

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(337) Can the Minister confirm the current estimated total cost of the Newcastle Basketball Stadium project at New Lambton, and whether the \$82 million figure cited publicly is correct?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(338) What are the main factors that have contributed to the increase in the estimated project cost from \$30 million to \$82 million over the past five years?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(339) What is the current confirmed funding envelope for the project, and how much of that is committed from State Government sources?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(340) Is the Government considering a staged delivery of the stadium due to the funding gap, and if so, what would that staging involve and over what time frame?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(341) Has the Government engaged with the City of Newcastle or other stakeholders about contributing to the remaining funding shortfall?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(342) What is the status of any requests for development contributions to be waived, and how would that affect the project's budget and timeline?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(343) What options are currently being explored to secure the additional funding required to complete the project in full—such as grant funding, public-private partnerships, or reallocation of existing program funds?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(344) Has the project been reassessed under the Government’s current capital prioritisation framework, and where does it sit relative to other regional infrastructure projects?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Newcastle Basketball Stadium – Cost Increase and Funding Strategy

(345) Can the Minister outline the steps being taken to ensure that the rising construction costs do not result in further delays or scope reductions for the project?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the Office of Sport and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stephen Kamper MP.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(346) Is the Minister aware that the City of Newcastle CEO received his full salary—costing ratepayers nearly \$130,000—while undertaking two short courses at Stanford University totalling just 6.5 hours of face-to-face study per week?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(347) Can the Minister advise whether the Government considers it appropriate for a publicly funded council CEO to be absent from his \$513,000-per-year job for nearly a quarter of the year to study entry-level short courses overseas?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(348) What oversight does the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure or the Office of Local Government have regarding council CEO study leave entitlements of this nature, particularly when they are not clearly linked to the CEO's formal duties?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(349) Does the Minister consider short courses at Stanford—such as “Principles of Economics” and “Energy Storage Integration”—an appropriate justification for 12 weeks of paid study leave?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(350) Has the Minister or the Office of Local Government sought clarification from Newcastle Council as to how this arrangement was approved under the “special leave” clause, and whether this process complied with the CEO’s contract and council policies?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(351) Given that former councillors have raised concerns about the approval process, will the Government consider issuing updated guidelines or controls for how paid study leave is administered at the executive level in local government?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(352) Is the Minister aware that the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has referred this matter to the Office of Local Government, and will the Minister commit to tabling the findings of any investigation in the Parliament?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Local Government and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Ron Hoeing MP.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(353) Has the Minister sought advice on whether ratepayer-funded salaries should continue to be paid in full when council executives undertake study leave for non-mandatory, nonaccredited short courses?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

(354) What assessment, if any, has been undertaken to determine the tangible benefit to Newcastle Council or its ratepayers from the CEO's participation in these overseas programs?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Use of Ratepayer Funds – CEO Study Leave

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(355) Given the scale of cost to the public, and the minimal study hours involved, does the Minister believe ratepayers have received value for money from this arrangement?

ANSWER:

This question relates to the City of Newcastle Council and is therefore a matter for the City of Newcastle.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(356) Can the Minister confirm how many of the proposed 3,200 homes in the Broadmeadow Precinct are currently earmarked as affordable or social housing, and how that figure compares to the original commitment?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(357) Have you advocated to the Planning Minister to mandate more affordable housing in the Broadmeadow Precinct?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(358) What methodology was used to determine the affordable housing proportion in the Broadmeadow precinct, and was a 30% target ever formally adopted or costed by the Government?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(359) Does the Government consider a 5–10% affordable housing outcome sufficient for a precinct being built entirely on publicly owned land?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(360) What safeguards are in place to ensure the uplift in land value from government-led rezoning at Broadmeadow is being reinvested into infrastructure and housing affordability, rather than captured by private developers?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(361) What proportion of the homes delivered in Broadmeadow will be suitable for essential workers, single-income families, and fixed-income households in the region?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(362) Has Infrastructure NSW or the Hunter Central Coast Development Corporation modelled how affordable housing targets will impact infrastructure cost recovery or local government contributions in the precinct?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Broadmeadow Precinct – Affordable Housing and Use of Public Land

(363) What proportion of infrastructure delivery in Broadmeadow—such as transport, utilities and public spaces—will be publicly funded, and how does this affect the expected return on publicly owned land?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(364) Minister, why is the Minns Labor Government proceeding with the sale of public land at Warabrook that was previously reserved for the Wallsend to Mayfield arterial corridor?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(365) Can you confirm whether any transport modelling has been conducted to assess the longterm need for this land in light of population growth in western Newcastle and the completion of the Inner City Bypass?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(366) What engagement has occurred with Newcastle City Council before including this land in the Government's "surplus" public land disposal list?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(367) Why is the Government ignoring Council's formal request to pause the sale until its strategic road reserve review is complete?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(368) Is it responsible to declare this land "surplus" when Maud Street, the main alternative route, already experiences congestion and is restricted by a single-lane rail overpass?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(369) Has your department costed the future upgrades that would be required to Maud Street and surrounding roads if this land is sold and the arterial route permanently abandoned?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(370) Minister, do you accept the argument made by both Newcastle’s Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor that selling this land now is “short-sighted” and compromises the city’s longterm infrastructure planning?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(371) Will you table any documentation or briefings from Transport for NSW justifying the claim that this land is no longer required for future road development?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(372) Given the Government is calling for urban densification, how do you justify reducing future road corridor capacity in a growing regional centre like Newcastle?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(373) 230. Is the Minns Labor Government prioritising short-term revenue over long-term infrastructure needs by selling off road reserves that were originally set aside for major arterial links?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(374) What is the estimated value of the parcels at 22 Angophora Drive and 496 Maitland Road, and what portion of that will be reinvested in Newcastle's transport infrastructure?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Proposed Sale of Warabrook Road Reserve Land

(375) Will you commit to halting the sale of this land until a full and independent infrastructure needs assessment has been conducted in consultation with locals?

ANSWER:

This question relates to roads and land managed by Transport for NSW, and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(376) Can the Minister confirm whether the NSW Government has received formal requests from Lake Macquarie City Council for funding or support to deliver the long-promised Cardiff town park, first proposed in 2007?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(377) Is the Minister aware that the original public parkland was sold to facilitate commercial development in 2009, and that a replacement park has still not been delivered more than 15 years later?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(378) What discussions has the Minister or the Department had with Lake Macquarie City Council regarding land acquisition costs for the proposed park site between Kelton and Veronica Streets?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(379) Given that the estimated cost of land acquisition and construction exceeds \$2.6 million, does the Government consider this project deliverable within the current local infrastructure contributions framework?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(380) Has the Minister advocated for any review into the broader use of s7.11 contributions in the Glendale/Cardiff catchment to ensure contributions are being directed toward high-need infrastructure such as local parks?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(381) How does the Minister respond to concerns from residents that planning decisions and population growth in Cardiff have not been matched by delivery of local public amenities?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(382) What role does the Government see for public open space in supporting liveability in medium-density infill areas like Cardiff, and how is this reflected in infrastructure prioritisation?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(383) Can the Minister provide a timeline for when funding, design and delivery of the new town park are expected to be finalised, and what coordination is underway with Council?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

(384) Is the Government considering any changes to the infrastructure contributions system to support faster delivery of local parks in growing areas where land values have escalated?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.

Cardiff Town Park – Delayed Delivery and Use of Public Contributions

Minister for the Hunter – Supplementary Questions

(385) Does the Minister support the principle that when public open space is sold off for development, there should be a clear and enforceable commitment to replacing it within a defined timeframe?

ANSWER:

This question relates to Planning and is therefore a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon. Paul Scully MP.