

With regard to **questions lodged with the clerk**, the following answers are provided for the **Illawarra** portfolio:-

Questions from Mr Shoebridge

QUESTION

Stockland development – Sandon Point

1. Given Wollongong Council's won study into the coastal zone says that rising sea levels will adversely affect Sandon point, should Stockland's proposed development at Macauley's beach really be going ahead?

2. Are you aware if any agreement about the 'keeping place' for Aboriginal relics found on the site has been agreed yet?

ANSWER:

I am advised The Department of Planning, independent experts, and the Planning Assessment Commission have closely assessed the impacts of floodwaters running through the site taking into account the impacts of climate change. I am advised the Department is satisfied that the development is unlikely to be adversely affected by flooding or impacts of climate change on sea level rise or rainfall intensity during the design 100 year ARI flood event.

I am advised any agreement is a matter for Stockland.

QUESTION

Future flood risk

3. Why are the recommendations of Government and studies such as the one commissioned by Wollongong Council on likely coastal sea level rises not binding on Council when it makes zoning decisions, given the areas of flood risk in the Illawarra?

ANSWER:

I am advised the Department of Planning requires Councils to address the Ministerial Direction for Flood Prone Land under s.117 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act before rezoning land.

The Department has also recently finalised a NSW Coastal Planning Guideline: *Adapting to Sea Level Rise*, which provides clear advice to Councils on this matter.

I am advised Wollongong City Council is currently preparing a Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Wollongong Local Government Area. The Government will work with Council to implement this plan when it is finalised.

QUESTION

Wollongong Council

4. What is the annual cost of the administration of Wollongong Council for the years

a) 2008-2009

b) 2009-2010

c) and projected for 2010-2011?

5. When will democracy be restored in Wollongong by allowing an election of Wollongong Council?

ANSWER:

Wollongong City Council has advised:

Expense	2008/2009	2009/2010	Est 2010/2011
Salary	\$249,563	\$254,912	\$263,514
Expenses and Facilities	\$31,425	\$21,988	\$24,000
TOTAL	\$280,988	\$276,900	\$287,514

I am advised the timetable for fresh elections at Wollongong remains 2012.

Questions from Mr Pearce

In relation to youth unemployment in Wollongong:

6. What is the current rate of youth unemployment in Wollongong?
7. What has been the average rate of youth unemployment in Wollongong each financial year from 2003-04 to present?
8. Which region has the highest level of youth unemployment in NSW?
9. What is the NSW Government doing to reduce youth unemployment in Wollongong?

ANSWER:

I am advised the youth unemployment rate for the August 2010 Wollongong Statistical District is 17.5 per cent (ABS Labour Force Survey).

I am advised the average rate of youth unemployment in Wollongong for 2008-09 is 13.4 per cent and 15.0 per cent for 2009-10. I am advised the figures for the financial years of 2003-04 through to 2007-08 are unverifiable since the publicly available ABS data only goes as far back as November 2007.

I am advised the ABS Labour Force Survey figures for August 2010 indicate that the Far West Statistical Division had a rate of youth unemployment of 42.9%

To reduce youth unemployment the NSW Government announced in the 2010-11 Budget an \$11.4 million youth plan package to help young people get into jobs.

This "job-readiness" package for youth includes \$5.5 million to support 2,000 unemployed young people to undertake targeted employment ready training courses; \$3.9 million to fund employment advisors for a trial period of two years in schools and training centres in areas of high youth unemployment including the Illawarra; and, \$2 million to support local community programs which engage young people in sports and cultural development activities and provide links to local job or training opportunities.

Other Government initiatives already established include:

- Raising the school leaving age until the age of 17
- Funding training for 28,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships over four years under the Productivity Places National Partnership
- Investing in 4,000 additional apprenticeships for NSW Government projects and 2,000 cadetships in the public sector over four years (from 2009) in response to the NSW Government's Jobs Summit
- \$1.55 million in the Budget for youth for the reform of child protection services.

QUESTION

In relation to youth homelessness in the Illawarra:

10. Broken down each year from 2003-04 to present, how many young people sleep rough in the Illawarra on average each night?

11. Broken down each year from 2003-04 to present, how many young homeless people are there in the Illawarra on average each night?

12. What is the NSW Government doing to reduce youth homelessness in the Illawarra?

ANSWER:

I am advised the Minister for Housing has been asked the same questions and the Minister will respond.

QUESTION:

In relation to the Green Jobs Illawarra Project:

13. How many FTE jobs have been initiated by this project since April 2009?
14. How much money has been spent on this project since 2009?
15. How much money will be spent on this project in 2010-11, 2012-13 and 2013-14?
16. How many FTE jobs are expected to be initiated by this project in 2010-11, 2012-13 and 2013-14?

ANSWER:

Regional Development Australia, Illawarra subsequently agreed to auspice Green Jobs Illawarra. A NSW Government funded Project Manager was recruited by RDA Illawarra commencing in July 2010 to assist the Project Committee (now a sub-committee under the RDA Illawarra Board) progress implementing and further scope various initiatives in the plan. As of September 2010 this position is the single FTE job initiated by this project.

I am advised for the period April 2009 to June 2010 a total of \$260,000 in NSW Government funding was provided to initiate the project. This included:

- \$100,000 to assist the Project Committee to research issues and prepare the *Green Jobs Illawarra Action Plan*;
- \$150,000 for DET (TAFE Illawarra) to commence delivery of tailored 'Green Skills' short course training linked to the Action Plan; and
- \$10,000 for RDA Illawarra to cover recruitment and related costs for the Green Jobs Illawarra Project Manager position.

I am advised a sum of \$130,000 from the NSW Government is being provided to RDA Illawarra in each of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-2013 for the project.

I am advised FTE jobs expected to be initiated by this project from 2010-11 onwards is undetermined at this time.