



BUDGET ESTIMATES 2025–26

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage Portfolios

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Answers to Supplementary Questions

Hearing: 24 February 2026

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, Heritage Portfolio

Questions from Dr Amanda Cohn MLC

Plastics

1	<p>In the hearing on 25 February, the Minister stated that “I think we need to, obviously, minimise where there is microplastics going into the water. We have got a whole range of actions that we are undertaking in relation to it.” What actions are the Government taking relating specifically to reducing microplastics entering NSW waterways?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government has committed \$38 million to litter prevention over five years, as part of the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041. Plastic litter items that end up in our waterways can break down into smaller pieces, resulting in microplastics.</p> <p>The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) delivers targeted projects within the Litter Prevention Strategy that address microplastics. Operation Clean Sweep, a commitment under the NSW Plastics Action Plan, provided education and guidance to plastics manufacturers to prevent plastic pellet leakage into the environment. In late 2025, the EPA moved into a compliance phase, piloting Pellet Patrol, an unannounced compliance campaign targeting plastic feedstock loss in partnership with local councils.</p> <p>The EPA is delivering the Streets to Sea program, an initiative aimed at reducing litter flow from urban areas into waterways and the marine environment through catchment-based interventions.</p> <p>In November 2025, the NSW Government introduced the NSW Plastics Plan 2.0 with actions to phase out unnecessary and problematic plastics and to increase the reuse, recycling, and proper disposal of highly littered plastic items. This will prevent plastic items from entering waterways, where they break down into microplastics.</p> <p>The NSW Plastics Plan 2.0 also includes actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• phase out plastics containing additives that cause them to fragment more easily into microplastics• phase out plastic microbeads in all rinse-off cleaning products• require washing machines to meet a national microfibre filter standard to reduce the release of plastic microfibres into wastewater.
2	<p>Does the department collect data on the presence of polystyrene foam in NSW waterways?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Yes, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), in partnership with the EPA, collects data on littered items from estuaries in urban NSW through the Key Littered Items Study. A report is published annually on the EPA website which includes polystyrene littered items (e.g. takeaway packaging) that are found in samples in urban estuaries along the NSW coast.</p> <p>DCCEEW has also developed the Broadscale Microplastic Assessment, released on 12 March 2026. The assessment surveyed 120 estuaries in NSW, which includes data on polystyrene microplastics.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, to what extent does polystyrene foam appear?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In the Key Littered Items Study, polystyrene litter has been gradually reducing in number since the survey first started in 2017.</p> <p>On average, polystyrene littered items make up 0.17% of the total items measured as part of the Key Littered Items Study in 2024–25.</p> <p>The Broadscale Microplastic Assessment, released on 12 March 2026, provides further insight into how polystyrene items are breaking up and their impact on microplastics. The Assessment found that foam makes up 37% of all items found.</p>
(b)	<p>Is its presence considered common or high risk?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Expanded polystyrene items are considered problematic, as they are difficult to recycle and, if littered, can easily break apart and be transported by wind and water, posing a threat to environmental and social values.</p>
3	<p>How will damaged or end-of-life synthetic turf be managed in line with the Government’s intention to design waste carefully and increase recycling under the Plastics Plan 2.0?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In June 2023, the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer released a report on the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open spaces.</p> <p>The NSW Government is taking a whole-of-government approach, led by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), to implementing a series of recommendations which encompass synthetic turf’s life cycle and regulatory environment, including actions related to sustainability and end-of-life considerations.</p>

Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Early policy development

4	<p>On what date did the Minister or Department first receive advice regarding the potential use of closed or closing coal mines for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) pumped hydro;(b) large-scale water storage; or(c) other energy infrastructure? <p>Answer</p> <p>The concept of repurposing former mine sites for new infrastructure, including pumped hydro energy storage, has been in the public domain for some time.</p>
5	<p>Were any such briefings received prior to June 2023 in relation to the Hunter Valley or Mt Arthur Coal Mine?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 4.</p>
6	<p>What distinction does the Department draw between exploratory concepts and proposals requiring formal consultation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>DCCEEW is not a consent authority under the NSW planning system.</p>

Consultation and sequencing

7	<p>What safeguards ensure that energy-transition concepts are not perceived as pre-determined prior to land-use reform and community consultation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.</p>
8	<p>Has guidance been issued regarding sequencing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) energy feasibility work;(b) mine-closure planning; and(c) community engagement? <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 7.</p>

Integrity and coordination

9	<p>What controls ensure that climate and energy policy development relies on properly disclosed and lawfully obtained information?</p>
---	--

	<p>Answer</p> <p>The Department’s Records and Information Management Policy applies to all aspects of the Department’s operations, including the development of climate and energy policy.</p>
10	<p>Is there a whole-of-government protocol governing inter-agency communication on mine-site energy-transition opportunities?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is being progressed through Recommendation 5 of the Standing Committee on State Development inquiry into beneficial and productive post-mining land use.</p>

Questions from the Hon Tania Mihailuk MLC

Net Zero Commission Governance arrangements

11	<p>Given that section 12 (2) of the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 states “The Commission is a NSW Government agency”, why does the Net Zero Commission not appear in the category of “NSW Government Agency” in NSW Treasury’s GSF Agency List Guide - March 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NSW Treasury periodically publishes updates to the GSF Act agency list. There was an oversight that led to the Net Zero Commission not appearing on the list. This will be rectified in the latest update.</p>
12	<p>Given that section 12 (2) of the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 states “The Commission is a NSW Government agency”, can you please advise:</p>
(a)	<p>The date that either you, or responsible person representing the Commission, notified the Treasurer and Auditor General of the establishment of the Commission as a NSW Government agency in accordance with section 2.8 of the Government Sector Finance Act 2018?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Written notice to the Treasurer is not required if the establishment of a GSF agency is by a provision of an Act. The Department is discussing requirements with the NSW Audit Office for the 2025–26 financial year.</p>
(b)	<p>If this notification did not occur, the reason why?</p> <p>i. Whether there is an intent to make the notification since 24 February 2026?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 12 (a).</p>
13	<p>Is the Net Zero Commission’s Annual Report 2024 in compliance with Treasury’s TPG25-10 Framework for Financial and Annual Reporting?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Under the <i>Government Sector Finance Act 2018, Corporations (New South Wales) Act 1990</i> and Accounting Standards, the Net Zero Commission is a Group 3 controlled entity under TPG25-10. In line with TPG25-10 requirements, the 2024–25 financials were consolidated in the Department’s financial statements and expenditure of the Net Zero Commission is disclosed in the Climate Change Fund Annual Report 2024–25.</p>
(a)	<p>If yes:</p> <p>i. Which TPG25-10 reporting Group is the Net Zero Commission?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Under TPG25-10, the Net Zero Commission is in Group 3.</p>
14	<p>According to page 36 of the Uncorrected Transcript, you said “The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: It's the same as the heritage part of DCCEEW. But we're happy to give you the numbers”. According to the NSW Treasury’s GSF Agency List Guide - March 2025, the Heritage Council of NSW appears listed as a “NSW Government Agency” in accordance with section 7 of the Heritage Act 1997 which says “The Heritage Council is a NSW Government agency”.</p> <p>(a) If the Net Zero Commission is, as per your evidence, the same Government Sector Agency category as Heritage, why has the Net Zero Commission’s Annual Report failed to include information in its annual report in compliance with ‘TPG25-10c Group 3 - Financial Information Return’, including the reporting categories of “Management and Accountability” and “Financial Performance” as reflected in the 2024–25 Annual Report of the Heritage Council of NSW, published by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on behalf of the Heritage Council?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Please refer to the answer to supplementary question 13.</p>
15	<p>Did you approve a brief to publish the Net Zero Commission’s 2024 Annual Report?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Under the <i>Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023</i>, the Net Zero Commission is responsible for the approval of the report.</p> <p>The Minister has a statutory obligation to table the report in both houses of Parliament within 28 days of receipt (section 20 of the <i>Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act</i>).</p>
16	<p>When will the 2025 Net Zero Commission Annual Report be released?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>It will be provided to the Minister for Climate Change by 1 July 2026, in accordance with the statutory deadline in section 21 of the <i>Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act</i>.</p>
17	<p>Have you approved a brief relating to the 2025 Net Zero Commission Annual Report?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
18	<p>Will the 2025 Net Zero Commission Annual Report comply with TPG25-10c</p>

	<p>Group 3 - Financial Information Return, including the reporting categories of “Management and Accountability” and “Financial Performance” as reflected in the 2024–25 Annual Report of the Heritage Council of NSW, published by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on behalf of the Heritage Council?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Net Zero Commission is a Group 3 agency and will comply with the requirements of TPG25-10 and the Australia Accounting Standards for its reporting obligation in 2025–26.</p>
19	<p>Did the Secretary (or any other officer) from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water approve a brief to publish the Net Zero Commission’s 2024 Annual Report?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Senior Departmental officers approved a brief to the Minister for Climate Change to advise on fulfilling the statutory obligation to table the report in both houses of Parliament within 28 days of receipt (section 20 of the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act). Under the Act, the Net Zero Commission is responsible for the approval of the report.</p>
20	<p>What was the budget of the Net Zero Commission for FY24/25?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$4.8 million.</p>
(a)	<p>Can you please advise the breakdown of expenses for the following categories:</p>
i.	<p>Employee expenses;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$3,250,004. This does not include Commissioner sitting fees which are calculated as operational expenses.</p>
ii.	<p>Office hire;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$0.</p>
iii.	<p>Domestic Travel;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$47,403.</p>
iv.	<p>Overseas Travel;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$0.</p>

v.	Marketing; Answer \$0.
vi.	Engagement of consultants. Answer \$0.

Coal Mining Emissions Spotlight Report

21	Were external consultants used to develop the Net Zero Commission's Coal Mining Emissions Spotlight Report? Answer No.
(a)	If yes, please advise: i. The name of each consultant ii. The cost of engaging each consultant Answer Not applicable.
22	Of the 6.7 million allocated to the Commission as part of the 2025/26 Budget, how much was expended to produce the Coal Mining Emissions Spotlight Report? Answer The report was delivered within the Commission's existing staffing budget. The Commission spent an estimated \$30,000 of its 2025–26 OPEX budget to produce the report.

Microplastics Assessment Research Project

23	When will the outcome of the Science division of DCCEEW's microplastics assessment research project be released? Answer The NSW Broadscale Microplastics Assessment of coastal waters was released on 12 March 2026.
(a)	Will a copy of this report be tabled in Parliament? Answer No, this report is not planned to be tabled in Parliament, but it has been

	<p>publicly released.</p> <p>The NSW Broadscale Microplastics Assessment Technical Report and Report Card are publicly available on the EPA website, and a dashboard of the raw data is publicly accessible on SEED.</p>
(b)	<p>If not, then why not?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The report is publicly available on the EPA website. It is not a statutory report but the report from a research project.</p>
24	<p>For each Metropolitan Sydney river estuary, please advise each date that a water quality assessment/monitoring checks was conducted for each river in 2025 and 2026 to date:</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Most NSW estuaries including those in the Sydney Metropolitan region are sampled as part of DCCEEWS statewide estuary water quality monitoring program which concentrates one specific coastal region (North, South or Central NSW) each year. Sampling is conducted between November and April. The Central Zone (including the Sydney Metropolitan region) is being sampled this financial year.</p> <p>DCCEEWS also has contracts to support some councils to increase spatial and temporal coverage in their local government areas (LGA) in various ways. For the Northern Beaches LGA within the Sydney Metropolitan region, DCCEEWS does not conduct its own sampling but rather supports the council's program through the provision of advice, equipment, sample and data analysis, and reporting. As of 2026, the Northern Beaches Council has changed their program to year-round sampling rather than a summer focus. Estuaries within the Northern Beaches LGA are identified with (*).</p>
(a)	<p>Botany Bay</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The wider Botany Bay receiving water is not sampled by the DCCEEWS program, which focuses on the tributary estuaries.</p>
(b)	<p>Cooks River</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>3/11/25, 27/11/25, 20/01/26, 16/02/26.</p>
(c)	<p>Curl Curl Lagoon (*)</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>2024/2025: Sampling was conducted in the first and third weeks of each</p>

	<p>month from November to April.</p> <p>2026: Sampling now occurs in the first week of each month, year-round.</p>
(d)	<p>Dee Why Lagoon (*)</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>2024/2025: Sampling was conducted in the first and third weeks of each month from November to April.</p> <p>2026: Sampling now occurs in the first week of each month, year-round.</p>
(e)	<p>Georges River</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>3/11/25, 26/11/25, 20/01/26, 16/02/25.</p>
(f)	<p>Lane Cove River</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>28/10/25, 17/12/25, 21/01/26, 20/02/2026.</p>
(g)	<p>Manly Lagoon (*)</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>2024/2025: Sampling was conducted in the first and third weeks of each month from November to April.</p> <p>2026: Sampling now occurs in the first week of each month, year-round.</p>
(h)	<p>Middle Harbour Creek</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>28/10/25, 17/12/25, 21/01/26, 20/02/2026.</p>
(i)	<p>Narrabeen Lagoon (*)</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>2024/2025: Sampling was conducted in the first and third weeks of each month from November to April.</p> <p>2026: Sampling now occurs in the first week of each month, year-round.</p>
(j)	<p>Parramatta River</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>28/10/25, 17/12/25, 21/01/26, 20/02/2026.</p>
(k)	<p>Pittwater (*)</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>2024/2025: Sampling was conducted in the first and third weeks of each</p>

	<p>month from November to April.</p> <p>2026: Sampling now occurs in the first week of each month, year-round.</p>
(l)	<p>Port Hacking</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>3/11/25, 26/11/25, 20/01/26,16/02/25.</p>
(m)	<p>Sydney Harbour?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>21/01/26.</p>
25	<p>Will future assessments/monitoring checks of Metropolitan Sydney river estuaries include an assessment of the presence of microplastics? If not, then why not?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government will consider ongoing monitoring of microplastics in waterways across NSW, including Metropolitan Sydney, to inform action as part of future stages of plastics regulation, following the implementation of the NSW Plastics Plan 2.0.</p>

Cost Benefit Analysis of Container Deposit Scheme refund rate

26	<p>Has a project to conduct a cost benefit analysis of increasing the refund rate for the NSW Container Deposit Scheme commenced?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(a)	<p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On which date did the project commence? ii. When is the anticipated completed date? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>If no:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When will this project commence? <p>Answer</p> <p>This is a significant initiative, needing thorough analysis. The EPA is speaking to its counterparts in other states and territories to establish the project, as there is value in state and territory governments adopting a harmonised approach to progress this matter. The EPA is happy to update the Member when the cost benefit analysis begins.</p>

Questions from the Hon John Ruddick MLC

New England REZ Transmission Project - Planning Integrity and Governance

27	<p>Will the Minister release a full breakdown of the \$200 million in taxpayer funds expended on the "Western" corridor for the New England REZ transmission project, detailing why desktop modelling failed to identify basic terrain constraints for two years?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) has not published such cost information. Costs associated with the route alignment form part of EnergyCo's overall development costs for the project. This is typical for route refinements on a major linear infrastructure project which are common during the development phase (including for the Central-West Orana REZ under the previous government).</p>
28	<p>Does the Minister admit that bypassing the 30-day consultation period for the Draft 2024 ISP in breach of NER 5.22.15(c) renders the current "optimal development path" legally and technically unvalidated?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The consultation process for the Draft 2024 Integrated System Plan (ISP), including the applicable consultation periods, is a matter for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as the responsible body under the Rules.</p>
29	<p>Why was the Western corridor designated the "optimal pathway" in July 2024 if subsequent 2025 studies found it to be characterized by "unmanageable risks"?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published the Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report in November 2025, which outlines the process and analysis underpinning the decision to move the corridor. The report can be found at: www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/NE%20REZ_Bulk%20Corridor%20Design%20Refinement%20Report_Nov25.pdf.</p>
30	<p>Will EnergyCo release the unredacted "unit-cost per kilometer" data and Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) scoring comparing the Gundy route to the rejected "Stock Route" (TSR) alternatives?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025) outlines how the Aberbaldie-Niangala Stock Reserve route was considered in EnergyCo's analysis.</p> <p>Cost information is commercially sensitive while EnergyCo is in a live</p>

	procurement for the New England REZ network operator.
31	<p>How much of the \$2.1 billion state commitment for REZ transmission has already been spent on "sunk costs" for projects that have yet to reach a Final Investment Decision (FID)?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The \$2.1 billion Transmission Acceleration Facility investment over the next four years (from FY 2025–26) are all recoverable costs to speed up the delivery of new transmission projects by funding early work in the zones, along with funding early community and employment benefit schemes. These costs are recoverable from network operators at contract execution and generator access fees.</p>
32	<p>Why did EnergyCo designate a "preferred study corridor" in 2024 if it lacked "less than zero evidence" of its constructability in person, as stated by EnergyCo engineers at the November 2025 Gundy hall meeting?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published the Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report in November 2025 which outlines the process and analysis underpinning the decision to move the corridor.</p>
33	<p>Will the Minister release the "rejected alternatives" dossier for the Upper Hunter to prove that political interests did not influence the pivot away from previous routes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025) outlines the process and analysis underpinning this decision.</p> <p>The New England Renewable Energy Zone Network Infrastructure Project: Revised Scoping Report (December 2025) also includes information about route design options considered through the corridor refinement process to date (Appendix A). The revised scoping report can be found at: majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSI-74175972%2120251219T014244.011%20GMT.</p>

New England REZ Transmission Project - Bushfire Safety

34	<p>Can the Minister provide a log of all requests from the RFS to de-energize high voltage lines during the 2019–20 Upper Hunter bushfires, and explain why requests were denied to prevent blackouts in Sydney?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Department does not maintain a log of de-energisation requests to Transgrid.</p>
----	---

	<p>In January 2025, the NSW Operational Guidelines for Bush Fire Electricity Security was published to the relevant parties. It outlines processes to confirm de-energisation and re-energisation between the relevant network authority and the firefighting authority.</p>
35	<p>Since 500 kV lines can be turned off "remotely and instantly," why were 65 separate arcing and flashover events permitted to occur during Black Summer rather than deenergizing the lines proactively?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be directed to Transgrid as the relevant network operator.</p>
36	<p>Who holds the final authority to deny an RFS Incident Controller's request to de-energize a 500 kV line and what is the mandated timeframe for this decision?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A network operator's decision to de-energise a powerline must consider the requirements of Clause 6 of the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 to ensure safety. The operational guidelines make clear that a teleconference should be held between the relative fire incident controller and the network service provider, and other relevant parties.</p>
37	<p>Has the government conducted a "Life vs. Load" audit to determine how many rural properties were destroyed or lives endangered because transmission lines remained live to satisfy energy demand in urban areas?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
38	<p>Given the 2009 Victorian Royal Commission findings on electrical asset failure, does the NSW Government accept full legal liability for any "moral hazard" created by refusing to de-energize lines during a fire?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No. The NSW Government imposes strict requirements on transmission network owners through licence conditions and the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 to maintain and protect transmission lines at risk of bushfires and to ensure operational arrangements are in place to reduce fire risks.</p>
39	<p>What technical evidence confirms that RFS ground crews can safely defend properties within the 25-meter "no-go" arcing zone of the proposed 500 kV lines?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) sets the operational procedures used by</p>

	<p>firefighters and these include guidance on firefighting around power line easements. Questions about these procedures should be referred to RFS.</p>
40	<p>EnergyCo admits 500 kV lines block "aerial firefighting" at Lake Glenbawn; does the Minister admit that moving these lines into the Gundy valley creates a new "aerial no-fly zone" over residential homes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Aerial activities can continue around transmission lines as they are clearly visible from the air. Waterbombing can continue around transmission lines in accordance with RFS and Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulations.</p> <p>The revised transmission corridor along the eastern edge of Lake Glenbawn is not expected to obstruct aerial firefighting operations by water-scooping fixed wing aircraft.</p>
41	<p>Has the government modelled the "intolerable" risk of flashover caused by smoke conductivity on 500 kV lines, as identified by Professor Alex Baitch, and what technical mitigations prevent these lines from igniting secondary fires?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has designed the project in accordance with Australian standards and technical guidelines to ensure the safe operation of the network.</p>
42	<p>In the event of a smoke-induced flashover, what is the protocol for "automatic reclosing," and has the government modelled how many secondary fire ignitions this process has caused historically?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has designed the project in accordance with Australian standards and technical guidelines to ensure the safe operation of the network.</p>
43	<p>Will the NSW Government provide a full indemnity to landowners whose properties cannot be defended by the RFS due to the presence of 500 kV infrastructure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo and the future network operator will work with RFS and landowners to develop property-specific risk mitigation strategies through the construction and operation of the project.</p>

New England REZ Transmission Project - Economic Rationality

44	<p>Why does the ISP model continue to exclude the full system costs of distributed energy resources (DER) and home batteries?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is a question for AEMO. AEMO is responsible for developing, consulting on</p>
----	--

	and publishing the methodology it uses to prepare the ISP.
45	<p>Why are "Return on Capital" metrics for network operators redacted in public summary reports, and what is the guaranteed revenue stream for the operator?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Project costs, including return on capital assumptions, are commercial-in-confidence while EnergyCo is undertaking a live procurement process for the New England REZ network operator.</p> <p>Final project costs and the approved revenue allowance will be published once the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) makes its revenue determination.</p>
46	<p>Can the Minister confirm that as of February 2026, zero large-scale renewable generation projects have reached a Final Investment Decision (FID) within the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are five operational large-scale projects within the New England REZ geographical boundary with 977 MW of generation capacity. One of these projects, New England Solar Farm, is currently being expanded to include a 400 MWh battery energy storage system.</p>
47	<p>Has the government investigated the "renewable catchment" model, centering generation near load centers (Sydney/Newcastle) to avoid the estimated \$9 billion in transition costs for interconnectors?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>I am not aware of the specific model referred to in the question. If you have further information, please provide it to my office.</p>
48	<p>Does the government maintain that the NSW Roadmap is still on track to deliver lower cost electricity given the 50% cost blowouts in projects like HumeLink?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes. The CSIRO's GenCost 2025–26 Consultation draft report (released 17 December 2025), finds that the "combination of solar PV, onshore wind, storage and either natural gas or hydrogen was the least cost technology mix in all cases examined."</p>
49	<p>Why did EnergyCo determine that ACERREZ, rather than Transgrid, should take responsibility for system strength procurement, and how does this serve consumer interests under NER clause S5.1.14?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo determined that ACERREZ, as the REZ Network Operator, should</p>

	<p>procure system strength services because the requirement arises directly from the design and operation of the Central-West Orana REZ network and its connecting generators. Procuring these services through ACERREZ enables an integrated, coordinated solution across multiple generators rather than fragmented project-by-project remediation.</p> <p>This approach supports compliance with the National Electricity Rules, clause S5.1.14, by ensuring adequate system strength while delivering the least-cost, most efficiently coordinated solution, which is in the long-term interests of electricity consumers.</p>
--	--

New England REZ Transmission Project - Biosecurity and Road Safety

50	<p>Is the Minister aware of the 2007-2008 Rouchel anthrax outbreak, and what property-by-property soil testing has been conducted to prevent unearthing spores during the excavation of 1,318 high voltage transmission towers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is aware of historical anthrax outbreaks in the Upper Hunter region near Rouchel and takes this risk seriously.</p> <p>An Anthrax Risk Assessment and Management Strategy is being prepared as part of the project’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This will include consultation with affected landowners to identify known burn or burial sites and establish property-specific biosecurity protocols to manage risks during investigation and construction activities.</p>
51	<p>How will EnergyCo fulfill its general biosecurity duty under the Biosecurity Act 2015 while moving 126,000 trucks of potentially contaminated soil through a historical anthrax zone?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EIS will include an assessment of biosecurity risks and will outline measures to avoid, minimise and manage any biosecurity impacts in accordance with the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. The EIS will include an Anthrax Risk Assessment and Management Strategy outlining specific measures relating to anthrax, which will be informed by consultation with affected landowners. The EIS will be lodged for assessment and public exhibition in the second half of 2026.</p>
52	<p>Does the Minister accept that a single anthrax detection would result in an immediate quarantine of the Gundy valley, leading to billions in economic damage to the Scone Equine Cluster?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo recognises the seriousness of concerns raised regarding anthrax risk. EnergyCo is consulting with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and preparing an Anthrax Risk Assessment and</p>

	Management Strategy as part of the EIS. This will assess potential risks in detail and outline measures to avoid, minimise and manage any anthrax risks and biosecurity impacts during construction and operation.
53	<p>What is the proposed protocol for decontaminating 126,000 heavy vehicles moving between potentially infected properties and public roads?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 51.</p>
54	<p>Does the Minister accept that 126,000 heavy vehicle movements on narrow rural roads represents a potentially catastrophic road safety failure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is working closely with road authorities to assess impacts to local and state roads from the transmission project and the broader REZ as a whole. Roads may be upgraded where needed to ensure safety and reduce disruption for road users and communities, including sealing and widening, pullover bays, signage and intersection improvements.</p>
55	<p>Will the Minister commit to requiring "Rehabilitation Bonds" from REZ developers to ensure communities are not left with industrial dereliction if projects collapse?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government is currently working with the Australian Government and other states and territories to explore options to improve decommissioning outcomes. This work will consider measures adopted by other jurisdictions and national bodies, including decommissioning bonds.</p>

New England REZ Transmission Project - Environmental and Cumulative Impacts

56	<p>Has EnergyCo studied the migratory flight paths of the vulnerable Eastern Bent-winged bat between the Timor and Barry Cave systems, and what is the projected impact of infrastructure collision?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is investigating alignment options which will avoid environmentally sensitive karst systems at Timor and Barry. An EIS is being developed which will provide a detailed assessment of threatened species and habitat in the project area, such as the Eastern Bent-winged bat, as well as proposed measures to avoid and minimise any potential impacts.</p>
57	<p>Why was the Timor Caves karst habitat, a critical biodiversity constraint, omitted from initial REZ assessments until the late-stage pivot in October 2025?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Timor Caves was well outside the previously identified study area for the transmission lines and therefore was not included in earlier assessments. If the caves were close to the study corridor, EnergyCo would have considered them.</p>
58	<p>Will the Minister release the timeline for the delivery of the New England REZ cumulative impact study, which was promised for release in Q4 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published the New England Regional Major Infrastructure Studies on 9 December 2025.</p>
59	<p>How many hectares of critical Koala habitat will be fragmented by the new 305 km corridor through the Upper Hunter?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>By revising the corridor, EnergyCo has reduced the area of mapped koala habitat from 4,100 hectares in the previous corridor to 3,600 hectares in the revised corridor. This will be further refined as EnergyCo develops the design and environmental assessments for the project.</p>
60	<p>Will the government mandate "smart curtailment" strategies for wind farms to mitigate the risk of blade strike to bat populations foraging up to 7 km from Timor Caves?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There is a suite of mitigation measures that can be used to reduce turbine strikes. These measures are usually documented in a Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan that is required as part of the approval of a wind farm project.</p> <p>This is a matter for DPHI as the planning authority for renewable energy developments.</p>

New England REZ Transmission Project - Consultation Process

61	<p>Does the Minister accept that a 48-hour window to review six critical technical design documents released on December 10, 2025, constitutes a total failure of meaningful consultation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Consultation on the revised transmission corridor between Muswellbrook and Walcha was open for 10 weeks from 2 October to 12 December 2025 and included 12 community information sessions across the region.</p> <p>The Regional Major Infrastructure Studies were published on 9 December 2025, with community feedback invited through a survey open</p>
----	---

until 3 April 2026.

Mount Warning

62	<p>Minister, Congratulations again for re-opening the Mount Warning summit track. You have publicly said this will re-open in July 2027. This is a long time away for this suffering community.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The closure of the Wollumbin (Mount Warning) summit and track has been extended until 30 June 2027 to enable the consideration of practically safe and culturally appropriate options for reopening.</p> <p>There is currently no safe access available to the Wollumbin summit. The summit track poses a safety risk to members of the public without installing new infrastructure.</p>
(a)	<p>What is the cost of the repairs to the track going to be?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The summit track currently poses a significant safety risk to members of the public without installing new infrastructure. The exact type of infrastructure required to access the summit has yet to be determined and will need to go through detailed planning and engineering processes. Accurate costings can only be provided once this work is completed.</p>
(b)	<p>Will the arrangements for access be the same as before or will there be a pay to play in place? If so, who will be managing that scheme and where will the proceeds go?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is considering practically safe and culturally appropriate options for reopening the summit track.</p>
(c)	<p>What happens to any outstanding fines that have been issued to rule breakers already?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Wollumbin summit track and Aboriginal Place are currently closed areas of Wollumbin National Park until 30 June 2027 under clause 6(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. It is an offence to enter an area of national park that has been closed under this clause.</p> <p>NPWS will continue to take appropriate action in relation to any individuals who enter the part of the park closed to the public. This may include the issue of a penalty notice under clause 6(2) of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019. Any outstanding fines will need to be paid.</p>

(d)	<p>What led to this change? Did the Wollumbin Consultative Group think it was the right action or was this a government decision in defiance of the Wollumbin Consultative Group?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government is committed to working with the Wollumbin Consultative Group to progress a strengthened joint management partnership for Wollumbin National Park, to ensure that Aboriginal Owners are central to the park’s future and can benefit from future visitation and tourism activities within the park.</p>
-----	--

Energy shortfalls

63	<p>Figures from Deloitte published an article from the Sydney Morning Herald published on the 10th of February show that \$52 billion has been or is about to be invested in data centres across Australia. This has more than doubled in the six months prior to publication when that figure was \$23 billion. What is the average energy consumption of a large data center? Are your renewables able to cope with their expected energy needs.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Large data centres do not have a meaningful “average” electricity use because their consumption varies widely with design and operational load.</p> <p>Additional investment in energy infrastructure will be needed to meet higher demand over time.</p>
----	--

Strategic Benefits Payment Scheme

64	<p>What is the latest information on the tax implications of the Strategic Benefits Payment Scheme? Are transmission lines still considered as income or have you managed to successfully lobby your federal counterparts so the payments are considered compensation like your media releases show they should be?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Under current Australian Government taxation law, Strategic Benefit Payments are treated as assessable income.</p> <p>NSW is working with the Australian Government to explore options to reduce these impacts and enhance benefits for host landholders.</p>
65	<p>During the Second Reading debate into the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Facilities (Prohibitions) Repeal Bill 2025 Minister Houssos cited environmental concerns with regards to uranium mining. How come South Australia has effectively managed these concerns and we are too timid to experiment?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Natural Resources.</p>

Yanga National Park

66	<p>Local residents near Balranald have formed the Yabba for Yanga action group, calling for a feasibility study into a dual-use model for Yanga National Park. Their proposal would allow the upper section of the park to host environmentally responsible commercial activities to generate revenue, while the lower section is preserved for cultural, heritage, and tourism purposes. No activity other than recreational use is currently permitted.</p> <p>In 2025–26, has any funding been allocated or spent or in 2026–27 is any funding proposed for a feasibility study at Yanga National Park to assess a dual-use management model that would zone parts of the park for sustainable forestry and parts for cultural, heritage and tourism purposes, to support environmental sustainability, economic viability and community engagement? If so, please advise:</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Management of Yanga National Park is guided by the Plan of Management which was adopted in 2020. The plan is broadly consistent with Yabba for Yanga’s recommendations on zoning regarding higher use areas for heritage, cultural and tourism in the southern sections of the park. There are numerous camping opportunities at Yanga. Extraction of timber for commercial purposes is not permissible under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p>
(a)	<p>the amount (by financial year);</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>the lead agency (and any partner agencies); and</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>the expected start and completion dates.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
67	<p>Will the Minister guarantee that any feasibility study includes genuine consultation with the Balranald and Murray communities to ensure the proposal reflects local needs? Murray knows its needs better than Macquarie.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No feasibility study has been commissioned.</p>

Net Zero

68	<p>Stephen Anthony is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra and stated in the Daily Telegraph “Australia needs wind energy to rise from about 14GW to 68GW, solar from 20GW to 66GW and storage to increase seven times to 55GW. All to replace just 23GW of existing (baseload) coal generation”</p> <p>Has anything comparable like this ever occurred in the world?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>It is unclear what period the article is referring to, or which demand projections its modelling uses.</p> <p>Investment in wind, solar and storage is required not only to replace existing coal generation, but also to meet growing electricity demand over the same period.</p>
69	<p>What is New South Wales’ share of this energy generation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As the Department does not have access to the report referenced in the article, it is unable to confirm the NSW share of the generation referenced.</p>
70	<p>If we do achieve your ideal vision of Net Zero how much will the weather decrease by? How fewer extreme weather events will we have? How much lesser will extreme weather events be?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Achieving net zero emissions limits how severe and frequent extreme weather events become. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, “the likelihood of abrupt and/or irreversible changes increases with higher global warming levels”, and that “limiting human-caused global warming requires net zero CO2 emissions” (IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report Headline Statements). A world that limits warming consistent with net zero pathways experiences substantially fewer and less intense climate extremes than other scenarios. This includes fewer extreme heatwaves, reduced intensity of heavy rainfall and flooding, and lower drought severity.</p> <p>NSW Government modelling (NARcliM 2.0) shows that meeting the global net zero emissions targets aligned with the Paris Agreement¹ will result in NSW seeing on average 16 fewer extreme heat days and four fewer extreme fire weather days each year by the end of this century compared with current global emissions trajectory².</p>

¹ The projections are aligned with “Sustainability”, which is Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) SSP1-2.6. Further, this is aligned with the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature below 2°C.

² The current global emission trajectory is aligned with the “Middle of the Road” SSP2.4-5 projection scenario.

Net Zero Housing

71	<p>On the 9th of February you issued a media release entitled “Net zero home cuts energy bills and emissions” regarding how energy efficient and affordable a “Panorama Net Zero Home ” is. There has also been a bit of media about this in the Daily Telegraph. You say it will save residents \$1700 a year.</p> <p>How much is a Net Zero House? Let’s say a three bedroom?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Net Zero homes vary in cost subject to the floorplan and key features chosen. The Panorama Net Zero home is a four bedroom, two bathroom educational display home completed in 2026. Modelling provided by the builder is that it would cost around \$500,000 to build a home in this floorplan with the key features to have a high performance, net zero home that meets the Green Star minimum specification.</p>
72	<p>Do you think that is affordable for the intended audience, that is ‘everyday families’?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Panorama lots are on par or below the market average for new master-planned communities in Sydney. Net Zero homes are cheaper to run over the long term through lower energy bills.</p>
73	<p>What is the average income of an everyday family?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>According to 2021 ABS census data, the median weekly household income for the Wollondilly Shire is \$2,151.</p>

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Cadia

74	<p>In relation to the EPA's engagement of Hydrobiology to undertake an independent review of groundwater, surface water, and aquatic ecosystem monitoring programs at Cadia Valley Operations, what steps has the EPA taken to require Newmont to implement the review recommendations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has drafted a licence variation to incorporate relevant recommendations into the Cadia Valley Operations environment protection licence.</p>
(a)	<p>Please outline progress against each of the 23 recommendations made by Hydrobiology.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has drafted a licence variation to include relevant recommendations in the Cadia Valley Operations environment protection licence. Comments have been received from Cadia regarding the proposed changes which are currently being reviewed.</p>
(b)	<p>Has the EPA made changes to the environmental protection licence for Cadia Valley Operations in response to the review?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has prepared a draft licence variation to incorporate relevant recommendations into the Cadia Valley Operations environment protection licence. Comments from Cadia about the proposed changes have been received and are currently under review.</p>
(c)	<p>Have any additional monitoring points been established in the downgradient of tailings storage facilities, sensitive receptors such as private bores and groundwater-dependent ecosystems?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Following the five-year licence review, six additional groundwater monitoring bores were added to the Cadia Valley environment protection licence in December 2024. Of these, two are located downgradient of the tailings storage facilities and upgradient of private bores. The licence includes a representative set of groundwater monitoring bores, as required by the mine's water management plan.</p>
(d)	<p>Have any additional measures been implemented to stop any further mine water from entering Cadiangullong Creek?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>In response to the recommendation from Hydrobiology for an improved understanding of the surface and groundwater interactions in the mid to lower sections of the Cadiangullong Creek, the EPA proposes to vary the Cadia Valley Operations licence to include a groundwater to surface water flow pathway investigation. This assessment can be utilised to determine whether any measures are required.</p>
75	<p>In relation to Hydrobiology’s report titled ‘Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) – Review of Cadia Valley Operations’, what steps have the EPA taken to require Newmont to implement the review recommendations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA is currently considering the recommendations of the report.</p>
76	<p>Has the EPA undertaken any investigations of Cadia Valley Operation’s northern and southern tailings storage facilities to assess their structural integrity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No, this is a matter for the Resources Regulator within NSW Resources.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, when and what did the investigation involve?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
77	<p>In the variation of Cadia Valley Operation’s Environmental Protection Licence (Licence – 5590), it is stated that condition P1.3 was varied “to remove groundwater quality monitoring Point 55 (bore MB96) and its replacement with Point 60 (bore MB101) on account of bore 96 being inundated by rising water levels in the Pit Tailings Storage Facility.” Has the EPA conducted any onsite investigations of the tailings storage pit or bore 96 to:</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>
(a)	<p>Determine the source of the rising water levels?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The source of the rising water level in the pit and the inundation of bore MB96 is due to the addition of tailings into the Pit Tailings Storage Facility.</p>
(b)	<p>Assess whether any leakage or seepage was occurring?</p> <p>i. And, if so, identify the receiving environment?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has conducted bore sampling in May and December 2024. Results of the sampling is available on the EPA's website.</p>
(c)	<p>Identify potential risks to the surrounding environment should leakage or seepage occur?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has conducted bore sampling in May and December 2024. Results of the sampling is available on the EPA's website.</p>
(d)	<p>If so, please provide details of the investigations, including date and findings.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has published the details regarding the sampling on its website.</p>

Blueberries

78	<p>In a joint statement issued by the EPA and NSW Food Authority on 3 October 2025, it was stated that data from industry testing provider FreshTest for October and November 2024 showed no evidence of thiometon residue on any berries tested. Can you please provide:</p>
(a)	<p>The full list of chemicals and pesticides that were tested for by FreshTest during the October and November 2024 period;</p> <p>i. If testing was conducted on more than one occasion during this period, please provide a breakdown of data for each testing event;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA specifically requested analysis and provision of the results for thiometon in FreshTest samples that were originally analysed in October and November 2024. The EPA does not hold the original analysis results for the full analytical suite of pesticide residues conducted by FreshTest.</p>
(b)	<p>The level of sensitivity of the testing for thiometon, i.e. what is the smallest trace amount the test would have been capable of detecting;</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Symbio Laboratories advised the EPA that its analysis for thiometon in fresh produce has a Limit of Reporting of 0.01 mg/kg.</p>
(c)	<p>The amount of dimethoate detected, broken down by testing event and sample</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA does not hold this information. Berries Australia provided a summary of this data to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) as part of the review of the dimethoate withholding period. This</p>

	<p>information is publicly available in the Proposed suspension of dimethoate products – submissions received document (pages 6–8), which is available on the APVMA’s website at www.apvma.gov.au/news-and-publications/public-consultations/proposed-suspension-of-dimethoate-products-submissions-received.</p>
(d)	<p>The quantity of berries by weight that a child and an adult would have to consume to exceed the acceptable daily intake level for dimethoate, based on the residual levels detected.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the appropriate organisation, the NSW Food Authority.</p>
79	<p>What role, if any, does the EPA play in ensuring the food that makes it to our supermarket shelves is safe to eat and doesn’t exceed maximum residual limits for any pesticides, fungicides or other chemicals?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA's role is to regulate pesticide use in accordance with product labels. The EPA’s regulatory activities focus on ensuring that pesticide users comply with product labels and the requirements of the <i>Pesticides Act 1999</i> and associated regulations.</p> <p>The regulation of food safety is a matter for the NSW Food Authority.</p>
(a)	<p>Does the EPA undertake any direct, independent testing of produce?</p> <p>i. If so, please provide dates for all occasions between 2015-2025 when the EPA conducted testing, the produce tested, the pesticides and chemicals tested and whether maximum residual limits were exceeded for any pesticides or chemicals.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Produce testing is done by the NSW Food Authority.</p> <p>The EPA tested produce as part of a pesticides project in 2018.</p>

CR006 Compound List

Chemical	LOR (mg/kg)	Chemical	LOR (mg/kg)	Chemical	LOR (mg/kg)
C3					
Organophosphates		C3 (cont)		C3 (cont)	
Acephate	0.01	Acaricides		Fungicides	
Azinphos Methyl	0.01	Bifenazate	0.01	Benalaxyl	0.01
Chlorpyrifos	0.01	Bifenazate diazene	0.01	Bitertanol	0.01
Chlorpyrifos Methyl	0.01	Chlorfenapyr	0.05	Captan	0.1
Chlorfenvinphos	0.01	Clofentezine	0.01	Chlorothalonil	0.05
Diazinon	0.01	Etoxazole	0.01	Cyproconazole	0.01
Dichlorvos	0.01	Proparqite	0.01	Cyprodinil	0.01
Dimethoate	0.01	Tebufenpyrad	0.01	Dicloran	0.05
Ethoprophos	0.01	Tetradifon	0.01	Difenoconazole	0.01
Fenamiphos	0.01			Dimethomorph	0.01
Fenitrothion	0.01	Synthetic Pyrethroids		Diphenylamine	0.05
Fenthion	0.01	Bifenthrin	0.01	Fenarimol	0.01
Fenthion oxon	0.01	Bioresmethrin	0.01	Fludioxonil	0.01
Fenthion oxon sulfone	0.01	Cyfluthrin	0.02	Flusilazole	0.01
Fenthion oxon sulfoxide	0.01	Cyfluthrin-beta	0.02	Hexaconazole	0.01
Fenthion sulfone	0.01	Cyhalothrin	0.01	Imazalil	0.01
Fenthion sulfoxide	0.01	Cyhalothrin-lambda	0.01	Iprodione	0.05
Malathion	0.01	Cypermethrin	0.01	Kresoxim-methyl	0.01
Methamidophos	0.01	Cypermethrin-alpha	0.02	Metaxoxyl	0.01
Methidathion	0.01	Deltamethrin	0.01	Myclobutanil	0.01
Mevinphos	0.01	Esfenvalerate	0.01	Paclobutrazol	0.01
Monocrotophos	0.01	Fenvalerate	0.01	Penconazole	0.01
Omethoate	0.01	Fluvalinate	0.01	Penthiopryad	0.01
Parathion ethyl	0.05	Fluvalinate-tau	0.01	Piperonyl Butoxide	0.01
Parathion methyl	0.01	Permethrin	0.01	Prochloraz	0.01
Phorate	0.01	Phenothrin	0.02	Procymidone	0.01
Phosmet	0.01	Pyrethrins	0.05	Propiconazole	0.01
Plirimiphos methyl	0.01			Pyrimethanil	0.01
Profenofos	0.01	Organochlorines		Quintozene	0.01
Prothiofos	0.01	Aldrin	0.01	Tebuconazole	0.01
Terbufos	0.01	BHC-alpha	0.01	Tolclofos methyl	0.01
Trichlorfon	0.01	BHC-beta	0.01	Triadimefon	0.01
		BHC-delta	0.01	Triadimenol	0.01
		BHC-gamma (Lindane)	0.01	Vindozolin	0.01
		Chlordane-cis	0.01		
Herbicides		Chlordane-trans	0.01	Others	
Chlorthal Dimethyl	0.01	Oxychlordane	0.05	Abamectin	0.01
Linuron	0.01	Chlordane-Total	0.01	Buprofezin	0.01
Metribuzin	0.01	DDD - p,p	0.01	Fenoxycarb	0.01
Oxyfluorfen	0.05	DDE - p,p	0.01	Fipronil	0.01
Pendimethalin	0.01	DDT - p,p	0.01	Fipronil sulphenyl	0.01
		o,p-Dicofol	0.05	Fipronil sulfone	0.01
Phenols		p,p-Dicofol	0.05	Fipronil trifluoromethyl	0.01
O-phenylphenol	0.01	Dieldrin	0.01	Hexythiazox	0.01
		Endosulfan-alpha	0.01	Indoxacarb	0.01
Carbamates		Endosulfan-beta	0.01	Pyriproxyfen	0.01
Carbaryl	0.01	Endosulfan-sulphate	0.01	Sulfoxaflor	0.01
Pinimicarb	0.01	Endosulfan-Total	0.01		
		Endrin	0.01		
		keto-Endrin	0.01		
		HCB	0.01		
		Heptachlor	0.01		
		Heptachlor Epoxide	0.01		
C5					
C5 (cont)		C5 (cont)		C5 (cont)	
Atrazine	0.01	Dithianon	0.02	Pyraclostrobin	0.01
Azoxystrobin	0.01	Diuron	0.01	Spinetoram-A (ethyl spinosyn J)	0.01
Benomyl	0.01	Fenhexamid	0.01	Spinetoram-B (ethyl spinosyn L)	0.01
Boscalid	0.01	Fenpyroximate	0.01	Spinosad A	0.01
Carbendazim	0.01	Flubendiamide	0.02	Spinosad-D	0.01
Chlorantraniliprole	0.01	Imidacloprid	0.01	Spirotetramat	0.01
Chlorpropham	0.05	Methiocarb	0.01	Tebufenozide	0.01
Demeton-S	0.01	Methiocarb-sulfone	0.01	Thiabendazole	0.01
Demeton-S sulfone	0.01	Methiocarb-sulfoxide	0.01	Thiacloprid	0.01
Demeton-S sulfoxide	0.01	Methomyl	0.01	Thiamethoxam	0.01
Disulfoton	0.01	Methomyl oxime	0.01	Trifloxystrobin	0.01
Disulfoton sulfone	0.01	Propachlor	0.01		
Disulfoton sulfoxide	0.01	Pymetrozine	0.01		

Issue No: 9

Issue Date: 11/10/2018

Authorised by: G. Pointing

File: CR006 V03 issue9 20181011

MRL exceedances were detected for 10 pesticides across 14 of the 69 samples analysed. The EPA consulted with the NSW Food Authority, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and APVMA. It was determined that there were no public health concerns.

- (b) Does the EPA independently verify testing done by Freshcare certification bodies?
- i. If so, please provide dates for all occasions between 2015-2025 when the EPA independently verified testing.

	<p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(c)	<p>Does the EPA have any role in overseeing the certification of the Freshcare certification bodies?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(d)	<p>Has the EPA ever independently reviewed any of the annual audit data collected for Fresh Produce Growers and Supply Chain Businesses or any of the triennial audit data collected for Viticulture and Wine Industry businesses for the purpose of maintaining Freshcare Certification?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(e)	<p>Are there any requirements for laboratories that detect a pesticide or chemical that exceeds a maximum residual limit to report that exceedance to the EPA?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(f)	<p>What regulatory action would or could the EPA take if they were aware of an exceedance of a maximum residual limit?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A maximum residue limit exceedance can prompt an investigation by the EPA to determine if the pesticide was used lawfully and in accordance with the label instructions. The EPA would consider all circumstances of the matter before determining if and what the most appropriate regulatory response should be.</p>
80	<p>In response to supplementary questions following the December 2026 supplementary budget estimates, it was stated that the EPA had received 3883 complaints regarding the potential misuse of pesticides between 2015 2025;</p>
(a)	<p>What proportion of those complaints were related to the berry industry?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>179 of the 3883.</p>
(b)	<p>The EPA issued 3 penalty notices relating to pesticide misuse in the blueberry industry during this time, with fines ranging from \$500-\$1,500. Please provide details of pesticides used, property address and the nature and scale of the pesticide misuse in each case.</p>

Answer

Further analysis indicates that at least eight penalty notices have been issued for pesticide misuse in the blueberry industry between 2020 and 2025. Records between 2015 and 2020 required further analysis. Of the eight issued between 2020 and 2025:

- Two Penalty Notices were issued for Section 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) – ‘Prohibition of pollution of waters’ offences. In this instance, EPA investigations identified a mixture of pesticides that were alleged to have been detected in the investigation of the offence. These included mancozeb, propiconazole, dimethoate, methomyl, and dichlorvos. This occurred in Darkham Creek (Mullaway).
- One penalty notice was issued for breaching Section 15 of the Pesticides Act – Using pesticide contrary to approved label. In this instance, it was alleged that the pesticide ‘Success Neo’, containing the ingredient Spinetoram, was used not in accordance with its label instructions at a property in Valla.
- Three penalty notices were issued for breaches of Clause 35 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 – Records relating to pesticides use for commercial, agricultural or occupational purposes (record keeping requirements).
- Two penalty notices were issued for breaches of Clause 32 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 – Persons must not use pesticide unless qualified.

81

The EPA issued 7 advisory letters as part of its November 2025 compliance campaign of the blueberry industry in northern NSW. Please outline what each letter was for, and the address of the farm.

Answer

The most recent advice is as follows:

Seven advisory letters were issued to farms in the Coffs Harbour LGA, and two advisory letters were issued to farms in the Nambucca Valley LGA, making a total of nine advisory letters. They consist of:

- One Advisory Letter in relation to Section 15 of the Pesticides Act – Using pesticide contrary to approved label
- Seven Advisory Letters in relation to Clause 35 of the Pesticides Regulation – Pesticides used for commercial, agricultural or occupational purposes (record keeping requirements)
- One Advisory Letter in relation to Clause 54 of the Pesticides Regulation – Requirement to produce records relating to the use of pesticides).

	<p>The EPA has since issued one Penalty Notice to a farm in the Coffs Harbour LGA related to Clause 32 of the Pesticides Regulation – Person must not use pesticide unless qualified.</p> <p>One other property remains under investigation.</p> <p>Individual property addresses are not provided due to privacy requirements.</p>
82	<p>Has the EPA undertaken any monitoring or investigation of the potential impacts of pesticide run-off on oyster farms in the Coffs Harbour or Nambucca areas?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The current Water Quality Monitoring program conducted by the EPA tests for a large suite of pesticides at various locations within the Nambucca River catchment, which is home to oyster farming. While the sampling doesn't explicitly assess potential impacts on oysters, it aims to detect whether pesticides are present in these waters at all.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, has the EPA tested any oysters for pesticide contamination?</p> <p>i. If so, when and what were the results?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
83	<p>Has the EPA received any complaints regarding mass bee mortalities and/or loss of hives, in the Kempsey, Nambucca, Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Clarence, Richmond Valley or Kyogle Councils?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes, 10 reports across these LGAs.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, please list all complaints/notifications for each year since 2020.</p> <p>Answer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) REF-NO-66960 – Notified 4/8/20 – LGA: Coffs Harbour – Death of up to 56 beehives at a Raspberry farm in Arrawara. Caller alleges it was caused by pesticide use on the farm. 2) REF-NO-12269 – Notified 28/4/22 – LGA: Coffs Harbour – Caller reported finding hundreds of dead honeybees on their property at Moonee Beach. 3) REF-NO-13769 – Notified 23/6/22 – LGA: Coffs Harbour – Reported large numbers of dead and dying bees at Hearn's Lake outlet, near berry farms. The reporter is concerned about possible links to pesticide use. 4) REF-NO-13829 – Notified 20/6/22 – LGA Coffs Harbour – Complainant reported they have a native beehive at their property and their

	<p>neighbour sprays pesticide on and over the boundary line. Concerned it may impact their hive.</p> <p>5) REF-NO-3314 – Notified 15/6/21 – LGA: Coffs Harbour – Caller has lost seven bee hives in the Arrawara area. Concerned that it may be related to recent pesticide spraying by National Parks.</p> <p>6) REF-NO-26449 – Notified – 3/1/24 – LGA: Richmond Valley – Around 160 hives affected by mass bee death. Hives on property bordering Broadwater National Park. Samples have been taken.</p> <p>7) REF-NO-36230 – Notified 10/2/25 – LGA: Kempsey – Late report of 35 bee hives lost weeks earlier. Informed by the DPIRD it could be poisoning or Varroa.</p> <p>8) REF-NO-42014 – Notified 15/9/25 – LGA: Bellingen – Reporter has lost 12 beehives, which may have been poisoned while foraging on clover which may have been sprayed.</p> <p>9) REF-NO-42122 – Notified 18/9/25 – LGA: Coffs Harbour – Email reports of impacts to bee hives, first observed on 5/9/25. The reporter believes these impacts may be related to pesticide use at a nearby raspberry farm.</p> <p>10) REF-NO-44569 – Notified 31/12/2025 LGA: Clarence Valley - Urgent advice requested for arranging testing, or preservation, of dead bees for pesticides, given the public holiday tomorrow. Apiarist company found 96 dead hives beside Coastal Range Road in the Yuraygir State Conservation Area.</p>
(b)	<p>Have any investigations been undertaken into any of the complaints?</p> <p>i. If so, what were the results, including any testing of bees, as part of any investigations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes. All reports underwent various levels of investigation, including site inspection and phone calls. In many cases, there was insufficient evidence available to determine the cause of death or to link the deaths to any specific activity. Some of the deaths occurred during the Varroa mite response, and where this was evident, the matters were referred to or led by the DPIRD. As a result, no further regulatory action was taken.</p>

Great Koala National Park

84	<p>Documents obtained through a call for papers, S052 – Resources Regulator and minerals mining, show that on 30 July 2025, Hetherington, a legal firm representing Trigg Minerals Limited, sent a letter to the Great Koala National Park Assessment Team on behalf of their client asking for areas in the Great Koala National Park that overlapped with minerals interests to be converted to</p>
----	---

	<p>State Conservation Area tenure rather than National Park to ensure the industry could meet their operational requirements. Emails released in that same SO52 show that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service corresponded with the office of the Minister for the Environment regarding this letter and on 3 November 2025 provided the Minister's office with a table identifying five mineral exploration licences that overlapped with the proposed Great Koala National Park and undertook to contact NSW Resources to discuss options for some of these licences. What were the outcomes of the discussion between NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Resources regarding those exploration licences?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Discussions between NPWS and NSW Resources are ongoing.</p>
(a)	<p>Do any of the following exploration licences fall partially or fully within the updated boundaries of the Great Koala National Park, as announced in February 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. EL6465 Scorpio Resources Pty Ltd ii. EL8914 Hillgrove Mines Pty Ltd iii. EL9743 United Antimony Pty Ltd iv. EL9772 Trigg Antimony Pty Ltd v. EL8100 Scorpio Resources Pty Ltd <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes. All the listed exploration licences fall partially within the updated boundaries.</p>
(b)	<p>If any of the exploration licences are within the boundaries of the Great Koala National Park, has the Government made a determination on the reserve type for those areas?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No determination has yet been made about reserve categories within the Great Koala National Park.</p>
85	<p>Documents obtained through SO52 show that the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Mining, Exploration and Geosciences entered into a Memorandum of Understanding titled NPWS Reserve Referral to MEG (MOU undated). Which agency requested the development of the Memorandum of Understanding?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The former Mining, Exploration and Geosciences (now NSW Resources) requested the renewal of a previous Memorandum of Understanding that had lapsed.</p>

(a)	<p>When did the Memorandum of Understanding come into effect?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>On 4 December 2023.</p>
(b)	<p>What triggered NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There has been a Reserve Referral Memorandum of Understanding between NPWS and NSW Resources (including predecessor agency names) since 2010. The Memorandum of Understanding sets out respective obligations in the reserve referral process and provides a sound basis for both agencies to work together to achieve outcomes for the NSW Government. The previous Memorandum of Understanding had lapsed.</p>
(c)	<p>Has NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service ceased, modified or amended any proposed acquisitions or reservations following consultation with or receipt of advice from Mining, Exploration and Geosciences?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>

EPA restructure

86	<p>The EPA previously stated in November 2025 that the current restructure process will lead to 69 ongoing jobs being lost and the reduction of six senior positions. However, the PSA reported that there was expected to also be an additional 55 temporary roles cut. Can you please confirm the final number of roles that will be cut as a result of the restructure? Please provide a breakdown by:</p> <p>(a) Full-time, part-time and temporary roles.</p> <p>(b) Clerk grades and Senior Executive level roles.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The final operating model will result in a net reduction of 57 ongoing roles. This is in addition to the reduction of six public sector senior executive roles. Three temporary contract end dates were brought forward; other temporary contracts continue to their end dates.</p>
87	<p>Are any jobs in operational and compliance roles under consideration for cutting in the restructure or have any already been cut?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Management and administrative support role numbers have been reduced. The new operating model will bolster frontline compliance capability.</p>

(a)	<p>If so, how many?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is yet to be finalised as recruitment processes following the organisational changes are ongoing.</p>
88	<p>How many staff have been lost to natural attrition since the restructure was announced?</p> <p>(a) How many of these are in compliance or operations roles?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is yet to be finalised as recruitment processes following the organisational changes are ongoing.</p>
89	<p>In regards to the People Matter Employee Survey covering the survey period of 18 August to 12 September 2025, what were the 5 lowest scoring answers and their scores?</p> <p>(a) What area of the EPA had the lowest scores?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This can be found in the EPA report on the Premier’s Department website.</p>
90	<p>The EPA’s annual report for 2024–25 shows that the EPA engaged Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd at a cost \$284,742, with the consultancy description listed as Operational Model. What specifically was Scyne Advisory engaged to do and what outputs did they produce in relation to this engagement?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Scyne Advisory were engaged to facilitate the development of a future operating model for the EPA which helped inform the draft operating model consulted on with EPA employees in Q4 2025.</p>

Broken Hill

91	<p>High-volume air samplers that are collecting samples for a 24 hour period every six days can only be used to inform whether lead in air emissions is within the NEPM guidelines if annual averages derived from these measurements are based on at least 75% available and valid data. Between 2015 and 2025, on how many occasions did each of the following Broken Hill mines fail to meet the criteria of 75% available and valid data:</p>
(a)	<p>Perilya Southern Operations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The high-volume air sampling monitoring data is publicly available on Perilya's website.</p>

(b)	<p>Perilya North Mine?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The high-volume air sampling monitoring data is publicly available on Perilya's website.</p>
(c)	<p>Broken Hill Operations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The high-volume air sampling monitoring data is publicly available on Broken Hill Operations' website.</p>
92	<p>The Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's Broken Hill Lead Report, released this month, includes a graph that indicates there was a significant spike in annual averages of TDP-Pb at Perilya in 2017 and again in 2022 (figure 6, page 23). Has the EPA undertaken any investigations to determine the likely cause of these spikes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has recently received the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's (OCSE) report and is working with the Premier's Department to review the findings and recommendations. The Premier's Department, via the NSW Government multi-agency Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group, is leading a whole-of-government response to the report.</p> <p>The EPA investigated reported spikes in dust and lead at the time.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, what did it find and what actions were taken?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In 2017 and 2022, spikes in lead and dust levels were identified for September and May, respectively. In 2017, Perilya indicated the spikes were a result of a high wind, dry weather event. The licensee was required to consider this when developing their response to the dust management pollution reduction program that was in place on the licence at the time.</p> <p>In 2022 the cause of the spike was unable to be identified.</p>
93	<p>The Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Remediation Working Group "Zonal Remediation Strategy – Updated Problem Statement" of 15 January 2026 (accessed in the Resource Regulator S052, Premiers Department Non Privileged Public Documents Tranche 2 (PD_000001884)) states that "the lack of an integrated air quality monitoring system prevents a comprehensive understanding of pollutant sources, trends, and impacts on the community's health" and that "installation of air monitoring stations in key locations across Broken Hill" is needed.</p>
(a)	<p>When will air monitoring stations in key locations be installed in Broken Hill?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA, in partnership with DCCEE, operates seven air monitoring sites in and around Broken Hill.</p> <p>The Government recently received the OCSE preliminary report on minimising the human and environmental impacts of lead contamination in Broken Hill. Any potential future changes to air quality monitoring at Broken Hill will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the OCSE report. The Premier’s Department, via the NSW Government multi-agency Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group, is leading a whole-of-government response to the report.</p>
(b)	<p>What funding has been set aside for an independent comprehensive air monitoring network across Broken Hill?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The 2025–26 budget commitment remains consistent with the previous year's budget to ensure the sustained delivery of critical services, including air monitoring in Broken Hill.</p> <p>Future funding for the Broken Hill lead response will be considered as part of the normal budgetary process.</p>
94	<p>The Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer’s Broken Hill Lead Report references an August 2017 Final Report titled “Pilot Study of lead (Pb) phases in deposited particles from Broken Hill, NSW determined using automated mineralogical scanning.” by Anthony L Morrison, Mark P. Taylor, Peter F. Nelson, Chenyin Dong. The study analysed dust deposition samples for 6 Broken Hill urban locations and recommended the implementation of an extended sampling and analysis program to assist in the direction and monitoring of the ongoing Pb remediation/mitigation program.” (page 2)</p>
(a)	<p>Has there been any further sampling and analysis of lead phases in deposited dust in Broken Hill since this report was finalised?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has not undertaken sampling or analysis of lead phases.</p>
i.	<p>If so, where can information and results from the program be accessed?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
ii.	<p>If not, when does the EPA plan to undertake further dust deposition testing in Broken Hill?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA continues to measure lead in deposited dust at seven locations in</p>

	<p>Broken Hill.</p> <p>The Government has recently received the OCSE’s preliminary report on minimising the human and environmental impacts of lead contamination in Broken Hill. Any potential future changes to dust deposition monitoring at Broken Hill will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the OCSE report. The Premier’s Department, via the NSW Government multi-agency Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group, is leading a whole-of-government response to the report.</p>
(b)	<p>When was dust deposition sampling and analysis last undertaken at the six urban locations outlined in the Morrison et al report, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Rainbow Preschool? ii. Ryan St? iii. Broken Hill High School? iv. Brookfield? v. Morgan St? vi. Willyama High School? <p>Answer</p> <p>May 2016.</p> <p>Under the Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program (BHELP), the EPA measures deposited dust at seven other locations in Broken Hill. Results from this monitoring are published on the LeadSmart website.</p>
95	<p>The Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Remediation Working Group Zonal Remediation Strategy – Updated Problem Statement of 15 January 2026 (PD_000001884) states that baseline water quality data needs to be established in Broken Hill. This recommendation also appears in the Ramboll Conceptual Site Model Report commissioned by the EPA.</p>
(a)	<p>When will the EPA commence independent baseline water testing in Broken Hill?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Government has recently received the OCSE preliminary report. Future water quality monitoring at Broken Hill will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the OCSE report. The Premier’s Department, via the NSW Government multi-agency Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group, is leading a whole-of-government response to the report.</p>
(b)	<p>When did the EPA independently test the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mulga Creek wetlands.

	<p>ii. Zinc Lake</p> <p>iii. The Ryan Street groundwater monitoring point after rain.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has not undertaken water quality testing at these sites.</p>
96	<p>In the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's notes from a December 2024 meeting with the EPA (PD_000001550), it is stated that there has been 'no soil monitoring since MT [Mark Taylor] review'.</p>
(a)	<p>Please outline what soil testing was undertaken for the Taylor review, including where and when the testing occurred.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Taylor review involved analysis of previous research and did not involve soil testing.</p>
(b)	<p>Please outline what soil testing the EPA has undertaken (outside of any remediation program) at Broken Hill since 2019 including date, location and who undertook the testing.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>26/2/2019, 1 Tuart Street, EPA</p> <p>20/2/2019, various sites south Broken Hill, EPA</p> <p>29/11/2019, 233 Old South Road, EPA</p> <p>28/11/2023, footpath in front of 99 Piper Street, EPA</p> <p>4/8/2025, footpath in front of 371 Iodide Street, EPA</p> <p>25 and 26/2/2025, area in front of black slag heap, Federation Way, EPA</p> <p>February-March 2025, 45 homes tested for Aboriginal Housing Office (EPA and Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation did the testing, facilitated by Murdi Paaki Regional Housing)</p> <p>14/2/2026, 13 Lawton Street, EPA</p> <p>14/2/2026, 50 Comstock Street, EPA</p> <p>17/2/2026, dumped soil on 291 Sulphide Street, EPA</p>
97	<p>Please provide a breakdown of all soil testing that has been undertaken by the EPA at childcare and day care centres in Broken Hill, for each year between 2015-2025, including the name of the centre, date of testing, who undertook the testing and the results of testing.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Location, date and number of samples listed below. Sample result not listed in absence of landholder permission.</p>

	Year	Name of Centre	Date of testing	Who undertook the testing	Number of samples
	2017	Home Day Care: 328 Knox Street	24/07/2017	EPA	9 samples
	2018	Happy Day Pre-school and long day care	14/11/2018	EPA	11 samples
	2019	Silverlea Early Child Care	30/09/2019	EPA	5 samples
	2019	Busy Kids Child Care Centre	01/10/2019	EPA	13 samples
	2020	Silverlea Early Child Care	23/03/2020	EPA	7 samples
	2021	Happy Day Pre-school and long day care	26/03/2021	EPA	12 samples
	2022	Silverlea Early Child Care	02/05/2022	EPA	13 samples
	2023	Happy Day Pre-school and long day care	16/03/2023	EPA	16 samples
	2023	Home Day care: 674 Beryl Street	30/10/2023	EPA	12 samples
	2023	Home day care: 250 Chapple Street	11/10/2023	EPA	20 samples
	2023	Home day care: 38 Boughtman Street	12/10/2023	EPA	14 samples
	2023	Home day care: 86 Galena Street	16/10/2023	EPA	9 samples
	2023	Home day care: 608 O'Neill Street	17/10/2023	EPA	6 samples
	2023	Home day care: 506 Fisher Street	18/10/2023	EPA	9 samples
	2023	Home day care: 6 Brooks Street	23/10/2023	EPA	4 samples
	2023	Home day care: 70 Cummins Street	6/11/2023	EPA	7 samples
	2024	Home day care: 246 Williams Street	12/02/2024	EPA	14 samples
	2025	Silverlea Early Child Care	27/05/2025	EPA	15 samples
	2025	Happy Day Pre-school and long day care	03/06/2026	EPA	16 samples
98	Please provide details of all soil testing undertaken by the EPA at schools in Broken Hill over the last 5 years, including the name of school, date of testing, who undertook the testing and the results of testing.				

	<p>Answer</p> <p>BHELP is targeted towards children under five years of age. However, if a school requests testing it is provided.</p> <p>Location, date and number of samples listed below. Sample result not listed in the absence of landholder permission.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 432 1437 692"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Name of School</th> <th>Date of testing</th> <th>Who undertook the testing</th> <th>Number of samples</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>Central Public School K-2</td> <td>24/09/2020</td> <td>EPA</td> <td>9 samples</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>Central Public School (including Preschool)</td> <td>03/06/2025</td> <td>EPA</td> <td>20 samples</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Name of School	Date of testing	Who undertook the testing	Number of samples	2020	Central Public School K-2	24/09/2020	EPA	9 samples	2025	Central Public School (including Preschool)	03/06/2025	EPA	20 samples
Year	Name of School	Date of testing	Who undertook the testing	Number of samples												
2020	Central Public School K-2	24/09/2020	EPA	9 samples												
2025	Central Public School (including Preschool)	03/06/2025	EPA	20 samples												
99	<p>Please provide details of all soil testing that has been undertaken by the EPA at playgrounds or sporting ovals in Broken Hill over the past 5 years, including the name of school, date of testing, who undertook the testing and the results of testing.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In the last five years, no playgrounds or sporting ovals in Broken Hill have been tested by the EPA. Soil lead levels in 10 parks and playgrounds across Broken Hill were assessed in May 2017. Test data for daycare centres, childcare centres, preschools, schools and public spaces is summarised in the answer to supplementary question 100(a) below. Collectively, this totals 554 samples at potential exposure sites since 2017.</p>															
100	<p>Please list all studies commissioned by the EPA in relation to soil in Broken Hill since 2010.</p> <p>Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle S, Wimbourne S. 2016. <i>An audit of previously remediated sites in Broken Hill.</i> • Cattle S, Wimbourne S. 2017. <i>An assessment of legacy soil Pb contamination of ten public parks in Broken Hill.</i> • Canopy Enterprises. 2017. <i>Broken Hill Railway Yard Stage 1 – Lead Assessment and Review.</i> • Juhasz A. 2018. <i>Refining key exposure parameters in Broken Hill – Assessment of lead relative bioavailability (Phase 1 and 2 report).</i> 															
(a)	<p>Please provide details of all testing of daycare centres, childcare centres, preschools, schools and public spaces, including previously remediated public lands, in Broken Hill which has occurred since 2017, including the location, date of testing, who did the testing and the results of the testing.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Location, date and number of samples listed below. Sample result not listed in</p>															

absence of landholder permission.

Year	Name of Centre/Location	Date of testing	Who undertook the testing	Number of samples
2017	1 South Road (Public Space)	20/02/2017	EPA	6 samples
2017	Alma Oval	May 2017	EPA	12 samples
2017	Burke Ward Public School (OSHC area only)	24/07/2017	EPA	10 samples
2017	Home Day Care: 328 Knox Street	24/07/2017	EPA	9 samples
2017	O'Neill Park Complex (Public space)	18/10/217	EPA	36 samples
2018	Rainbow Preschool	10/04/2018	EPA	9 samples
2018	Central Public School	25/05/2018	EPA	5 samples
2018	162 Pinnacles Road	11/09/2018	EPA	10 samples
2018	Happy Day Preschool and Long Day care	14/11/2018	EPA	11 samples
2019	Various public sites around North/western South Broken Hill	20/08/2019	EPA	39 samples
2019	Silverlea Early Childcare	30/09/2019	EPA	5 samples
2019	Busy Kids Child Care Centre	01/10/2019	EPA	13 samples
2019	Alma Public School K-2	24/10/2019	EPA	11 samples
2019	Resource and Toy Library (Public Space)	25/11/2019	EPA	14 samples
2020	Rainbow Preschool	12/03/2020	EPA	20 samples
2020	Silverlea Early Childcare	23/03/2020	EPA	7 samples
2020	Central Public School K-2	24/09/2020	EPA	9 samples
2021	Happy Day Preschool and Long Day care	26/03/2021	EPA	12 samples
2022	PCYC (Before and after school care) Gypsum Street	24/02/2022	EPA	20 samples
2022	Silverlea Early Childcare	02/05/2022	EPA	13 samples
2023	Happy Day Preschool and Long Day care	16/03/2023	EPA	16 samples
2023	Playtime Preschool	16/03/2023	EPA	6 samples
2023	Rainbow Preschool	24/03/2023	EPA	20 samples
2023	Home Day care: 674 Beryl Street	30/10/2023	EPA	12 samples

2023	Home day care: 250 Chapple Street	11/10/2023	EPA	20 samples
2023	Home day care: 38 Boughtman Street	12/10/2023	EPA	14 samples
2023	Home day care: 86 Galena Street	16/10/2023	EPA	9 samples
2023	Home day care: 608 O'Neill Street	17/10/2023	EPA	6 samples
2023	Home day care: 506 Fisher Street	18/10/2023	EPA	(9 samples
2023	Home day care: 6 Brooks Street	23/10/2023	EPA	4 samples
2023	Home day care: 70 Cummins Street	6/11/2023	EPA	7 samples
2024	Home day care: 246 Williams Street	12/02/2024	EPA	14 samples
2024	Maari Ma Playgroup (Public space)	8/11/2024	Maari Ma	12 samples
2025	Federation way (Black slag heap) (Public land)	25/02/2025	EPA	7 samples
2025	Federation way (Black slag heap. Closer to the road) (public land)	26/02/2025	EPA	24 samples
2025	Central Public School (including Preschool)	03/06/2025	EPA	20 samples
2025	Bugdlie Preschool	22/07/2025	EPA	24 samples
2025	371 Iodide Street (public land)	04/08/2025	EPA	7 samples
2025	Playtime Preschool	02/09/2025	EPA	21 samples
2025	Silverlea Early Child Care	27/05/2025	EPA	15 samples
2025	Happy Day Pre-school and long day care	03/06/2026	EPA	16 samples

i. Is the EPA considering re-testing remediated sites in Broken Hill? If so, when will this occur?

Answer

The Government has recently received the NSW OCSE's preliminary report on minimising the human and environmental impacts of lead contamination in Broken Hill. Future soil testing at Broken Hill will be informed by the findings and recommendations of the OCSE report. The Premier's Department, via the NSW Government multi-agency Broken Hill Environmental Lead Response Group, is leading a whole-of-government response to the report.

ii.	<p>Were lead levels assessed at all remediated locations prior to remediation, immediately after remediation and regular intervals thereafter?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Soil lead levels were tested at remediated locations prior to remediation. Soil was not tested after remediation because the landscape supplies used for remediation are routinely tested for lead and found to have low lead levels, well below the Health Investigation Level threshold for residential A soils (300 mg/kg).</p>
iii.	<p>When was soil testing last undertaken at Rainbow Preschool?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>March 2023.</p>
(b)	<p>Has the EPA put in any funding requests for soil testing for the 2025/2026 or 2026/2027 period?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Budget requests are Cabinet-in-confidence processes.</p>
(c)	<p>What funding does the EPA have for monitoring remediated land for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Funding for monitoring remediated land is not specifically allocated. However, the EPA may use BHELP funds to conduct soil testing.</p>

Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp) dam wall and associated water infrastructure

101	<p>In relation to the Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp) dam wall and associated water supply infrastructure located within Wollemi National Park:</p>
(a)	<p>Does the National Parks and Wildlife Service consider that responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, structural integrity and environmental management of the dam wall and immediately associated works rests with the approval holder or with the National Parks and Wildlife Service?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The approval holder.</p> <p>The dam wall and pipeline are associated with mining purpose leases issued by the Resources Regulator within NSW Resources. Previous leaseholders, including Cement Australia and Clark Engineering, have been responsible for management of the infrastructure as a condition of the lease.</p> <p>The dam wall and water level gauging stations (two) are located within Wollemi National Park. The pipeline supplying water from downstream of the</p>

	<p>dam wall to Kandos is not located on the NPWS estate. NPWS has no management role or interest in its operation.</p> <p>NPWS works with NSW Resources and the leaseholder to maintain suitable water levels that support both recreational use and ecological health of the water body.</p>
(b)	<p>Does the National Parks and Wildlife Service have any current statutory, contractual or practical maintenance or oversight responsibilities in respect of those works?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No. NPWS currently has no statutory, contractual, practical maintenance or oversight responsibilities associated with the dam wall and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Statutory responsibility for the infrastructure is held by NSW Resources, which assigned Mining purpose lease (MPL) 564 and associated licences/leases. Compliance with licence conditions by the leaseholder is overseen by the Resources Regulator.</p> <p>DCCEEW Water Group administers the work approval and water licences associated with the dam, pipeline and limits for water extraction.</p> <p>NPWS has an interest/responsibility to ensure visitor safety risks and any potential environmental impacts associated with the Dam infrastructure and its operation are appropriately managed.</p>
(c)	<p>What formal instrument, if any, authorises the continued presence and maintenance of those works within the national park estate?</p> <p>Answer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPL 564 issued by the Resources Regulator. • Work approval 80WA717725 with two associated water licences issued by DCCEEW's Water Group.
102	<p>Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service been notified of, consulted about, or otherwise become aware of any proposed or actual changes to Mining Purpose Leases, water supply work approvals, or water access licences associated with the Ganguddy dam wall and the former Kandos Cement Works pipeline infrastructure; and if so:</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS has received no official notification regarding changes to Mining Purpose Leases or water licences/work approvals.</p> <p>NPWS was not notified by the Resources Regulator when MPL 564 was renewed in November 2021 for a further 10-year term.</p> <p>NPWS is aware that the Kandos Cement works previously owned by Clark</p>

	Engineering was recently sold to Cenagen. NPWS understands Cenagen is proposing an Advanced Methanol Production and Greenhouse Facility on the site using water from Ganguddy Dunns Swamp.
(a)	<p>When did the National Parks and Wildlife Service first become aware of those changes or proposals?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS was not advised by the Resources Regulator of any change to MPL 564 or associated mining licences.</p>
(b)	<p>What consultation, if any, occurred with the National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to those changes being made or proposed?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>None.</p>
(c)	<p>What assessment has the National Parks and Wildlife Service undertaken of the implications for the management of Wollemi National Park?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In early 2026, NPWS initiated a meeting with the new owners of the Kandos Cement works site (Cenagen) to better understand the proposed new use of the site and implications for water level maintenance and management at Ganguddy-Dunns Swamp.</p>
103	<p>Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service participated in any inter-agency or whole-of-government discussions concerning the regulatory status, variation, cancellation or future use of the Ganguddy dam wall, associated Mining Purpose Leases, or related water infrastructure within Wollemi National Park; and if so:</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Between 2018-2020, NPWS engaged relevant agencies in whole-of-government planning for future management of the dam wall and associated infrastructure.</p>
(a)	<p>Which agencies were involved?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The (former) Department of Premier and Cabinet, (former) Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Mid-Western Regional Council and the Resources Regulator.</p>
(b)	<p>What matters were discussed insofar as they related to park management?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Matters discussed included the management of the mining lease, ownership of</p>

	<p>the dam wall and its future management, ownership of the pipeline and its future management, and the maintenance of water levels for recreational amenity and ecosystem function.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service formed a view as to whether any proposed changes may affect infrastructure maintenance responsibilities or environmental management within the park?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS cannot comment on any potential changes to maintenance responsibilities without formal consultation on amendments to the mining purpose lease or water licence. Kandos Weir (Dunns Swamp Dam wall) and associated gauging stations are the only relevant infrastructure located within Wollemi National Park. The pipeline from the dam wall to Kandos lies entirely outside the NPWS estate.</p>

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC

ENVIRONMENT

Environment Protection Authority - Pollution

104	<p>How many active investigations relating to alleged pollution offences are currently underway by the EPA across NSW?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>It is not appropriate to provide details of current EPA investigations as this may prejudice the prevention, investigation or prosecution of an offence.</p>
105	<p>Of those active investigations, how many relate specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Water pollution incidents?<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. How many of these relate to public land?(b) Soil contamination?<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. How many of these relate to public land?(c) Air pollution?<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. How many of these relate to public land?(d) Waste disposal or illegal dumping?<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. How many of these relate to public land?(e) Hazardous chemical incidents?<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. How many of these relate to public land? <p>Answer</p> <p>It is not appropriate to provide details of current EPA investigations as this may prejudice the prevention, investigation or prosecution of an offence.</p>
106	<p>How many pollution reports have been made in this financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution reports will be in the Annual Report and published on the EPA website.</p>
(a)	<p>How many in the financial year 24–25?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution reports is in the EPA Annual Report 2024–25 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/NSW-Environment-Protection-Authority-2024-25-Annual-Report.pdf.</p>
(b)	<p>How many were made in the financial year 23–24?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution reports is in the EPA Annual Report 2023–24 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-01/24p4556-annual-report-2023-24.pdf.</p>
(c)	<p>How many were made in the financial year 22–23?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution reports is in the EPA Annual Report 2022–23 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/23p4475-annual-report-2022-23.pdf.</p>
(d)	<p>How many were finalised in the financial year 21–22?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution reports is in the EPA Annual Report 2021-22 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/22p4157-annual-report-2021-22.pdf.</p>
107	<p>How many pollution investigations have been finalised in this financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about pollution investigations will be in the Annual Report and published on the EPA website.</p>
(a)	<p>How many were finalised in the financial year 24–25?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many of these resulted in a prosecution? ii. How many of these resulted in a clean-up notice? iii. How many of these resulted in a prevention notice? iv. How many of these resulted in an enforceable undertaking? v. How many of these resulted in no further action being taken? vi. How many of these resulted in a warning? vii. How many of these resulted in a penalty notice? viii. What was the total of all financial penalties? <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about regulatory action is in the EPA Annual Report 2024–25 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/NSW-Environment-Protection-Authority-2024-25-Annual-Report.pdf.</p>
(b)	<p>How many were finalised in the financial year 23–24?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many of these resulted in a prosecution? ii. How many of these resulted in a clean-up notice?

	<p>iii. How many of these resulted in a prevention notice?</p> <p>iv. How many of these resulted in an enforceable undertaking?</p> <p>v. How many of these resulted in no further action being taken?</p> <p>vi. How many of these resulted in a warning?</p> <p>vii. How many of these resulted in a penalty notice?</p> <p>viii. What was the total of all financial penalties?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about regulatory action is in the EPA Annual Report 2023–24 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-01/24p4556-annual-report-2023-24.pdf.</p>
(c)	<p>How many were finalised in the financial year 22–23?</p> <p>i. How many of these resulted in a prosecution?</p> <p>ii. How many of these resulted in a clean-up notice?</p> <p>iii. How many of these resulted in a prevention notice?</p> <p>iv. How many of these resulted in an enforceable undertaking?</p> <p>v. How many of these resulted in no further action being taken?</p> <p>vi. How many of these resulted in a warning?</p> <p>vii. How many of these resulted in a penalty notice?</p> <p>viii. What was the total of all financial penalties?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information about regulatory action is in the EPA Annual Report 2022–23 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/23p4475-annual-report-2022-23.pdf.</p>
(d)	<p>How many were finalised in the financial year 21–22?</p> <p>i. How many of these resulted in a prosecution?</p> <p>ii. How many of these resulted in a clean-up notice?</p> <p>iii. How many of these resulted in a prevention notice?</p> <p>iv. How many of these resulted in an enforceable undertaking?</p> <p>v. How many of these resulted in no further action being taken?</p> <p>vi. How many of these resulted in a warning?</p> <p>vii. How many of these resulted in a penalty notice?</p> <p>viii. What was the total of all financial penalties?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Information about regulatory action is in the EPA Annual Report 2021–22 on the EPA website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/22p4157-annual-report-2021-22.pdf.</p>
108	<p>In how many pollution matters has the EPA briefed the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the past 12 months?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA prosecutes matters before the courts and has its own in-house legal services capability. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has not been briefed in the past 12 months.</p>
109	<p>How many pollution-related prosecutions are currently before the courts?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA has 287 pollution-related charges before the Courts as at 9 March 2026.</p>

Land Clearing

110	<p>How many active investigations relating to alleged unlawful land clearing are currently underway by the Department?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>408.</p>
(a)	<p>How many are in the Bogan Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>25.</p>
(b)	<p>How many are in the Gilgandra Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Eight.</p>
(c)	<p>How many are in the Mid-Western Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Seven.</p>
(d)	<p>How many are in the Narromine Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Five.</p>

(e)	How many are in the Warrumbungle Local Government Area? Answer 18.
(f)	How many are in the Dubbo Local Government Area? Answer Eight.
(g)	How many are in the Gunnedah Local Government Area? Answer Six.
(h)	How many are in the Gwydir Local Government Area? Answer 20.
(i)	How many are in the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area? Answer Eight.
(j)	How many are in the Tamworth Local Government Area? Answer 22.
(k)	How many are in the Walcha Local Government Area? Answer Nine.
(l)	How many are in the Armidale Local Government Area? Answer Eight.
(m)	How many are in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area? Answer Six.
(n)	How many are in the Inverell Local Government Area? Answer 10.

(o)	How many are in the Uralla Local Government Area? Answer One.
(p)	How many are in the Moree Plains Local Government Area? Answer 13.
(q)	How many are in the Narrabri Local Government Area? Answer Nine.
(r)	How many are in the Tenterfield Local Government Area? Answer Six.
(s)	How many are in the Cessnock Local Government Area? Answer Three.
(t)	How many are in the Dungog Local Government Area? Answer Four.
(u)	How many are in the Muswellbrook Local Government Area? Answer Nil.
(v)	How many are in the Singleton Local Government Area? Answer Four.
(w)	How many are in the Upper Hunter Local Government Area? Answer 10.
111	Of those investigations, how many relate to clearing on public land? (a) How many are in the Bogan Local Government Area? (b) How many are in the Gilgandra Local Government Area?

	<p>(c) How many are in the Mid-Western Local Government Area?</p> <p>(d) How many are in the Narromine Local Government Area?</p> <p>(e) How many are in the Warrumbungle Local Government Area?</p> <p>(f) How many are in the Dubbo Local Government Area?</p> <p>(g) How many are in the Gunnedah Local Government Area?</p> <p>(h) How many are in the Gwydir Local Government Area?</p> <p>(i) How many are in the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area?</p> <p>(j) How many are in the Tamworth Local Government Area?</p> <p>(k) How many are in the Walcha Local Government Area?</p> <p>(l) How many are in the Armidale Local Government Area?</p> <p>(m) How many are in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area?</p> <p>(n) How many are in the Inverell Local Government Area?</p> <p>(o) How many are in the Uralla Local Government Area?</p> <p>(p) How many are in the Moree Plains Local Government Area?</p> <p>(q) How many are in the Narrabri Local Government Area?</p> <p>(r) How many are in the Tenterfield Local Government Area?</p> <p>(s) How many are in the Cessnock Local Government Area?</p> <p>(t) How many are in the Dungog Local Government Area?</p> <p>(u) How many are in the Muswellbrook Local Government Area?</p> <p>(v) How many are in the Singleton Local Government Area?</p> <p>(w) How many are in the Upper Hunter Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer This information is unable to be extracted from the database.</p>
112	<p>How many investigations relating to alleged unlawful land clearing have been undertaken in the last 36 months?</p> <p>Answer 2,357.</p>
(a)	<p>How many are in the Bogan Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer 42.</p>
(b)	<p>How many are in the Gilgandra Local Government Area?</p> <p>Answer Eight.</p>

(c)	How many are in the Mid-Western Local Government Area? Answer 27.
(d)	How many are in the Narromine Local Government Area? Answer Seven.
(e)	How many are in the Warrumbungle Local Government Area? Answer 46.
(f)	How many are in the Dubbo Local Government Area? Answer 20.
(g)	How many are in the Gunnedah Local Government Area? Answer 16.
(h)	How many are in the Gwydir Local Government Area? Answer 65.
(i)	How many are in the Liverpool Plains Local Government Area? Answer 14.
(j)	How many are in the Tamworth Local Government Area? Answer 50.
(k)	How many are in the Walcha Local Government Area? Answer 34.
(l)	How many are in the Armidale Local Government Area? Answer 36.

(m)	How many are in the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area? Answer 19.
(n)	How many are in the Inverell Local Government Area? Answer 44.
(o)	How many are in the Uralla Local Government Area? Answer 28.
(p)	How many are in the Moree Plains Local Government Area? Answer 24.
(q)	How many are in the Narrabri Local Government Area? Answer 28.
(r)	How many are in the Tenterfield Local Government Area? Answer 32.
(s)	How many are in the Cessnock Local Government Area? Answer 49.
(t)	How many are in the Dungog Local Government Area? Answer 12.
(u)	How many are in the Muswellbrook Local Government Area? Answer Three.
(v)	How many are in the Singleton Local Government Area? Answer 16.

(w)	How many are in the Upper Hunter Local Government Area? Answer 18.
113	How many land clearing investigations were commenced in the current financial year? Answer 483.
(a)	How many have been concluded from this set? Answer 293.
i.	How many resulted in a penalty notice? Answer Four.
ii.	How many resulted in a prosecution? Answer Refer to the answer to supplementary question 118.
iii.	How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? Answer Four.
iv.	How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? Answer Nil.
v.	How many resulted in no further action? Answer 26.
114	How many were commenced in the financial year 24-25? Answer 688.
(a)	How many have been concluded from this set? Answer 586.

i.	How many resulted in a penalty notice? Answer 24.
ii.	How many resulted in a prosecution? Answer Refer to the answer to supplementary question 118.
iii.	How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? Answer Four.
iv.	How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? Answer Three (restoration order).
v.	How many resulted in no further action? Answer 52.
115	How many were commenced in the financial year 23–24? Answer 956.
(a)	How many have been concluded from this set? Answer 888.
i.	How many resulted in a penalty notice? Answer 31.
ii.	How many resulted in a prosecution? Answer Refer to the answer to supplementary question 118.
iii.	How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? Answer Four.

iv.	How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? Answer 12 (restoration order).
v.	How many resulted in no further action? Answer 101.
116	How many were commenced in the financial year 22–23? Answer 760.
(a)	How many have been concluded from this set? Answer 730.
i.	How many resulted in a penalty notice? Answer 34.
ii.	How many resulted in a prosecution? Answer Refer to the answer to supplementary question 118.
iii.	How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? Answer One.
iv.	How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? Answer 14 (restoration order).
v.	How many resulted in no further action? Answer 106.
117	How many were commenced in the financial year 21–22? Answer 615.

(a)	How many have been concluded from this set? Answer 610.
i.	How many resulted in a penalty notice? Answer 17.
ii.	How many resulted in a prosecution? Answer Refer to the answer to supplementary question 118.
iii.	How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? Answer Three.
iv.	How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? Answer 12 (restoration order).
v.	How many resulted in no further action? Answer 81.
118	How many land clearing prosecutions are currently before the courts? Answer 18.
119	What is the average duration of a land clearing investigation from complaint receipt to regulatory outcome? Answer Investigations vary significantly in scope, scale and complexity. Some matters may be resolved quickly, while others require extensive evidence gathering, specialist advice and, potentially legal action (noting court processes and the timeframes are outside the Biodiversity and Heritage Regulator's control).

Environment Protection Authority – Forestry Operations

120	How many active compliance investigations relating to Forestry Corporation operations are currently underway?
-----	---

	<p>(a) What are the compartment numbers that are subject to investigation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
121	<p>Of those forestry-related investigations, how many relate to:</p> <p>(a) Threatened species prescription breaches?</p> <p>(b) Failure to identify or protect den trees?</p> <p>(c) Logging within exclusion zones?</p> <p>(d) Unauthorised harvesting during roading operations?</p> <p>(e) Pollution incidents associated with forestry operations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
122	<p>How many complaints have the EPA received about Forestry Corporation operations in this financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are 12 complaints recorded in the EPA case management system (EPIC).</p>
123	<p>How many forestry compliance investigations have been commenced in this financial year?</p> <p>(a) How many have been concluded from this set?</p> <p>i. How many resulted in a penalty notice?</p> <p>ii. How many resulted in a prosecution?</p> <p>iii. How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice?</p> <p>iv. How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order?</p> <p>v. How many resulted in no further action?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current and previous forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
124	<p>How many complaints have the EPA received about Forestry Corporation operations in the 24–25 financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are 33 complaints recorded in the EPA case management system (EPIC).</p>
125	<p>How many investigations were commenced in the financial year 24–25?</p>

	<p>(a) How many have been concluded from this set?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many resulted in a penalty notice? ii. How many resulted in a prosecution? iii. How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? iv. How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? v. How many resulted in no further action? <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current previous and concluded forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
126	<p>How many complaints have the EPA received about Forestry Corporation operations in the 23–24 financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are 42 complaints recorded in the EPA case management system (EPIC).</p>
127	<p>How many investigations were commenced in the financial year 23–24?</p> <p>(a) How many have been concluded from this set?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many resulted in a penalty notice? ii. How many resulted in a prosecution? iii. How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? iv. How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order? v. How many resulted in no further action? <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current, previous and concluded forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
128	<p>How many complaints have the EPA received about Forestry Corporation operations in the 22–23 financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are 33 complaints recorded in the EPA case management system (EPIC).</p>
129	<p>How many investigations were commenced in the financial year 22–23?</p> <p>(a) How many have been concluded from this set?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How many resulted in a penalty notice? ii. How many resulted in a prosecution? iii. How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice? iv. How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order?

	<p>v. How many resulted in no further action?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current, previous and concluded forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>
130	<p>How many complaints have the EPA received about Forestry Corporation operations in the 21–22 financial year?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are 42 complaints recorded in the EPA case management system (EPIC).</p>
131	<p>How many were investigations commenced in the financial year 21–22?</p> <p>(a) How many have been concluded from this set?</p> <p>i. How many resulted in a penalty notice?</p> <p>ii. How many resulted in a prosecution?</p> <p>iii. How many resulted in a stop-work or prevention notice?</p> <p>iv. How many resulted in a clean-up or restoration order?</p> <p>v. How many resulted in no further action?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on current, previous and concluded forestry-related investigations is available on the EPA website.</p>

Environment Protection Authority - Restructure

132	<p>What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA as at 30 June 2021?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of employees as at 30 June 2021 is in the EPA Annual Report 2020–21.</p>
(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at 30 June 2021, there were 330 Authorised Officers.</p>
133	<p>What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA as at 30 June 2022?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of employees as at 30 June 2022 is in the EPA Annual Report 2021–22.</p>

(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at 30 June 2022, there were 359 Authorised Officers.</p>
134	<p>What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA as at 30 June 2023?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of employees as at 30 June 2023, is in the EPA Annual Report 2022–23.</p>
(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at 30 June 2023, there were 320 Authorised Officers.</p>
135	<p>What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA as at 30 June 2024?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of employees as at 30 June 2024 is in the EPA Annual Report 2023–24.</p>
(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at 30 June 2024, there were 375 Authorised Officers.</p>
136	<p>What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA as at 30 June 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of employees as at 30 June 2025 is in the EPA Annual Report 2024–25.</p>
(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at 30 June 2025, there were 393 Authorised Officers.</p>
137	<p>What is the total number of expected full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the EPA at 30 June 2026?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>This is yet to be finalised as recruitment processes following the organisational changes are ongoing.</p>
(a)	<p>How many of these FTE were allocated to compliance and enforcement functions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is yet to be finalised as recruitment processes following the organisational changes are ongoing.</p>
138	<p>Has any internal risk assessment been conducted regarding reduced compliance capacity as a result of the restructure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The organisational model design was focused on bolstering frontline and compliance capability.</p>

Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp) - Wollemi National Park

139	<p>Does NPWS consider that responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, structural integrity and environmental management of the Ganguddy (Dunns Swamp) dam wall and immediately associated works rests with the approval holder or with NPWS?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 101 (a).</p>
140	<p>Does NPWS have any current statutory, contractual or practical maintenance or oversight responsibilities in respect of those works?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 101 (b).</p>
141	<p>What formal instrument, if any, authorises the continued presence and maintenance of those works within the national park estate?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 101 (c).</p>
142	<p>Has NPWS been notified of, consulted about, or otherwise become aware of any proposed or actual changes to Mining Purpose Leases, water supply work approvals, or water access licences associated with the Ganguddy dam wall and the former Kandos Cement Works pipeline infrastructure?</p> <p>(a) When did NPWS first become aware of those changes or proposals?</p> <p>(b) What consultation, if any, occurred with NPWS prior to those changes</p>

	<p>being made or proposed?</p> <p>(c) What assessment has NPWS undertaken of the implications for the management of Wollemi National Park?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 102 (a-c).</p>
143	<p>Has NPWS participated in any inter-agency or whole-of-government discussions concerning the regulatory status, variation, cancellation or future use of the Ganguddy dam wall, associated Mining Purpose Leases, or related water infrastructure within Wollemi National Park?</p> <p>(a) Which agencies were involved?</p> <p>(b) What matters were discussed insofar as they related to park management?</p> <p>(c) Has NPWS formed a view as to whether any proposed changes may affect infrastructure maintenance responsibilities or environmental management within the park?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 103 (a-c).</p>

Biodiversity certification

144	<p>Can you please provide a rationale for extending the biodiversity certification of the Growth Centres EPLs on 6 June 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The extension of the Growth Centres Biodiversity Certification in June 2025 was to provide certainty to landholders and developers while a review of the certification is completed. This review will provide the Minister with adequate information to determine whether further extension of the certification past 30 June 2026 is appropriate.</p>
(a)	<p>Have you, or anyone from your office or department, had any interactions with anyone from lemma Patterson Premier Advisory regarding this biodiversity certification?</p> <p>i. Who from your office or department have been party to these interactions?</p> <p>ii. On what date/s did these interactions occur?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>I have not and no one in my office or the relevant division in DCCEEW have met with or had interactions with lemma Patterson Premier Advisory on this biodiversity certification.</p>

(b)	<p>Have you, or anyone from your office or department, had any interactions with anyone from Leamac Property Group regarding this biodiversity certification?</p> <p>i. Who from your office or department have been party to these interactions?</p> <p>ii. On what date/s did these interactions occur?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>I have not and no one in my office or the relevant division in DCCEEW have met with or had interactions with Leamac Property Group on this biodiversity certification.</p>
-----	--

Biodiversity - credits

145	<p>Where have credit obligations for Southern Highlands Shale Woodland Threatened Ecological Community (also referred to as Southern Highlands Shale Forest and Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion under the EPBC) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to answers provided below.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Zero.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>32.</p>
i.	<p>What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Project in Wingecarribee Shire to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and rehabilitate critical remnants located on council-managed land. • Increase awareness, education and capacity in landholders, community and council staff to identify, protect and manage the Endangered Ecological Community.
ii.	<p>For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this</p>

	<p>specific threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Experts within DCCEEWS Saving Our Species (SoS) Program develop each conservation action project in line with the SoS conservation strategy for the relevant threatened entity.</p> <p>The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) assessed the project proposal against BCT Board-approved conservation action funding principles that ensure the project is appropriate as an offset (e.g. directly benefit the impacted entity and deliver conservation benefits that are additional to existing requirements).</p> <p>The project is delivered under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BCT and DCCEEW. The MOU requires DCCEEW to monitor the project in line with the NSW Government SoS Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting guidelines and report quarterly to the BCT Executive, including on ecological outcomes.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>
i.	<p>How much money was received by the Department?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$184,140.</p>
ii.	<p>What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 145 (b) (i).</p>
iii.	<p>What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$184,140.</p>
146	<p>Where have credit obligations for Robertson Basalt Tall Open-forest Threatened Ecological Community (NSW listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BCT has not received any payments, and has therefore not acquitted any credit obligations, for Robertson Basalt Tall Open-forest in the Sydney Basin and South Eastern Highland Bioregions.</p>

(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
147	<p>Where have credit obligations for Upland Basalt Eucalypt Forest Threatened Ecological Community (EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BCT has not acquitted any credit obligations for Upland Basalt Eucalypt Forest Threatened Ecological Community or equivalent NSW-listed communities.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in

	<p>full, through the discharge of credit payments?</p> <p>ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <p>i. How much money was received by the Department?</p> <p>ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received?</p> <p>iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds?</p> <p>Answer Not applicable.</p>
148	<p>Where have credit obligations for Robertson Rainforest Threatened Ecological Community (NSW & EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer The BCT has not received any payments, and has therefore not acquitted any credit obligations, for Robertson Rainforest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <p>i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments?</p> <p>ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p>

	<p>i. How much money was received by the Department?</p> <p>ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received?</p> <p>iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
149	<p>Where have credit obligations for Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland Threatened Ecological Community (also referred to as Illawarra and south coast lowland forest and woodland ecological community under the EPBC) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to answers provided below.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>84. In addition, the BCT has agreements in place to purchase 126 credits.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>132. The BCT has a commitment in place to expand the current project to acquit an additional 116 credits.</p>
i.	<p>What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Large-scale project undertaking actions towards four overarching goals to secure Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven landscape for the next 100 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Country, Healthy People. • Biodiverse Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland sites are managed by competent stewards. • Measurable biodiversity improvement for Illawarra Lowlands Grassy Woodland remnants and restoration sites. • Connected Country.
ii.	<p>For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this</p>

	<p>specific threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Experts within DCCEEW’s SoS Program develop each conservation action project in line with the SoS conservation strategy for the relevant threatened entity.</p> <p>The BCT assessed the project proposal against BCT Board-approved conservation action funding principles that ensure the project is appropriate as an offset (e.g. directly benefit the impacted entity and deliver conservation benefits that are additional to existing requirements).</p> <p>The project is delivered under a MOU between the BCT and DCCEEW. The MOU requires DCCEEW to monitor the project in line with the NSW Government SoS Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting guidelines and report quarterly to the BCT Executive, including on ecological outcomes.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>
i.	<p>How much money was received by the Department?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$2,774,675.</p>
ii.	<p>What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 149 (b) (i).</p>
iii.	<p>What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>\$2,774,675.</p>
150	<p>Where have credit obligations for Melaleuca armillaris Tall Shrubland Threatened Ecological Community (NSW listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BCT has not acquitted any credit obligations for Melaleuca armillaris Tall Shrubland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
151	<p>Where have credit obligations for Illawarra-Shoalhaven Subtropical Rainforest Threatened Ecological Community (NSW & EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer provided below.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Two. In addition, the BCT has an agreement in place to purchase one credit.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity?

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Zero.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds? <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
152	<p>Where have credit obligations for Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland (EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer provided below.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>1658. In addition, the BCT has agreements in place to purchase 2,117 credits.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity? <p>Answer</p> <p>Zero.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds?

	<p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
153	<p>Where have credit obligations for Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (<i>Acacia pendula</i>) Woodland (EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BCT has not received any payments, and has therefore not acquitted any credit obligation, for Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (<i>Acacia pendula</i>) Woodland or equivalent NSW-listed communities.</p>
(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
154	<p>Where have credit obligations for Warkworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley (EPBC listing) been discharged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BCT has not received any payments, and has therefore not acquitted any credit obligations, for Warkworth Sands Woodland of the Hunter Valley or equivalent NSW-listed communities.</p>

(a)	<p>How many credits have been discharged through purchase of actual credits in the market?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(b)	<p>How many have been discharged through non-credit payments for alternative services such as conservation projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What are the specific projects that have been funded, either in part or in full, through the discharge of credit payments? ii. For each project, what was the evidence used to assure the BCT or Department that the project would achieve measurable benefits for this specific threatened entity? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
(c)	<p>Has the Department received any funds through the discharge of credits for this threatened entity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How much money was received by the Department? ii. What were the projects that were proposed to be funded, either in full or in part, by the funds received? iii. What was the allocation of funds for each project that received funds? <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

Heritage listing

155	<p>What work are you undertaking in relation to a proposed heritage listing of the Bangalow Bowling Club?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Heritage Council of NSW has not received a State Heritage Register nomination for the Bangalow Bowling Club. If the Bowling Club is being proposed for a local listing then that is a matter for Council.</p>
-----	---

Cenagen Waste

156	<p>Is the Energy from Waste (EfW) policy triggered by the thermal treatment of waste (including incineration, gasification or pyrolysis), regardless of whether the end product is electricity, heat, or a chemical fuel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Does the production of a chemical fuel (such as methanol) from waste-derived feedstock via gasification constitute energy recovery from
-----	---

	<p>waste for the purposes of the EfW policy?</p> <p>(b) Is the determining factor under the EfW policy the nature of the waste treatment process (i.e. thermal treatment of waste), rather than the ultimate end product?</p> <p>(c) What are the specific provisions of the EfW policy or associated guidance relied upon in answering?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>
157	<p>Has the EPA formed any preliminary, internal, or working view as to whether the Cenagen Pty Ltd Kandos facility, involving thermal gasification of approximately 450,000 tonnes per annum of waste-derived feedstock to produce syngas and methanol, would fall within the EfW policy framework?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>
(a)	<p>If yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On what date was that view first formed? ii. Has that view been documented in writing? iii. Has that view been communicated to any other NSW Government agency or Minister's office? <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 157.</p>
(b)	<p>If not, please explicitly confirm so.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

Richmond River

158	<p>Is the minister aware of the mud that has been tested to be monosulfidic black ooze in the Richmond River, which can become toxic when disturbed as in a flood, and that mass fish kills are a regular feature of summer floods?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>DCCEEW is aware that Rous County Council and Ballina Shire Council have identified the presence of monosulfidic black ooze within the estuary.</p>
-----	--

159	<p>Can the minister explain why the situation is deteriorating exponentially despite the Government’s responsibility to ensure the health of the river?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Water quality in the Richmond River estuary is influenced by a range of complex factors, including catchment land use, legacy floodplain drainage modifications, and the scale and timing of flood events.</p>
160	<p>Can the minister explain why the river is so poor that swimming is not recommended at Woodburn, Coraki and Lismore?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There is a range of complex factors, including catchment land use, legacy floodplain drainage modifications, and the scale and timing of flood events.</p> <p>The Department continues to support Rous County Council and Ballina Shire Council in developing their coastal management programs for the Richmond River estuary to improve understanding of water quality risks and identify actions to enhance the river’s health.</p>

Koala movements or translocations

161	<p>When will the review into koala translocations be finalised for public release?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A final draft report has been prepared and is being reviewed by DCCEEW. The report will be published once the review is complete.</p>
(a)	<p>When was the preliminary, or non-final, report from this review provided to the koala translocation panel?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>19 January 2026.</p>
162	<p>Have any translocations been planned while the translocation program has been paused for review?</p> <p>(a) How many potential translocations have been subject to development during the review period?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No new translocations have been planned or developed during the review period.</p> <p>Two existing translocation projects required ongoing planning and management during the review period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the approved Northern Rivers translocation project, investigations were already underway for a welfare translocation to

	<p>Minyumai Indigenous Protected Area. Planning for this project was placed on hold, in late July 2025, while the South East Forest Review was undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the approved Yiraaldiya National Park translocation project, planning was already underway to transfer captive bred koalas from the Koala Conservation Australia breeding facility in Port Macquarie to Yiraaldiya National Park. This is discussed further in the answer to question 163 below.
163	<p>Are there any current plans to move captive bred koalas from Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to the Richmond area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are no current plans to move captive bred koalas from Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to the Richmond area.</p> <p>There is a proposal to translocate up to six captive bred koalas from the Koala Conservation Australia wild koala breeding facility (koalaconservationaustralia.org.au/pages/wild-conservation-koala-breeding) in Port Macquarie to Yiraaldiya National Park feral predator-free area. These koalas were intentionally bred for wild release.</p> <p>Koala Conservation Australia and NPWS have determined that Yiraaldiya National Park is a suitable environment for these koalas based on the previous successful translocation to the park and feed trials currently underway. This proposal is subject to approvals under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and <i>Animal Research Act 1985</i>.</p>
(a)	<p>Have all necessary tests been conducted in the target areas to ensure that any Koalas moved from Port Macquarie will not die?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Do these tests include leaf testing for presence of specific nutrients and toxins? <p>Answer</p> <p>The proposal is for koalas to be moved into a fenced feral predator-free area at Yiraaldiya National Park, which was part of an approved and successful koala translocation trial in 2023. The ongoing persistence of these koalas demonstrates the suitability of the recipient site.</p> <p>Leaf nutrition and toxicity testing is not considered necessary as koalas already inhabit the recipient site, demonstrating its suitability.</p> <p>Koala Conservation Australia and NPWS will conduct an onsite feeding trial to ensure the Port Macquarie koalas can, and will, eat the browse at the recipient site. The feeding trial is currently in development and will be informed by specialist koala feeding experts. Research will also be undertaken to investigate the gut microbiome of the koalas as they transition diet.</p>

	The proposal includes post release monitoring to carefully assess koala health and welfare.
--	---

ENERGY

EnergyCo and transmission line routes

164	<p>What was the date of the first advertisement of the previous (pre-October 2025) study corridor for the Hunter to New England Transmission line?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo commenced community engagement about the New England REZ network infrastructure project in June 2023.</p>
(a)	<p>What were the total number (lowest & highest potential) of private landholders expected to be impacted by this route?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor.</p> <p>Based on a 250-metre corridor (notional corridor for the new study corridor), the overall number of private landowners impacted is estimated at 161 and 120; Refined PSC and new study corridor respectively.</p>
(b)	<p>What was the total vertical distance (lowest & highest potential) as part of this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. This includes information about elevation change.</p>
(c)	<p>What was the total area (lowest & highest potential) of private land likely to be required if this study area were confirmed as the project area?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. What was the estimated area of land that had been previously cleared for non-conservation purposes? ii. What was the estimated area of land that would have been cleared that is not currently cleared? iii. What were the likely estimated impacted species and ecological communities that are listed as threatened, in NSW or under the EPBC, that would have been impacted by any necessary clearing if the study corridor became the project area? iv. What was the likely estimated impact, by numbers or area, on any threatened species or ecological community if this study corridor had

	<p>become the project area?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. This includes information about land use and biodiversity impacts considered as part of EnergyCo’s comparative assessment of the previous and new corridors.</p> <p>EnergyCo is developing an EIS that will be lodged for assessment and public exhibition in the second half of 2026.</p>
(d)	<p>What was the total area (lowest & highest potential) of public land likely to be required if this study area were confirmed as the project area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What was the estimated area of land that had been previously cleared for non-conservation purposes? ii. What was the estimated area of land that would have been cleared that is not currently cleared? iii. What were the likely estimated impacted species and ecological communities that are listed as threatened, in NSW or under the EPBC, that would have been impacted by any necessary clearing if the study corridor became the project area? iv. What was the likely estimated impact, by numbers or area, on any threatened species or ecological community if this study corridor had become the project area? <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 164 (c).</p>
(e)	<p>How was the likely impact of potential transmission lines in this study corridor on fire fighting operations expressed in any assessment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. By what percentage would the transmission lines have reduced the effectiveness of operations? <p>Answer</p> <p>Bushfire risk is considered through the broader planning and environmental assessment process, including risks to and from the project, potential ignition sources, infrastructure resilience, access arrangements and emergency response.</p> <p>In evaluating the corridor change, EnergyCo found the revised corridor improved bushfire outcomes by avoiding aerial exclusion zones at Chaffey Dam and Lake Glenbawn, reducing constraints on aerial firefighting, and reducing the area of Category 1 bushfire-prone land from around 2,900 hectares to 1,870 hectares.</p>

	<p>EnergyCo is preparing a bushfire assessment as part of the project’s EIS, which will provide detailed analysis of bushfire risk and mitigation measures, informed by ongoing consultation with RFS.</p>
(f)	<p>What was the total estimated cost of investigating this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The project is subject to extensive regulatory oversight to ensure it is delivered in a cost-effective way, including by the AER and ASL which acts as the independent Consumer Trustee under the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020</i>.</p> <p>The final costs will be released publicly once the AER makes its revenue determination for the project, which will occur after the preferred network operator has been appointed.</p>
(g)	<p>What was the total estimated cost of the proposed project under this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The project is subject to extensive regulatory oversight to ensure it is delivered in a cost-effective way, including by the AER and ASL which acts as the independent Consumer Trustee under the <i>Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act</i>.</p> <p>The final costs will be released publicly once the AER makes its revenue determination for the project, which will occur after the preferred network operator has been appointed.</p>
165	<p>What was the date of the first advertisement of the current (post-October 2025) study corridor for the Hunter to New England Transmission line?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Print and radio advertisements in local channels promoting the projects “have your say” period commenced in early-October 2025. Advertising continues to be a useful platform for reaching the projects communities and stakeholders.</p>
(a)	<p>What are the total number (lowest & highest potential) of private landholders expected to be impacted by this route?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor.</p> <p>Based on a 250-metre corridor (notional corridor for the new study corridor), the overall number of private landowners impacted is estimated at 161 and 120; Refined PSC and new study corridor respectively.</p>

<p>(b)</p>	<p>What was the total vertical distance (lowest & highest potential) as part of this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. This includes the total vertical distance of the new study corridor.</p>
<p>(c)</p>	<p>What is the total area (lowest & highest potential) of private land likely to be required if this study area were confirmed as the project area?</p> <p>i. What was the estimated area of land that had been previously cleared for non-conservation purposes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. This includes information about land use and biodiversity impacts considered as part of EnergyCo’s comparative assessment of the previous and new corridors. There is less woody vegetation (i.e. forest and woodland) in the current corridor. The final figure for land to be cleared will be determined in the EIS, once the impact of mitigation techniques has undergone detailed analysis.</p>
<p>(d)</p>	<p>What was the total area (lowest & highest potential) of public land likely to be required if this study area were confirmed as the project area?</p> <p>i. What was the estimated area of land that had been previously cleared for non-conservation purposes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published its Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. There is less woody vegetation (i.e. forest and woodland) in the current corridor. The final figure for land to be cleared will be determined in the EIS, once the impact of mitigation techniques has undergone detailed analysis.</p>
<p>(e)</p>	<p>How was the likely impact of potential transmission lines in this study corridor on fire fighting operations expressed in any assessment?</p> <p>i. By what percentage would the transmission lines have reduced the effectiveness of operations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 164 (e).</p>

(f)	<p>What is the total estimated cost of investigating this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The project is subject to extensive regulatory oversight to ensure it is delivered in a cost-effective way, including by the AER and ASL which acts as the independent Consumer Trustee under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act.</p> <p>The final costs will be released publicly once the AER makes its revenue determination for the project, which will occur after the preferred network operator has been appointed.</p>
(g)	<p>What was the total estimated cost of the proposed project under this study corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The project is subject to extensive regulatory oversight to ensure it is delivered in a cost-effective way, including by the AER and ASL which acts as the independent Consumer Trustee under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act.</p> <p>The final costs will be released publicly once the AER makes its revenue determination for the project, which will occur after the preferred network operator has been appointed.</p>

Questions from the Hon Chris Rath MLC

CFMEU meetings

166	<p>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?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)• matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. <p>Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures).</p>
-----	---

ETU meetings

167	<p>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?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
-----	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. <p>Ministers’ diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office’s website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures).</p>
--	---

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

168	<p>On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW 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.</p>
-----	--

Workforce Mobility Placement (WMP) Program

169	<p>Is your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s) taking part in the WMP program?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what department(s)/agency(s)?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Workplace Mobility Placement program matches employees impacted by organisational changes and restructures to open opportunities anywhere in the NSW Government Sector.</p> <p>The program creates a streamlined whole-of-government approach to retaining talent, optimising usage of employee capabilities, facilitating mobility, and reducing recruitment and redundancy expenditure.</p>
-----	--

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

170	<p>Do you have plans to print the 2025–26 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the budgeted expenditure for printing for each department / agency?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Framework for Financial and Annual Reporting (TPG25-10).</p>
-----	--

Information Access Self-Assessment Tool and the Privacy Self-Assessment Tool

171	<p>As Minister, do you ensure that all your respective Department(s)/Agency(s) use the Information Access Self-Assessment Tool and the Privacy Self Assessment Tool by the NSW Information and Privacy Commission?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>All Ministers and Public Service agencies are to comply with relevant information access and privacy requirements.</p> <p>It is open to Ministers and Public Service agencies to access the tools and other resources developed by the Information and Privacy Commission to support compliance with these requirements.</p>
-----	---

Parliamentary Budget Office

172	<p>In relation to 2023 ALP election policy costings made to the Parliamentary Budget Office, what costings have been successfully fulfilled and/or implemented in your Department(s)/Agency(s) since 28 March 2023?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information related to the Parliamentary Budget Office is in the link below: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/pbo/Pages/Parliamentary-Budget-Office.aspx.</p> <p>The Government provides detailed information about actual and forecast capital expenditure through the Budget papers, Half Yearly Review and Report on State Finances.</p>
-----	--

State Records Act

173	<p>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?</p> <p>(a) If yes, when?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the <i>State Records Act 1998</i>.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office also provides guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.</p> <p>Further information is available on State Records NSW's website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw).</p> <p>All Ministers' offices are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act.</p>
-----	--

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

174	<p>Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?</p> <p>(a) If yes, is it available online?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>DCCEEW's gifts, benefits and hospitality register is available online.</p> <p>The EPA and Taronga Conservation Society Australia maintain separate registers, which are not available online.</p> <p>The DCCEEW gifts, benefits and hospitality register is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback/gifts-benefits-and-hospitality-register.</p>
-----	---

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

175	<p>Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the website URL?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p>
176	<p>Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?</p> <p>(a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?</p> <p>(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits valued at over \$150.</p> <p>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.</p>

Ministerial Code of Conduct

177	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what was the breach?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.</p> <p>The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.</p> <p>Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>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 <i>Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988</i>.</p>
-----	--

Senior Executive Drivers

178	<p>As at 1 February 2026, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>None.</p>
-----	---

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Ministerial Offices

179	<p>Does your Ministerial Office have a disclosure log in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the URL?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Ministerial Office disclosure log is available on the DCCEEW website.</p>
-----	---

GIPA Act - Disclosure Log & Departments/Agencies

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

	<p>Answer</p> <p>The DCCEEW disclosure log is located at: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback/disclosure-log.</p> <p>The EPA disclosure log is located at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Access-to-information/disclosure-log.</p> <p>The Taronga Conservation Society Australia disclosure log is located at: taronga.org.au/about/governance/obtaining-information.</p>
--	---

TikTok

181	<p>Are you on TikTok?</p> <p>(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p>
-----	--

Signal

182	<p>Are you on Signal?</p> <p>(a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?</p> <p>(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
-----	---

Mobile phone

183	<p>Do you have a mobile phone paid for by your ministerial budget?</p> <p>(a) If yes, how many phones?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Mobile telephones are to be used in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.</p>
-----	--

Communications and/or Media Training

184	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you had communications and/or media training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the description of training?</p> <p>(b) If yes, how much?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.</p> <p>Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Ministerial Office Budgets are to be managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.</p>
-----	---

Parliamentary Secretary & Ministerial Vehicle

185	<p>Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used a Ministerial driver from the pool?</p> <p>(a) If yes, why?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p>
-----	--

Media releases and statements

186	<p>Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?</p> <p>(a) If no, why?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Department of Customer Service is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.</p>
-----	--

Overseas Travel

187	<p>As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for</p>
-----	---

	<p>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: www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy</p> <p>Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Framework for Financial and Annual Reporting (TPG25-10) requires certain agencies to include information on international travel by officers and employees in agency annual reports.</p>
--	--

Data Breaches

188	<p>Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what is the website?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The DCCEEW register is available at: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew/information-access-governance-and-feedback.</p> <p>The EPA register is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Contact-us/Website-service-standards/privacy.</p> <p>The Taronga Conservation Society Australia register is available at: taronga.org.au/about-taronga/publications/tarongas-data-breach-policy.</p>
-----	--

Discretionary Fund

189	<p>As Minister, so you have a discretionary fund?</p> <p>(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?</p> <p>(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
190	<p>Airline Lounges</p> <p>(a) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?</p> <p>(b) Are you a member of the Virgin Beyond Lounge?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.</p> <p>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:</p>

	<p>“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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.</p>
--	--

Ministerial Overseas Travel

191	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you formally applied to the Premier to travel overseas?</p> <p>(a) If yes, was this application accepted?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Ministerial overseas travel information is published online in accordance with M2015-05 – Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/ministerial-overseas-travel-information.</p>
-----	---

Private Jet Charter

192	<p>Have you travelled on a private jet charter in your ministerial capacity?</p> <p>(a) If yes, was this value for money for taxpayers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Ministers’ domestic travel information is published on the Premier’s Department’s website at: www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-domestic-travel.</p>
-----	---

Ministerial Office renovations

193	<p>Since 28 March 2023, has your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place been renovated?</p> <p>(a) If yes, how much was the expenditure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Leasehold improvements for Ministerial Offices are to be reported within the Premier’s Department annual reports.</p>
-----	---

Conflict of Interest

194	<p>Since 28 March 2023, have you formally written to the Premier with a conflict of interest?</p> <p>(a) If yes, why?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>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.</p>
-----	--

Senior Executives

195	<p>In your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s), to date, what has been the percentage reduction of senior public service executive numbers since 1 July 2023?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The number of senior executives is publicly available in agency Annual Reports.</p>
-----	--

Sponsorship

196	<p>Does your respective portfolio department(s)/agency(s) provide sponsorship (incoming and outgoing) to organisations?</p> <p>(a) If yes, where are the details of this sponsorship reported/registered?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Circular C2024-05 – Sponsorship Policy (the Policy) issued by the Secretary of The Cabinet Office provides principles-based guidance and includes mandatory requirements for agencies involved in sponsorship arrangements. Agencies must implement processes and practices for sponsorship</p>
-----	---

	arrangements consistent with the principles and mandatory requirements in the Policy.
--	---

Political fundraising

197	<p>Have you hosted a political fundraiser in your Ministerial Office at 52 Martin Place?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
-----	--

ENERGY

NSW Energy Infrastructure Roadmap – Sydney Southern Ring (Bannaby to South Creek)

198	<p>In accordance with the 2022 Integrated System Plan (ISP), Transgrid identified in its ISP Preparatory Activities – Reinforcing Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong Supply (Southern Ring) June 2023 document, the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong area is responsible for three quarters of the demand for electricity for NSW, how far has the critical Southern Ring project progressed?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Sydney Ring South project is identified in the draft 2026 ISP as having two components with different timeframes.</p> <p>Transgrid must publish its Project Assessment Draft Report for the first component by 30 April 2026.</p>
199	<p>Does the Sydney Southern Ring still plan to run a 500kV double circuit corridor between Bannaby Substation and a South Creek Substation via Greendale?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to Transgrid’s 2025 Transmission Annual Planning Report.</p>
200	<p>In EnergyCo’s Hunter Transmission Project Overview November 2023 it identifies the urgency of the Hunter Transmission Project given its status as one of the State’s most critical energy projects with an image identifying the future Southern Ring Project, why is this Southern Ring Project not mentioned since?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Sydney Southern Ring is a separate potential future transmission project and is not part of the Hunter Transmission Project scope.</p>
201	<p>In Transgrid’s System Security Roadmap 2023 the Hunter Transmission Project is listed with a delivery date of 2028, and the Sydney Southern Ring</p>

	<p>has a listed delivery date of 2031, are these delivery dates still valid?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Hunter Transmission Project is currently anticipated to be completed in late 2029.</p> <p>Sydney Southern Ring is a potential future project. It does not have a committed or expected delivery date. For further details refer to the answer given to supplementary question 198.</p>
202	<p>Given the immaturity of the New England REZ and the maturity of the HumeLink for unlocking the full capacity of Snowy 2.0 for the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong Supply, why is the urgency of the Sydney Southern Ring less than the New England REZ transmission link?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Transmission investment priorities across the National Electricity Market are informed by national planning processes led by AEMO (including the ISP) and by the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap.</p> <p>The Hunter Transmission Project supports the connection of new renewable generation in the Hunter region and strengthens electricity supply to major load centres including Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.</p> <p>The timing and prioritisation of other transmission projects are subject to ongoing planning and assessment processes.</p>
203	<p>Where is the development of the Illawarra REZ at, given its proximity to the Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong Supply?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Illawarra REZ is currently in an early design and planning phase. Stakeholder and community consultation on options for NSW's first urban REZ have commenced. EnergyCo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Endeavour Energy regarding opportunities on the distribution network. EnergyCo is also working with Transgrid and others to monitor developments in the region and consider interactions with nearby load centres. In addition, the NSW Government is already rolling out consumer energy resource upgrades, including electric vehicle charging and energy efficiency upgrades to social housing dwellings.</p>

Port to Orana-Central West REZ Golden Hwy Corridor – Pinch Points

204	<p>What is the projected cost for improving the following 19 pinch points and intersections along the oversize and/or overmass (OSOM) route?</p> <p>(a) Quayside Cl/Selwyn St?</p> <p>(b) Selwyn St/George St/Industrial Dr?</p>
-----	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Industrial Dr/Pacific Hwy? (d) John Renshaw Dr onto Hunter Ewy eastbound exit ramp? (e) New England Hwy/Mitchell Line of Rd (Golden Hwy)? (f) Golden Hwy (Mitchell Line of Rd)/Putty Rd? (g) Jerry Plains Rd/Putty Rd? (h) Golden Hwy/Lonsdale St? (i) Pringle St/Golden Hwy? (j) Jerrys Plains Rd (Golden Hwy)/Denman Rd? (k) Denman Rd/Bengalla Rd? (l) Wybong Rd/Golden Hwy? (m) Golden Hwy/Vinegaroy Rd? (n) Golden Hwy/Black Stump Way? (o) Golden Hwy/Castlereagh Hwy? (p) Golden Hwy/Bolaro St? (q) Golden Hwy/Spring Ridge Rd? (r) Castlereagh Hwy/Barneys Reef Rd? (s) Golden Hwy/Saxa Rd? <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW and Australian Governments are providing \$128.5 million for the first stage of the Port to REZ project, which includes upgrades at 19 locations between the Port of Newcastle and Elong Elong in the Central-West Orana REZ.</p>
205	<p>What is the individual projected cost for the eight new pullover bays along the OSOM route?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Jerrys Plains – on Golden Highway near petrol station? (b) Hollydeen – on Wybong Road? (c) Sandy Hollow – on Golden Highway near bus service? (d) Merriwa – west of Glenroy Road? (e) Merriwa – east of Pembroke Road? (f) Uabry near Tongy Road? (g) Golden Highway east of Back Creek? (h) Near Dunedoo – west of Clay Gully? <p>Answer</p> <p>The specific breakdown of costs for each individual pullover bay remains commercial-in-confidence.</p>

206	<p>Is the expected total cost of the \$115.5 million Newcastle Port Logistics Precinct part of the expected total cost of the \$128.5 million Port to Orana Central West REZ Project, or a stand alone cost?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The \$115.5 million funding for the Newcastle Port Logistics Precinct is separate to Port to REZ funding because they are different things.</p>
-----	--

New England REZ Transmission Corridor

207	<p>The Rouchel area experienced an anthrax outbreak in 2007. Anthrax spores survive in soil for over 100 years. Construction earthworks risk releasing dormant spores, posing a direct threat to construction workers, local residents, and livestock. No comprehensive biosecurity assessment has been undertaken. What has EnergyCo done to address this community concern?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government is aware of historical anthrax outbreaks in the vicinity of the transmission corridor and takes this risk seriously.</p> <p>EnergyCo is undertaking an Anthrax Risk Assessment and Management Strategy as part of the project's EIS. This will include consultation with landowners in the affected area to identify known burn or burial sites and to develop property-specific biosecurity protocols to manage risk where investigations or construction activities may occur.</p>
208	<p>The proposed transmission lines would be located in the exact area where RFS aircraft currently scoop water from Lake Glenbawn. Fixed-wing firefighting aircraft require 5 nautical miles clearance from transmission infrastructure. If this corridor proceeds, Lake Glenbawn becomes unusable for aerial firefighting in one of NSW's most bushfire-prone regions. How is EnergyCo addressing these community concerns?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The revised transmission corridor along the eastern edge of Lake Glenbawn is not expected to obstruct aerial firefighting operations by water-scooping fixed wing aircraft.</p>
209	<p>The corridor passes over the 370-million-year-old Timor Caves, home to 12 bat species including the endangered Large-eared pied bat. EnergyCo's environmental assessment mentioned only ONE of these 12 species. Up to 3,000 hectares of forest may require clearing. What has EnergyCo done to address these community concerns?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is investigating alignment options for the New England REZ</p>

	<p>transmission route that avoid Timor Caves and the environmentally sensitive karst systems.</p> <p>EnergyCo is also developing an EIS which will provide a detailed assessment of species and habitat in the corridor. This is expected to be lodged with DPHI in the second half of 2026.</p>
210	<p>The Upper Hunter is the world's second-largest thoroughbred breeding region. The corridor cuts through the Equine Critical Industries Cluster, formally recognised under NSW planning policy. This industry contributes \$2.4 billion to NSW and \$5 billion nationally. The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association has formally opposed this corridor. Will EnergyCo ensure this critical cluster is not impacted?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is engaging with landowners and equine stakeholders to understand stud operations and inform corridor refinement with a view to reducing potential impacts. Potential impacts on the equine industry will also be assessed through the planning system.</p>
211	<p>EnergyCo's "access roads" are actually goat tracks. The terrain between Sargeant's Gap Road and Niangala is at 1313m elevation, with 93km through snow zones and 170+ wet construction days annually. This route is not fit for purpose, how does EnergyCo expect to deal with this reality?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has not assumed existing tracks will service construction in their current state; rather, that new tracks will be built and existing tracks upgraded and that construction techniques will be employed to mitigate the effects of weather.</p>

EnergyCo Contractors Misconduct

212	<p>Three EnergyCo staff misrepresented themselves to landholders as "water borers". Only when challenged did they identify themselves as EnergyCo representatives. This behaviour has fundamentally destroyed community trust. Will this misconduct be addressed?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo takes any concerns regarding potential misrepresentation by staff or contractors seriously. All personnel are required to clearly identify themselves when engaging with landholders.</p>
213	<p>The Upper Hunter community assesses EnergyCo is pressuring landholders to participate in refining the corridor from 3km to 1km. They have formally requested that EnergyCo cease this activity, but the pressure continues. This is adding immeasurably to community distress. Will this be addressed?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>While engagement in route-refinement can deliver better outcomes it is important to note that this is entirely voluntary.</p> <p>Project development can be difficult, and the Government expects all staff to work respectfully with all landholders they have contact with.</p> <p>A full list of available support services can be accessed at: energyco.nsw.gov.au/community/support-landowners.</p>
--	--

EnergyCo Consultation Concerns

214	<p>There was a six-consultation period over Christmas that was less than ideal. Will this be improved in future?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Where possible, EnergyCo seeks to avoid consultation periods overlapping with major holiday periods. Where overlap is unavoidable, EnergyCo accounts for holiday periods in consultation timelines by providing additional time.</p>
215	<p>Critical reports have been released 48 hours before consultation submission deadlines. Can deadlines or report release dates allow for more effective consultation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>It is unclear which reports are referenced. EnergyCo has been committed to facilitating community participation in consultation. In New England, EnergyCo has undertaken nearly 900 instances of in-person engagement and has responded to around 780 enquiries.</p>
216	<p>EnergyCo has provided heavily redacted documents to the Upper Hunter community which is seen to hamper the consultation process. Can maximum transparency be provided to the community?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Where documents contain redactions, this is typically to protect personal information, security-sensitive material or commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>For example, the New England Renewable Energy Zone Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report, published in November 2025, outlines the analysis underpinning the corridor decision announced in October 2025.</p> <p>Limited sections were redacted where disclosure could affect the competitive process to procure a network operator for the New England REZ network infrastructure project. These redactions do not affect the overall findings of the report.</p>

New England Renewable Energy Zone

217	<p>How many renewable energy projects located within the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) are currently in the NSW planning system, and what is their combined proposed generation capacity (in MW or GW)?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the DPHI online portal.</p>
218	<p>How many projects within the New England REZ have been withdrawn from the NSW planning system, and what is the total generation capacity of those withdrawn projects?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.</p>
219	<p>How many projects located within the New England REZ have received underwriting under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap, including Long-Term Energy Service Agreements (LTESAs), and what is the combined capacity of those projects?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Two projects within the New England REZ have secured Long-Term Energy Service Agreements under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. These projects are Armidale East Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which has a storage capacity of 1,440 megawatt-hours (MWh), and New England Solar Farm which has a generation capacity of 720 megawatts (MW).</p>
220	<p>How many projects within the New England REZ are currently under construction, and what is their total generation capacity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The BESS component for the New England Solar Farm is the only project within the New England REZ geographical boundary that is currently under construction. This project is expected to have a storage capacity of 400 MWh.</p>
221	<p>How many projects in the New England REZ have reached financial close for construction, and what is their total generation capacity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>There are six large-scale projects within the New England REZ that have reached financial close and progressed through the NSW planning system. Five of these projects are operational. The remaining project is the BESS component for the New England Solar Farm (refer to the answer to supplementary question 220).</p> <p>Collectively, these projects have a combined generation capacity of 980 MW and storage capacity of 400 MWh.</p>

222	<p>Given that the Thunderbolt Wind Farm has not reached financial close more than a year after receiving an offer of federal underwriting under the Capacity Investment Scheme, will the NSW Government provide any additional financial assistance to support the project?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government is not currently proposing providing additional financial assistance to support particular projects in the New England REZ.</p>
-----	--

New England REZ - Transmission Capacity & Network Planning

223	<p>What is the estimated remaining generation capacity (in MW or GW) that can be accommodated within the New England REZ before existing transmission capacity becomes saturated?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The existing 330 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines that currently transfer power between Bayswater, Tamworth and Armidale, and between Armidale, Kempsey and Newcastle, are running at near full capacity.</p> <p>Questions relating to the spare capacity of the existing 330 kV lines are a matter for Transgrid, which was privatised by the previous government.</p>
224	<p>Has the Government undertaken any updated cost-benefit analysis comparing one, two or three 500 kV circuits for the New England REZ, and if so, will that analysis be tabled?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Two double circuit 500 kV transmission lines are required between Bayswater and the New England REZ to meet its declared intended network capacity of up to 8 gigawatts (GW).</p>
225	<p>What assumptions has EnergyCo used regarding future generation mix (wind vs solar vs storage) when determining the required transmission capacity for the REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The New England REZ was legislated and declared with an intended network (transfer) capacity of 8 GW.</p> <p>The REZ could support around 12 GW of generation (from solar and wind) with 4 GW of storage to fill the planned initial 6 GW of network capacity. The final generation mix (wind/solar/storage) will be determined once an access scheme is in place and access rights are allocated.</p>
226	<p>What steps is the Government taking to ensure that new transmission infrastructure in the New England REZ will be fully utilised once constructed?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo's industry engagement to date indicates strong generator demand in the New England REZ.</p> <p>The Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap ensures we develop transmission and generation, and storage concurrently to deliver the most cost-effective solutions for energy consumers.</p>
227	<p>What is the estimated cost to NSW electricity consumers of constructing one, two or three 500 kV transmission lines in the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Project costs are commercial-in-confidence while EnergyCo is in a live procurement process. The final cost for the project will be released publicly once the AER makes its revenue determination for the project.</p>
228	<p>How does the Government reconcile its proposed transmission build-out for the New England REZ with AEMO's Draft Integrated System Plan, which suggests that later stages of the project may not be in the long-term interests of consumers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The New England REZ is legislated to deliver up to 8 GW of network capacity under the NSW Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. EnergyCo is currently focused on delivering the first 6 GW through stages 1 and 2, consistent with the NSW Consumer Trustee's most recent Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report.</p> <p>AEMO's Draft 2026 Integrated System Plan includes stage 1 of the REZ network infrastructure project in the optimal development pathway. The ISP notes that stage 2 will be evaluated under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act, which considers the long-term financial interests of NSW electricity consumers.</p>
229	<p>Has the Government sought formal advice from AEMO on whether the second and third stages of transmission expansion in the New England REZ are still justified?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is working with AEMO to inform the development of the final 2026 ISP, to be published in June 2026.</p>
230	<p>Will the Government publish any correspondence or advice received from AEMO regarding the optimal transmission capacity for the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>AEMO publishes several key reports that provide a strategic view of transmission network needs, options, modelling inputs, system adequacy and</p>

	emerging constraints across the National Electricity Market. EnergyCo works closely with AEMO to inform these documents.
231	<p>Will EnergyCo commit to constructing one or two 500 kV transmission lines for the New England REZ, as referenced in the BCDRF documentation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is proposing two new 500 kV transmission lines to connect the New England REZ with the existing grid at Bayswater.</p>
232	<p>Will the Government rule out the construction of a third transmission line that would increase total network capacity to 8 GW, as referenced in the same documentation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The two 500 kV transmission lines proposed between the New England REZ and Bayswater are capable of delivering up to 8 GW of network capacity, without the need for a third transmission line.</p>
233	<p>Can the Government confirm whether it is assessing whether the second stage of transmission development – expanding capacity from 2.4 GW to 6 GW – is in the long-term interests of consumers, as suggested in Appendix 5 of the Draft Integrated System Plan?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo will make a recommendation to ASL as the Consumer Trustee to authorise the project (stages 1 and 2). The Consumer Trustee makes its decisions in the long-term financial interests of consumers. Stages 1 and 2 are supported by the Consumer Trustee’s most recent 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report.</p>
234	<p>When will affected landowners receive certainty regarding whether one, two, or three transmission lines will ultimately be required for the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has been clear that two 500 kV transmission lines are required between Bayswater and the New England REZ.</p>

New England REZ Transmission Infrastructure Corridor Design

235	Regarding the Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report for the New England Renewable Energy Zone network infrastructure project, published by EnergyCo in November 2025:
(a)	What is the total cost of technical studies, modelling, landowner engagement and design work undertaken on the original corridor since 2022, and how much

	<p>of this expenditure is now considered sunk due to the decision to shift to a new corridor?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Costs associated with the route alignment form part of EnergyCo’s overall development costs for the project. This is typical for route refinements on a major linear infrastructure project which are common during the development phase (including for the Central-West Orana REZ under the previous government).</p>
(b)	<p>The report states that the comparative findings for the new corridor are “indicative only” and “subject to change”. Please outline what environmental risks remain unassessed in the new corridor and when these assessments will be completed.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025) outlines EnergyCo’s process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor. It does not seek to provide a comprehensive analysis of environmental impacts in the revised corridor.</p> <p>EnergyCo is preparing an EIS which will provide a detailed assessment of the project and its expected impacts. The EIS is expected to be lodged for assessment and public exhibition in the second half of 2026.</p>
(c)	<p>EnergyCo asserts that the new corridor will reduce costs and accelerate delivery, yet the report confirms that detailed engineering has not been completed for the new alignment. Please provide the cost modelling, risk analysis and schedule modelling that supports these claims.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Relocating the corridor to terrain that is easier and safer to construct is expected to reduce delivery timeframes and overall costs, improving value for energy consumers.</p> <p>Detailed project costs remain commercial-in-confidence while EnergyCo is undertaking a live procurement process for the New England REZ network operator.</p>
(d)	<p>Please provide the full analysis supporting the claim that the new corridor will enable energisation up to 18 months earlier, including assumptions, modelling inputs and sensitivity testing.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo has published the Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report (November 2025), which outlines the process and analysis underpinning its decision to move the corridor.</p>

Equine Critical Industry Cluster

236	<p>Why has EnergyCo selected a new corridor for the New England REZ transmission infrastructure that still intersects the Equine Critical Industry Cluster, despite the industry’s repeated warnings about noise, helicopter operations, and construction impacts on high-value horses?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo recognises the significance of the Upper Hunter region equine critical industry cluster (CIC) to the region and NSW. There are numerous examples of equine operations coexisting with transmission structures throughout NSW, including in the Upper Hunter region.</p> <p>EnergyCo is working closely with equine stakeholders to inform the refinement of the corridor. Impacts to the equine CIC will be assessed in an EIS.</p>
237	<p>What specific protections are being offered to equine businesses now affected by the new corridor – businesses that were previously told they would not be impacted under the original alignment?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo is engaging with landowners as the corridor is refined, with the aim of minimising impacts to these operations.</p>
238	<p>Did EnergyCo conduct any comparative economic analysis of the impacts on the equine industry before deciding to shift the corridor eastward?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo published the Bulk Corridor Design Refinement Report in November 2025, which outlines the process and analysis underpinning the decision to move the corridor. The report considers impacts to the equine CIC as part of the comparative analysis of the previous and new corridor. Further detailed analysis of equine CIC impacts will be carried out as part of the EIS.</p>
(a)	<p>If so, can this analysis be provided?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 238.</p>
(b)	<p>If not, why not?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 238.</p>

Status of the 2020 NSW–Commonwealth MoU (“NSW Energy Package”)

239	<p>Has the Memorandum of Understanding titled NSW Energy Package, signed with the Federal Government dated 31 January 2020, been annulled, amended,</p>
-----	---

	<p>or superseded by any subsequent agreement or intergovernmental arrangement?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In 2022, the former NSW Government exchanged the Rewiring the Nation Letter of Intent with the Australian Government, superseding the Memorandum of Understanding – NSW Energy Package.</p>
240	<p>If the MoU remains in effect, which commitments – financial, regulatory, or delivery-related – are still operative, and which have lapsed or been overtaken by later policy decisions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Not applicable. Refer to the answer to supplementary question 239.</p>
241	<p>Does the Government still consider the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone to be a “Pilot Zone... designed to test and improve a delivery model for Renewable Energy Zones that minimises costs to consumers and the governments,” as stated in the 2020 MoU?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This relates to the previous Government. The Memorandum of Understanding was also superseded under the previous Government.</p> <p>The Central-West Orana REZ was the first renewable energy zone.</p>
242	<p>Given that the estimated cost of the Central West Orana REZ has increased from \$675 million to more than \$5.5 billion, does the Government consider that the Pilot Zone has validated the delivery model originally envisaged?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The size of the Central-West Orana REZ is the same as proposed under the previous Government.</p>
243	<p>Has the Government undertaken any formal assessment of whether the Pilot Zone has achieved its stated objective of minimising costs to consumers and governments?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Central-West Orana REZ Network Infrastructure Project has undergone formal assessments in accordance with the relevant legislative requirements, including authorisation that it is in the financial interests of consumers.</p>

Central West Orana REZ - Implications for Electricity Affordability

244	<p>Will the Government conduct a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the Central West Orana REZ on electricity affordability once the zone is completed and renewable generation is operating within it, before applying</p>
-----	--

	<p>the same delivery model to the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Central-West Orana REZ is being delivered under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act. Under that Act, the project has been authorised by ASL as the Consumer Trustee as being in the long-term financial interests of NSW energy consumers. Costs have been determined by the AER as being prudent, reasonable and efficient (refer to the answer to supplementary question 245 below).</p>
245	<p>How much does the Government expect the cost recovery for network investments required for the Central West Orana REZ – including synchronous condensers, enabling works, and all associated transmission infrastructure – to add to consumer electricity bills once construction is complete?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the revenue determinations made by the AER.</p>
246	<p>What reduction in wholesale electricity prices does the Government expect the Central West Orana REZ to deliver, and does the Government anticipate that these reductions will be sufficient to offset the increased network charges?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the Central-West Orana REZ Infrastructure Planner Recommendation Public Report.</p>
247	<p>Does the Government consider that the Central West Orana REZ will have validated a delivery model suitable for replication in the New England REZ if the net effect is an increase in electricity bills for NSW customers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 244.</p>
248	<p>Has the Government identified any shortcomings, failures, or inefficiencies in the delivery model used for the Central West Orana REZ that will require changes before applying the model to the New England REZ?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government continuously reviews its delivery models to identify lessons and improve outcomes for energy consumers.</p>
249	<p>What specific elements of the Central West Orana REZ delivery model – procurement, governance, sequencing, risk allocation, community engagement, or cost estimation – have been flagged for revision?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 248.</p>

	The Government's changes include implementing the recommendations of the Electricity Supply and Reliability Check Up, amending relevant legislation and regulations, consulting on a revised approach to the access scheme for the REZ, expanding eligibility for community benefit programs, and tailoring the procurement approach.
250	<p>Given that the Commonwealth had committed to "enter into negotiations with Transgrid to underwrite, facilitate, or otherwise financially support Transgrid to undertake the planning, construction, and commissioning works to deliver the Pilot Zone transmission infrastructure by 2022" why did the NSW government not proceed to allow this federally funded Pilot to proceed with Transgrid?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is a question for the previous Government.</p>

De Energisation of Transmission Lines During Bushfires

251	In the event of a bushfire affecting an area containing high voltage transmission lines, what is the standard timeframe between:
(a)	<p>notification of the fire to the transmission network operator; and</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Transgrid receives information from RFS via a public data feed. Transgrid integrates this information into its operational systems. RFS verifies reported fires are genuine before publishing its data. Transgrid's operational system alerts its control room based on the distance of a reported fire to their asset.</p>
(b)	<p>confirmation that the 500 kV transmission lines are fully de energised and safe for aerial or ground-based emergency operations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>DCCEEW's Energy and Utility Services Functional Area (EUSFA) coordinates communication between Transgrid and the firefighting authorities such as RFS during incidents.</p> <p>In January 2025, the NSW Operational Guidelines for Bush Fire Electricity Security was published to the relevant parties. It outlines processes to confirm de-energisation and re-energisation between the relevant network authority and the firefighting authority.</p>
252	<p>What technical or operational factors may delay or prevent the de energisation of a 500 kV backbone transmission line during an active bushfire event?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2014 clause 6 requires networks to ensure safety. In particular, clause 6 requires</p>

	<p>networks to support the safety of members of the public, safety of persons working on the network, the protection of property and management of safety risks arising from the protection of the environment including bush fires and the safety risks arising from the loss of electricity.</p> <p>The Industry Safety Steering Committee (ISSC) 33 Guide for Network Configuration During Total Fire Ban Days (September 2024) requires that all risks should be considered to inform operators in their risk assessment and decision making. They must also be appropriately weighed to avoid disproportionate responses or consequences.</p>
253	<p>In the last five years, how many times has a 500 kV transmission line in New South Wales been de-energised specifically to facilitate:</p> <p>(a) a resident evacuation; or</p> <p>(b) a rescue operation on private property?</p> <p>(c) For each such instance, will the Minister provide the location, year, and duration of the de-energisation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>These questions are matters for Transgrid, which was privatised by the previous government.</p>

THE ENVIRONMENT

Composite power poles and impacts on carbon footprint.

254	<p>Which providers are supplying Essential Energy with composite poles? Are any interstate suppliers being used?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This is a matter for Essential Energy.</p>
(a)	<p>Are they being constructed and transported from interstate?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 254.</p>
(b)	<p>Have the current suppliers been able fulfill the exact power pole demand for Essential Energy? Have there been any delays or supply issues?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 254.</p>
255	<p>Did Cabinet consider the downstream impact on energy infrastructure procurement – including power pole supply – when approving the Great Koala National Park?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>The Government undertook extensive analysis and consultation in assessment of the Great Koala National Park proposal. Cabinet considerations are Cabinet-in-confidence. Demand for hardwood poles is expected to decline significantly as composite poles become the standard for both replacements and new installations.</p>
256	<p>Were other utility providers such as Ausgrid and Endeavor Energy consulted about the impact of removing 176,000 hectares of productive forest on future pole supply?</p> <p>(a) You are also the Minister for Energy, why wasn't this a priority?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 255.</p>
257	<p>Has the Government assessed whether composite pole procurement will increase network capital expenditure – and therefore future network charges?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The AER is responsible for regulating Essential Energy.</p>
258	<p>Regional customers are being told price increases are necessary to fund the energy transition.</p> <p>How does transitioning away from renewable hardwood toward composite materials reduce bills or emissions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Composite poles are a matter for Essential Energy.</p>
259	<p>Is there any modelling by your agency showing that substituting hardwood poles for composites improves bushfire resilience?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No. Essential Energy has published a report that considers this matter at www.essentialenergy.com.au/-/media/Project/EssentialEnergy/Website/Files/Our-Network/Final-Project-Assessment-Report-Pole-Replacement.pdf?rev=54457d71262e41c59051485b1c1d8185.</p>
(a)	<p>A report published by the Department of Energy titled “Assessment of Commercial Composite Power Pole Performance in 2021 found that:</p>
(b)	<p>Composite utility poles currently make up about 1% of the total deployed utility poles globally and that the “primary disadvantages are poor fire</p>

	<p>resistance, higher cost and unproven long-term use” pg 11. So again, what evidence do you have that supports a major infrastructure change when composite poles are considered a liability in bushfires?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 259.</p>
(c)	<p>Have you considered that the forestry decisions under your Environment portfolio will directly increasing network costs under your Energy portfolio?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>I am not aware of any network cost increase related to forestry decisions.</p>
(d)	<p>As shareholder Minister of a state-owned corporation, what direction have you given Essential Energy regarding the procurement of NSW-sourced renewable timber products?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>I am not a shareholder minister for Essential Energy.</p>
(e)	<p>Do you accept that hardwood poles grown and harvested under regulated conditions store carbon for decades in the network?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Timber power poles contain biogenic carbon absorbed from the atmosphere during tree growth. While this carbon remains stored for the service life of the pole, international greenhouse accounting frameworks such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines treat harvested wood products as temporary carbon stores because the carbon is eventually released through decay, combustion or disposal.</p> <p>Refer to www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2019rf/pdf/4_Volume4/19R_V4_Ch12_HarvestedWoodProducts.pdf.</p>
(f)	<p>If composite poles are manufactured using energy-intensive industrial processes, how does that align with your Government’s stated goal of lowering embodied emissions in infrastructure?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Composite poles last two to three times longer than timber poles and, unlike timber poles, have no upfront or ongoing chemical treatments over their lifetime. They have lower fleet and installation requirements due to their light weight (almost a third of timber poles). They can also be reused or recycled at end of life unlike chemically treated timber poles.</p>
(g)	<p>Minister, can you explain to regional households why they are paying climate levies through their power bills while your policies increase power prices and increase carbon emissions in the electricity network?</p>

	<p>Answer</p> <p>Contributions to the Climate Change Fund have been in place since 2007. Emissions from the NSW electricity sector have decreased by 27% since 2005.</p>
--	---

Natural Resource Commission and Great Koala National Park:

260	<p>Relating to the report ‘Koala response three years after harvesting’ – November 2025:</p>
(a)	<p>Minister, did you have access to this report before announcing the conversion of 176,000 hectares of state forest into a national park?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(b)	<p>Given the report states there was “no significant effect of selective timber harvesting on male koala density three years after harvesting” ... on what scientific basis did you justify ending harvesting to “protect koalas”?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Timber harvesting has well documented impacts on numerous threatened species, including koalas. Logging operations can degrade the quality of forest habitat in a variety of ways, including; reduced abundance of large trees, hollows and habitat features; altered forest structure and species compositions; and understory disturbance.</p> <p>The Government undertook an extensive koala survey within the Great Koala National Park assessment area. The survey involved aerial drone technology specifically designed for koalas. This technology, unlike acoustic surveys, is considered the best method to accurately count both male and female koalas. The survey demonstrated an estimated population of between 10,311 to 14,541 koalas occur within the assessment area.</p> <p>In addition, over 80% of the assessment area is modelled as having suitable koala food and habitat trees, provides important climate change refugia and connectivity for koalas into the future. This demonstrates these forests are a high-priority location to support koala conservation.</p>
(c)	<p>How do you reconcile your announcement with the finding that national park sites experienced a 32% decline in mean male koala density, compared with just 5% in state forests...?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Control sites in the national park estate experienced additional stressors potentially associated with drought (canopy die-back) and recent fire. This suggests other factors had a significant influence on koala populations.</p>

(d)	<p>If harvesting is not the primary driver of koala decline, as your own research indicates, why was it treated as the central justification for this policy decision?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answers to supplementary questions 260 (b) and (e).</p>
(e)	<p>Was this report considered in determining the size of the proposed Great Koala National Park — and if it was why did you select the option with the biggest impact on industry and the worst outcome for koalas?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The area identified to be included in the proposed Great Koala National Park was selected because it contains a significant koala population and other highly significant ecological values, it is an area of cultural significance to Aboriginal people, and excluding the area from timber harvesting will deliver high levels of carbon abatement and contribute to our legislated emissions targets.</p>
(f)	<p>Why was a moratorium imposed when the Government’s own independent research found no detectable harvesting impact on koala populations?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 60 (b).</p>
(g)	<p>This report was released in November and shows harvesting has no impact on Koalas. What evidence are you currently using to keep the moratorium in place?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 260 (b).</p>
(h)	<p>Did your department include the independent advice that national park control sites experienced a substantially larger decline in koala density than harvested state forest sites before making the announcement on the 7 September?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answers to supplementary questions 260 (b) and (c).</p>
(i)	<p>If drought, fire and canopy dieback are identified as likely drivers of decline, why is active forest management being reduced rather than strengthened?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Active land and conservation management will increase in the Great Koala National Park. More than 100 new roles will be created in NPWS to deliver fire management, feral animal and weed control, ecological rehabilitation and visitor management.</p>

(j)	<p>Minister, was this decision based on science — or was the science simply inconvenient to a pre-determined political outcome?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government’s decision to establish the Great Koala National Park follows a thorough consultation and assessment process, including an expert assessment of environmental values. This assessment found that all state forests in the assessment area contain ecological values that warrant inclusion in the national park estate.</p>
261	<p>What is date for introduction of the Great Koala National Park legislation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Government expects to introduce reservation legislation before the end of 2026.</p>
262	<p>How many hectares were logged within the proposed Great Koala National Park boundary between March 2023 and September 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.</p>
263	<p>How many koala habitat clearing approvals were issued in:</p> <p>(a) 2023,</p> <p>(b) 2024, and</p> <p>(c) 2025?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.</p>
264	<p>What is the total cost of business continuity payments to timber workers impacted by the creation of the Great Koala National Park?</p> <p>(a) How many are currently receiving payments</p> <p>(b) Is there an exit plan for these workers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>These questions should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.</p>
265	<p>Will the Minister please confirm whether the establishment and management funding for the Great Koala National Park is contingent upon revenue from the Commonwealth’s ACCU scheme?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The final creation of the park is dependent on the successful registration of a carbon project under the Improved Native Forest Management Method.</p>

266	<p>If the NSW Government’s plan to develop the Great Koala National Park relies on the federal government’s Australian Carbon Credit Units program, what happens to the Great Koala National Park if the ACCU is not operational by July 2026?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A decision has not yet been made.</p>
267	<p>If anticipated ACCU revenue does not eventuate, what alternative funding sources has the Government identified to ensure the GKNP proceeds as planned?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A decision has not yet been made.</p>
268	<p>Can the Minister guarantee that the creation and management of the Great Koala National Park will proceed regardless of ACCU market performance?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A decision has not yet been made.</p>

Improved Native Forest Management in Multiple-use Public Native Forests Carbon Method:

269	<p>As the Minister responsible for overseeing the Improved Native Forest Management in Multiple-use Public Native Forests Carbon Method and also noting the following statement from Timber Queensland; ‘Timber Queensland regards this method, as proposed by the NSW government, as a deliberate politically motivated attempt to curb sustainable public native forestry activities and to create an opportunity to misuse the Emissions Reduction Fund to separately fund its previously stated goal of creating a Greater Koala national park, despite the myriad of technical and policy flaws associated with the method’ :</p>
(a)	<p>Are they correct in their assessment of this proposed method by the NSW Government?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No. The NSW Government is developing the Improved Native Forest Management method in partnership with the Australian Government.</p> <p>The method has not yet been approved. Assessment and approval decisions rest with the independent Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) and the Australian Government. If approved, use of the method is optional for all jurisdictions where it may apply.</p>
(b)	<p>Minister, can you confirm that the National Parks and Wildlife Service commissioned the development of the Improved Native Forest Management</p>

	<p>carbon method?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The decision to progress the Improved Native Forest Management method reflects a whole-of-government decision made by cabinet. NPWS was delegated responsibility to deliver this work.</p>
(c)	<p>Was NPWS the contracting agency responsible for engaging the method developer — yes or no?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
(d)	<p>NPWS has a statutory mandate to expand and manage the national park estate. Do you agree?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS has a statutory obligation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act to manage and conserve the national park estate. The Act does not impose a statutory obligation on NPWS to expand the national park estate. NPWS supports the consideration, assessment, and recommendation of proposals for new reservations or additions to the estate.</p>
(e)	<p>If this method is approved, NPWS — as land manager — would be eligible to generate and sell ACCUs from the cessation of timber harvesting in state forests. Is that correct?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No decision has been made on the above.</p>
(f)	<p>So the same agency that stands to receive financial benefit from stopping harvesting commissioned the method that creates that benefit — is that accurate?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 269 (b).</p>
(g)	<p>What probity measures were put in place to manage the clear financial interest of NPWS in the development of this method?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 269 (b).</p>
(h)	<p>Was an independent probity adviser appointed during method development?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>

(i)	<p>Will you table all conflict-of-interest declarations made by officials involved in commissioning and overseeing this method?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No conflicts of interest have been identified.</p>
(j)	<p>The National Parks agency was commissioned a carbon method that financially rewards it for stopping timber harvesting - the same agency stands to receive millions in carbon credits if harvesting ends. Are you comfortable with your government robbing the private sector to fund the public sector?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 269 (b).</p>
270	<p>Minister, is it appropriate to have an agency designing a carbon scheme that pays itself. It claims “additional” abatement from a government policy decision. Why should anyone have confidence in the integrity of this scheme or how the government plans to fund policy decisions?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The question asks for an opinion.</p>

Coal Fired Power Stations - Unplanned Outages:

271	<p>Have Origin Energy provided estimates for the expected number of unplanned outage hours at Eraring coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>No. Unplanned outages in future periods cannot be known in advance.</p>
272	<p>How many unplanned outage hours are expected at Eraring coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>

273	<p>Have AGL provided estimates for the expected number of unplanned outage hours at Bayswater coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>
274	<p>How many unplanned outage hours are expected at Bayswater coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>
275	<p>Have EnergyAustralia provided estimates for the expected number of unplanned outage hours at Mount Piper coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>
276	<p>How many unplanned outage hours are expected at Mount Piper coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>

277	<p>Have Delta Electricity provided estimates for the expected number of unplanned outage hours at Vales Point coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>
278	<p>How many unplanned outage hours are expected at Vales Point coal-fired power station in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 2026 (b) 2027 (c) 2028 (d) 2029 <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 271.</p>

Electricity Bill Relief

279	<p>What is the total electricity bill relief/concessions provided to NSW households in FY2025–26, by program?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>In 2025–26, the NSW Government will invest around \$330 million in the Energy Social Programs. This is in addition to the Australian Government’s extended National Energy Bill Relief program, which the NSW Government is delivering to households and small businesses.</p>
-----	--

Renewable Energy Zones

280	<p>What is the current installed renewable energy capacity in NSW (GW),</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As at February 2026, the installed renewable energy capacity in NSW is 18.21 GW.</p>
(a)	<p>and projected additions to 2030?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The 2025 Infrastructure Investment Objectives Report by the NSW Consumer Trustee projects an additional 16.15 GW of renewable generation capacity by 2030.</p>

281	<p>What is the current total cost estimate for each Renewable Energy Zone versus original estimates at declaration?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>EnergyCo prepares an Infrastructure Planner Recommendation Report (IPRR) and must seek authorisation of each REZ by the Consumer Trustee.</p> <p>A summary of the IPRR, including costs, is published on EnergyCo’s website. In authorising each REZ the Consumer Trustee must determine that the project is in the long-term financial interests of consumers based on the costs and benefits. Costs are ultimately approved by the AER in its revenue determination.</p> <p>Revenue determinations are published on the AER’s website.</p> <p>AEMO publishes its ISP every two years. The ISP includes the current cost estimate for each REZ project, which is informed by the AEMO’s Transmission Cost Database.</p>
-----	--

Native Forest Management

282	<p>What is the status of the federal Improved Native Forest Management method?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The draft Improved Native Forest Management method, explanatory statement and supporting documents were open for public comment on the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian DCCEEW) website from 2 January to 30 January 2026.</p> <p>The independent Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) is now considering the submission feedback and it will determine next steps in the method development process.</p>
(a)	<p>And expected determination date?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As above. The ERAC will determine next steps in the method development process.</p>
283	<p>How many hectares of native vegetation were cleared under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme by local government area in:</p> <p>(a) FY2024–25, and</p> <p>(b) FY2025–26 year to date?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Biodiversity Conservation Act sets out the development and clearing activities that are required to be assessed and offset under the Biodiversity</p>

	<p>Offsets Scheme.</p> <p>Consent authorities, such as local councils, DPHI and the Native Vegetation Panel, are responsible for approving the clearing of native vegetation that is assessed under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme and enforcing conditions associated with approved clearing.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Conservation Act does not require reporting of hectares of clearing undertaken under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme by LGA.</p>
--	--

Camping Fees and Contracts

284	<p>What is the outcome of the Supported Camping in NSW national parks – DOC24/483356 tender?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The tender is currently being finalised.</p>
285	<p>How many responses to the EOI were received?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS will release the total number of expressions of interest received once the evaluation process is complete and outcomes are finalised.</p>
286	<p>How many responses from existing providers of services on National Parks property were received?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>NPWS will release the response rate from existing service providers once the assessment process is complete and outcomes are finalised.</p>
287	<p>Will pricing for supported camping sites be regulated or capped to ensure affordability for families and low-income visitors?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The price of the optional supported camping service will be determined by the licensed operator. The Government does not set prices for private businesses.</p>
288	<p>Has the Department conducted an impact assessment on how supported camping contracts may affect casual or self-sufficient campers?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Supported camping services will not impact existing campground users. Supported camping is offered solely as an optional service. Visitors may continue to access campgrounds and use their own equipment in the same manner as they do currently, without any requirement to engage supported camping providers.</p>
289	<p>Will existing National Parks campgrounds be reduced, reclassified or</p>

	<p>reprioritised to accommodate supported camping operators?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
290	<p>Are there any minimum public access guarantees written into contracts?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Minimum public access requirements are included in the supported camping licence.</p>

Annual Report and Budget

291	<p>What accounts for the \$200 million shortfall in actual sale of goods and services from contracts with customers listed in the DCCEEW Annual Report?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The quoted \$200 million variance does not represent an underlying shortfall in performance.</p> <p>Forward estimates remain unchanged.</p>
292	<p>Was the \$200 million variance in sale of goods and services revenue attributable to over-forecasting, delayed projects, contract terminations, or lower-than-expected demand?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 291.</p>
293	<p>Has the Department revised its forward estimates to reflect this variance, and if so, by how much?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 291.</p>
294	<p>An unexpected \$10 million additional revenue from retained taxes, fees and fines – what is the explanation for that?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The majority of this revenue category relates to water trading in water markets for environmental outcomes. This amount will fluctuate from year to year.</p>
295	<p>What specific categories of taxes, fees or fines contributed to the \$10 million increase above budget?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 294.</p>

296	<p>Was this increase the result of new enforcement activity, higher penalty rates, or higher-than-anticipated non-compliance?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 294.</p>
297	<p>What accounted for the approximately 1,300 staffing head count increase between FY23-24 and FY24-25?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the relevant pages of the NSW Public Sector Report 2025.</p>
298	<p>Were any performance bonuses, executive KPIs, or program delivery targets linked to the original revenue projections?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
299	<p>Has the Department adjusted its future compliance or revenue assumptions in light of this variance?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>It is unclear which 'variance' this question refers to. Assuming it is the additional \$10 million revenue in question 294, refer to the answer to supplementary question 294.</p>

Dorrigo National Park World Heritage Listing

300	<p>What steps in the Department taking to bolster the Federal Government's application to designate Dorrigo National Park as a world heritage item?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The majority of Dorrigo National Park (NP) was included within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage property in 1994. Areas added to Dorrigo NP since inscription are not included in the World Heritage listing.</p>
301	<p>Has the Department provided scientific, ecological or heritage assessments to assist the nomination, and if so, what have these assessments concluded?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Ecological assessments were undertaken between 2003 and 2005 to develop the proposal for addition to Australia's Tentative List.</p> <p>A decision has not been made on the timing or resourcing for the preparation of a nomination. Such a decision would be taken by the Australian Government in consultation with the NSW and Queensland governments.</p>
302	<p>Is the Department engaging with local communities, Traditional Owners, or</p>

	<p>stakeholders to ensure their input is reflected in the nomination process?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>A decision has not been made on the timing or resourcing for the preparation of a nomination.</p>
303	<p>Has the Department allocated any additional funding or resources to facilitate the World Heritage nomination?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>No.</p>
304	<p>What is the current timeline for the nomination process, and what role will the Department play at each stage?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Australian Government decides which items of the Tentative List are progressed to nomination, and NSW has not discussed this proposal with the Australian Government in recent times.</p>
305	<p>Has the Department identified any risks or challenges that may affect the success of the nomination, and what mitigation measures are being implemented?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Australian Government decides which items of the Tentative List are progressed to nomination, and NSW has not discussed this proposal with the Australian Government in recent times.</p>

Energy from Waste

306	<p>Under the NSW Energy from Waste (EfW) Policy Statement, is regulatory capture determined by the thermal treatment process applied to the waste itself, irrespective of whether the resulting product is electricity, gas, or synthetic fuel?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Chapter 9, Part 4 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022 defines energy recovery as follows:</p> <p><i>energy recovery</i> means the recovery of energy or potential energy as one or more of the following—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) electrical energy, (b) mechanical energy, (c) heat, (d) a fuel.
-----	--

	<p>Under section 143 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A person must not carry out, or cause or allow to be carried out, the thermal treatment of waste if – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it involves or results in energy recovery from the waste, and (b) one or more of the activities carried out at the premises are scheduled activities that require a licence. (2) A person must not carry out, or cause or allow to be carried out, work at a premises that purports to enable the activity prohibited by subsection (1) to be carried out at the premises. (3) An offence under this section is a strict liability offence. <p>Section 144 sets out exceptions to this offence.</p>
307	<p>For the purposes of the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement, does the EPA treat incineration, gasification, plasma arc processes and other high temperature conversion technologies applied to mixed municipal or commercial waste as forms of thermal treatment captured under the EfW framework?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Chapter 9, Part 4 of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022 defines thermal treatment as follows:</p> <p><i>thermal treatment</i> has the same meaning as in the Act, Schedule 1, clause 50(1), but does not include the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the incineration of waste for destruction or disposal, (b) autoclaving processes, (c) biological processes, including anaerobic digestion and composting, (d) thermal processes that do not involve a change in the chemical composition of the waste, (e) the thermal treatment of biosolids, contaminated soil or scrap metal, (f) the thermal treatment of waste plastic to produce plastic products, or inputs for plastic products, if at least 65% of the weight of the waste plastic thermally treated in a 12-month period is converted into plastic products or inputs for plastic products, (g) the use of waste-derived fuel by a vehicle. <p>The POEO Act, Schedule 1, clause 50(1) defines thermal treatment as follows:</p> <p><i>thermal treatment</i> means the processing of wastes by burning, incineration, thermal oxidation, gasification, pyrolysis, plasma or other thermal treatment processes.</p>

308	<p>If mixed waste is thermally converted into syngas and subsequently synthesised into methanol or other fuels, does the downstream synthesis step alter whether the facility is captured under the EfW framework?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>
309	<p>Does the EfW framework contain any exemption for facilities that manufacture transport fuels from mixed waste via thermal processing?</p> <p>(a) If a transport fuel provision exists, does it relate only to the use of fuel once produced rather than to its manufacture from waste?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The exemption in section 142 of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022 (definition of ‘thermal treatment’) refers to the ‘use of waste-derived fuel by a vehicle’ not manufacture.</p> <p>For the purposes of the energy from waste provisions in Chapter 9, Part 4 of the Regulation, waste has the same meaning as in the Act, but does not include a fuel:</p> <p>(a) defined in Part 1 of the document entitled <i>Eligible Waste Fuel Guidelines</i>, published in the Gazette from time to time by the EPA, and</p> <p>(b) (listed in section 3 of the document entitled <i>NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement</i> published in the Gazette from time to time by the EPA.</p>
310	<p>In the context of State Significant Development, at what stage does the EPA determine whether a proposed facility is captured under the EfW framework – prior to SEARs being issued, during SEARs, or only following submission of an Environmental Impact Statement?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>
311	<p>Does the EfW framework apply to facilities that thermally process mixed waste regardless of whether energy is exported to the grid or embedded in a manufactured fuel product?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>

312	<p>Are there any circumstances in which a facility that thermally processes mixed municipal or commercial waste would not be captured under the EfW framework?</p> <p>(a) If so, what are those circumstances?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>
313	<p>Has the Government considered updating the EfW Policy Statement to address emerging waste-to-fuel technologies, including syngas-to-methanol processes?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Following a review of the energy from waste framework in 2025, the NSW Government announced several proposed changes as part of the Waste and Circular Infrastructure Plan in October 2025. This includes removing the prohibition on energy recovery from thermal treatment of certain organic agricultural wastes to produce biochar and low carbon fuels such as biogas, biomethane or sustainable aviation fuel.</p>
314	<p>Can the Minister confirm whether facilities producing transport fuels from mixed waste are subject to the same location and cap restrictions as other EfW facilities under the Infrastructure Plan?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA will consider the application of the energy from waste policy and related legislation to the facts and circumstances of a specific proposal as part of the environmental planning and assessment process.</p>

O'Reilly Electricity Check-up

315	<p>How many of the 54 recommendations from the O'Reilly Electricity Check-Up have been fully implemented?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Information on the key outcomes and progress on the Check Up is available at: www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/regulation-and-policy/electricity-supply-and-reliability-check.</p>
-----	---

Gas

316	<p>The NSW Consumer Energy Strategy, released in September 2024, committed to delivering a "Gas Decarbonisation Roadmap" by late 2026, the Government's website states: "Gas will likely remain an important fuel source for some sectors." Public consultation was supposed to occur in 2025. Can the</p>
-----	--

	<p>Minister please confirm whether that public consultation has been completed?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Public consultation is expected to commence soon.</p>
317	<p>Is the Gas Decarbonisation Roadmap on track to be delivered by late 2026?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Yes.</p>

HERITAGE

Ravensthorpe Homestead Buildings

318	<p>What is the date of last condition assessment of Ravensthorpe Homestead buildings?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>February 2019.</p>
319	<p>Could the Minister please provide a summary of findings?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>During the listing assessment process, the level of integrity and intactness of the potential heritage item was noted as good and detailed in the draft listing inventory available on the Heritage NSW website.</p>
320	<p>What is the date of Wonnarua Traditional Owner Scott Franks' request for a meeting?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Minister met with Mr Franks in 2023 at his request. Mr Franks later requested a second meeting in 2024 which was declined.</p>
321	<p>What was the Minister's response?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Mr Franks later requested a second meeting in late 2024 which was declined.</p>

Powerhouse Museum Ultimo

322	<p>What is the net exhibition floor space in the approved design versus pre closure, in square metres?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>This question should be referred to the Minister for the Arts.</p>
-----	---

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)

323	<p>In the absence of a coordinated national monitoring program of the native wildlife killed by SGARs, the existing data comes from research programs funded and conducted by academics. Despite the limitations that these programs have faced, studies have consistently shown that SGARs are having deadly implications on wildlife, disrupting entire ecosystems. Given that the NSW government has not committed to banning the sale and use of SGARs, and has ruled out nominating SGARs as a key threat to biodiversity, will you consider investing funding for targeted research programs to systematically monitor wildlife exposure and wildlife deaths, so we can understand the true scale of the problem in NSW?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has completed a comprehensive risk review of anticoagulant rodenticides, including second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs).</p> <p>Their certification, that it is in the public interest to classify all SGARs as restricted chemical products, will limit the purchase and use of SGARs to trained and licensed individuals.</p> <p>Pending the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry accepting the certification, the APVMA and state and territory regulators will work on how to implement the required training and licensing.</p> <p>The NSW EPA has also recommended to the APVMA that it consider mechanisms to collect a robust data set on the impact of anticoagulant rodenticides on non-target species to support control measure selection.</p>
324	<p>What is the Minister doing to ensure the EPA is taking pesticide misuse seriously, not just rodenticides but all pesticides, given the alarming impact on native wildlife and biodiversity?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The EPA investigates all reports of pesticide misuse and takes appropriate regulatory action, including issuing fines and pursuing prosecution where appropriate.</p> <p>The EPA also conducts in-field compliance activities to target known areas of concern and issue relevant instruments such as Pesticide Control Orders.</p> <p>Additionally, the EPA continues to engage with and educate key stakeholders and the public to improve pesticide practices and behaviours.</p>

Climate impact of intensive animal agriculture

325	<p>As the Minister for Climate Change, what action have you taken to address the climate, biodiversity and environmental impacts of intensive animal agriculture?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>By 2030, the NSW Government's Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program will invest \$105 million in reducing emissions from agriculture and delivering carbon outcomes alongside other benefits, including biodiversity and other environmental outcomes.</p> <p>The Government is developing a new net zero plan to 2035. The plan will reflect the Government's policy that all sectors, including the agriculture sector, will need to ratchet down their emissions to meet NSW's legislated targets.</p> <p>The NSW Government continues to support research into low emissions agriculture through the NSW Decarbonisation Hub.</p> <p>The EPA licenses intensive animal agriculture facilities to manage and mitigate their environmental impacts, particularly regarding water quality, odour, and noise.</p> <p>Given this question refers to intensive animal agriculture, it should also be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.</p>
(a)	<p>What data does the NSW government collect to monitor the climate, biodiversity and environmental impacts of intensive animal agriculture?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>The NSW Government reports annually on emissions from all sectors of the NSW economy, including agriculture. For historical emissions, the NSW Government relies on the Commonwealth's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Future projections of emissions from the sector are published in the NSW Government's Net Zero Dashboard. The Government also reports annually on land clearing through the Statewide Landcover and Tree Study Program.</p> <p>New Climate Change Licensee Requirements will be phased in for environment protection licensees from 2027. Under the Climate Change Licensee Requirements, agriculture licensees exceeding the 25,000 tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) of scope 1 and scope 2 emissions will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit an annual climate change report on their emissions to the EPA.• Publish a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan on their website and submit 10-year forward emissions projections to the EPA every three years. <p>Given the question refers to intensive animal agriculture, it should also be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.</p>

326	<p>Given that livestock is responsible for the majority of NSW's agricultural emissions, with enteric methane from ruminant livestock being the largest source at 71% according to the most recent data from DCCEEW, what actions is the NSW government taking to reduce emissions from animal agriculture to meet NSW's net zero targets?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer to supplementary question 325.</p>
-----	---

NSW Gas Decarbonisation Roadmap

327	<p>Is DCCEEW developing a separate strategic plan to provide both financial and technical support for the industrial sector, namely small-medium industries, to decarbonise from gas?</p> <p>(a) If so, when and how is this being developed, what will be the consultation process, and when will it be released?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Refer to the answer given to question on notice 57 for the 24 February 2026 hearing for the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage.</p>
-----	--

Vales Point Power Station

328	<p>What action has been taken to ensure Vales Point Power Station gradually reduces its pollution the longer it operates so that it complies with the Group 6 emission standards under the Clean Air Regulation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Vales Point power station is required to regularly report on air emissions which currently meet the Group 5 standards under the Protection of the Environment (Clean Air) Regulation 2022. Under the current Protection of the Environment (Clean Air) Regulation, the Vales Point power station is not required to comply with Group 6 standards.</p> <p>The EPA applies a continuous improvement approach and has imposed enforceable licence conditions and pollution reduction programs to require ongoing emission reductions.</p>
329	<p>Will you commit to requiring Vales Point Power Station to comply with the Group 6 emission standards under the Clean Air Regulation?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Under the current Protection of the Environment (Clean Air) Regulation 2022, the Vales Point power station is not required to comply with Group 6 standards. The EPA takes a continuous improvement approach to the regulation of coal-fired power stations to reduce emissions.</p>