



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business

OM11/3885

The Hon. R. L. Brown (Chair)
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Brown

Robert,

I am pleased to submit answers to all questions taken on notice following General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5, 1 through to 109.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Primary Industries

Monday 24 October 2011

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions from the Hon Robert Brown, MLC

QUESTION 1

1. One of the government's announced "aims" is to support the restructure of the commercial fishing industry through fishing business exit grants and share class buyouts.
 - a. Is this the same program that will use \$5 million this year to develop a structural adjustment policy for fisheries to ensure a sustainable fishing industry?
 - b. What progress has been made so far, and how much money has been paid so far under the scheme?

ANSWER

- 1a Yes.
- 1b No monies have been paid to date as priorities for the expenditure of the funds will be guided by an independent review of commercial fisheries policy, management and administration being conducted by Richard Stevens, Peter Neville and Ian Cartwright.

QUESTION 2

2. We were told at last year's Budget Estimates hearings that there was \$1 million allocated in that budget for 54 research projects within the Marine Parks. Can you provide:
 - a. details of each of those projects, and
 - b. any results they may have reached?

ANSWER

Details of the projects are contained within the Marine Parks Strategic Research Framework 2010-15 and within the park based research work plans for 2010-11. The results and related documentation are accessible from the Marine Parks Authority website (www.mpa.nsw.gov.au).

QUESTION 3

In the Budget papers there is an allocation of \$11 million this year to control noxious weeds, including an extra \$1.5 million this year to attack noxious weeds, improve agricultural productivity and protect the environment. Added to the \$38 million included in the NSW Parks and Wildlife Budget, this means the State is spending nearly \$50 million a year on weed control. How does the Department measure its success in controlling weeds?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries administers noxious weed grants through the *NSW Weeds Action Program*. The new NSW Government has increased funding for noxious weeds this year. The NSW Government is reviewing weed management across the State, with a particular focus on improving performance metrics used for reporting.

QUESTION 4

How will the development of a land use agricultural mapping policy, at a cost of \$2.6 million, be used to "protect strategic agricultural land" and just what is "strategic agricultural land"?

ANSWER

Strategic Regional Land Use Plans will identify strategic agricultural land and outline the mechanisms to ensure the inherent production capabilities of these lands are protected into the future.

Strategic agricultural land is highly productive land that has both unique natural resource characteristics as well as socio-economic value.

QUESTION 5

Under the \$13 million biosecurity upgrade at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, has work started, and what is the construction timetable? Does such an expensive upgrade mean the State has been exposed to biosecurity threats because of a lack of such a facility?

ANSWER

The biosecurity upgrade at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute is currently 18 months ahead of schedule and on budget. Two major new high containment laboratories have been commissioned as part of the project and work is continuing this year on the refurbishment of the existing laboratories.

The institute's rapid diagnosis of over 100,000 samples during the equine influenza outbreak demonstrated its ability to defend the state from biosecurity threats. The institute required the funding investment to ensure it continues to meet modern biosecurity accreditation requirements and continues to provide frontline diagnostic and response capability well into the future.

QUESTION 6

One of the Department's achievements in the last year has been the development of the new Sherpa Rice variety and improved broad acre rice flood irrigation systems. Can the Government assure the Committee such research will continue, despite the push by some Green Independent MPs who want to ban such agricultural practices?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries has been a long term partner in rice research and development programs. On 1 July 2011 Department of Primary Industries signed onto another 5-year joint venture with partners SunRice and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for the "Rice Varietal Improvement and Rice Quality Research and Development Program".

QUESTION 7

What progress has been made so far in identifying and producing maps of important agricultural lands for future food, fibre and bio-energy production?

ANSWER

Draft maps are currently in preparation for priority areas which will be included in the draft Strategic Regional Land Use Plans to be released for public consultation in the near future.

QUESTION 8

Has there been any noticeable increase in the amount of money recreational fishers pay for their licences? In recent years, we have had about 540,000 fishers paying more than \$13 million in fees.

ANSWER

The number of people that paid the recreational fishing fee and the total fee revenue collected in the last three years is:

Year	Number	Amount (\$ million)
2008/09	529,099	\$13.4
2009/10	525,170	\$13.3
2010/11	492,998	\$12.5

I am advised that actual fees payable by recreational fishers before they go fishing for the four duration periods have not increased since 2005.

QUESTION 9

In the last couple of years, the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities have been massively restructured. Shooters and Fishers Party support for the changes was predicated on the previous Government commitment to "no less service delivery at local levels". Has this in fact been the outcome of the mergers, because we have anecdotal evidence that some farmers in the far west are having a hard time getting vets to travel to their properties beyond Nyngan, because they now have to come from Orange?

ANSWER

There has been no reduction in services at the local level as a consequence of the restructure of the Livestock Health and Pest Authority system. It is not the responsibility of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities to provide veterinary services in the Western Division.

The Department of Primary Industries has Veterinary Officers based in Bourke, Broken Hill and Dareton who service properties in the far west. It is often difficult to recruit staff for these positions. The position at Bourke is presently staffed 2 days a week and attempts to recruit additional personnel have not been successful.

QUESTION 10

Quad bikes are widely used in the pastoral industries around the State, but are not without their dangers. Given the fact that over the past ten years nationwide there have been over 140 fatalities related to quad bikes – mostly from the result of a

roll-over where people are crushed to death or suffer asphyxiation, is the Department looking at "roll over" protection requirements for these machines?

ANSWER

WorkCover is assessing this issue.

QUESTION 11

Will the Government support a Parliamentary inquiry into the Natural Resources Commission report which saw the previous Government "lock up" the 100,000 hectares of River Red Gum forests and wetlands in the southern Riverina?

ANSWER

The former Rees Government's decisions despite pre-empting the results of the Natural Resources Commission report have largely been implemented and little purpose would be served retracing old ground given all the changes in land tenure and the timber industry.

QUESTION 12

How much would it cost the Coalition Government to "reverse" the Red Gum National Park declarations, and would the Government consider changing the declaration from National Parks to some other more "user friendly" classification?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 11.

No change in the legislated changes in tenure (reflected in the Red Gum national park declarations in 2010) is contemplated. Nevertheless, the NSW Government is always prepared to consider stakeholder views regarding ways Government action might enhance prospects for regional development.

QUESTION 13

Has Forests New South Wales undergone steady job cuts in recent years and if so – what is the total job loss figure for the last three years, when added to the recent retrenchment of 11 scientists?

ANSWER

There has been a total reduction of 143.7 full time equivalent positions in Forests NSW employment (including casual, temporary and permanent) in the three years since 30 June 2008.

QUESTION 14

In relation to Wind Farms – the Victorian Government recently announced a ban on wind farms within five kilometres of 21 regional centres, and gave residents the power to veto turbines within two kilometres of homes. Is New South Wales likely to adopt a similar position in our regional areas?

ANSWER

This question should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

QUESTION 15

The European Carp has apparently survived the recent huge floods in the Murray-Darling system, to the point where they are an even bigger pest than they were before.

- a. What is the Department doing to expedite a destruction program for this "river rabbit"? and
- b. Is NSW working with the CSIRO on examining the potential of koi herpes virus as one possible method of control?

ANSWER

Traditional methods of controlling carp involving mainly physical removal have generally had little long-term impact on the carp population, as carp are prolific breeders and can quickly repopulate areas where their numbers have been depleted. Research and management are increasingly focusing on 'smarter' ways of controlling carp, for example by exploiting unique aspects of their behaviour or targeting areas where they aggregate to breed.

A number of research initiatives are underway, including collaboration with CSIRO, focusing on control technologies or improving the efficiency of control programs. Investigations into koi herpesvirus is one of these initiatives.

QUESTION 16

There is always argument about the prices major supermarkets pay farmers for their produce. The NSW Farmers Association recently released research on farm gate prices which they said showed farmers getting very low prices. The Supermarkets immediately rejected those figures – so we are no better off. Will the Government undertake its own survey to determine if the supermarkets are paying low prices and then making bigger profits by marking up the cost as the produce goes on the shelf for sale?

ANSWER

The NSW Government believes that our producers deserve to get fair prices for their produce and consumers deserve to know what they are paying is fair. I note that on 15 September 2011, the Senate referred the Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011 for inquiry. It is due to report by 24 November 2011, which I look forward to reviewing.

QUESTION 17

What co-ordination does Commissioner of the NSW Office of Water undertake prior to environmental water releases, for example, earlier this year there was 240 mega litres released into the Millewa State Forest, which flooded an already flooded area?

ANSWER

The NSW Office of Water participates in Environmental Water Advisory Groups established in each NSW valley where environmental water allocations are actively managed. In the Murray Valley, the Group is coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

This spring, the NSW Office of Water, in consultation with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, authorised the release of the NSW component of the Barmah-Millewa forest environmental allocation to maintain water levels in wetlands in the Millewa forests, to sustain a native bird breeding event that had commenced.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

QUESTION 18

Regarding forestry contracts with Boral – is there currently any litigation or commercial claims over wood supply agreements in NSW?

ANSWER

Boral Timber P/L and Forests NSW are engaged in arbitration to resolve a current contractual dispute.

QUESTION 19

Has there been any changes to logging practices including harvest rate as a result of, or following such claims?

ANSWER

No.

QUESTION 20

Have there been any changes to forest management practice for single tree selection to allow it to be determined across two coops?

ANSWER

Yes.

QUESTION 21

How much wood from Native Forests in NSW is provided to the Eden woodchip mill owned by South East Fibre Exports per annum?

ANSWER

380,000 tonnes pa.

QUESTION 22

Are there any current agreements in NSW to provide woodchips for wood fired power stations?

ANSWER

Forests NSW has an agreement with Visy Industries for the supply of biomass from softwood plantations. Forests NSW is unaware of any other such agreements in NSW.

QUESTION 23

What records are kept by Forests NSW regarding the weight of trucks entering chipmills in NSW? a. What provisions are in place to double check these records?

ANSWER

Weighbridge data on deliveries is supplied to Forests NSW. The weighbridges used at chip mills are certified under the National Trade Measurement Scheme which has requirements for periodic checking of weighbridges.

Forests NSW Codes of Procedure include recording and checking procedures for sales of products hauled from State forests. Under the Code, both the customer and the haulage contractor verify the quantities of wood delivered to various plants. Forests NSW also undertakes random and targeted physical checks of deliveries against documentation.

In 2010, Forests NSW implemented a truck overloading policy to improve truck safety. The policy provides for financial penalties to be imposed on the contractor if the load exceeds the allowable load limit of the truck by 0.5 tonne or 1.0 tonne depending on the type of logs being carried. This provides another form of checking truck loads.

QUESTION 24

Has any agency of the NSW government conducted any studies into the impacts of logging on bushfire risk?

ANSWER

Yes.

QUESTION 25

What increases to log royalties has Forests NSW made in response to the report of the Auditor General in 2009?

ANSWER

Six staged price increases each of 3 per cent were applied to high quality hardwood sawlog deliveries commencing 1 April 2010. Due to persistent wet weather in 2010 impacting on timber supply, two of the planned price rises postponed from 2011 will be applied in 2013.

QUESTION 26

How does Forests NSW calculate and collect levies from log trucks using Edrom Road and Imlay road.

ANSWER

A user-pays system has applied to Imlay and Edrom forestry roads since 2008/9. An estimate of the levy payable is determined at the start of each financial year based on the budgeted maintenance program for both roads for that year, together with users' estimates of their levels of usage for the year. The two totals are used to generate an amount expressed in cents/tonne-kilometre that meets

the expected maintenance costs for that year. At the end of the financial year, actual expenditure and usage figures are used to calculate the levy, and any user contributions over the course of the year are reconciled with the final figure.

The levy calculation includes an allocation of five per cent of maintenance costs to community usage of these roads, an amount that is met from Forests NSW community services obligations grant.

QUESTION 27

What was the revenue from this source in 2009, 2010 and 2011?

ANSWER

Revenue is calculated on a financial year basis and is equal to expenditure during that year. It has been as follows:

- 2008/09: \$1,010,347
- 2009/10: \$1,048,600
- 2010/11: \$1,261,093.

QUESTION 28

What was the gross cost to FNSW of maintaining the roads in each of those years?

ANSWER

See answer to question 27.

QUESTION 29

What were the numbers of staff employed by Forests NSW in Batemans Bay and Eden in

- a. 2009
- b. 2010
- c. 2011.

ANSWER

On a head-count basis, Forests NSW direct employment of staff located in Batemans Bay and Eden was:

- a. 87
- b. 82
- c. 79.

QUESTION 30

What was the total cost of prosecutions of persons for offences in relation to environmental protests at Mumbulla Mountain between March 2010 and June 2010?

ANSWER

In relation to the matters in which the Crown Solicitor was instructed to prosecute, the overall cost will be approximately \$75,000 - \$80,000. Three of the matters are still before the court for an application for a certificate under the *Costs in Criminal Cases Act* by the three defendants. The Police would have also incurred substantial costs in relation to the matters they pursued.

QUESTION 31

In relation to the environmental protests at Mumbulla Mountain how many Infringement notices were issued:

- a. by Police
- b. by Forestry Officers
- c. how many people were arrested
- d. How many people (in a-c) were found guilty in subsequent court hearings
- e. What was the total sum of fines collected?

ANSWER

- a. This question should be directed to the Minister for Police
- b. 35 – all of which elected to have the matters heard at court
- c. This question should be directed to the Minister for Police
- d. Further to (b), 20 matters were withdrawn, 13 were dismissed and 2 resulted in convictions
- e. \$850.

It should be noted that the intent of infringement notices and prosecution action is not to recover enforcement costs, rather, it is to uphold the law and enable the lawful work of Forests NSW contractors to be carried out unimpeded.

QUESTION 32

Does Forests NSW supply logs to the Boral Sawmill at Batemans Bay for use as firewood?

ANSWER

No.

QUESTION 33

What profit/loss did Forests NSW native forest operations make in 2010/11?

ANSWER

A cash loss of \$14.6M.

QUESTION 34

What volumes of large high quality hardwood sawlogs did Forests NSW provide to mills in 2009/10 and 2010/11 from north east NSW (lower and upper north east RFA regions)?

ANSWER

2009/10: 165,422m³.

2010/11: 128,797m³.

QUESTION 35

How much has Forests NSW paid as compensation to millers for failures to supply timber committed in Wood Supply Agreements in

- a. 2004/5
- b. 2005/6
- c. 2006/7
- d. 2007/8
- e. 2008/9
- f. 2009/10
- g. 2010/11?

ANSWER

- a. Nil
- b. \$500,000 was paid in compensation for undersupply in 2003/04 and 2004/05
- c. Nil
- d. Nil
- e. Nil
- f. Nil
- g. Nil.

QUESTION 36

How much financial compensation are Boral currently seeking from Forests NSW for failure to satisfy Wood Supply agreements, and what is the shortfall in volumes?

ANSWER

The dispute is being arbitrated under the *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010*. That Act finds information concerning these proceedings is confidential and may not be disclosed except in particular circumstances.

QUESTION 37

How much do Forests NSW expect that they will pay to industry in 2011/12?

- a. As compensation for failure to supply volumes committed in Wood Supply Agreements?
- b. By buying back commitments for large high quality sawlogs?

ANSWER

- a. Nil
- b. Nil.

QUESTION 38

At the current rate of logging when is it predicted the timber supply will be exhausted in the North East Region?

ANSWER

Detailed analysis and modelling, including by the Attorney General has confirmed that there is enough timber to supply the current commitments for the full terms of those commitments.

QUESTION 39

Has the Department found a method yet to compare actual versus predicted yields?

ANSWER

Arising out of recommendations of the Performance Audit "*Sustaining Native Forest Operations: Forests NSW*", Forests NSW has uploaded harvesting and sales information to facilitate the comparison of actual harvest volumes with strategic resource estimates derived from more than 400 inventory plots. Forests NSW has been regularly updating the Audit Office and the Parliamentary Accounts Committee on progress with this work.

QUESTION 40

What volume of large high quality hardwood sawlogs do Forests NSW anticipate they can supply each year from north east NSW until 2023 from

- a. native forests
- b. plantations?

ANSWER

Over the next 12 years until 2023, FNSW anticipates supplying on an average approximately 163,000m³ of Large High Quality Logs from Native Forests and an average of approximately 23,000m³ of Large High Quality Logs from Plantations per year. After which time, it is likely production may drop.

QUESTION 41

What volume of large high quality hardwood sawlogs do Forests NSW anticipate they could supply, on average on 100 year sustainable yield basis, each year from north-east NSW from

- a. native forests, and
- b. plantations?

ANSWER

On a 100 year sustainable basis FNSW anticipates it could supply between 60,000m³ and 140,000m³ of Large High Quality Logs from Native Forests and between 5,000m³ and 26,000m³ of Large High Quality Logs from Plantations.

QUESTION 42

How many hectares of FNSW plantation has been clearfelled in the last 10 years?

ANSWER

Year	Area clear-felled (hectares)		
	Softwood plantation	Hardwood Plantation	Total
2000/01	6,538	Not reported	Not reported
2001/02	6,754	Not reported	Not reported
2002/03	5,440	Not reported	Not reported
2003/04	6,130	Not reported	Not reported
2004/05	6,264	1	6,265
2005/06	6,699	0	6,699
2006/07	7,419	206	7,625
2007/08	9,106	1,067	10,173
2008/09	7,053	206	7,259
2009/10	8,035	672	8,707
2010/11	8,037	651	8,687

While data is not available prior to 2004-05 for hardwood plantations, it is likely that this figure is zero or near to zero.

QUESTION 43

How many have been replanted?

ANSWER

Year	Total area (hectares)		
	Softwood	Hardwood	Total
2000	3,867	3,392	7,259
2001	4,183	2,005	6,188
2002	5,538	1,680	7,218
2003	6,506	1,529	8,035
2004	6,764	1,164	7,928
2005	6,547	267	6,814
2006	6,196	603	6,527
2007	5,788	341	7,702
2008	8,361	862	11,711
2009	10,109	1,979	12,088
2010	9,590	1,104	10,694

Third party investor plantings, joint ventures and fee for service areas included.

QUESTION 44

How many hectares of in-planting has occurred in native forest on FNSW estate?

ANSWER**Central region**

In previous years, in-planting had only been undertaken where regeneration had been poor, in which case in-planting was noted on compartment histories but no absolute area was recorded.

Southern Region

In-planting has not occurred in Southern region since the signing of the RFAs in 1999 (Eden) and 2001 (Southern).

North East Region

In-planting has occurred across less than 100 hectares in the last 10 years in North East region. This is usually done as added security against strong weed competition or failed regeneration. Seed stock is of local provenance.

Western Region

In-planting does not occur in Western region.

QUESTION 45

Are FNSW using herbicides on any public land to remove competition for preferred species?

- a. Does this include spraying tree seedlings such as tallowwood?
- b. Where is this happening and how many hectares have been sprayed?

ANSWER

The Planted Forests Operations Branch uses herbicides to remove competition for preferred species. This does not include spraying tree seedlings such as tallowwood.

The Native Forests Operations Branch does not use herbicides to remove competition for preferred species.

QUESTION 46

There are provisions under the IFOA for koala observations to trigger changes to Harvest Plans to give koalas greater protection. How many Harvest Plans have been amended as a result of this clause and how many additional hectares of koala habitat has been protected from logging as a result, since the IFOAs were introduced?

ANSWER

In general, Harvest Plans are updated as required for many purposes including changes in environmental prescriptions, pre-harvesting surveys and community consultations that occur during the preparation cycle of the plan.

Accordingly, Forests NSW does not maintain statistics about the number of harvest plans that have been amended or the reasons why they were amended as this is a routine activity. Forests NSW does not maintain statistics about the quantity of additional koala habitat, or any other habitat, that has been protected as a result of clauses in the IFOAs.

QUESTION 47

What area of the Pilliga Forests will be taken out of forestry production if all of the proposed Eastern Star Gas wells, pipeline, roads and other related infrastructure is developed?

ANSWER

Forests NSW cannot provide an answer to how much, if any, Pilliga Forests would be taken out of production, as the details of the proposed Eastern Star Gas wells, pipeline, roads and other related infrastructure are yet to be provided.

Questions from the Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC**QUESTION 48**

a. How will the outcomes of the Fish River Water Supply Scheme review be incorporated into the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources Water Sharing Plan?

ANSWER

The draft Macquarie Bogan Water Sharing Plan incorporates the outcomes of the Fish River review. The majority of the review outcomes are also being incorporated into the Water licence that State Water holds as operators of the Scheme.

QUESTION 49

- a. How many staff positions within the Department of Primary Industries have been specifically allocated to work on the development of Strategic Regional Landuse Plans
- b. In what area of the department will these staff work?
- c. How many of these are new positions?
- d. How many of these positions are currently filled?

ANSWER

There are currently twelve DPI employees working on developing the Strategic Regional Land Use Plans.

QUESTION 50

- a. Has the Minister met with the CEO of Sydney Catchment Authority to specifically discuss the authority's position in relation to coal seam gas development within the Special Catchment Areas?
- b. What specific actions have been taken to ensure the existing approved coal seam gas exploration activities within the special catchment areas will not negatively impact on water supplies?
- c. Have any additional resources been provided to Sydney Catchment Authority in the latest budget to monitor and manage access and compliance related to the existing approved coal seam gas exploration activities within the special catchment areas

ANSWER

The Chief Executive of the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) provides regular briefings to me on a range of matters.

The SCA is closely involved with the assessment of developments within the Sydney Catchment. It has developed a set of Mining Principles which it uses to ensure that Sydney's water supply is properly protected.

The SCA commented on and made submissions on the Director General's requirements, Planning Assessments, Department of Primary Industries considerations, and Planning Assessment Commission process. The Part 3A approval and the Access Consent contain conditions to ensure exploration will not negatively impact on water supplies.

SCA regulated income comes entirely from water sales to its customers. It does not receive any funding from NSW taxpayers through consolidated revenue.

Monitoring and managing access and compliance in relation to coal seam gas activities is covered by existing resources, and the SCA has recently employed a new hydrogeologist to enhance its science capability.

QUESTION 51

Why is the Government lowering the level of Lake Cargelligo and directing water to the Nerathong Creek considering Wyangla Dam is nearly full?

ANSWER

Lake Cargelligo is operated as a re-regulating storage, which means that its storage levels will fluctuate from time to time as part of normal day to day operations. Diversions from the Lachlan River into Nerathong Creek via the Wallamundry system, upstream from Lake Cargelligo, are to supply regulated river demand and provide for access to basic landholder rights.

QUESTION 52

- a. Has any assessment / research been undertaken by or on behalf of the Game Council to determine if any change in feral animal numbers or species has occurred in State Forests in the last 12 months?
- b. Has any assessment / research been undertaken by or on behalf of the Game Council to determine if any change in feral animal numbers or species has occurred generally across the state in the last 12 months?
- c. In the previous budget year was any money spent by the Game Council on electoral funding or lobbying activities?
- d. In the current budget year has any money been allocated by the Game Council for electoral spending or lobbying activities

ANSWER

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.

QUESTION 53

- a. What was the total expenditure for the NSW Aboriginal Water Trust in 2010/11? Would a breakdown be provided relating to operational and other expenditure?
- b. Did a review of the NSW Aboriginal Water Trust take place in 2009? Has this review been made public?
- c. What is the budget for the ongoing engagement of Aboriginal people in Water Sharing Planning and Management?

ANSWER

- a. & b. These questions fall under the administration of the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, and should be referred appropriately.
- c. In September 2011, NSW Treasury confirmed funding of \$1.69 million over four years, commencing 2011-12, for the ongoing engagement of Aboriginal people in water sharing planning and management.

QUESTION 54

- a. What parcels of public land previously reserved for travelling stock purposes have been disposed of or reserved for other purposes in:
 - i. the 2008/09 financial year
 - ii. the 2009/10 financial year, and
 - iii. the 2010/11 financial year?
- b. How and by whom are decisions made to dispose of such public lands?
- c. What decisions have been made by the Government in relation to travelling stock reserves and their future management?
- d. The Aboriginal Land Claims Investigation Unit (ALCIU) issues limited titles for some land converted to the Torrens Title system and unlimited titles for other land. What policy or criteria governs the ALCIU's decision to place a limitation on the title of land?
- e. How many limited titles have been issued by the Crown to private entities in
 - i. the 2008/09 financial year
 - ii. the 2009/10 financial year, and
 - iii. the 2010/11 financial year?
- f. What was the ALCIU's budget for surveying Aboriginal land claims in:
 - i. the 2009/10 financial year, and
 - ii. the 2010/11 financial year?
- g. What was the ALCIU's expenditure, including expenditure by other agencies on behalf of the ALCIU, on surveys for land to be transferred to Aboriginal Land Councils in:
 - i. the 2009/10 financial year, and
 - ii. the 2010/11 financial year?

- h. How much of the allocated \$5.9 million in 2010/11 was spent on processing Aboriginal land claims?
- i. How much money has been budgeted to process land claims in 2011/12?
- j. If boundary surveys have been budgeted for, what is the timeframe for undertaking these surveys?
- k. What targets or other Key Performance Indicators does the ALCIU have in place for processing Aboriginal land claims?
- l. How does the ALCIU determine the priority for processing Aboriginal Land Claims (ie by age, location etc)?
- m. Approximately what percentage of time do staff in the ALCIU spend working on assessing the status of land claimed?
- n. Approximately what percentage of time do staff in the ALCIU working on the investigation of claims determined to potentially be claimable following a status check?
- o. What processes does the ALCIU (at both the Head Office and District Offices) have in place for ensuring authorities that deal with Crown Land, such as Reserve Trust Managers or Authorities proposed compulsory acquisition of Crown land, are aware of Aboriginal Land Claims that are yet to be determined?

ANSWER

A-C

Of the estimated 650,000 hectares (ha) of travelling stock reserves in eastern and central divisions of NSW, since 30 June 2008 approximately 1863 ha have been revoked/disposed and approximately 3468 ha re-reserved for additional purposes.

Crown lands reserved for the purposes of travelling stock are only disposed of where there are mitigating considerations such as the land is required for essential regional services and economic development (for example, road acquisition by RTA and Councils, electricity supply, water supply, recycling etc). Only minor areas have been disposed for these purposes, and only after formal determination by the relevant Livestock Health and Pest Authority that a particular reserve is no longer required for core business.

Occasionally travelling stock reserves may also be re-reserved to remain within the Crown estate to enable multiple uses addressing emerging social and environmental needs (eg future public use, environmental management, recreation and tourism). In these situations, the original reservation purpose of a travelling stock reserve is maintained.

The Minister for the Crown Lands Act 1989 is responsible for the disposal and re-reservation of Crown land.

The 14 Livestock Health and Pest Authorities are reviewing the travelling stock reserves under their respective control with a view to determining which ones

should be ceded to the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Primary Industries.

D and E are matters for the Minister for Finance and Services.

(f) i. \$340,000

ii. \$1 million

(g) i. \$340,000

ii. Approximately \$340,000.

(h) The budget allocated for Aboriginal Land Claims processing in 2010/11 was \$3.197 million.

(i) \$2.954 million.

(j) A budget for boundary surveys has been provided over a 5 year period and as many surveys will be completed in this time as possible.

(k) Processed and outstanding claims are monitored on a continual basis..

(l) Claims are prioritised by processing the oldest claims first but external factors require some later claims to be prioritised.

(m) Approximately 90% of status checking of land claimed is undertaken in the District Offices or the Department's Status Branch.

(n) Approximately 65%.

(o) Aboriginal land claims are recorded on the Department's data bases which informs the Department of the existence of a claim when an activity that requires its consent is proposed. The official register of Aboriginal Land Claims is the responsibility of the Registrar of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. Authorities external to the Department of Primary Industries wishing to deal with Crown Land should direct enquiries as to the possible existence of claims to the Registrar.

QUESTION 55

- a. Why has the Natural resources advisory council been abolished?
- b. What will happen to NRAC's workplan?
- c. What budget has been allocated for whatever the NRAC's replacement committee?
- d. How many members will sit on NRAC's replacement committee, and which organisations will be represented? i. Will any Aboriginal organisations be represented?

e. How will the terms of reference for the NRAC replacement differ from NRAC?

ANSWER

- a. The NSW Government established the Land and Water Advisory Panel to refresh the way it engages with the community and stakeholder groups on natural resource management.
- b. The Land and Water Advisory Panel will develop a work plan relevant to its Terms of Reference.
- c. The Land and Water Advisory Panel will be much more cost effective than NRAC. The Panel will be supported by a Grade 11/12 Executive with a nominal annual budget of \$50,000 to cover the cost of members' travel, accommodation and meeting expenses.
- d. Apart from the Chair, the panel will consist of 12 members, a nominee from each of the following organisations:
 - NSW Farmers' Association
 - NSW Irrigators' Council
 - Total Environment Centre
 - Nature Conservation Council
 - Local Government and Shires Association
 - Department of Primary Industries
 - Office of Environment and Heritage
 - Aboriginal Affairs NSW
 - Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 - NSW Office of Water
 - State Water (with input from Customer Service Committees)
 - Catchment Management Authorities.

Other stakeholder groups and organisations will be invited to participate depending on the specific issues being addressed. Other groups may include the NSW Minerals Council, the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council and the Young Farmers' Association. Yes, Aboriginal Affairs NSW has been asked to join the Panel, and if additional Aboriginal input is required on specific issues, the panel will seek input from the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council.

- i. The NSW Land and Water Advisory Panel has been established by the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Environment to:
 - provide advice, via the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, on current natural resource management issues in NSW; and
 - facilitate coordinated stakeholder and community advice to the Ministers on natural resource management issues.

NRAC on the other hand cost over \$1 million per annum and had very broad ranging terms of reference to:

- provide the Government with policy advice on sustainable natural resource management and economic development;
- assist the Government to prioritise resources and strategies to promote sustainable natural resources management in NSW;

- strategically oversee the policy and regulatory environment and the NRM legislative reforms in NSW; and
- acknowledge differences, facilitate common understanding and broker consensus between stakeholder representatives when necessary.

QUESTION 56

- a. What advice was sought by the minister in relation to the protective measures at Fish Rock and Green Island before the revocation occurred?
- b. Will the minister table the advice from the department or advice from any other source that was used in making this decision?
- c. How many submissions have been received during the community consultation in relation to the protective measures at Fish Rock and Green Island?
- d. How many of these submissions support the protective measures?

ANSWER

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government committed to revoking Labor's rushed closures at Fish Rock and Green Island prior to the March election. I subsequently sought advice from the Department of Primary Industries prior to these changes taking effect.

2329 submissions were received. Roughly half were supportive of the measures.

QUESTION 57

- a. Will the Minister guarantee the continued timely publication of the Status of the Fisheries Resources of NSW and the reliability of the stock assessments contained in them?
- b. How will the closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre affect the distribution of compliance effort to locations where recreational fishing effort is concentrated?
- c. Will the recreational fishing management team to move to Nowra?
- d. Given that 1% of recreational fishers live in the Nowra area whereas 60% of fishers live in the Sydney area, what is the benefit of locating the recreational fishing management team in Nowra?

ANSWER

The Status of Fisheries Resources of NSW will continue to be published regularly, as will the research to improve the reliability of stock assessments.

Services and compliance plans for recreational fishing in NSW will be maintained or improved.

QUESTION 58

- a. What is the total cost of the Independent Scientific Audit likely to be?
- b. Why was the original consultation on the review of these zoning plans not considered adequate?
- c. What new and additional information has been obtained during the Independent Audit?

ANSWER

The Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks and its associated budget has not yet been finalised, and I am continuing to ensure that it is well resourced in order that the Audit can deliver the best possible results.

Information obtained and considered by the Audit is being progressively published on the Audit website <http://www.marineparksaudit.nsw.gov.au>.

QUESTION 59

- a. What was the cost of the Solitary Islands Marine Park Zoning Plan Review 2008-2009 undertaken by the Marine Park Authority, including all aspects of the public consultation processes - from the advertisements, the written submission processes, report preparation and all the meetings with all stakeholders involved from the business community, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, spearfishers, aquaculture operators, the tourism sector, conservation community and marine scientists.
- b. What was the cost of the Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan Review undertaken by the Marine Park Authority, including all aspects of the public consultation processes - from the advertisements, the written submission processes, report preparation and all the meetings with all stakeholders involved from the business community, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, spearfishers, aquaculture operators, the tourism sector, conservation community and marine scientists.

ANSWER

These zoning plan reviews were undertaken across agencies and I am therefore unable to provide a detailed response to this answer within the current timeframe.

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

QUESTION 60

- a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes,
 - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
 - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - vi. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

b. What is the indexation rate applied to non recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

ANSWER

NSW Government agencies provide grants to local government councils and a range of non government, non-profit organisations for the purpose of providing a service to the community or undertaking a project of benefit to the community. Grants administration in NSW occurs within the legal and regulatory framework in which the NSW Government operates.

All Government Departments and authorities are required to publish details of grants made to non government organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier's Memorandum 91-34.

QUESTION 61

- a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews, If so;
- i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - vi. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the Department of Primary Industries.

QUESTION 62 – QUESTION 65

I am advised:

For all Ministerial Offices, there is a total of:

- i. Blackberries – 151
- ii. iPads – 19
- iii iPhones - 3

Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.

QUESTION 66

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

ANSWER

Media officers across the Department of Primary Industries play an important role in delivering public information and promoting the work of the Department.

This includes supporting emergency management, regulation and compliance, developing and promoting new market opportunities, and delivery of extension and advisory information for industry development.

- Primary Industries – 13.5
- Small Business – 1

QUESTION 67

What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER

The 2011-12 budget for media and public affairs officers is less than \$2 million.

QUESTION 68

How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

ANSWER

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

QUESTION 69 and QUESTION 70

Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money? If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips? What are their names and what costs did they incur?

ANSWER

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available from the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 'Release of Overseas Travel Information'.

QUESTION 71 - 74 and 77 - 79

I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

QUESTION 75 and 76

Office Fitout/Renovations

Minister	Total Cost (\$) ex GST
Premier	1,283
Deputy Premier Stoner	0
Minister Skinner	200
Minister Piccoli	2,657
Minister Gallacher	1,140
Minister Gay	2,060
Minister Hazzard	7,898
Minister Hartcher	3,006
Minister Berejikian	250
Minister Souris	3,283
Treasurer Baird	0
Minister Pearce	1,601
Minister Hodgkinson	1,505
Minister Constance	978
Attorney General Smith	0
Minister Page	17,598
Minister Goward	3,823
Minister Roberts	3,640
Minister Humphries	7,089
Minister Parker	100
Minister Dominello	1,930
Minister Annesley	2,196
TOTAL	62,237

Note: Information is sourced from contractor invoices. Also this table does not include electronic items purchased / replaced, such as televisions, digital radios, small appliances, whitegoods and cleaning costs.

QUESTION 80

How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?

ANSWER

3.

QUESTION 81

How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries has 13.8 FTE assigned to Ministerial support duties.

QUESTION 82

In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?

ANSWER

I am advised that for all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

QUESTION 83

Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

ANSWER

There are a number of restructures underway within the Department of Primary Industries and Small Business.

QUESTION 84

How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER

At this stage the organisations are working through a process of identifying future functions and roles needed to deliver those functions to ensure that appropriate levels of service are maintained.

QUESTION 85

How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER

Wages are set by a number of governing awards that are linked into a job classification grading structure. Departments are not able to arbitrarily reduce an employees salary except in the case of an outcome of a disciplinary action or if a position is regraded.

QUESTION 86

How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER

The organisations are working through a process of identifying future functions and roles needed to deliver those functions to ensure that appropriate levels of service are maintained. In line with the government's Managing Excess Staff policy, should staff be declared excess, they will be offered a voluntary redundancy or the option of remaining with the organisation for three months and seeking redeployment to another government agency.

QUESTION 87

What is your agency's catering budget?

ANSWER

Primary Industries, now encompasses a broad portfolio including Office of Water, Catchment Management Authorities, Crown Lands, NSW Food Authority, Rural Assistance Authority, Sydney Catchment Authority, Livestock Pest and Health Authorities, Forests NSW.

Catering	2008 (\$'000)	2009 (\$'000)	2010 (\$'000)
	1,614	870	778

QUESTION 88

Since April, has the agency changed its branding?

ANSWER

Yes.

QUESTION 89

How much was spent on rebranding the agency?

ANSWER

No funds were spent on external contractors to develop a new agency brand.

QUESTION 90

How much has been spent on stationery?

ANSWER

Primary Industries, now encompasses a broad portfolio including Office of Water, Catchment Management Authorities, Crown Lands, NSW Food Authority, Rural Assistance Authority, Sydney Catchment Authority, Livestock Pest and Health Authorities, Forests NSW.

Stationery	2008 (\$'000)	2009 (\$'000)	2010 (\$'000)
	726	661	542

QUESTION 91 and QUESTION 92

How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?

ANSWER

The Department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

QUESTION 93

In relation to Sydney's Water Treatment:

- a. The Sun Herald on 23 October 2011 included a front page story including information on leaks from Sydney water infrastructure. In Opposition your party criticised the previous Government for not spending enough on renewal of infrastructure for Sydney water – what extra are you spending?
- b. Is the Government's decision take more in dividends from Sydney Water the reason you are actually spending less this year on the Sewage Overflow abatement project (\$73.6 million 2010-11 to \$71.9 million 2011-12) and the Sewer Network Reliability upgrades program (\$81.8 million 2010-11 to \$71.6 million 2011-12)?

ANSWER

This question falls under the administration of the Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finances and Services, and should be referred appropriately.

QUESTION 94

In relation to the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre

- a. Did you have any discussions with the Member for South Coast before deciding to relocate staff from Cronulla Fisheries centre to Nowra? What discussions did you have with the Member's for Coffs Harbour and Port Stephens prior to announcing this decision?
- b. What economic or other impact analysis was undertaken before your decision to close the Cronulla Fisheries Centre?

ANSWER

- a. The Member for Cronulla was notified first. The following day, employees at the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre were informed of the decision, and subsequent to both of these actions, the Members for South Coast, Port Stephens and Coffs Harbour were informed of the decision.
- b. The decentralisation of the Centre from Cronulla is going ahead and is about more than just relocating the Centre from one site to another. While with any relocation project, there will be initial relocation expenses; the intent of the policy is to provide meaningful job opportunities throughout regional NSW, as well as servicing and improving the ongoing viability and relevance of our recreational and commercial fishing industry. The relocation represents an important investment in regional NSW.

QUESTION 95

In relation to Program Funding

- a. According to last and this year's budget papers the total funding for Agriculture & Biosecurity; Fisheries; and Science and Research last year was \$394 million, in this year's budget the total for Agriculture; Fisheries and Biosecurity, which appears to include research, totals \$264 million. Can you explain what one off factors or department structural changes

have lead to this funding reduction and can you commit to the current staffing numbers in the Department continuing for the term of this Government?

- b. How many of the Government's 5000 redundancies will come from the Department of Primary Industries
- c. Regarding the closure of the Cronulla fisheries research centre, what will the process be for replacing staff who decided not to move to a new location? Will you guarantee that there will be at least the same number of staff as there currently is?
- d. How much funding (and where in the budget estimates) is allocated for redundancies for those Cronulla Fisheries staff who chose not to move?
- e. The 2011-12 budget paper No.3 shows on page 8 – 16 that for Agriculture you expect the exact same level of FTE (965) for the actual 2010-11 figure and your forecast for 2011-12. Is this correct and will this level of staffing be maintained in the forward estimates for 2012-13 and 20113-14? If you are not able to commit to its maintenance please explain why?

ANSWER

- a. The variation between the 2010/2011 budget for total expenditures excluding losses and capital expenditures of \$394M compared to the 2011/2012 budget of \$364M for the Agriculture; Fisheries; & Biosecurity service groups is predominately due to the progression of the Riverina Red Gum Structural Adjustment program.
- b. The organisations are working through a process of identifying future functions and roles needed to deliver those functions to ensure that appropriate levels of service are maintained. In line with the Government's Managing Excess Staff policy, should staff be declared excess, they will be offered a voluntary redundancy or the option of remaining with the organisation for three months and seeking redeployment to another government agency.
- c. The NSW Government is determined to ensure that all our recreational and commercial fishing stakeholders will continue to benefit from the expertise and knowledge capabilities of NSW Fisheries' employees. We encourage employees currently located at the Cronulla site to relocate, however we recognise that some employees may not be able, or will choose not to relocate. In those instances, Fisheries' management will recruit new and qualified employees to ensure the long-term capacity to service all fishing stakeholders is maintained or enhanced.
- d. The decentralisation and relocation process will be staged over the next 10-16 months, therefore these figures have not been finalised. Senior Management of DPI is in the process of discussing with employees at the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre what this decentralisation project means for them.

- e. It is correct that budget paper No. 3 shows 965 FTE forecast for the 2011-12 financial year. Forward year budgets are resolved via the annual budget cycle.

QUESTION 96

In relation to Forest Research Centre at Pennant Hills

- a. Minister where you aware when you decided to delete 11 positions at Forests NSW's research centre at West Pennant Hills that the positions deleted would include experts on cane toads and bats? Does it concern you that NSW will no longer be able to call on someone from within Government who has expertise in Cane Toad movements or flying fox colonies?

ANSWER

DPI's bat expert is not among the positions declared excess.

DPI is not directly involved in cane toad research. There are other institutions and organisations such as universities and CRCs with cane toad experts.

QUESTION 97

In relation to the Murray Darling Basin Plan: a. What detailed negotiations have you undertaken regarding structural adjustment for communities affected by the Murray Darling Basin Plan?

ANSWER

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan falls under the mandate of the Commonwealth Government. I have continually raised with the Commonwealth through various fora the need for it to provide assistance to rural communities impacted by the Basin Plan.

The NSW Government will not accept a Basin Plan that is not in the interests of NSW.

The NSW Government will be in a position to have more detailed discussion and negotiation following the release of further detail from the Commonwealth.

QUESTION 98

What is the current status of the regional broadband project?

ANSWER

This question falls under the administration of the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, and should be referred appropriately.

QUESTION 99

- a. In a recent question on notice regarding the Pyrmont Pact you indicated that the expenditure of \$16m promised for restructuring was dependent on the

outcome of a review of the fishing industry currently underway. Do you endorse the Industry direction outlined through the Pyrmont pact process and if you do why are you delaying this funding?

ANSWER

Commercial fishing reform is continuing in consultation with industry throughout the independent review process.

An interim report from the Independent Panel will be used to help guide the expenditure to ensure it is used most effectively.

QUESTION 100

How many shark towers do you expect to be built this financial year using the additional funding allocated by the Government?

ANSWER

The NSW Government committed up to \$30,000 per annum for building up to ten new observation towers per year on beaches or beach headlands for effective shark spotting.

This funding is being managed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries through a transparent grant application process.

QUESTION 101

In a reply to a recent question on notice from me recently, you informed me that there are no compliance officers in the Department of Primary Industries. Minister how many staff in the Department – regardless of their job titles – are involved in compliance work on agricultural related issues (eg : NLIS compliance, chemical use compliance etc)? Have any people in these positions been made redundant in the past six months?

ANSWER

As at 30 March 2011, 49 permanent full-time and 57 temporary, part-time or casual regulatory staff were employed on agricultural compliance related issues.

No.

QUESTION 102

- a. Minister in the lead up to the election you made a commitment to farmers that the coalition would stop wind farm development. We now know you weren't able to get your shadow cabinet to endorse your policy position – does it worry you that you were ignored?
- b. Minister your opposition to wind farms ignores the fact that for some farmers – including a finalist for this year's farmer of the year awards – wind farms bring valuable income that helps make their farming business more viable, is it appropriate for you as Primary Industries Minister to be telling farmers they can't have wind farm developments?

ANSWER

I am aware of the strong community concerns in relation to wind farms. The NSW Government has been developing draft wind farm guidelines which will set a rigorous and stringent assessment process for development.

Questions in regards to these guidelines should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

QUESTION 103

What is your commitment to the development of carbon farming initiatives for NSW farmers? Given that you and your leader Mr Stoner have said you do not believe in Climate Change do you believe the money the Department is spending on research on climate change is being wasted?

ANSWER

DPI has a climate research and extension unit that is developing options for farmers to reduce emissions and sequester carbon, which simultaneously targets improved productivity.

QUESTION 104

In relation to funding for Water Catchment Authorities (CMA) can you explain the following drops in the budgets for individual CMAs

- a. Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority 'other receipts' from \$15 million in 2010-11 to \$7.5 million in 2011-12 (BP 3. P8-84)
- b. Murray CMA \$ 1,860m to \$946 million (P8-100)
- c. Murrumbidgee CMA FTE falling from \$106 to \$10 million?

ANSWER

- a. Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) additional revenue of \$15.375 million in 2010/11 included funding for two major projects under the Commonwealth's *Water for the Future* program. These projects were successfully concluded in 2010/11. The CMA's budget of \$7.539 million in 2011/12 does not include funding from *Water for the Future*.
- b. Murray Catchment Management Authority revenue of \$1.860 million in 2010/11 included funding for a number of third party projects specific to 2010/11. This included:
 - \$220k for flood repair works from National Parks and Wildlife Service, Country Energy and the Commonwealth's *Caring for our Country* initiative;
 - \$150k from Forestry NSW for finalisation of The Living Murray project;
 - \$419k from the Victorian North East CMA for a cross border partnership project;
 - \$100k in third party seed services.

- c. In 2010/11, Murrumbidgee CMA budgeted to spent \$106,000 on temporary contractors due to a higher than expected need. In 2011/12, Murrumbidgee CMA has forecast it will spend \$10,000 on temporary contractors.

QUESTION 105

In relation to Crown Roads

- a. What backlog does the Lands section of your Department have of applications for conversion of crown road reserves? How does this compare to last year? What is the expected time frame to overcome any backlog?

ANSWER

2011: 8179.

2010: 8391.

New applications are being received on an ongoing basis, therefore, it is difficult to predict a time frame when the back log will be cleared.

QUESTION 106

In relation to the Office of Food Security:

- a. What has been budgeted in terms of delivering the Office of Food Security and Agriculture Sustainability?
- b. Has additional funding been made available for this purpose or will it simply be a reallocation from the existing DPI budget and staff?
- c. What is the time frame for the establishment of that office?
- d. Will the office bring together all people dealing with food security in the Department or will it act as a coordinating body?
- e. What action has the Government taken to develop a whole of Government approach to food security?
- f. Is the Senior Officers group established by the previous Government and chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet dealing with food security still in operation? If yes when did the group last meet and what outcomes has it achieved? If no has any cross portfolio group replaced it and if so what is the nature of that group?

ANSWER

\$2.6m allocated by the Government to develop a land use agricultural mapping policy to protect strategic agricultural land is a central focus of the Office of Agricultural Sustainability and Food Security. The office is a coordinating body and currently 12 staff have been allocated to the task of mapping agricultural lands and developing the policy.

Recruitment of the Director of the office is currently underway and one of the first tasks will be to investigate a whole of Government approach to food security.

I am advised that the Senior Officers group established by the previous Government and chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet dealing with food security is not operational.

QUESTION 107

In relation to pest and disease monitoring programs

- a. The budget Papers for the Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services Cluster indicate that \$41 million has been committed to pest and disease monitoring programs. How much of this budget is allocated to monitoring programs for pest and diseases in abandoned and neglected orchards and vineyards?
- b. How much is allocated to enforcing pest and disease management in these crops and vineyards so that they do not impact neighbouring orchards and vineyards?

ANSWER

DPI allocates funds to investigate exotic pest and disease incursions. If an exotic pest or disease is suspected in an abandoned orchard or vineyard then it is investigated. The amount changes from year to year.

Governments work with industries to provide general information on controlling pests and diseases. Government investigates exotic and notifiable diseases.

QUESTION 108

In relation to Agriculture Research and Development

- a. \$390 million for DPI appears to be the total sum of expenses and capital expenditure for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Biosecurity service groups. Is this the case?
- b. How much of this is actually dedicated to research and development?
- c. What is the break down of Research and Development projects?

ANSWER

- a. The estimated total expenditure including capital expenditure for 2011/12 is \$392,329,000.
- b. The research function, based on staff numbers, represents just under half (47%) of the total activities of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Biosecurity service groups.
- c. Project size varies but the breakdown by project number is; Agriculture 542 projects; Fisheries 219 projects; and Biosecurity 358 projects.

QUESTION 109

In relation to the DPI budget

- a. Could you please confirm how the total budget figure of \$1.1 billion for DPI, used in the Minister's press release (6 September 2011) calculated?
- b. There is an increase in other operating expenses for agriculture from \$32.8 million in 2010-11 to \$45.99 million in 2011.12. What is the reason for this?

ANSWER

a.	Agriculture	\$ 186M
	Fisheries	\$ 91M
	Biosecurity	\$ 116M
	Water Management	\$ 257M
	Water Utilities	\$ 97M
	Catchment & Lands	\$ 381M
	TOTAL	\$1,128M.

- b. The 2010-11, the amount is understated by \$7.8M due to an under-allocation of Corporate Services overhead, which was allocated to Trade Business & Investment service group.



Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Small Business