



**Treasurer
Minister for
Industrial Relations**

The Hon. Fred Nile MLC
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee 1
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

10 September 2013

Dear Chair

Further to the Budget Estimates hearing relating to the portfolios of Treasury and Industrial Relations on 15 August 2013, I enclose my responses to the questions taken on notice during the hearings, as well as those to the questions on notice lodged following the hearings. I also enclose corrections to the transcript.

Yours sincerely

MIKE BAIRD MP

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING
COMMITTEE NUMBER 1 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
TREASURY**

15 August 2013

Question Number: 1

Question: With regards to the potential sale of the state lotteries taxation revenue:

- a) Has Treasury commissioned any modelling, studies or other reports with regards to the sale of the state lotteries taxation revenue?
 - i. If so, will you make this information available to the committee
- b) When is the government anticipated to proceed with the sale of the state lotteries taxation revenue stream?
- c) Will the government be negotiating on the basis that compensation will be paid to the new private owners for any adverse regulatory event on the part of the state government?

Answer:

- a) A scoping study that includes modelling and due diligence has been completed.
 - i. As with any scoping study that may lead to a transaction, this is not publicly disclosed
- b) and (c)

It has not been determined whether the Government will proceed with a transaction. It will only be pursued if it is clear it is in the best interests of the State, both financially and with respect to our credit rating.

Question Number: 2

Question: With regards to the potential sale of the state's electricity transmission and distribution network

- a) Has Treasury commissioned any modelling, studies or other reports with regards to the sale of Networks NSW or any component of the state-owned electricity transmission and distribution network?
 - i. If so, will you make this information available to the Committee
- b) Have any requests or representations been made by any other Minister for the commission of such studies, or information relating to the sale of the state-owned electricity transmission and distribution network?

Answer:

- a) No – as with previous NSW Governments, Treasury undertakes analysis of all the State’s businesses, assets and liabilities to advise Government on their value, performance and impact on the balance sheet.
 - i. Not applicable
- b) No

Question Number: 3

Question: Net Financial Liabilities stood at \$69,228,000 in June 2013. Can the Treasurer provide a detailed breakdown of the composition of this liability by where it is held?

Answer:

Net financial liabilities are estimated at \$69.2 billion in June 2013 and are expected to decrease to \$59.8 billion in June 2017. Details concerning the balance sheet are provided in Budget Paper 2, Pg 8. 3.

Question Number: 4

Question: Has NSW Treasury commissioned any modelling regarding variations to the cost of borrowing and its effect of government interest expenses?

- a) If so, will you make this information available to the committee?

Answer:

Budget Paper No 2 p4.16 provides advice on the sensitivity of interest rate expense to a one per cent increase in interest rates. No other work has been commissioned to model variations in the cost of borrowing and its effect on government interest expenses.

Question Number: 5

Question: The Treasurer is reported as saying “even the unions” had offered their “broad support” for the Newcastle Ports Transaction.

- a) Can the Treasurer say which unions had offered their “broad support” and when did they do so?
- b) Was this in writing to the Treasurer, in private discussions or in the public media?

Answer:

a) The Maritime Union of Australia and the Australian Maritime Officers Union were reported in The Australian newspaper on 20 June 2013 as stating that Australian super funds should consider buying the Port.

b) As above

Question Number: 6

Question: What will happen to Newcastle Port Corporation's borrowing and deferred payments after the transaction?

- a) Will they be paid out from the proceeds of the sale of the lease or will they be transferred to the successful lessee?
- b) If a final determination has not been made on this matter, can the Treasurer explain the broad principles under which a decision will be made?

Answer:

- a) A final determination on the treatment of Newcastle Port Corporation's borrowing and deferred payments after the transaction has not been made. This will be considered as part of the scoping study, which is currently underway.
- b) The Government's approach with regards to recent transactions, such as the Port Botany and Port Kembla long-term lease and electricity generator transactions, has been to use transaction proceeds to repay the business' debt.

Question Number: 7

Question: Has a cash flow analysis been undertaken, in accordance with NSW Treasury Guidelines for Financial Appraisal, of what would have been Newcastle Port Corporation's projected dividends and payments to government over the lease period, compared to the projected one off payment from the transaction?

- a) If yes, can the analysis be provided?

Answer:

NSW Treasury and the State's advisors are currently undertaking a scoping study, based on which the Government will decide whether to proceed with the long-term lease of the Port of Newcastle. If the Government proceeds an analysis of the retention value of the Port of Newcastle will be conducted.

Question Number: 8

Question: In the business case for the government's decision to build a light rail shuttle to replace heavy rail passenger services between Wickham and Newcastle, what is:

- a) the projected patronage?
- b) the projected fare box revenue?
- c) the projected recurrent operating cost?

Answer:

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

Question Number: 9

Question: Has Treasury developed a cashflow or economic analysis that demonstrates the expenditure/ revenue stream from proposed light rail shuttle to replace heavy rail passenger services between Wickham and Newcastle exceeds the revenue stream from the Port of Newcastle transaction?

Answer:

Treasury has not undertaken this type of analysis.

Question Number: 10

Question: Did the government accept the 2010 AECOM costings for the Wickham Terminus, proposed to be built to accommodate the replacement heavy rail services to Newcastle with a light rail shuttle?

- a) Does AECOM's costings include the closure of Railway & Beaumont Streets?
- b) Does AECOM's costings include any costings for works that will result from the closure of Railway and Beaumont Streets and in particular:
 - i. Road upgrades to cater for the diverted traffic,
 - ii. Recreating the disability/ mobility impaired access currently afforded by the level crossings,
 - iii. Any assessment of economic impact on Beaumont Street businesses?

Answer:

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

Question Number: 11

Question: What is the nature and total value of all current subsidies, both direct and indirect, that support fossil-fuel electricity generation in NSW?

Answer:

The NSW Government does not provide subsidies to support fossil fuel electricity generation in NSW. This is in contrast to the GenTrader contracts signed by the former Government.

Question Number: 12

Question: With no budget allocation in 2013/14 to Cobbora Holdings Company for the ongoing development of the proposed Cobbora Coal Mine and management of a large area of acquired land, as per the recommendations of the Planning Assessment Commission, will the NSW Government stop the planning process for the mine considering the poor quality of the resource, its distance from markets and the uneconomic commitment for private industry?

Answer:

This question is based on a false premise. There was an allocation in the State Budget for 2013/14.

The NSW Government has terminated the State's obligation to develop and operate a coal mine at Cobbora, removing liabilities for NSW taxpayers of over \$1.5 billion.

Cobbora Holding Company Pty Ltd is working on implementing the recommendations of the Planning Assessment Commission and an independent planning process is ongoing.

Question Number: 13

Question: Will the NSW Government commit to winding up Cobbora Holdings Company and sell the land back for agricultural production?

Answer:

Cobbora Holding Company is preparing to undertake a tender process to lease properties on the mine site to return it to productive use and improve biodiversity where possible. An independent planning process for the Cobbora coalmine is still underway.

Question Number: 14

Question: What are the current staff numbers of the state owned Cobbora Holdings Company Pty Ltd (CHC), after the cancellation of the contracts from Cobbora Mine to Eraring Power Station?

- a) Are these expected to change in the near future?
- b) If so, please provide details.

Answer:

As at 31 August 2013 there were 20 employees and 4 contractors/consultants employed.

- a) Yes.
- b) Staff numbers have already reduced and will continue to reduce as the various stages of the independent planning process are completed.

Question Number: 15

Question: How many contractors are employed by Cobbora Holdings Company? What are their roles?

Answer:

As at 31 August 2013 there were 4 contractors/consultants employed. They are employed to finalise:

- communications and power profiles for the new mine site;
- water studies and modelling; and
- land management plans as required by the Planning Assessment Commission.

Question Number: 16

Question: In light of no budget allocation being provided for the Cobbora Mine proposal in the 2013/2014 budget, what financial resources are being used to:

- a) purchase more land and water licenses for the proposed mine?
- b) continue to refine the environmental impact assessment in response to Department of Planning & Infrastructure concerns?
- c) manage current land holdings?

Answer:

There was an allocation in the State Budget for 2013/14.

Question Number: 17

Question: What reporting mechanisms, auditing and processes of accountability are in place for Cobbora Holding Company to provide annual financial statements of expenditure and income?

Answer:

All financial reports are audited and reviewed under the NSW Audit Office twice per year. A small management team operates with delegated levels of authority and reports monthly to Cobbora's Board of Directors.

Question Number: 18

Question: What is the current value of all land and water holdings owned by Cobbora Holding Company?

Answer:

As at 30 June 2013 land holdings were valued at \$126 million and water licences were valued at \$16.121 million.

Question Number: 19

Question: What is the value of the annual leasing arrangements for Cobbora Holding Company owned land?

Answer:

Cobbora Holding Company is preparing to undertake a tender process to lease properties on the mine site to return it to productive use and improve biodiversity where possible. An independent planning process for the Cobbora coalmine is still underway.

Question Number: 20

Question: What funding is available, and from what source, for the development of a local transition plan that is to be led by Member for Dubbo, Troy Grant?

Answer:

The \$20 million in the Cobbora Transition Fund will be drawn from Restart NSW.

Question Number: 21

Question: What support is being given to remaining landholders with stranded assets and businesses in Dunedoo suffering a downturn through loss of customers?

Answer:

The former government's investment in Cobbora resulted in the loss to the area of many farming families and of productive agricultural land, due to the extensive acquisition of properties needed for the mine development.

The NSW Government's establishment of a \$20 million Cobbora Transition Fund recognises the impact on local communities and the local economy. The Cobbora Transition Fund will help improve regional transport links and create new economic opportunities will drive economic growth and productivity in the Cobbora region.

Cobbora Holding Company is preparing to undertake a tender process to lease properties on the mine site to return it to productive use and improve biodiversity where possible. An independent planning process for the Cobbora coalmine is still underway.

Question Number: 22

Question: Is the Treasurer aware of a recent report released by Goldman Sachs Commodities Research on July 24 titled 'The window for thermal coal investment is closing' and that WA Premier, Colin Barnett stated on July 29 that 'The world is making policy decisions which mean that coal usage, in my view, will progressively decline. It's a long-term structural change and that should not be dismissed as something that is purely cyclical'.

- a) In light of the downturn of the global thermal coal industry why is NSW public money being wasted on a coal mine proposal that will possibly not find a private interest?
- b) What should the public make of the suggestion that a proposed rail loop on the Sandy Hollow railway line is not going ahead. Is this because the likelihood of the Cobbora Mine proceeding is now in doubt?

Answer:

- (a) The former NSW Government's decision to develop and operate a coal mine at Cobbora would have cost taxpayers over \$1.5 billion.

The price agreed by the former Government was not commercial and the development costs of the mine were not covered.

Cobbora is nevertheless a large coal resource and the NSW Government remains committed to the sale or lease of this asset to maximise value for taxpayers. An independent planning process for the mine is still ongoing.

- (b) Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) determines the need for, and provides where necessary, infrastructure on the Sandy Hollow line according its public Strategy Process. The ARTC is not a NSW Government agency. The ARTC annually reviews the system capacity needs for all its customers throughout the Hunter Coal Network.

Question Number: 23

Question: What is the time frame for the government's plan to sell a portion of the tax revenue from the around \$360 million of tax revenues raised from NSW lotteries?

Answer: Refer to response to Question 1 (b) and (c)

Question Number: 24

Question: Are there any plans to extend this strategy to other areas of government revenue, i.e. to sell the rights to income from tax revenue for specific sources of revenue?

- a) If so, which areas of revenue are being looked at?

Answer:

There are no plans to extend this strategy to other areas of government revenue.

Question Number: 25

Question: Is the strategy being applied to the revenue streams from tax revenue from NSW Lotteries a mechanism to borrow now against future revenues?

Answer:

No decision has been made, however if a transaction were to proceed it would be expected the proceeds would be used to repay debt.

Question Number: 26

Question: What is the long term benefit to the state of making the current budget bottom line look better at the expense of future revenues by selling all or part of tax revenue streams?

Answer:

The premise of the question is incorrect.

The transaction will only be pursued if it is clear it is in the best interests of the State, both financially and with respect to our credit rating.

Question Number: 27

Question: Has a formula been calculated that would set a minimum price for the sale of rights to future revenues?

Answer:

Yes

Question Number: 28

Question: Were any of the following mines approved on the condition that they provide cheap coal to Macquarie generation or any of its predecessor organisation:

- a) Mangoola, (Xstrata)
- b) Mt Arthur North (BHP)
- c) Wilpinjong (Peabody)

Answer:

None of the mines listed above were approved on the condition that they provide cheap coal. This is in contrast to the GenTrader contracts signed by the former Government.

Question Number: 29

Question: Will all existing coal supply contracts with Macquarie Generation continue after its proposed sale?

Answer:

Yes.

Question Number: 30

Question: Please provide a list of all existing coal supply contracts held by Macquarie Generation, and, for each, please provide:

- a) The year in which it expires
- b) The annual delivery amount
- c) The provider of the coal, including the mine or mines and
- d) The average price of the coal, if this matter is not deemed to be commercial in confidence.

Answer:

These matters are commercial-in-confidence.

Question Number: 31

Question: Have there been meetings between the Chair of CLP Sir Michael David Kadoorie and the Treasurer, officers of the Treasury, members of the team working on the electricity transaction or the management of Delta Electricity?

- a) If so, please provide the details of when these meetings took place, who attended and what topics were discussed?
- b) Was the issue of coal supply to Delta's generators discussed?
- c) Was the issue of Coalpac discussed?

Answer:

The detail of discussions regarding Delta Electricity's western assets are commercial in confidence.

Question Number: 32

Question: Has the Treasurer, officers of the Treasury, members of the team working on the electricity transaction or the management of Delta Electricity held any discussions with representatives of CLP (China Light and Power) or any of its subsidiaries in which the Coalpac application was discussed?

- a) If so, who was present and what was discussed?

Answer:

The detail of discussions regarding the sale of Delta Electricity's western assets are commercial in confidence.

Question Number: 33

Question: Has any undertaking been given to CLP or any of its representatives with respect to planning approval for Coalpac?

Answer:

No

Question Number: 34

Question: What rights did the purchaser of Delta have to cancel the agreement during the cooling off period?

- a) Do any of these relate to planning approvals of coal mines?

Answer:

The terms of the agreement for the purchase of Delta Electricity's western assets are commercial in confidence.

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING
COMMITTEE NUMBER 1 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

15 August 2013

Question Number: 1

Question: It emerged recently that workers at the Opera House will be subject to this Government's wage cap, given only 15% of their funding comes from the State budget, what justification is there for removing these workers' ability to negotiate with their employer?

Answer:

The Wages Policy applies to all public sector agencies including Public Service Departments, other Divisions of the Government Service and State Owned Corporations. Irrespective of how public sector agencies derive revenue, all agencies are subject to the Policy.

Question Number: 2

Question: Will you consider exempting these workers from the wages cap?

Answer:

The wages policy applies across the public sector because it is fair for employees and affordable for the State.

Question Number: 3

Question: What data is this Government collecting regarding the impact of its wages policy and public service cuts on regional employment?

Answer:

Director Generals have been given the flexibility to deliver the savings so they have the least impact on the service being delivered. Therefore information on implementation of the savings is held by each agency.

In terms of employment, Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows NSW has created more jobs than any other State since we came to Government.

Question Number: 4

Question: Regarding the current PSA challenge to your plans to take the compulsory superannuation increases out of the pay of public sector workers, how did the Government calculate the 8,000 jobs figure that you claimed would be lost?

Answer:

When the 12 per cent superannuation rate is reached, the increases in employee expenses would add \$865 million to annual expenditure. An increase of that order is equivalent to around 8,000 jobs.

Question Number: 5

Question: Did your Government budget for the .25% superannuation rise in its 2013/14 budget given that super rise was legislated well in advance?

Answer:

Allocations to agencies for increases to employee related expenses were 2.5 per cent, which included provision for superannuation as per the wages policy.

Question Number: 6

Question: Under s117(4) of the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave Scheme) Act 2010 "the Industrial Relations Advisory Council is to review the operation of this Act as soon as practicable after 1 July 2012 to assess the viability of extending the operation of the portable long service leave scheme under this Act that applies to workers in the contract cleaning industry to all workers in NSW", can the Minister advise of the current status of this review?

Answer:

The report from the Industrial Relations Advisory Council's review is publicly available at: <http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au/>

Question Number: 7

Question: Under the Act, a report of this review is to be provided to the Minister within 12 months after 1 July 2012 – have you received this report? What steps have been taking following receipt of this report? When is it anticipated that this report will be publicly available?

Answer:

Refer to response to Question 6

Question Number: 8

Question: Given the increasing casualization of workplaces, has any research been undertaken by the department on making the benefits of long service leave and similar workplace entitlements available to casual workers?

Answer:

Section 4(11) of the *Long Service Leave Act 1955* makes clear that the continuous service necessary to qualify for benefits under the Act can include service to an employer as a casual employee.

Service as a casual in the separately regulated cleaning contracting and construction industries also counts toward qualifying for a long service benefit. This takes the form of either paid leave or a payout on exiting the industry.

Casual employees remaining in the NSW industrial system are also entitled to a benefit under the *Annual Holidays Act 1944*.

Question Number: 9

Question: Has consideration been given to making changes to the law regarding discrimination in workplaces to cover discrimination on the grounds of criminal records?

Answer:

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Attorney General as the Minister responsible for administering the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

Question Number: 10

Question: What is the department's policy regarding foster carers and access to leave?

Answer:

The department is required to observe the provisions of the Crown Employees (Public Service Conditions of Employment) Award 2009. There has been no change to the entitlements regarding foster carers under the Award during this Government.

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE
NUMBER 1 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
GENERAL QUESTIONS**

15 August 2013

Question Number: 1

Question: What is your relationship to Michael Photios?

Answer:

I know Michael Photios through the NSW Liberal Party.

Question Number: 2

Question: How often do you speak with him?

Answer:

I speak with him infrequently

Question Number: 3

Question: Have you met with clients of PremierState?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 4

Question: On how many occasions and what dates did you meet with Michael Photios or representatives of PremierState?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 5

Question: What was discussed at these meetings?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 6

Question: On how many occasions have you declined to meet with Michael Photios or a client of PremierState?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 7

Question: Did you attend his wedding?

Answer:

No

Question Number: 8

Question: Did Michael Photios vote in your pre-selection?

Answer:

Members of the NSW Liberal Party Executive are entitled to vote in the pre-selection of candidates.

Question Number: 9

Question: Have you met with lobbyists other than PremierState?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 10

Question: On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 11

Question: Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 12

Question: On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 13

Question: To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 14

Question: In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?

Answer:

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct

Question Number: 15

Question: Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any interstate or intrastate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?

Answer:

Yes

Question Number: 16

Question: Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all travel?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 17

Question: Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 18

Question: Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 19

Question: Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 20

Question: Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 21

Question: Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?

Answer:

Information regarding reimbursement payments is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Question Number: 22

Question: Have you had meetings scheduled interstate or intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 23

Question: Did you take your spouse/partner on these trips?

Answer:

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf

Question Number: 24

Question: Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?

Answer:

Information on Department of Premier and Cabinet Memorandum 'Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying' can be found at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/announcements/ministerial_memoranda/2007/m2007-02

Question Number: 25

Question: If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?

Answer:

Information on Department of Premier and Cabinet Memorandum 'Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying' can be found at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/announcements/ministerial_memoranda/2007/m2007-02

Question Number: 26

Question: How many blackberries or smart phones are assigned to your staff?

Answer:

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers Offices

Question Number: 27

Question: For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?

Answer:

The total expenditure on mobile phones by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$483,310	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226	\$232,286

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

Question Number: 28

Question: How many have phones have been lost in your office?

Answer:

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was 5

Question Number: 29

Question: What is the cost of replacing those phones?

Answer:

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

Question Number: 30

Question: How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer:

The number of iPads issued for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices for 2012/13 is 75

Question Number: 31

Question: How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer:

iPads are supplied by DPC

Question Number: 32

Question: How many iPhones or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer:

169 phones have been issued to NSW Ministerial Offices

Question Number: 33

Question: How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

Answer:

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC

Question Number: 34

Question: How many iPhones or other smart phones have been lost in your office?

Answer:

For Premier's Office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was 5

Question Number: 35

Question: How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?

Answer:

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices the number of iPads lost was 2

Question Number: 36

Question: What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?

Answer:

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund

Question Number: 37

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

Answer:

Nil

Question Number: 38

Question: What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Answer:

Nil

Question Number: 39

Question: Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

Answer:

Expenditure on overseas trips is available on the NSW Treasury website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information"

Question Number: 40

Question: If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Answer:

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the NSW Treasury website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information"

Question Number: 41

Question: What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff

Answer:

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

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

Question Number: 42

Question: What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

Answer:

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

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

Question Number: 43

Question: What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

Answer:

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

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

Question Number: 44

Question: What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

Answer:

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Question Number: 45

Question: Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011

Answer:

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

Question Number: 46

Question: If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

Answer:

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

Question Number: 47

Question: What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?

Answer:

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log

Question Number: 48

Question: How many political advisors are in your office?

Answer:

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

Question Number: 49

Question: How many administration staff?

Answer:

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

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

Question Number: 50

Question: How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

Answer:

Number of Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) are:

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012	Number of DLOs as at 30/06/2013
Premier	1	1
Ministers	57	54
TOTAL	58	55

Question Number: 51

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

Answer:

Number of Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) are:

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012	Number of DLOs as at 30/06/2013
Premier	1	1
Ministers	57	54
TOTAL	58	55

Question Number: 52

Question: Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

Answer:

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports

Question Number: 53

Question: If so, in what capacities?

Answer:

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports

Question Number: 54

Question: How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Answer:

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports

Question Number: 55

Question: How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2012/13 financial year?

Answer:

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094	\$92,829

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government

Question Number: 56

Question: Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

Answer:

Yes

Question Number: 57

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

Answer:

As part of the Treasury restructure 19 positions have been deleted since the end of 2012.

Due to the Federal Government's termination of the Fair Work contract, Industrial Relations has deleted 44 positions from 1 July 2013.

Question Number: 58

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

Answer:

Nil, wages will be increased consistent with the NSW wages policy.

Question Number: 59

Question: How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

Answer:

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Question Number: 60

Question: How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

Answer:

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Question Number: 61

Question: How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?

Answer:

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Question Number: 62

Question: How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2012/13?

Answer:

Expenditure on entertainment and catering is conducted in accordance with C2010-42 New South Wales Government Expenses Policy.

In 2012/13, the Treasury cluster spent \$63,557 on catering, which included the Budget briefings and lock-up.

Question Number: 63

Question: How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2012/13?

Answer:

In 2012/13, the Treasury cluster spent \$196,249 on stationery out of a budget of \$226,000.

Question Number: 64

Question: What is your Department's catering budget?

Answer:

The 2012/13 catering budget for the Treasury Cluster was \$56,000, however this was set before NSW Industrial Relations was transferred to Treasury.

Question Number: 65

Question: What is your Department's stationary budget?

Answer:

The 2012/13 stationery budget for the Treasury cluster was \$226,000

Question Number: 66

Question: Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

Answer:

Following machinery of government changes announced on 12 September last year, NSW Industrial Relations was transferred from the Department of Finance and Services to become part of the NSW Treasury cluster. Minor branding revisions – consisting of updating electronic templates to change the logo – were required to correspondence and templates, website and future business cards.

Question Number: 67

Question: If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Answer:

Additional costs were not incurred.

Question Number: 68

Question: How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

Answer:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet 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 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 or sources.

Question Number: 69

Question: How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Answer:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet 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 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 or sources.

Question Number: 70

Question: In 2012/13 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Answer:

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

Question Number: 71

Question: As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

Answer:

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

Question Number: 72

Question: How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Answer:

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

Question Number: 73

Question: Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes,

- a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
- c) On what date was the funding advanced?
- d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
- f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/2013?
- h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- i) Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?

Answer:

Treasury does not provide grants to non-government organisations.

Question Number: 74

Question: How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?

Answer:

23 contractors were retained by Treasury since 1 July 2013 at a cost of \$629,000 to undertake work including electronic document records management and improving financial reporting systems across the sector. Treasury will meet its labour expense target of \$70 million for 2013-14.

Question Number: 75

Question: What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

Answer:

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including regarding levels of Aboriginal employment.

An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at June 2013 will be included in the Workforce Profile 2013 Report, due to be released with the 2013 State of the Public Sector Report in November 2013.

NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 outlines Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

Question Number: 76

Question: How has that changed since 1 July 2012?

Answer:

An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the NSW public sector at June 2012 can be found in the Workforce Profile 2012 Report. This report is available on the PSC website on the Workforce Profile page: <http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/About-the-Public-Sector/workforce-profile>

Question Number: 77

Question: Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

Answer:

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf. Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report

Question Number: 78

Question: Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- f) 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 Government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two stylized, overlapping loops with a small 'x' mark at the end of the second loop.

MIKE BAIRD MP

Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Relations