

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**The Illawarra**

<b>Answers to be returned by:      Thursday 11 September 2014</b>
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**In relation to the promised 60 Literacy & Numeracy Teachers promised for the Illawarra**

**226. As the Minister for the Illawarra what do you know about your Governments significant election commitment for literacy and numeracy teachers for the region?**

Under the five year Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan 2012 – 2016 resources equivalent to an additional 900 teachers are being progressively allocated to targeted schools to target Kindergarten to Year 2 students at risk in literacy and numeracy development.

**227. Given this was one of the largest commitments for the region are you embarrassed as the Minister for the region that only a handful are in local schools?**

No.

**228. Given the extensive media coverage this issue has received have you made personal representations to the Minister for Education about this issue?**

I often discuss important matters in the Illawarra with my colleagues.

**229. Can you provide any information to the Committee and the region when this commitment will be met?**

Resources under the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan will be progressively allocated over the period 2012 – 2016. Schools that receive resources under the Action Plan are identified by the three education sectors using an agreed methodology. This methodology targets schools in the bottom quartile of NAPLAN performance

**TAFE Illawarra**

**230. Given the Illawarra has a higher than average unemployment level, particularly youth unemployment are you concerned about the NSW Govt Smart and Skilled reforms that will see massive fee increases for students wanting to access TAFE?**

There will be generous fee exemptions and concessions under Smart and Skilled. This includes support for unemployed people to access training including concession fees for Commonwealth welfare recipients and fee exemptions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students with a disability.

**231. Have you made any representations to the Minister for Education about your concerns?**

I often discuss important matters in the Illawarra with my colleagues.

**232. How many students are enrolled at the following TAFE campuses**

- (a) Dapto**
- (b) Shellharbour**
- (c) Yallah**
- (d) Wollongong**
- (e) Wollongong West**
- (f) Nowra**

TAFE NSW data is recorded by the number of enrolments, not students.

TAFE NSW enrolments by campus are not publicly available. However, enrolments by Institute are published on the TAFE NSW website.

2013 enrolments data by Institute is publicly available in the 2013 TAFE NSW Statistical Compendium from: [www.tafensw.edu.au/about/assets/pdf/TAFE-NSW-Statistical-Compendium-2013.pdf](http://www.tafensw.edu.au/about/assets/pdf/TAFE-NSW-Statistical-Compendium-2013.pdf)

### **Coal Seam Gas Mining**

**233. Given the Liberal Member for Kiama and the Liberal Member for Heathcote have called for a ban on CSG mining in water catchments, as has been announced by Labor, what is your position on this important issue for the Illawarra?**

The NSW Government has introduced the most comprehensive regulatory regime for natural gas extraction in the Commonwealth.

**234. Have you made representations to the responsible Ministers about your views on this issue?**

I often discuss important matters in the Illawarra with my colleagues.

### **Healthcare in the Illawarra**

**235. Once the planning associated with the Shellharbour Hospital redevelopment is finalised in 2014, what are the remaining administrative requirements before the project is allocated funding by the State Government?**

Prior to the allocation of any capital funding, the final business case is endorsed by the Ministry of Health and issued to Treasury for inclusion in the budget process for funding consideration. The 2016 reference completion date in the 2014/15 Budget papers is an administrative function of the budget process. The actual project completion date remains at early 2015.

**236. The Minister for Health has indicated in an answer to Legislative Assembly Question 5908 that planning for Shellharbour Hospital redevelopment will be completed in 2014, why do the 2014-15 budget papers indicate it will be completed in 2016? Can the Minister explain the reasons for the discrepancy?**

The 2016 referenced completion date in the 2014/15 Budget papers is an administrative function of the Budget process.

**237. Where there any other construction companies that submitted tenders for the \$6.7 million Ambulatory Care Expansion project at Shellharbour Hospital? Is so, what were the names of the companies and their location?**

The tenderers for the Shellharbour Ambulatory Care project were selected by Health Infrastructure from the Department of Finance & Services, Prequalified List of Capable Contractors. This list filters prequalified contractors based on the selected project value, region, procurement method, type of project and experience. The selection of the preferred tenderer is done by a panel based on a range of non-price and price criteria.

(a) The other tenderers were:

Donnelly Constructions whose head office is in Sydney

Kane Constructions with offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

Zauner Constructions who is a regional builder with an office on the South Coast.

**238. Will the preferred tenderer in the case of the Ambulatory Care Expansion project at Shellharbour Hospital employ Illawarra based subcontractors on the project work?, If so, which work?, If not, why not?**

The project is being delivered under a construction management form of contract. As such, Health Infrastructure will have transparency during the selection and assessment of subcontractor tenders.

The successful tenderers, Fugen Constructions have placed an advertisement in the local papers asking for expressions of interest from suitably qualified subcontractors to tender on the project.

**239. Can the Minister indicate whether the Dapto Respite Centre will remain in operation? If not, why not?**

Refer to the Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5761.

**240. Can the Minister provide an update on the investigation taking place by his Department into claims that parents of children with a disability, currently using the Dapto Respite Centre, are being pressured to signing up with alternative disability providers in the Illawarra?**

Refer to the Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5761.

**Albion Park Rail Bypass**

**241. Is it a fact that the State Government has not yet completed all of the planning and approval works required for the Albion Park Rail Bypass?**

I am advised:

Large road construction projects like the Albion Park Rail bypass involve considerable planning. The duration of planning depends on the complexity of the project.

Roads and Maritime Services is currently undertaking investigations needed to prepare the concept design. This design will be used to assess the environmental impacts of the project.

Roads and Maritime Services anticipate planning and approval activities for this project will be completed in 2016.

**242. In what year does the Minister expect all of the planning and approval works will be completed for the Albion Park Rail Bypass?**

I am advised:

Roads and Maritime Services currently expects planning and approval activities will be completed in 2016.

**243. Is it a fact that the State Government has not yet allocated funding for either the Shellharbour Hospital redevelopment and the Albion Park Rail Bypass?**

Refer to supplementary question on notice 235.

In relation to the Albion Park Rail Bypass, refer to the 2014-15 Budget Paper 4, for the funding allocation.

**244. Does the construction company, Haslin Constructions Pty Ltd, employed subcontractors for the construction of the new station between Dunmore and Flinders? If so, are any based in the Illawarra region? If not, why not?**

I am advised:

Transport for NSW and its subcontractors undertake procurement in accordance with NSW Government procurement guidelines.

Engagement of subcontractors is a matter for Haslin Constructions Pty Ltd.

#### **Shellharbour City Hub project**

**245. Can the Minister indicate whether he has been briefed on the Shellharbour City Hub project? If so, by whom and on what date?**

No.

**246. Can the Minister indicate whether there have been any formal approaches by Shellharbour City Council for State Government funding in relation this the Shellharbour City Hub project?**

Refer to the Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 5148.

**247. Can the Minister indicate whether the State Government will provide funding for a feasibility study into the viability of a free shuttle bus in the city of Shellharbour? If not, why not?**

I am advised:

The Government has no plans to introduce additional free shuttle buses.

#### **Smart Hub Program**

**248. Can the Minister indicate why the Illawarra was not included as part of the Smart Work Hub Pilot Program?**

The Smart Work Hub Pilot Program provides funding for pilot projects to offer commuters an alternative work location closer to home.

Western Sydney and the Central Coast were identified as priority areas for funding because they have the two largest commuter populations in the state. This did not preclude applications from other regions and the program was open to any applicant wanting to pilot a Smart Work Hub in NSW.

The pilot projects will be operational by 31 December 2014 and will operate for a minimum of 12 months.

Data will be collected from the pilots for the first year of their operations to better understand user demand, successful operating models and the benefits for business. Research will also be undertaken to identify the broader economic and productivity benefits Smart Work Hubs may contribute to the NSW economy.

This information will be used to determine whether the program can be rolled out to other locations such as the Illawarra.

### **Maldon-Dombarton**

**249. Has the State Government completed the work relating to the Maldon-Dombarton rail link for the Federal Government? If so, on what date was the report provided to the Federal Government?**

I am advised:

The NSW Government delivered work relating to the Maldon to Dombarton rail link to the Australian Government on 31 July 2014.

### **Regional Development Australia Fund**

**250. Did the Minister make any representations to the Federal Government to secure the \$7.4 million funding promised by the former Federal Government under the Regional Development Australia Fund? If not, why not?**

No, this funding was an election commitment made by the former Federal Government.

### **Illawarra Community Advisory Panel**

**251. Has the Minister appointed a new membership to the Illawarra Community Advisory Panel? When does he expect to do so?**

The membership of the 2014-16 Illawarra Community Advisory Panel was announced on 28 July 2014.

**252. Can the Minister provide a list of individuals who expressed an interest to be appointed to the Illawarra Community Advisory Panel? If not, why not?**

52 applications for 2014-16 Panel membership were received. Panel members were selected by the Minister for the Illawarra in accordance with the selection criteria outlined in the call for expressions of interest. Due to privacy reasons, it would be inappropriate to name the individuals that were unsuccessful in applying for Panel membership.

**253. Is there a member representing the Indigenous community on the Illawarra Community Advisory Panel? If not, why not?**

Panel members are selected in their capacity as individual community members based on the selection criteria outlined in the call for expressions of interest.

### **Housing NSW in the Illawarra**

**254. How many transfer requests have been made and approved for Housing NSW tenants in the Shellharbour electorate to locate to accommodation with fewer bedrooms?**

I am advised by the Department of Family and Community Services that a number of requests have been approved for transfer and can occur when suitable accommodation becomes available.

**255. How many people are there currently on the waiting list in the Illawarra for:**

- (a) 3 bedroom**
- (b) 2 bedroom**
- (c) 1 bedroom**

Details about the NSW Housing Register are available on the Housing Pathways website.

### **Staffing**

**256. How many staff in your Ministerial office are dedicated to the Illawarra?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_number\\_s](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_number_s).

**257. How many staff in the Government are assigned to your portfolio responsibilities of Minister for the Illawarra?**

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has seven regional offices to provide non-political support to Regional Ministers.

These offices are located in the North Coast, Central Coast, Hunter, Greater Western Sydney, Sydney East, Illawarra, South East and Western NSW. Across all regions as at 30 June 2014, there were 45.4 full time equivalent employees in the branch.

**258. How many times have you visited the Illawarra in the last financial year and on what dates and with whom did you meet?**

I regularly visit the Illawarra in my capacity as Minister for the Illawarra.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.