

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

24 October 2011

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

USE OF WATER FOR MINING

QUESTION

The Hon. JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: Does this Government support Orange City Council's proposed Macquarie River pipeline?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Is that on strategic lands? After all you go on, is that all you are going to ask about strategic lands?

CHAIR: Order. He is allowed to ask whatever questions he wants within the ambit.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: We are waiting for the killer punch.

Mr HARRIS: The Orange Macquarie Valley pipeline was funded jointly with the Commonwealth, the council and New South Wales. It was under drought management funding, emergency funding. Whilst there is still no emergency left over, that money is still available and currently it is in the hands of the council whether they wish to proceed with the project or not. I believe there is a fair bit of local concern about the long-term operations and maintenance.

The Hon. JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: My question was does the Government actually support the project?

Mr HARRIS: I do not know that we actually support it in as much as we provide the information upon which the council can make its own decisions because they are ultimately the ones left with the ongoing operation and maintenance costs. We did provide those funds under emergency response, as we did for a whole range of towns around New South Wales. That money is still available should they continue. As with other pipeline projects like Goulburn, the drought had finished before it was completed. Those projects have been concluded without pulling up stumps.

The Hon. JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: Does the Government oppose the use of this water from this proposed Macquarie River pipeline for mining activities?

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: I might ask the Commissioner as well.

Mr HARRIS: We might take that on notice.

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: We will take it on notice. I think that was for review by Orange Council a couple of weeks ago.

Mr HARRIS: It is still under negotiation with Orange Council.

ANSWER

I am advised that under its town water supply licence, Orange City Council cannot supply water to domestic or industrial consumers outside of its local government boundary, and that there are no mining activities within Orange City Council's boundaries.



**Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business**

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE: Budget Estimates

Asked 24 October 2011

QUESTION

The Hon Peter Primrose MLC: In relation to Minister, your budget release on 6 September, you state "legislation" will soon be introduced into Parliament to formalise the establishment of a statutory framework for the Office of the Small Business Commissioner. What is the legal source of the Minister's current powers?

ANSWER

For information relating to Ministerial legislative powers and responsibilities, including the Allocation of the Administration of Acts, I refer you to <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/>



**Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Primary Industries**

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

Asked 24 October 2011

QUESTION

1. Can you name three regulations that impact negatively on small business?
2. What can the Small Business Commissioner do to ensure that small businesses are included in consultations in the development of codes of conduct?

ANSWER

1. Small businesses face red tape compliance burdens from a variety of sources, and typically small business owners comment that it is the accumulation of numerous compliance requirements that negatively impacts on their business.

Data from the Productivity Commission revealed that under Labor as at 30 June 2007, NSW had more than 1200 Acts – the highest of any State or Territory and 400 more than the ‘runner up’ Victoria.

It is time that Government got off the back of small business to ensure they are not weighed down with punitive regulation.

This is why the NSW Government is committed to reducing red tape for businesses and the community by 20% by June 2015; and requires that the number of principal Acts and Regulations repealed by Government in a calendar year will be at least twice the number of new principal legislative instruments introduced.

Work to deliver this has now begun and you can track Government performance towards NSW 2021 Goals on our NSW 2021 website, <http://2021.nsw.gov.au/>

2. The Small Business Commissioner is working with agencies to ensure they understand the issues of small businesses and the need for them to be considered in the development of codes of conduct.



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Primary Industries

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

24 October 2011

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

DROUGHT SUPPORT

QUESTION

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Dr Sheldrake, when was the last time an area of New South Wales was officially in drought without fodder and stock transport subsidies being made available?

Dr SHELDRAKE: In terms of a period when it was not available it would be a considerable time ago and in terms of exact date I probably cannot provide that, the direct answer to that question, so I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

February 2006.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Hodgkinson', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business**

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

24 October 2011

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

FLYING FOXES

QUESTION

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Minister, have you written to or made any submission to the Federal Minister for Environment or any responsible agency, asking to review the endangered species status of grey headed flying foxes?

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: In relation to flying foxes, I can advise that I did write to the Federal Minister, Tony Burke. Is that what you are referring to?

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Yes.

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: I did write to the Honourable Tony Burke, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Population and Communities, seeking to fast track the methodology for conducting a census of grey headed flying foxes to help inform future management of the species. The Federal Minister has responded favourably and also advised of work currently under way with all stakeholders to assist local communities to conduct dispersal activities that meet national requirements. The Minister has written to the Federal Treasurer, the Hon. Wayne Swan, seeking support from the Australian Tax Office to assist growers with increased depreciation schedules for installation of flying fox netting.

You would be aware that there is a \$5 million flying fox netting program in the Sydney Basin at the moment. The funds available for this program are \$2 million this financial year, \$2 million in 2012-13 and \$1 million in 2013-14. The fund provided to the Rural Assistance Authority by the Environmental Trust of the Office of Environment and Heritage is needed to meet approvals to individual applicants, subject to funding upper limits. To date the authority has received two applications for assistance. However, there have been no payments made to date. The authority has received some telephone enquiries from prospective applicants.

The honourable member would be aware that the recent Hendra outbreaks have further highlighted the issues regarding camp dispersal and flying fox control and you might be interested to know also that the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute is leading a \$900,000 study to examine how animals, including horses, dogs and cats respond to the deadly disease.

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: What date did you write to the Federal Minister? You can take that on notice.

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: It was some time ago. I will take it on notice.

ANSWER

I wrote to Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig on 9 May 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KH', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

24 October 2011

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

FUNDING OF GAME COUNCIL

QUESTION

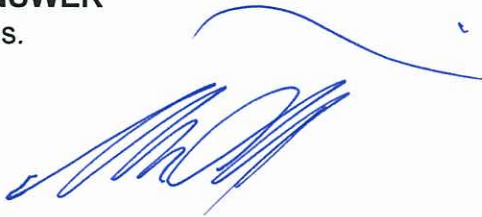
CHAIR: Order. You are eating into my time at the moment. Just for future reference, I think we will put supplementary answers on notice, if you would not mind.

Minister, is the Government supportive of the goal of the Game Council to become self-sufficient funding-wise, eventually?

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: I might take that one on notice, Mr Chairman.

ANSWER

Yes.



**Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business**

QUESTION ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates

24 October 2011

**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

FUNDING OF GAME COUNCIL

QUESTION

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: Yes. Game Council New South Wales runs an annual advertising campaign known as the awareness and advisory campaign to promote the sale of game hunting licences and to enhance public understanding of the environmental impact of game and feral animals. The annual advertising campaign is funded on a formula used to fund all Game Council functions, a third funding from revenue, licence fees, merchandise et cetera and two thirds recurrent funding from Government. Game Council advertising is primarily directed at print media, specifically suburban newspapers, ethnic media and hunting trade magazines.

The intended Game Council advertising budget for 2011-12 is \$210,000. The Game Council advertising campaigns undergo all required NSW Government advertising approval processes for style, content, budget and compliance with current advertising guidelines. By increasing licence sale income the annual advertising campaign helps reduce the burden on taxpayers in funding the Game Council to carry out the functions of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002.

CHAIR: Minister, can you explain then why the Game Council has not been able to get its advertising done since your Government came to power? Bearing in mind we understand there was a moratorium in advertising in the run up to the election, but in actual fact the Game Council has not been able to advertise since February this year.

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: A submission was put to the Ministerial Committee on Government Communications. I have not heard since that time so I will have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Could you, and could you have a look at the date that it was submitted please?

The Hon. KATRINA HODGKINSON: Of course.

ANSWER

Aside from the limitations on advertising during the State election caretaker period (which concluded with the State Election held 26 March 2011), Game Council's approved advertising campaign has not been restricted.

Game Council's advertising campaign for 2010/11 was approved by the Cabinet Standing Committee on Communication and Government Advertising on 5 September 2011.



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business