

**FINANCE, SERVICES AND PROPERTY**  
**RESPONSES TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**  
**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Questions from Hon David Shoebridge MLC**

**WorkCover Bullying**

1. The 2015 Safety, Return to Work, and Support (SRWS) Employee Survey results shows 149 staff report being bullied, a reduction of only 3% from the 2014 survey. Why has this remained such a substantial ongoing issue?

**ANSWER:**

While there was a three point reduction between the 2014 and 2015 surveys, in total there has been a 12 point or 44 per cent reduction in staff reporting they have been subjected to bullying since the initial survey in 2013.

2. GPSC 1's inquiry resulted in the creation of an expert advisory panel – how many union or staff representatives are on this board?

**ANSWER:**

This is an independent expert panel that was established by the SRWS Board in accordance with the Government's response to the General Purpose Standing Committee No.1 recommendations, following its Review of the inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW. Nominees were selected in line with the terms of reference determined by the Board.

3. How many times has this board met?

**ANSWER:**

The panel has met once.

4. How many times has this board met with staff members or the PSA?

**ANSWER:**

The decision to consult with staff members or the PSA is a matter for the Independent Expert Panel.

5. What actions has the expert advisory panel on bullying recommended to the SRWS Board?

**ANSWER:**

The first report is proposed to be delivered by the end of 2015.

6. What advice has the Minister received in turn from the SRWS Board about the continuing prevalence of bullying within WorkCover?

**ANSWER:**

The SRWS Board and its HR Committee regularly reviews the progress of actions detailed in the GPSC 1 Inquiry. The Board also provides progress reports on the actions arising from the GPSC 1 Inquiry to the Minister for information.

7. We have been advised that the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development (DISRD) has refused to accept direct reports of bullying from WorkCover staff, why is this?

**ANSWER:**

For reports to be accepted by DISRD, they must follow the process set out in the Memorandum of Understanding between WorkCover and DISRD. The protocol for making referrals was agreed by the Public Service Association.

8. Arrangements between WorkCover and DISRD do not require a written report of the investigation findings being made available to the person making the report of bullying. Why not?

**ANSWER:**

All matters referred to DISRD will be the subject of written communication from that agency to the referrer, outlining the outcomes of the investigation.

9. What is the average timeframe WorkCover takes to respond to internal bullying complaints?

**ANSWER:**

In 2014/15 it was less than one day.

10. Why does the Protocol for Referral of WHS Matters from WorkCover NSW to DISRD not include any information about the expected timeframes within which complaints will be addressed? (given these were recommendations from the GPSC 1 review of bullying)?

**ANSWER:**

Every matter referred through to DISRD is thoroughly assessed, investigated and completed as quickly as possible.

11. What arrangements will be made to address bullying across the three new entities created this year?

**ANSWER:**

Each of the entities will continue the commitment to the action plans put in place, and will report on progress through the delegated reporting lines.

**Workers Compensation Changes**

12. Given the announced changes to the workers compensation scheme are intended to be retrospective:
- (a) Will those with 20-29 % WPI be reinstated?
  - (b) Who will determine 20% WPI, what will the injury be, to require 20%?
  - (c) What consideration has been given to filming or voice recording visits to IMEs?
  - (d) Will injured workers have legal assistance to appeal WC assessments?
  - (e) What are the transitional arrangements for those with hearing loss or prosthetics who were thrown off the scheme? Will they be compensated for this?
  - (f) Will past payments cut off as a result of the changes be restored?
  - (g) How will this new workers compensation entity deal with Centrelink and Medicare as they will want any money paid out to be returned?
  - (h) How do any of these amendments change the way that people are being treated by Scheme Agents?
  - (i) If a worker has had a previous WPI assessment but the injury has since deteriorated how will a dispute as to WPI be resolved for access to benefits given s66(1A) of the 1987 Act?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Weekly payments and payments for medical, hospital and rehabilitation will be reinstated for claims with an assessed permanent impairment of 21 per cent to 30 per cent inclusive.
- (b) Permanent impairment is assessed in accordance with the *WorkCover Guides for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 3rd edition*. The assessment must be undertaken by a medical assessor. Examples of injuries that would achieve 21 per cent or more include a back injury with spinal fusion; below knee amputation (7.5 centimetres below knee or more); and complete loss of vision in one eye.

- (c) This information is publicly available on the WorkCover website:  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au).
- (d) Yes, when Section 44BF is introduced into the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*, on a date to be proclaimed.
- (e) This is being considered.
- (f) Transitional arrangements will be introduced to allow for the retrospective back-payment of relevant entitlements.
- (g) The regulator will consult with Centrelink and Medicare to determine the most appropriate arrangements for identifying and retrospectively adjusting payments.
- (h) The reforms to workers compensation benefits were cognate with reforms to the structure and governance of the State's insurance and care agencies. These reforms recognise the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice's *Review of the exercise of the functions of the WorkCover Authority* and the Centre for International Economics' *Statutory review of the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Act 2012*, in particular the need to ensure a separation between insurance operations and regulation.
- (i) Where there is a dispute about the level of impairment, the injured worker can be assessed by an approved medical specialist through the Workers Compensation Commission, who will determine whether the worker has reached maximum medical improvement and if so, will proceed to determine the level of permanent impairment.

## Retirement age

13. Given there is no mandatory retirement age what justification is there for limiting workers compensation benefits to 12 months after the eligibility age for the aged pension?

### ANSWER:

Retiring age in the New South Wales workers compensation system is aligned with age pension benefits under the Commonwealth *Social Security Act 1991*. Workers that are injured prior to retiring age are entitled to weekly benefits for up to 12 months after retiring age, with medical entitlements thereafter contingent on the worker's degree of permanent impairment.

## Questions from Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

### Procurement – Unaccredited Work Threshold

14. Are you the sole Minister responsible for the NSW Procurement Board?

#### ANSWER:

Yes

15. Is the NSW Procurement Board explicitly and singularly responsible for the Construction Procurement: Direction C2014-03: Agency Accreditation Scheme for Construction – threshold for unaccredited work?

#### ANSWER:

Yes

16. If an agency is not accredited under the Agency Accreditation Scheme for Construction, does every application that they make to perform work on behalf of the NSW Government or a tenderer successful in providing works for the NSW Government, require a notification to go to the NSW Procurement Board and/or the Department of Finance, Services and innovation, regardless of the \$1.3M threshold

#### ANSWER:

This information is publicly available at: [www.procurepoint.nsw.gov.au](http://www.procurepoint.nsw.gov.au).

17. Are you aware of any project in NSW, being undertaken on behalf of the NSW Government, where an agency is not accredited but has been allowed to undertake work or delivery above the \$1.3M threshold?

#### ANSWER:

No.

18. What would be the re-percussions if a body were to engage an agency that is not accredited to provide or deliver works in excess of \$1.3M without notifying or seeking exemption from the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation?

#### ANSWER:

The agency must comply with the obligations in *Procurement Board Direction C2014-03*

19. Is a company called China Grand recognised by your Department as an accredited agency?
- (a) If yes, when did they become accredited, what is their accreditation and what services, standards do they meet?
  - (b) If not, are you aware of any delivery in NSW Government infrastructure projects that they have undertaken either above or below the \$1.3M threshold?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) No.
- (b) No.

**Procurement – Various NSW Infrastructure Projects**

20. Do you or your Department participate in the procurement contract arrangements put into place for Infrastructure projects?
- (a) What role does you/your department play?
  - (b) Are you/your department directly involved in the preparation of tenders?
  - (c) Are you/your department directly involved in contract negotiations for successful tenderer(s)?

**ANSWER:**

Yes. The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI) provides services to agencies in all aspects of the procurement cycle for infrastructure projects.

21. The NSW Procurement Board's stated Strategic Directions Statement identifies 3 objectives including: driving value for money, delivering quality government services and aligning with business needs. Is it your responsibility, and/or the responsibility of your Department to ensure that these objectives are being met on various infrastructure projects, generally, across NSW Government Departments?
- (a) If so, what work is done to engage with various other Ministries and Departments responsible for infrastructure projects to ensure that they are aware of and insisting on the 3 objectives being met?
  - (b) If not, who is responsible for the implementation of this broader Procurement policy position on the various infrastructure projects?

**ANSWER:**

No. Refer to Section 172(1)(d) of the *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912*.

22. Are you or your Department aware of any instances on NSW Government procured infrastructure projects where the quality of the product purchased for construction purposes, has been sub-standard, faulty, in need of repair and/or replacement?
- (a) If so, is this information publicly available on a case-by-case basis?
  - (b) If so, is it possible for the public to view a list of the problems caused/created by the use of faulty sub-standard products and the provider identified?

**ANSWER:**

DFSI has advised that instances have occurred where faulty or sub-standard material has been offered for use on construction projects. These instances are dealt with on a case by case basis through the contractual obligations, which exist between the relevant government agency and its supplier or suppliers.

There is no record kept by DFSI of these instances.

23. If a supplier to a NSW Government procured infrastructure project provided a steel product that was sub-standard, below the Australian industry standard and in need of immediate repair or disposal, would you expect that incident to be reported to the Procurement Board under ProcurePoint Direction 2014-01?

**ANSWER:**

No. Procurement Board Direction 2014–01 involves instances where a finding of dishonest, unfair, unconscionable, corrupt or otherwise illegal conduct by suppliers has been made. It does not relate to faulty or sub-standard materials, unless there has been a finding that the supplier made dishonest, unfair, unconscionable, corrupt or otherwise illegal representations about the standard of supplies.

24. If the successful tenderer on a NSW Government procured infrastructure project purchased a product for use in construction that was sub-standard and in need of immediate repair and/or disposal, under the ProcurePoint Direction 2014-01 which deals with dishonest, unfair and unconscionable conduct, would it be appropriate and in keeping with this Direction for that tenderer to force a sub-contractor, undertaking the repair, replacement and remediation of the faulty product, to sign a confidentiality clause in a contract that prevented them from disclosing the problem?
- (a) If so, how would this confidentiality clause, to hide the problem, possibly satisfy the ProcurePoint Direction 2014-01?
  - (b) What repercussions are there for a tenderer or contractor who fails to disclose a quality and standard failure by a supplier as per the directive in ProcurePoint Direction 2014-01?

**ANSWER:**

As explained in the answer to Question 23, Procurement Board Direction 2014-01 deals with instances where a finding of dishonest, unfair, unconscionable, corrupt or otherwise illegal conduct by suppliers has been made.

The Procurement Board's Procurement Policy Framework states that agencies, as the entities responsible for the expenditure of public moneys, will not do business with suppliers that are considered by the agency as being unable to meet the requirements of a procurement process and not do business with suppliers with a history of inappropriate conduct.

25. If a product purchased for use in the NSW Government public sector or construction of public asset, were found to be of a sub-standard quality, would the ultimate responsibility for that be with you as the Minister for Finance, Services and Property, over-seeing procurement, or would the responsibility sit with the relevant Minister/portfolio?

**ANSWER:**

The Procurement Board's Procurement Policy Framework states that agency heads (or their delegates) are responsible for managing their own agency procurement.

26. In instances where the construction work is tendered out to the private sector, as it is in most cases across NSW, is the NSW procurement standard expected of every single successful tenderer, or, after going to tender, does the Government remove itself and relieve itself of all procurement standards and leave the successful tenderer to their own devices and decisions regarding procurement?

**ANSWER:**

All suppliers contracted to NSW Government agencies are required to abide by the Code of Practice for Procurement.

**Procurement – Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre**

27. Were you or your Department involved in the procurement contract arrangement put into place for the SCEC being re-developed?
- (a) What role did you/your department play?
- (b) Were you/your department directly involved in the preparation of tenders?



- (c) Were you/your department directly involved in contract negotiations for the successful tenderer?

**ANSWER:**

No.

28. Are you aware of how much steel is being used in the construction of the SCEC?
- (a) What portion or percentage of that steel is Australian made?
  - (b) Are you aware of the value of that steel?
  - (c) Was there any condition expressed by the Government, during the tender or contract process, to ensure and/or insist that Australian steel was prioritised?
  - (d) Was there any condition expressed by the successful tenderer during the tender or contract process that identified the source of steel to be used?

**ANSWER:**

This is a matter for Infrastructure NSW.

29. The NSW Procurement Board's stated Strategic Directions Statement identifies 3 objectives including: driving value for money, delivering quality government services and aligning with business needs. Is it your responsibility, and/or the responsibility of your Department to ensure that these objectives are being met on the SCEC project?
- (a) If so, what work is being done to engage with various other Ministries and Departments that are currently building the SCEC to ensure that they are aware of and insisting on the 3 objectives being met?
  - (b) If not, who is responsible for the implementation of this broader Procurement policy position on the SCEC project?

**ANSWER:**

The Procurement Board's Procurement Policy Framework states that agencies are responsible for their own procurement, for compliance with procurement law and the Policy Framework.

30. Are you or your Department aware of any instances on the SCEC project where the quality of the product purchased for construction purposes, has been sub-standard, faulty, in need of repair and/or replacement?

**ANSWER:**

No.

31. If a supplier to the SCEC project provided a steel product that was sub-standard, below the Australian industry standard and in need of immediate repair or disposal, would you expect that incident to be reported to the Procurement Board under ProcurePoint Direction 2014-01?

**ANSWER:**

Refer to the answer to Question 23.

32. If a product purchased for use in the NSW Government public sector or construction of public asset, were found to be of a sub-standard quality, would the ultimate responsibility for that be with you as the Minister for Finance, Services and Property, over-seeing procurement, or would the responsibility sit with the relevant Minister/portfolio that made the purchase and where the product was sub-standard, in so doing, failed to satisfy the procurement policies of Government?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to Question 25.

33. In instances where the construction work is tendered out to the private sector, as it is in most cases across NSW, is the NSW procurement standard expected of every single successful tenderer, or, after going to tender, does the Government remove itself and relieve itself of all procurement standards and leave the successful tenderer to their own devices and decisions regarding procurement?

**ANSWER:**

See answer to Question 26.

**Procurement – Value for Money**

34. The ProcurePoint Statement on Value for Money identifies that most non-monetary factors can be translated into money equivalents while others cannot. Would you agree that community impacts, employment, social cohesion and support for SME's are all factors that need to be considered in determining value for money during procurement?

**ANSWER:**

The Procurement Board's Value for Money Statement states that an agency undertaking a procurement activity should consider the best way to apply value for money principles as part of the overall procurement process.

The Board's Value for Money Statement also includes guidance to agencies to consider applicable Government-wide procurement policies in the assessment process.

35. Are you aware of the dire situation facing BlueScope Steel and the various SME's of the Illawarra region?

**ANSWER:**

We are aware of BlueScope Steel's public statements.

36. Would you agree that many of the factors listed in Part 1 of this question are all reasonable and relevant to the prognosis for the steel industry in the Illawarra?

**ANSWER:**

As explained in the answer to Question 22, agencies are responsible for applying value for money principles in every procurement activity.

37. Can you guarantee that factors such as those listed in Part 1 of this question have been incorporated into the decision making for procurement of steel in the various infrastructure projects being undertaken by or on behalf of the NSW Government across NSW?
- (a) If yes, how do you manage this and what value and importance is placed on factors such as these and is your analysis publicly available and accessible?
- (b) If not, who is responsible for ensuring that these factors are considered, given value and incorporated into the procurement decision making?

**ANSWER:**

For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the agencies undertaking the infrastructure projects.

38. The ProcurePoint Statement on Value for Money identifies that "value for money does not always mean that the 'highest quality' good or service is selected. A lower cost option still appropriate to quality requirements may be appropriate where an agency has limited funds available for a particular

procurement. Value for money is achieved when the 'right sized' procurement solution is selected to meet an agency's need."

- (a) Given that many of the projects being undertaken by the NSW Government are in the hundreds of \$M's and/or \$B's would you argue that the "limited funds" rule is applicable and as such there is an allowance for lower or poorer quality construction and construction materials?
- (b) Within this statement, do terms such as "appropriate", "right sized" and/or to "meet an agency's need", do you believe, include the expected life span of a construction project and if so, using roads as an example, bridges as another, hospitals as another, how and by what means do you measure test and place value on the products used during construction to ensure that lifespan and life expectancy will be met, not sacrificed?
- (c) Is any of this modelling available, for each NSW Government Infrastructure project and is it published?

**ANSWER:**

For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the agencies undertaking the infrastructure projects.

- 39. The ProcurePoint Statement on Value for Money identifies that "Up-front benefits/costs and risks" assessment should include the element of "revenue changes". Research is indicating that the closure of BlueScope Steel could cause the loss of 10 000 and an immediate impact to the Illawarra economy of \$3.3B. Has any of this detail been factored into the assessment process for the procurement of steel for NSW Government projects and can you explain how these material matter have been considered, under what values and how that affected the procurement assessment of various projects?

**ANSWER:**

For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the agencies undertaking the infrastructure projects.

- 40. The ProcurePoint Statement on Value for Money identifies that "Up-front benefits/costs and risks" assessment should include the element of "Avoided Costs". Would you agree that if inferior products, such as steel or concrete, are used in the construction stage, then the asset owner and the State of NSW becomes exposed to higher "Avoided Costs" risk if the inferior products lead to a shorter life span, more frequent failure and cause a higher volume of ongoing maintenance and repair?

**ANSWER:**

For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the agencies undertaking the infrastructure projects.

41. If Procurement for various NSW Government projects are handled and managed by the various, individual and different Ministers, Departments and agencies, who or what process is in place to bring the “big picture” together so that silo decisions are not made?
- (a) Would you agree that the BlueScope Steel situation facing the Illawarra is a broader “big picture” outcome that is caused not by a single procurement decision but rather by the compilation and quantum of various, ongoing and isolated departmental procurement decisions and that if you accept this as being true then it is perhaps the role of the Minister responsible for Procurement to bring all of these individual decisions together into a broader larger picture decision?

**ANSWER:**

The process to co-ordinate the ‘big picture’ across Government is comprehensive and adequate.

Section 172(1)(a) of the *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912* states that the Procurement Board has the function of overseeing the procurement of goods and services by and for government agencies.

Section 171 of the *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912* states that the objectives of the Procurement Board are as follows:

- (a) to develop and implement a Government-wide strategic approach to procurement,
- (b) to ensure best value for money in the procurement of goods and services by and for government agencies,
- (c) to improve competition and facilitate access to Government procurement business by the private sector, especially by small and medium enterprises and regional enterprises,
- (d) to reduce administrative costs for government agencies associated with procurement,
- (e) to simplify procurement processes while ensuring probity and fairness.

Section 170 of the *Public Works and Procurement Act 1912*, states that the Procurement Board must provide to me an annual report of its work and activities.

**Procurement – Steel**

42. Do you have any idea or sense of the volume of steel being used across NSW in current Government infrastructure projects?
- (a) Can you specifically identify the steel volume content in any single project in NSW that your Government has instigated and if so, what is the Australian made steel content of that project?

**ANSWER:**

This information is not collected by DFSI. For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the agencies undertaking the infrastructure projects.

43. Specifically, do you know how much steel is being used to construct the new international convention centre at Darling Harbour?
- (a) How much of that steel will be Australian made steel? (Estimated to be around 27,000 to 28,000 tonnes)

**ANSWER:**

This is a matter for Infrastructure NSW.

44. On August 11<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Member for Kiama made a Statement in Parliament about NSW steel procurement. Are you familiar with his statement?
- (a) Did your office assist the Member for Kiama in gaining his figures regarding Australian based steel content?
- (b) Do you agree with his statement that on the Berry bypass, 54% of the steel used is Australian made?
- (c) Do you agree with his statement on the Gerringong Upgrades that 62% of the steel used was Australian made?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) My office and Department regularly provides information on procurement to various parties, including MPs seeking to communicate with constituents.
- (b) For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the Department of Transport.

(c) For the reasons set out in answers to Question 25 and Question 29, this question should be directed to the Department of Transport.

45. The Member for Kiama told Parliament that “the procurement policy that operates in NSW under this Government is the policy that operated under the former Labor Government”. Is this correct?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

**Workers Compensation – Court of Appeal Decision (Cram Fluid v Green)**

46. Could you explain the Budget Estimates response from both yourself and the CEO of WorkCover that suggested a “pending” Whole Person Impairment which would allow a worker to get an initial assessment that would not be binding or absolute, but would instead be interpreted as an interim or progress type of assessment?
- (a) Who would pay for this type of “pending” WPI assessment?
  - (b) In the event that this type of “pending” assessment takes place, what steps are taken to explain to the injured worker their rights and responsibilities and who is responsible for informing the injured worker and what checks are in place to ensure that this is all being done properly?
  - (c) Is an injured worker required to “sign off” or “authorise” a WPI finding?

**ANSWER:**

The provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* permit an approved medical specialist to review the worker for the purposes of establishing that they have not reached maximum medical improvement. If maximum medical improvement has not been reached, no assessment of permanent impairment is made by the approved medical specialist.

This finding would be binding and would allow the worker to continue to have access to medical support while their condition is still unstable. However, this finding would not preclude a further review and assessment by an approved medical specialist once maximum medical improvement has been reached.

Once a worker’s degree of permanent impairment has been assessed, by a medical assessor or by an approved medical specialist, and the degree of the worker’s permanent impairment has been agreed, the worker will be entitled to compensation for that degree of that impairment only.

- (a) The Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service (ILARS), administered by the WorkCover Independent Review Office.
- (b) In such a case, the worker would be represented by a lawyer, and would be required to seek advice from their legal representative.
- (c) In proceedings commenced in the Workers Compensation Commission, the worker “authorises” an assessment of the degree of permanent impairment where the worker does not appeal the assessment by the approved medical specialist. Conversely, if a worker disagrees with an assessment, the worker has the ability to appeal the assessment to the Workers Compensation Commission Medical Appeal Panel and ultimately the Supreme Court.

Where agreement as to the degree of permanent impairment is reached between the worker and the employer or insurer, a written complying agreement must be executed pursuant to the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*. The worker is required to obtain independent legal advice prior to signing such an agreement, or must expressly waive the right to obtain independent legal advice, before entering into the agreement.

47. Is there a number/list of injured workers, held by WIRO or WorkCover or any other source, which had registered or indicated an interest to have their WPI re-assessed after their injury had deteriorated since their original WPI and lump sum payment?
- (a) Who is the holder of that list?
  - (b) What is the quantum of persons seeking re-assessment?
  - (c) Does the *Cram Fluid v Green* decision now rule out any scope or opportunity for any of these persons to have their condition re-assessed, no matter how badly or significant the deterioration?

**ANSWER:**

The State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) does not hold such a list.

- (a) Not applicable
- (b) Not applicable
- (c) The decision of the Court of Appeal in *Cram Fluid Power Pty Ltd v Green [2015] NSWCA 250* gives effect to the intention of the legislative reforms to the workers compensation scheme passed in 2012, where the legislative amendments placed restrictions on claims for permanent impairment lump sum compensation. Government is always open to looking at ways of improving the workers compensation system. The State Insurance Regulatory Authority is currently considering the implications of the case.



48. As a result of the Cram Fluid v Green Court ruling, will you now introduce Legislative amendment to ensure:
- (a) An injured worker, an applicant, is required to sign off, as a means of agreement and acceptance, on their WPI assessment else it becomes automatically void?
  - (b) In an instance where a WPI deteriorates by 10% or more, then this would be grounds to re-open and re-assess and allow for a further claim of WPI?

**ANSWER:**

The Government is always open to looking at ways of improving the workers compensation system. The State Insurance Regulatory Authority is currently considering the implications of the case.

49. Do you agree that the Cram Fluid v Green decision will operate as an incentive to some injured workers to delay medical treatment and allow their condition to deteriorate such that they can maximise their WPI?

**ANSWER:**

The workers compensation legislation reflects the principle that an injured worker should only make a claim for permanent impairment once the degree of impairment has stabilised and the worker has reached maximum medical improvement.

50. How will the Cram Fluid v Green decision affect Insurers and their ability to finalise matters and apply actuarial projections?
- (a) Will this make things better or worse for insurers?
  - (b) Will this provide greater or less certainty for Insurer and/or Injured Workers?
  - (c) Will these keep matters "open" or "live" for longer periods?

**ANSWER:**

Actuarial projections were developed based on the 2012 legislative reforms. The decision will provide greater clarity, have minimal impact on insurers and should not impact how long claims remain open.

51. In instances where injured workers delay their WPI for longer periods, waiting for their injury to finalise, stabilise or deteriorate to its projected maximum level, will this make the Court matters dealing with WPI more complicated or less complicated?

**ANSWER:**

There has been little to no impact on the complexity of proceedings in the Workers Compensation Commission or the Courts to date.

52. Are you able to provide average times for Courts to deal with WPI matters in the following categories:
- (a) Injuries that are 0-2years old;
  - (b) Injuries that are 3-5 years old;
  - (c) Injuries that are 5-10 years old;
  - (d) Injuries that are 11+ years old.

**ANSWER:**

The information requested does not fall within this portfolio.

**Sale of Property Assets**

53. Can you confirm Minister that according to reports by yourself and your own Department, properties being sold either “don’t need to be owned or are under-utilized”, is this correct?
- (a) Can you identify a property type or style that the State does need to own?
  - (b) Is there a figure, a percentage%, a ratio of use of a public building that is being used to determine if it is adequately utilized or “under-utilized”? What is that figure?
    - i. What was the utilization rate of the Justice Precinct Buildings at Parramatta?
    - ii. What was the utilization rate of the McKell Building in Sydney’s Chinatown?
    - iii. What was the utilization rate of the Ausgrid Building in Sydney CBD?
    - iv. What was the utilization rate of the Hunter Water Building on Newcastle’s Wharf Rd?

**ANSWER:**

- a. The goal of real property asset management policy should be to ensure that Government only holds real property assets when, and in the form, necessary to support core service delivery (including those assets of long term strategic importance). Leased or owned real property assets which do not meet this test should be relinquished or realised and the rental savings or unlocked capital put to better use, with a priority given to maintaining, improving and extending real property assets that are core to current or future service delivery.
- b. The government target of utilization is 13.1sqm per person. There is currently 100% utilisation of buildings i, ii and iv. Utilisation rate of Ausgrid Building unavailable.

54. Have any of the buildings sold by Property NSW been leased back to the NSW Government or Government agencies for continued occupation?

- (a) Has the Ausgrid building been leased back? What portion or percentage of it? What terms?
- (b) Has the Hunter Water Building on Wharf Rd been leased back? What portion or percentage of it? What terms?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

- a) Yes this building has been leased back (15 month + 1 year leaseback to Ausgrid Pty Ltd. All of the building was leased to Ausgrid except suite G01, G01, Part of the ground floor and part of the storeroom.)
- b) Yes this building has been 100% leased back to Hunter Water Corporation for a 10 year period

55. Are any public buildings or properties being sold by individual agencies rather than Property NSW? For example, are Education or Health or Transport selling off and buildings and the matter not being handled by Property NSW?

- (a) Can you provide a list of these properties?

**ANSWER:**

General government agencies and public trading enterprises (PTEs), excluding SOCs, can manage their own property transactions provided they have been formally approved by GPNSW.

- a. It is not appropriate to provide a list as it could have a negative impact on the individual marketing campaigns.

56. Are any public buildings or properties being sold by State Owned Corporations rather than Property NSW? For example Ausgrid or Hunter Water selling off buildings or property that is not being handled by Property NSW?

- (a) Can you provide a list of these properties?

**ANSWER:**

Although SOCs are not required to comply with Premier's Memorandum 2012-20 they are encouraged to use the services of GPNSW where their organisations do not have the necessary in-house expertise.

- a) It is not appropriate to provide a list as it could have a negative impact on the individual marketing campaigns.

57. Are there any reports or briefs that discuss underutilised Crown lands in Sydney? Can you please provide this document?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer this question to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

58. What is the known value of NSW property asset sales in the year 2011-12?

**ANSWER:**

This information is publicly available.

59. Are Crown Land asset sales handled and listed and counted in the cumulative of Property NSW?

(a) If yes, can you provide a full and complete list of all Crown Land sales including their location, size and sale value?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

60. What detail can you reveal about projected future asset divestment?

**ANSWER:**

The estimated pipeline of assets to be divested by GPNSW or other agencies for 2015-16 is \$865m, 2016-17 is \$652m, and 2017-18 is \$426m.

61. Has the potential proceeds of the Powerhouse Museum site been considered and allocated?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer this question to the Minister for the Arts.

62. In the instances of NSW Government properties being sold and then leased back, and you assured Budget Estimates that there were a number of these instances, what is the average timespan before the money spent on leasing is equal to or greater than the sale value?

(a) Is the money paid for leasing in any way shape or form tax deductible for the NSW government?

**ANSWER:**

It would not be appropriate to average this time as it depends on lease term and sale value.

Any questions in relation to tax deduction should be referred to the Treasurer.

63. Do you have an anticipated timeframe to get every State owned property or real estate asset onto the Property NSW register?

**ANSWER:**

GPNSW is undertaking a process to list all property owned by agencies on the register and is reconciling assets on the register with relevant agencies. This is an ongoing process.

64. Do you have an anticipated timeframe to transition every Department, including State Owned Corporations and other entities of the State, to ensure that every property asset sale is handled by Property NSW or, at the very least, registered and listed with Property NSW?

**ANSWER:**

No there is no anticipated timeframe. Sales of assets, listed on the register, will be captured electronically from Land and Property Information's (LPI) Titling system.

**Social Housing**

65. Is Property NSW still committed to selling an estimated 300 State owned public housing properties in the Sydney CBD?
- i. If so, what is the exact number of properties expected to be sold?
  - ii. At what predicted total value?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Family and Community Services.

66. How many Sydney CBD Social Housing properties have been sold to date and have all proceeds been reinvested into public housing?
- i) If so, exactly how many new properties or residences have been (or will be) established using this funding?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Family and Community Services.

67. How many public servant positions have had their work base/space shifted from Sydney to regional communities as a direct result of the sale of public asset property (i.e.: the Sydney based office that they once worked in was sold, and a new office established in a regional area)?

**ANSWER**

None.

68. How advanced did the proposition of establishing a new Service NSW site in Campbelltown progress and was the decision to change to Camden made before or after the March 2015 election? Are you able to provide documented evidence to this effect?

**ANSWER:**

Government Property NSW (GPNSW) was asked to investigate a suitable site for a new service centre in the Campbelltown area in December 2014. It was identified there were no suitable sites available, with Gregory Hills being the nearest most appropriate site. This search resulted in a lease for the Gregory Hills site being signed by GPNSW on 22 June 2015.

Service NSW worked extensively with Government Property NSW to assess and review premises in the area.

**Crown Land and Crown Roads**

69. Does Property NSW oversee and coordinate the sale of Crown Land and Crown Roads?

**ANSWER:**

No.

70. Can you tell us how many parcels of Crown Land have been sold by this Government since March 2011?
- i. What value?
  - ii. Where did that money go to, get allocated to?

**ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

71. Does the decision to offer Crown Land or a Crown Road for sale include an onsite inspection in each and every instance?
- i. If not, what protections are in place to determine the suitability of a sale from a desk top assessment?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

72. When the sale of a Crown Land or Crown Road is proposed, what is the notification process to ensure users have the opportunity for objection?

**ANSWER**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

73. Are you aware of the Principles of Crown Land management and have these principals been changed or altered since the Coalition came to Government in 2011?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

74. Have you ever met with any of the small businesses or sporting and recreation groups that rely on access to Crown Land and Crown Roads?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water.

**Staffing – Office of State Revenue**

75. How many FTE's were at each of the 3 Office of State Revenue sites of Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle as at July 2015?

**ANSWER:**

The number of full-time equivalent staff at each of the three Office of State Revenue sites in July 2015, that is, Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle are:

<b>Sites</b>	<b>Number of FTEs' (as at 18 June 2015)</b>
Parramatta	764.5
Wollongong	25.6
Newcastle	24.3

76. Will a new office Of State Revenue be established at Gosford during the 2015/16 FY and if so:
- i. How many FTE positions will it have?
  - ii. Has an office space been secured?
  - iii. Is there funding in the Capital Budget of OSR for an office set-up and fit-out?
  - iv. Will these positions be new and additional to current Office of State Revenue FTE's? or;
  - v. Will they be transferred from other sites?

**ANSWER:**

NSW Government has committed to relocate 300 positions from DFSI to Gosford over the next four years as well as relocating up to 50 positions to Queanbeyan.

A project team has been established with representation from across all businesses of the department. The work to identify suitable options and candidates is currently underway.

**Staffing – Public Works**

77. Can you confirm that there will be no significant changes to the size and scope of the Public Works Unit in 2015/16?

**ANSWER:**

“The NSW Government is committed to running an efficient and effective Public Works now and into the future. Public Works plays an important role in optimising the delivery of the State’s public infrastructure and will shift focus to providing expert strategic advice and commissioning capabilities.”



78. Can you provide any guarantee that the existing operations and functions of the Construction Service Group within Public Works will not change in 2015/16?

**ANSWER:**

“The NSW Government is committed to running an efficient and effective Public Works now and into the future. Public Works plays an important role in optimising the delivery of the State’s public infrastructure and will shift focus to providing expert strategic advice and commissioning capabilities.”

**Staffing – RTA**

79. What RTA services do you expect to close in 2015/16?
- (a) How many FTE's will be impacted?
  - (b) How many FTE's will still have a job at the end of this process?

**ANSWER:**

None. Service NSW is not closing any RTA services. In fact we are expanding access to motor registry services through our network of one-stop shops, more transactions online and our new 24/7 phone service. Where there are opportunities to reduce duplicated single siloed shopfronts, Service NSW will ensure that customers have greater reach to services through the new one-stop shop network while delivering value for money for taxpayers.

**Privatisation of CTP and Workers Compensation:**

80. Can the Minister rule out any plan to privatise the Governments current role and responsibility to be the provider and under-writer of CTP and Workers Compensation insurance in NSW?

**ANSWER:**

The Government has no plans to change the current delivery and underwriting models of Compulsory Third Party (CTP) or workers compensation insurance.

81. Can the Minister rule out the privatisation or private under-writing of Insurance & Care NSW?

**ANSWER:**

The Government has no plan for the privatisation of the Workers Compensation Scheme.

82. Why has the Workers Compensation Premium Rate for NSW for 2015/16 not been made publicly available when every other State in Australia has, along with Comcare and the NZ fund?

**ANSWER:**

New South Wales premium rates and dust diseases contributions are contained in Table A of the Insurance Premiums Order, which is published. The current formulas used to calculate premiums are contained in the published *Insurance Premiums Order 2015-2016*.

**IT information storage onshore-offshore**

83. With regard to Information Technology (IT) information that is held onshore or offshore, Mr Hubby told Budget Estimates that some information would be held onshore but be accessible offshore.
- (a) In practical terms, what does that mean?
  - (b) Does this include Treasury documents?
  - (c) Does this include Premier and Cabinet documents?
  - (d) Does this include any other sensitive, private, personal, commercial in confidence information?
  - (e) Is there a commercial, competitive or sovereign risk in this approach?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) That certain information stored onshore will be accessible to contracted offshore partners to enable contractual obligations.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) Yes. Authorised Infosys operators located offshore will be able to view payroll data.
- (e) No.

**Public Works**

84. In answering a question on Public Works for The Hon John Kaye, you told Budget Estimates that “the Government would not under any circumstances exit a business that would provide value for the taxpayer or compromise the service that is currently being provided by Government”
- (a) Do some of the business units within Public Works make an annual profit and if so, which units and what is the size of each annual profit?
  - (b) Will you guarantee that each of the profit making business units will be kept by the Government as a means to ensuring revenue returns?
  - (c) How do you intend to test/measure the concept of “compromise the service”?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Yes. Profitability of business units is variable from year to year and business unit to business unit. The range of Business Unit profitability over the past two years had a median of 4.59% when expressed as a percentage of revenue.
- (b) No. Profitability in competition with the market is not an objective of the reform.
- (c) Through examination of market capability.

## **Service NSW**

85. You told Budget Estimates last year that Service NSW was "one of the great success stories of this Government" and yet you could not explain the suggested \$4.8 billion savings made. You took the question on notice and still failed to explain the \$4.8 billion savings made. Can you please provide a breakdown of the \$4.8 billion savings made?

### **ANSWER:**

The \$4.8 billion efficiency saving for business relates to a business productivity loss of five hours per week visiting government shopfronts and understanding regulation.

## **Dust Diseases Board**

86. How quickly do you expect the new structure of the Dust Diseases Board to be able to process applications for claims of compensation?

### **ANSWER:**

In accordance with the *Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015*, all claims received since the legislative change on 1 September 2015, were determined within the two day period set by the 1942 Act.

## **Unexplained variances in Budget figures**

87. According to the 2014-15 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report, the item 'Other advertising and promotion – Commercial activities' has increased from \$247,000 in 2014-15 to \$2,153,000 in 2015-16. Can you please explain the reason for an almost \$2 million increase in these expenses?

### **ANSWER:**

The major portion of the \$1.9 million increase in other advertising and promotion is a general allowance which should have been included in other operating expenses to cover unbudgeted expenses across DFSI. There is also a small increase in advertising to promote LPI's electronic products, including the Property Exchange Australia (PEXA) Ltd, Spatial Information Exchange portal delivery system, and the Cadastral Records.

88. According to the 2014-15 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report, the item 'Auditors remuneration – financial audit – Commercial activities' has increased from \$998,000 in 2014-15 to \$1,901,000 in 2015-16. Can you please explain the reason for an almost \$2 million increase in these expenses?

**ANSWER:**

In 2014-15 the auditor's remuneration fee was forecast to be \$998,000 however this is lower than the actual fee of \$1,341,000.

In 2015-16 the budgeted auditor's remuneration of \$1,901,000 comprises the DFSI annual statutory audit undertaken by the Audit Office of New South Wales of \$1,375,000, and a general budget allowance for audit and accounting projects to be undertaken across DFSI of \$526,000.

Compared to the actual expenditure of \$1,341,000 in 2014-15, the increase in the budget for 2015-16 is \$560,000, mainly due to CPI escalation on 2014-15 audit fees (\$34,000) and the increased general budget allowance for audit and accounting projects (\$526,000) mentioned above.

89. Can you please explain what these 'commercial activities' are?

**ANSWER:**

Commercial activities are Government businesses and are not dependent on budget funding. They operate under the commercial policy framework that has external user charges as its main source of revenue allowing the business to be self-funding.

90. According to the 2014-15 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report, the item 'Financial counselling services' was \$1,550,000 in 2014-15 and is budgeted to be \$1,584,000 in 2015-16. Do you stand by this numbers and the fact that funding will be increased to financial counselling services in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

91. According to the 2014-15 Budgeted Forward Estimates Detailed Report, the item 'Management fess – budget dependent agencies (Account R0500388)' was \$6,850,000 in 2014-15 and is budgeted to be \$0 in 2015-16. Can you please explain why this item is \$0 in 2015-16?

**ANSWER:**

In 2014-15 Management fee revenue of \$11.55 million is split over two revenue lines, R0500388 Management fees – budget dependent agencies other of \$6.580 million and R0500388 Management fees – budget dependent agencies \$4.695 million.

In 2015-16, due to the realignment of revenue reporting, management fee, revenue is classified in one revenue line R0500388 Management fees – budget dependent agencies at \$12.86 million.

This increase of \$1.4 million relates to ad-hoc fee for service work undertaken by ServiceFirst for clients outside the standard Service Partnership Agreement activities as a result of anticipated machinery-of-government changes.

### **Ministerial Office Administration**

92. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?
  - (b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

#### **ANSWER:**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

93. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
  - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
    - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

#### **ANSWER:**

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

94. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
  - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

95. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

(a) If so, how many times did this occur?

i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

96. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?

(a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No.

97. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?

(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**ANSWER:**

No.

98. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?

(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**ANSWER:**

The Minister's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

99. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?  
(a) What were the gifts purchased?  
i. Who were they gifted to?

**ANSWER:**

Nil.

100. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?  
(a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No.

101. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?  
(a) Do they have ABN's?  
i. If so, please provide details?  
(b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?  
(c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?  
102. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

**ANSWER:**

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

**Ministerial And Office Travel**

103. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?  
(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

**ANSWER:**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

104. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
- (a) What were the nature of these trips?
  - (b) Who paid for these trips?

**ANSWER:**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

105. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:
- (a) Taxi hire
  - (b) Limousine hire
  - (c) Private hire care
  - (d) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on taxies across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776.

106. Have you ever used Uber?
- (a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

No.

107. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- (a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

No.

108. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- (a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

**ANSWER:**



No.

109. Have you used Airbnb?

**ANSWER:**

No.

110. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

**ANSWER:**

No.

111. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?

(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

No.

112. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

None.

### **Labour Hire Firms**

113. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:

(a) The names of the firms utilised

(b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged

(c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company

(d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company

(e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company

(f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company

- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

The Finance, Services and Information Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall employment expense budget.

**Media And Public Relations**

114. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, including NSW Fair Trading, the State Insurance Regulatory Authority, SafeWork NSW, and Insurance and iCare NSW, employs eight media or public relations advisers.

115. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation is currently restructuring media and public relations services which could lead to a change to the number and grading of media and public relations positions. As the restructure is yet to be finalised, no forecasts have been completed.

116. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009/10.

117. Have you had media training or speech training?  
(a) If yes, who paid for it?  
(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

**ANSWER:**

No.

**Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

118. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- (c) What was discussed?
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

119. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- (c) What was discussed?
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

120. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- (a) Who attended those meetings?
- (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- (c) What was discussed?
- (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

121. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

122. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

123. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

124. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

125. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

126. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- (a) Who attended those meetings?
  - (b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - (c) What was discussed?
  - (d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to the answer given in question number 118.

127. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
  - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

**ANSWER:**

No.

128. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
- (a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER:**

No.

**Consulting**

129. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?

(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

130. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:

(a) Social media

i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

(b) Photography

i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

(c) Acting training

i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

(d) Ergonomics

i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements, including Legal Services expenditure and expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

## Department/Agency Administration

131. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - i. Voluntary
    - ii. Forced
  - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

### ANSWER:

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

132. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
  - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

### ANSWER:

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

133. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

### ANSWER:

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in

the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

134. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

(a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government' original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

135. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Total cost of entertainment (FBT and non FBT) in 2014-15 was \$130,000. These costs are inclusive of food provided at training courses, internal and external staff meetings.

136. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

**ANSWER:**

The Office of Finance and Services (OFS) spent a total of \$102,739 on plant hire during the 2014-15 financial year.

137. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?

(a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

**ANSWER:**

There is no specific budget for restaurant expenses. These are captured either as part of entertainment costs (see answer to question 135) or under conference and travel



expenses. Conference expenses in 2014/15 were \$230,000 which was largely venue hire as well as food/refreshments at conferences. Some restaurant bills were included in travel costs. Domestic travel costs in 2014/15 were \$451,000 which covers food, hotel and travel costs relating to business related travel.

138. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

(a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

**ANSWER:**

During 2014-2015 OFS received four allegations involving suspected internal fraud. Three of these matters were investigated and the allegations were not substantiated. The other matter was referred to the NSW Police and the outcome of their enquiries is still pending. The estimated total sum alleged to have been defrauded is \$800. No other instances of internal fraud were detected.

139. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

(a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

(b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?

(c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

**ANSWER:**

a) The composition of the fleet in terms of engine size is as follows:

Engine Size (Litres)	Number of Vehicles
1.3	1
1.4	8
1.5	2
1.6	23
1.7	6
1.8	60
2.0	83
2.1	1
2.2	29
2.3	11
2.4	50
2.5	307
2.7	10
2.8	7

3.0	49
3.2	22
3.5	88
3.6	5
4.0	37
4.2	1
5.2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>802</b>

- b) 298 fleet vehicles were involved in accidents during 2014-15.
- c) The total cost of insurance claims and repairs was \$991,855 for the 2014-15 period.

140. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Total cost of books, periodicals, publications and subscriptions in 2014-15 was \$973,000.

141. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

- (a) What is their remuneration band?
- (b) For each SES employee, how many have:
  - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
  - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
  - iii. less than 5 staff?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding SES employees is available in agency annual reports.

142. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- (a) workplace bullying;
- (b) stress leave; and
- (c) sick leave?

**ANSWER:**

2014/15	Days lost due to		
	Workplace Bullying	Work Stress/ Pressure	Other Sick
Workers Compensation	538.0	101.6	428.0
Sick Leave	0.0	369.7	53,269.4
	0 – DSTA	53.65 – DSTA	20,948.13 – DSTA
	0 – SF	0 - SF	2,433.75 - SF
	0 – LPI	64.81 – LPI	8,851.29 – LPI
	0 – OSR	251.25 – OSR	10,726.75 – OSR
	0 – SRWS	0 – SRWS	10,309.50 – SRWS
TOTAL	538.0	471.3	53,697.4

(a) workplace bullying: **538.0**

(b) stress leave: **471.3**

(c) sick leave: **53,697.4**

143. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

(a) If so, what is:

- i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
- ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
- iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

**ANSWER:**

No

## Department/Agency Travel

144. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
- (a) Taxi hire
  - (b) Limousine/private car hire
  - (c) Hire car rental

### ANSWER:

Taxi expenses in 2014-15 were \$150,000. Motor vehicle leasing including StateFleet charges was \$609,000 in 2014-15. This predominantly includes car hire/lease expenses from StateFleet which is a division of DFSI. It also includes approximately \$65,000 external car hire, largely incurred as part of the StateFleet trial of hire cars.

145. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

### ANSWER:

No.

146. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?
- (a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

### ANSWER:

No.

147. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

### ANSWER:

No.

148. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?
- (a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

**ANSWER:**

No.

**Departmental/Agency IT**

149. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
  - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**ANSWER:**

All Apple mobile device users are required to have an iTunes account. Applications downloaded through iTunes are free, eg Adobe Acrobat reader, however certain software may require another subscription with associated costs, eg Microsoft Office 365.

- (a) No vendor payments based on a search of iTunes charter in 2014-15.

150. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
  - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**ANSWER:**

All Android mobile device users are required to have an Android account. Applications downloaded through Android are free, eg Adobe Acrobat reader, however certain software may require another subscription with associated costs, eg Microsoft Office 365.

151. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?

- (a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

**ANSWER:**

Six

- (a) Based on the claims related to those devices the total cost of replacement is \$4,747.

152. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

- (a) If so, how many times did this occur?
  - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

- (a) Five.
  - (i) \$1286.36
  - \$1465.46
  - \$1325.82
  - \$2189.40
  - \$3888.43.

**Efficiency Dividend**

- 153. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
- 154. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
- 155. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
  - (a) 2014/15 financial year
  - (b) 2013/14 financial year
  - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
- 156. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
  - (a) 2014/15 financial year
  - (b) 2013/14 financial year
  - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
- 157. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:
  - (a) 2014/15 financial year
  - (b) 2013/14 financial year
  - (c) 2012/13 financial year?
- 158. For the 2015/16 financial year:
  - (a) What savings measures will the Department save?
  - (b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
  - (c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
  - (d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

**ANSWER:**

Nos. 153 – 158:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.