivered?

ANSWER #43: I am advised:

The RHP is the largest adaptation program in Australia. The program is voluntary, and the homeowners determine the pace. More than 460 home assessments have been completed. This provides valuable information to homeowners on actions needed for greater resilience for their property.

QUESTION #44: The Minns Labor Government initially identified 7800 new dwellings to be built as a result of the Resilient Lands Program. In answers to questions on notice, the Premier said the RLP would deliver "over 4000" homes. What is the actual projected figure?
(a) Is it more or less than 7,800?

ANSWER #44: I am advised:

The RLP is unlocking land to cater for more than 4,000 homes.

The draft Resilient Lands Strategy outlined priority sites that could unlock land for up to 7,800 dwellings, subject to investigation. Some sites from the draft strategy were not included in the final adopted strategy at the request of Councils and also following submissions analysis and further consideration of available funding.

The final adopted Northern Rivers Resilient Lands Strategy identifies sites that could cater for more 4,300 homes.

QUESTION #45: Do you support evicting people into homelessness from empty properties?
(a) Specifically, what steps did you take as Minister to ensure that Homes NSW negotiated with the former occupants of 122 Stuart St, Mullumbimby?

ANSWER #45: I am advised:

Homes bought back under the RHP are in high-risk flood areas and are not safe for future residential use in their current place.

The RA, through the RHP, engages with the Homes NSW, Homelessness team to seek assistance to support community members who are illegally occupying buyback properties where the occupant may need housing support. This was the case with all homes recently returned to RA following the Supreme Court process. The Notice to Vacate served by the NSW Sheriff's Office to occupants on 6 June 2025 also included NSW Homes assistance options and contact details.

(a) As above.

QUESTION #46: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Lismore City Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #46: I am advised:
As at 16 September 2025, 2684.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #47: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Byron Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #47: I am advised:

As at 16 September 2025, 1000.

(a) The data is not available.

QUESTION #48: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #48: I am advised:

As at 16 September 2025, 1370.

(a) The data is not available

QUESTION #49: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #49: I am advised:

As at 16 September 2025, 889.
(a) The data is not available.
QUESTION #50: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #50: I am advised:
As at 16 September 2025, 234.
(a) The data is not available.
QUESTION #51: How many registrations were there to the Resilient Homes Program in the Clarence Valley Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many registrations to the Resilient Homes Program in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #51: I am advised:
As at 16 September 2025, 505.
(a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #52: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Lismore City Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #52: I am advised:
As at 31 August 2025, 915.
Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.
(a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #53: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Byron Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #53: I am advised:
As at 31 August 2025, 136.

Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #54: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #54: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 313.

Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #55: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #55: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 45.

Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #56: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #56: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 29.

Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.

(a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #57: How many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in the Clarence Valley Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes are currently eligible or still classed as applicants in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #57: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 101. Please note that the number above includes applications being progressed and does not represent the total number of homeowners who registered for the program. The RHP is continuing to reach out to homeowners as take-up rates become clearer.
(a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #58: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Lismore City Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #58 I am advised: The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program. Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.
QUESTION #59: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Byron Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #59: See Q58.
QUESTION #60: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #60: See Q58.
QUESTION #61: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #61: See Q58.
QUESTION #62: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #62: See Q58.
QUESTION #63: How many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in the Clarence Valley Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 1 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #63: See Q58.
QUESTION #64: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Lismore City Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #64: See Q58.
QUESTION #65: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Byron Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #65: See Q58.
QUESTION #66: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Tweed Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #66: See Q58.
QUESTION #67: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Ballina Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #67: See Q58.
QUESTION #68: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #68: See Q58.
QUESTION #69: How many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 2 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #69: See Q58.
QUESTION #70: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Lismore City Council area?
(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #70: I am advised: The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #71: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Byron Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #71: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #72: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #72: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #73: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #73: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #74: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #74: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #75: How many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in the Clarence Valley Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 3 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #75: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #76: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Lismore City Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #76: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #77: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Byron Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #77: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #78: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #78: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #79: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #79: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #80: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #80: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #81: How many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in the Clarence Valley Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been mapped as priority 4 in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #81: I am advised:

The prioritisation mapping and analysis indicates specific areas that pose the greatest risk to life in most floods. This information together with the amount of damage to the home, water velocity and people's circumstances is used to prioritise homes for funding under the program.

Maps indicating prioritisation are publicly available. The data of how many residential homes have been mapped is unavailable as the mapping includes non-residential, vacant land, council land and buildings, crown land, NSW government owned land and buildings.

QUESTION #82: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Lismore City Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #82: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 655.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #83: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Byron Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #83: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 10.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #84: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #84: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 170.

(a) This data is not available.

QUESTION #85: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #85: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 6. (a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #86: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Kyogle Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #86: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 17. (a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #87: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for buybacks in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #87: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 4. (a) This data is not available.
QUESTION #88: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #88: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 140. Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.
QUESTION #89: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #89: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 85.

Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.

QUESTION #90: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #90: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 72.

Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.

QUESTION #91: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Ballina Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #91: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 15.

Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.

QUESTION #92: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #92: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 2.

Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.

QUESTION #93: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in the Clarence Valley Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for raises in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #93: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 70.
Please note, raise or retrofit data cannot be separated in initial eligibility stage as homeowners choose what works they wish to progress for their property. This data is only available once the homeowner determines their pathway.
QUESTION #94: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #94: Please refer to Q88.
QUESTION #95: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #95: Please refer to Q89.
QUESTION #96: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Tweed Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #96: Please refer to Q90.
QUESTION #97: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #97: Please refer to Q91.
QUESTION #98: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Kyogle Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #98: Please refer to Q92.
QUESTION #99: How many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as eligible for retrofits in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #99: Please refer to Q93.
QUESTION #100: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #100: I am advised: As at 31 August 2025, 53.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #101: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Byron Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #101: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 19.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #102: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Tweed Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #102: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 29.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #103: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #103: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 7.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #104: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #104: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 5.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #105: How many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in the Clarence Valley Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes have been assessed as not eligible for any assistance under the RHP in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #105: I am advised:

As at 31 August 2025, 3.

The data above includes homes that did not meet the eligibility criteria, examples include the location was not a permissible residential dwelling, were not impacted by the event, or where the homeowner did not own the property at the time of the event.

This number does not include registrants where it was deemed they were not eligible prior to application.

(a) This data is not available

QUESTION #106: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Lismore City Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #106: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #107: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #107: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #108: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #108: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #109: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #109: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #110: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #110: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #111: How many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are within the 20% Annual Exceedance Probability flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #111: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #112: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #112: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #113: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #113: I am advised:

This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #114: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #114: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #115: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #115: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #116: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #116: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #117: How many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 20% to 5% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #117: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #118: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #118: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #119: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #119: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #120: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #120: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.

QUESTION #121: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #121: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #122: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #122: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #123: How many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 5% to 1% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #123: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #124: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Lismore City Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #124: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #125: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Byron Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #125: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #126: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Tweed Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #126: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.
QUESTION #127: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Ballina Shire Council area? (a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?
ANSWER #127: I am advised: This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.

QUESTION #128: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Kyogle Shire Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #128: I am advised:

This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.

QUESTION #129: How many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in the Clarence Valley Council area?

(a) Specifically, how many homes are between the 1% and 0% AEP flood zone in each suburb in the area?

ANSWER #129: I am advised:

This data is not available through the RA, but is available through most local councils.

NATURE-BASED FLOOD MITIGATION

QUESTION #130: Given \$4.2 billion of state and federal money will support disaster relief and recovery over the next four years, and given disaster spending has increased more than 1,000 percent since 2020, how much is the government currently investing in pre-emptive, nature-based and hybrid flooding solutions, such as wetland restoration, to reduce future disaster spending requirements?

ANSWER #130: I am advised:

The Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provides \$1 billion over five years (2023–24 to 2027–28), with \$200 million available annually to reduce disaster risk and build resilience. Administered by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the fund prioritises investment in green-blue infrastructure—strategically planned natural and semi-natural systems that mitigate hazards and deliver ecosystem services. This includes interventions such as mangrove restoration, floodplain greenways, and urban cooling.

Richmond Landcare received \$2.809 million under DRF Round 1 for the 'Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment' project, a nature-based solution aimed at reducing flood risk. With Round 3 now closed, future funding rounds may support additional green-blue infrastructure projects, subject to NEMA's funding priorities and decisions.

The NSW Government continues to support the development of Disaster Adaptation Plans which will identify disaster risk reduction initiatives, including nature based solutions which reduce multi hazard risk.

QUESTION #131: What proportion of the budget is currently going to nature-based and hybrid, pre-emptive action and long-term adaptation projects, as opposed to flood/erosion/storm recovery and response?

ANSWER #131: I am advised:

Two nature-based solutions projects are being delivered under the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program (NRRRP) funded by NEMA: Caring for Catchments and Heal the Rivers to a combined total value of \$11.65m.

QUESTION #132: What steps have you taken to support the acquisition of privately owned land surrounding the Tuckean Swamp under the NSW Coastal Lands Protection Scheme?

ANSWER #132: This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
QUESTION #133: Are you concerned some of the CSIRO's proposed hard-engineered solutions under the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative could worsen fish kills and River health?
ANSWER #133: I am advised: The CSIRO is initially focussing on the difference flood mitigation infrastructure options could make to flooding. This will be an important input into the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan (NR DAP). As part of the options assessment for the NR DAP, the impacts of any such options, including on river health, will need to be assessed through a coordinated process which includes working with local government, the NSW Government agency technical working groups, and the NR DAP Regional Steering Committee.
QUESTION #134: Could you please provide an update on Richmond Landcare Inc's grant from Disaster Ready (NEMA) for a pilot project using nature based solutions (reforestation) to slow flooding in the Wilsons River upper sub-catchments?
ANSWER #134: I am advised: Under Round 1 of the Disaster Ready Fund, Richmond Landcare Incorporated received \$2.809 million in Australian Government funding for the Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment project. A formal variation request was submitted to the Australian Government in July 2025 following a review of proposed co-contributions to the project. A decision outcome is pending.
QUESTION #135: Can you rule out supporting drainage of the Tuckean Swamp?
ANSWER #135: I am advised: This is a future decision for the NSW Government.
QUESTION #136: At recent consultation meetings with the CSIRO, participants were given a list of 15 proposed solutions, none of which were nature based, and asked to rank them. Participants got 40 words or less to put forward other solutions. Is this an appropriate method of consultation?
ANSWER #136: I am advised: Following extensive flooding in the Northern Rivers in February and March 2022, NEMA commissioned the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to rapidly prioritise projects suitable to be funded as part of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative (NRRI). NEMA, together with the CSIRO, recently undertook community consultation on potential options to be modelled. Questions relating to this engagement can be directed to nrri@nema.gov.au.
QUESTION #137: Logging native forests has a negative impact on flooding and River health in the Richmond River catchment. Will you call for an end to native forest logging in NSW, if for no other reason than reviving our river?

ANSWER #137: This question should be directed to the Minister for Agriculture.
QUESTION #138: Why did the CSIRO not propose soft-engineered and nature-based solutions for the Richmond River catchment?
ANSWER #138: I am advised: Questions relating to this engagement can be directed to nrri@nema.gov.au .
QUESTION #139: What oversight, if any, did you have over this process?
ANSWER #139: I am advised: The RA has not had direct involvement in the development of the NRRI model. The RA has provided feedback to NEMA and CSIRO regarding how their processes intersects with the Northern Rivers DAP process. The RA has also attended consultation sessions to answer any related questions about the DAP.
QUESTION #140: What steps are you taking to ensure the CSIRO's proposed Tuckean Swamp drainage and Bagotville Bypass upgrade does not increase blackwater runoff from low-lying flood prone land?
ANSWER #140: I am advised: As part of the options assessment for the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan (NR DAP), the impacts of any such options will need to be assessed through a coordinated process which includes working with local government, the NSW Government agency technical working groups, and the NR DAP Regional Steering Committee.
QUESTION #141: Would you consider appointing an independent Statutory Commissioner to oversee recovery of the Richmond River?
ANSWER #141: I am advised: Several agencies currently have a role in the recovery of the Richmond River, including the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and Rous County Council which is managing the NSW Government-funded Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI). A Statutory Commissioner would be a decision of government.
QUESTION #142: Do you support an end to native forest logging in the Richmond River catchment, to prevent further degradation of River health?
ANSWER #142: This question should be directed to the Minister for Agriculture.
QUESTION #143: Do you support a 30m riparian buffer for plantations and private native forestry in the Richmond River catchment to prevent further degradation of River health?
ANSWER #143: I am advised: The RA does not have a statutory role in relation to river health. However, nature based solutions are one of many important mitigations that form part of the government's approach to disaster risk reduction.
QUESTION #144: It's been reported that you opposed the Nature Conservation Council's campaign seeking nature-based solutions for Richmond River Flood Mitigation. Can you confirm whether you support or oppose the NCC in this case?

ANSWER #144: I am advised:

As part of the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program (NRRRP) being delivered by RA, several nature-based solutions projects have been funded.

As part of the options assessment for the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan (NR DAP), the efficacy of all options - including nature-based solutions - in reducing flood risk will be assessed.

Nature based solutions are one of many important mitigations that form part of the government's approach to disaster risk reduction.

Questions from the Opposition

SMALL BUSINESS, RECOVERY & NORTH COAST

INSOLVENCIES
QUESTION #145: Will you confirm that NSW recorded 7,643 business insolvencies in FY25, the highest in the country and a 26.2% increase from FY24?
ANSWER #145: I am advised: According to Series 1 ASIC Insolvency Statistics reporting on the number of companies entering into external administration or controller appointments for the first time, NSW recorded a 23 per cent increase compared to FY24. While Series 2 ASIC Insolvency Statistics show a 26 per cent increase in the number of external administrator and controller appointments, including the first, subsequent and transitional appointments, compared to FY24, ASIC recommends the use of Series 1 statistics when explaining trends in corporate business failures as they are a more accurate measure of the number of companies subject to a formal appointment. Companies might appear more than once in Series 2 statistics where they are under more than one form of external administration. Please refer to https://www.asic.gov.au/about-asic/corporate-publications/statistics/insolvency-statistics/how-to-interpret-asic-s-corporate-insolvency-statistics/ for further information.
QUESTION #146: Why do you state insolvencies are “back to pre-pandemic levels” when NSW figures are higher than any other state?
ANSWER #146: I am advised: Pandemic policies delayed the failure of some firms. On a cumulative basis, insolvencies fell below their pre-pandemic trend for an extended period during and immediately following the pandemic (FY21-FY23) and, despite increasing recently, have remained slightly below that trend. Refer to the Graph 4.3.4 in attachments from the Reserve Bank of Australia for further information.
QUESTION #147: What KPI has your Government set to demonstrate a reduction in business insolvencies in FY25–26?
ANSWER #147: I am advised: There are many indicators of the success of the small business sector in NSW, and the rate of business insolvencies is only one. The NSW Government continues to work with the small business community in progressing the six principles of the Charter for Small Business.
QUESTION #148: What programs introduced since March 2023 have reduced business failures, and what evidence is there of measurable impact?
ANSWER #148: I am advised:

Since March 2023 the NSW Government has delivered two key election commitments to support small business – the launch of the Service NSW Business Bureau in October 2023 and the release of the Charter for Small Business in February 2024.

Since the release of the Charter:

- more than 51,000 small businesses are now registered on buy.NSW, where they can sell their goods and services straight to the NSW Government and get paid quickly under the updated Faster Payment Terms Policy.
- more than 800 new small businesses have started up (marking 1.6% growth) through vibrancy reforms.
- more than 850 small businesses have become export-ready and are generating \$212 million in sales through a partnership between Investment NSW and the Business Bureau.
- small businesses have been supported through times of crisis including the Far West power outage, Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the East Coast Severe Weather event.

BUSINESS CONNECT

QUESTION #149: How will the replacement Business Bureau match the nearly 54,000 hours of one-on-one advisory support delivered by Business Connect in 2024–25?

ANSWER #149:

I am advised:

The Service NSW Business Bureau, launched in October 2023, provides navigational support through its Business Concierge services for the lifecycle of a small business. Case management support is provided to assist small businesses navigate regulatory requirements, connect with relevant government programs, services and supports, link in with local networks and events and liaise with councils and agencies on the small business's behalf.

QUESTION #150: Will you table the KPIs measuring Business Connect's effectiveness in improving business survival and growth?

ANSWER #150:

I am advised:

Business Connect performance data will be published in the Service NSW Annual Report 2024/25.

QUESTION #151: How will the Business Bureau guarantee independent, face-to-face advice for businesses in regional NSW?

ANSWER #151:

I am advised:

The Business Bureau provides in person navigational support for regional small businesses across the state through its Business Concierges. Regional Business Concierges work closely with local councils, business chambers and business networks to ensure small businesses are connected to local programs and opportunities as well as referrals to NSW agencies for relevant Government programs, services and supports.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

QUESTION #152: Do you confirm that icare has increased average workers compensation premiums by 8% in 2024–25 and a further 8% in 2025–26?

ANSWER #152:

I am advised:

In 2023, the Minister for Work Health and Safety, Sophie Cotsis directed icare to limit premium increases to an average of 8% for the next three financial years.

This was in response to a recommendation to increase premiums to an average of 20% in 2023.

Incoming briefs received by the then government warned that the nominal insurer was so seriously run down it would not regain financial sustainability without significant premium increases.

The briefings make clear that the primary reason for this is the previous government's refusal to put in place adequate rate increases between 2014 and 2021.

The NSW Government's workers compensation reform bill that is currently before the Parliament is designed to put downward pressure on the scheme. While the Opposition, Greens and Mark Latham continue to block the bill further pressure is placed on the scheme and premiums.

QUESTION #153: What is the Government's premium reduction target for small business premiums in 2026–27?

ANSWER #153:

I am advised:

icare is currently undertaking the analysis to determine if any further premium changes are required. Recommendation for any premium changes, if required, for 2026–2027 will be determined post the 31 December 2025 scheme evaluation.

QUESTION #154: On what dates did you or your office respond to the submissions from NDS, HIA and NIBA warning that your changes would further damage small business viability?

ANSWER #154:

I am advised:

Without the changes to the workers compensation scheme being proposed by the Minns Labor Government, businesses are facing a 36 per cent increase to workers compensation premiums over the next three years. With our proposed changes, the trend in these claim numbers is expected to stabilise.

Our proposed changes have the backing of business groups including Business NSW.

QUESTION #155: Which clauses in your current Bill will directly reduce a small employer's premium in dollar terms in 2025–26?

ANSWER #155:

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Industrial Relations.

ENERGY

QUESTION #156: Do you accept the AER's 2025–26 Default Market Offer determination that small business electricity prices will rise by up to 8.5%?

ANSWER #156:

I am advised:

The Service NSW Business Bureau assists small businesses with cost of business pressures through its free Business Concierge services and digital platform which provide access to a wide range of Government information, services and financial support.

Electricity falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage.

QUESTION #157: Beyond the Commonwealth's \$150 rebate, what specific measures will the NSW Government introduce to address rising energy bills for small business?

ANSWER #157:

I am advised:

The Service NSW Business Bureau provides support for small businesses through its Business Concierge services, which saves small businesses time and money to navigate relevant programs, services and supports such as grants and rebates. The service also includes assistance with applications and follow-ups.

Electricity falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage.

QUESTION #158: Has your Government set a target to reduce small business energy costs over the forward estimates?

ANSWER #158:

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage.

INSURANCE

QUESTION #159: Do you accept that one in three NSW small businesses faced insurance premium increases of 30% or more over the last year?

ANSWER #159:

I am advised:

The NSW Government is pursuing changes to workers compensation to help bring costs down for small businesses.

The NSW Government's workers compensation reform bill that is currently before the Parliament is designed to put downward pressure on the scheme. While the Opposition, Greens and Mark Latham continue to block the bill further pressure is placed on the scheme and premiums.

The Service NSW Business Bureau assists small businesses with rising costs through its Business Concierge services which saves small businesses time and money to navigate relevant programs, services and supports including grants and rebates.

QUESTION #160: Why has reform of the Emergency Services Levy stalled despite it adding up to 30% to small business insurance premiums?
ANSWER #160: I am advised: This is a matter for the Treasurer.
QUESTION #161: Has the Government modelled the cumulative impact of rising insurance costs and the ESL on small business viability? If so, will you table the modelling?
ANSWER#161: I am advised: This is a matter for the Treasurer.

PAYROLL TAX
QUESTION #162: Will you commit to raising the payroll tax threshold to ease the burden on small businesses compared with interstate competitors?
ANSWER #162: I am advised: This is a question for the Treasurer.
QUESTION #163: Has your Government assessed how many jobs are lost each year because payroll tax discourages small businesses from hiring?
ANSWER #163: I am advised: This is a question for the Treasurer.
QUESTION #164: Why has the payroll tax threshold not been indexed to wages or CPI to prevent bracket creep?
ANSWER #164: I am advised: This is a question for the Treasurer.

TOLL RELIEF
QUESTION #165: Do you confirm that under your current policy, only personal toll accounts are eligible for toll relief, with no support for business or fleet toll accounts?
ANSWER #165: I am advised: Toll Relief 40% rebate eligibility included sole traders. For the \$60 weekly cap Toll relief rebate eligibility is limited to personal toll accounts.
QUESTION #166: Why did the Government abolish the Coalition's sole trader toll relief scheme, which provided up to \$1,605 per year?
ANSWER #166: I am advised: Questions on eligibility should be referred to the Minister for Transport.

QUESTION #167: Will you reinstate or extend toll relief eligibility for sole traders and small business fleets?

ANSWER #167:

Please refer to Question 166.

CFMEU MEETINGS

QUESTION # 168: Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

ANSWER # 168

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/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

ETU MEETINGS

QUESTION # 169: Since 28 March 2023, have you met with the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) that was not disclosed in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information?

ANSWER # 169

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/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

MINISTERIAL OFFICES DISCLOSURES TO THE CABINET OFFICE

QUESTION # 170: On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office?

ANSWER # 170

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.

DEPARTMENT(S)/AGENCY(S) EMPLOYEES

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

ANSWER # 171:

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.

QUESTION # 172: Do you have plans to print the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio?

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

ANSWER # 172:

I am advised:

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

STATE RECORDS ACT

QUESTION # 173: Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records

Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?

(a) If yes, when?

ANSWER # 173:

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.

DEPARTMENT(S)/AGENCY(S) GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER

QUESTION # 174: Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?

(a) If yes, is it available online?

i. If yes, what is the website URL?

ANSWER # 174:

I am advised:

All DCS staff are required to comply with their obligations under the Gifts and Benefits Policy. A register of declarations is maintained. The Register is not publicly available online. The RA manages gifts, benefits and hospitality in line with its Code of Ethics and Conduct as well as the supplementary 'Gifts, benefits and hospitality factsheet'. Any gifts, benefits or hospitality offered to RA staff must be declared and are recorded in the register. This register is not publicly available.

MINISTERIAL STAFF DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS AND/OR HOSPITALITY

QUESTION # 175: Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

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

ANSWER # 175

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.

QUESTION # 176:

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

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

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

ANSWER # 176:

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.

MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

QUESTION # 177: Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

ANSWER # 177

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.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE DRIVERS

QUESTION # 178: As at 1 August 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

ANSWER # 178

I am advised:

No senior executives employed by the Department of Customer Service or The NSW Reconstruction Authority have a driver.

GIPA ACT - DISCLOSURE LOG & MINISTERIAL OFFICES

QUESTION # 179: Does your Ministerial Office have a disclosure log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009?

(a) If yes, what is the URL?

ANSWER # 179:

I am advised:

An agency must keep a record called its disclosure log that records information about access applications made to the agency that the agency decides by deciding to provide access to some or all of the information applied for if the information is information that the agency considers may be of interest to other members of the public.

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

ANSWER # 180:

I am advised:

The Department of Customer Service's disclosure log is publicly available at

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

The NSW Reconstruction Authority's disclosure log is publicly available at

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/nsw-reconstruction-authority/about-us/access-to-information#toc-disclosure-log>

The Premier's Department disclosure log is publicly available at

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

TIKTOK

QUESTION # 181: Are you on TikTok?

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

ANSWER # 181:

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.

SIGNAL

QUESTION # 182: Are you on Signal?

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

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

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.

TRAINING

QUESTION # 183: Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an

invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

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

(b) If yes, how much?

ANSWER # 183

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

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY & MINISTERIAL VEHICLE

QUESTION # 184: Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool? (a): If yes, what is the description of training?

(b) If yes, why?

ANSWER # 184

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.

MEDIA RELEASES AND STATEMENTS

QUESTION # 185: Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?

(a) If no, why?

ANSWER # 185

I am advised:

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

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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

ANSWER # 186:

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.

DATA BREACHES

QUESTION # 187: Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?
(a) If yes, what is the website?

ANSWER # 187:

I am advised:

The Cabinet Office and Premier's Department each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act). 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.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

QUESTION # 188: As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?
(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?
(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

ANSWER # 188:

I am advised:

Information about NSW Government grants can be found online.
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>

AIRLINE LOUNGES

QUESTION # 189: Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

ANSWER # 189:

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.

QUESTION # 190: Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?

ANSWER #190:

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.

MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL

QUESTION # 191: Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?

(a) If yes, was this application accepted?

ANSWER # 191:

I am advised:

Ministerial overseas travel information is published online.

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

PRIVATE JET CHARTER

QUESTION # 192: Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your Ministerial capacity?

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

ANSWER # 192:

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>

MINISTERIAL OFFICE RENOVATIONS

QUESTION # 193: Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated?

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

ANSWER # 193:

I am advised:

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

QUESTION # 194: Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?

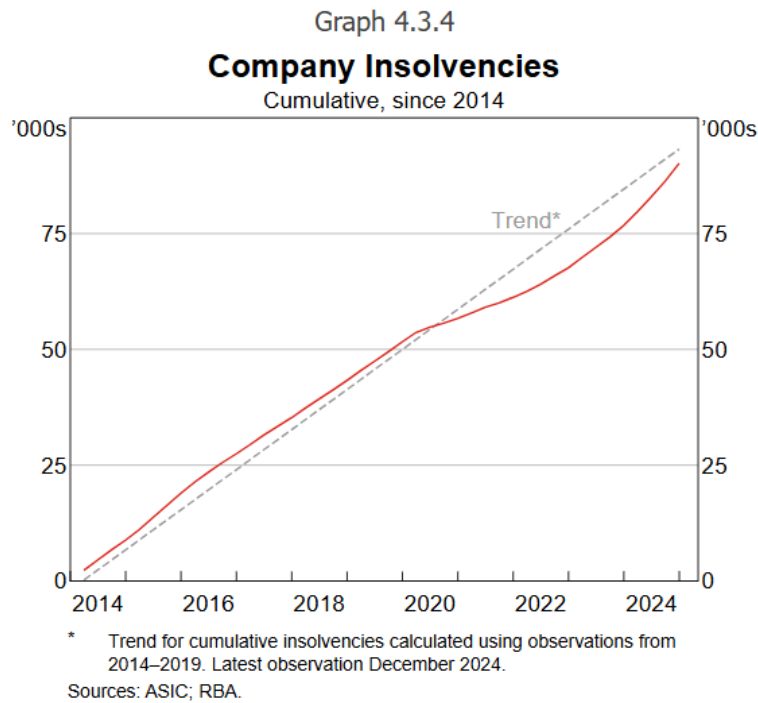
(a) If yes, why?

ANSWER # 194:

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.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 8 – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**SMALL BUSINESS, RECOVERY, NORTH COAST****FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2025****ATTACHMENTS TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS****QUESTION # 146:**

<https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/fsr/2025/apr/focus-topic-the-recent-increase-in-company-insolvencies-and-its-implications-for-financial-stability.html>