



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4**

Emergency Services, Small Business

Wednesday 16 September 2009

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 12 October 2009

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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
16 September 2009	Fair Trading, Citizenship	12 October 2009 [21 days]
16 September 2009	Emergency Services, Small Business	12 October 2009 [21 days]
16 September 2009	Planning, Redfern Waterloo	26 October 2009 [35 days]
17 September 2009	Transport, Illawarra	27 October 2009 [35 days]
17 September 2009	Science and Medical Research	13 October 2009 [21 days]
17 September 2009	Health (Cancer)	13 October 2009 [21 days]
17 September 2009	Tourism, Hunter	13 October 2009 [21 days]

**Questions relating to the portfolios of Emergency Services and Small Business**

**16 September 2009, 11.15 am – 1.00 pm**

**Questions from Mr Cohen**

1. What provision has the Minister made in the budget to increase volunteer recruitment, particularly in parts of the state where there is a shortfall of up to 70% fewer bush fire fighters than is required?
  - a. In particular, what measures will the Minister take to address the 10% shortfall in the number of bush fire fighters required in the Blue Mountains - one of the highest bushfire alert areas of New South Wales.
2. What were the target hazard reduction figures by hectare set by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and the NSW Fire Brigade for 2008-09, and were these targets met?
3. It is noted that the NSWFB responded to 3,500 hazardous material incidents in 2008-09. Could we be provided with material on:
  - a. the types of hazardous material incidents the NSWFB has responded to,
  - b. the geographic location of incidents; and
  - c. data on how many hazardous material incidents each emergency unit responded to?
4. Of the 1,036 building inspections undertaken, how many were issued notices to rectify defects?
5. How many licensed premises, nightclubs and pubs were found to be non-complying during building inspections?
  - a. Can the Minister provide the names of the venues?
6. Can the Minister advise of the specifics of counter-terrorism plant and equipment procured under the 2009-10 capital works program?
7. Can the Minister advise what percentage of the \$15.1 million dollars funding goes to plant and equipment for counter terrorism response capacity compared to general fire fighting equipment capacity?
8. It has been reported that Sydney's anti-terror emergency warning system would fail in a black-out because it does not have a battery back up system. What provision has been made to remedy this situation?
9. What preventative measures and early intervention programs is the NSWFB undertaking in relation to minimising hazardous material incidents during transportation of dangerous goods?
10. In a year when major floods occurred in a number of locations and climate change-affected extreme weather conditions are likely to increase, can the Minister explain why was the number of Floodsafe brochures handed out to the community revised down from 50,000 to 35,000?

**Questions from Ms Pavey**

11. Rural Fire Service
  - a. What percentage of the RFS budget will be spent on bushfire mitigation works (not including salaries) for 2009-10?

- b. Of the budget allocated to mitigation how much will be spent by zone, team and district on:
  - i. fire trail construction and maintenance
  - ii. asset protection zones
  - iii. hazard reductions
- c. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to bushfire risk management planning?
- d. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to RFS staff salaries?
- e. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to total RFS staff related expenses?
- f. What is the financial figure devoted to staff salaries for 2009/10?
  - i. Is there is an increase in the RFS staff salary budget allocation from 2008-09 budget to the 2009-10 budget?
  - ii. If yes what is the percentage increase in the RFS staff salary budget allocation from 2008-09 to 2009-10?
  - iii. What percentage of the total RFS budget for RFS is devoted to Management salaries (L12 & above)?
  - iv. What percentage of the total RFS budget is devoted to Senior Executive Service salaries?
  - v. What percentage of the total RFS budget is devoted to contracted and casual employed RFS staff?
  - vi. What is the breakdown of the RFS budget 2009/10 for staff salaries by Region, District, Zone and Team?
- g. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to payment of current liabilities for staff long service leave and recreation leave?
- h. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to printing and stationary procurement?
- i. What the percentage of the RFS budget allocated for administration will be devoted to the development and review of RFS Service Standards, policies and procedures?
- j. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to projects?
- k. What is the funding breakdown by project?
- l. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009/10 will be devoted to “other expenses?”
- m. What are the other expenses. Please provide a list for 2009-2010 budget?
- n. What percentage of the total RFS Budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to expenditure on rental leases?
- o. What assets are subject to rental lease by the RFS?
- p. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to RFS staff attendance at interstate and international meetings, symposiums, workshops, forums and conferences?
- q. What is the breakdown in travel expenditure for senior management salaried staff?
- r. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009-10 will be allocated to new fire trucks?
  - i. What is breakdown by RFS zone, team and district where the fire trucks will be allocated?
  - ii. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009-10 will be allocated to refurbished fire tankers?
  - iii. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to rural fire station construction?

- iv. What is the breakdown by RFS zone, team and district where the new fire stations will be constructed for 2009-10?
- v. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to the construction of new fire control centres?
  - 1. What is the breakdown by RFS zone, team and district of the allocation of funds for the construction of new fire control centres in 2009-10?
- vi. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to the construction of modern purpose built hot fire training facilities for volunteer fire fighters?
- vii. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to the refurbishment of existing purpose built hot fire training facilities for volunteer fire fighters?
- viii. What percentage of the RFS budget in 2009-10 is devoted to fleet services?
- ix. What percentage of the RFS fleet services budget in 2009-10 is devoted to non operational and RFS salaried staff vehicles?
- s. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to the State Air Desk & aerial support services?
- t. What is the percentage increase in the aviation budget from 2008-09 to 2009-10?
- u. What is the breakdown of funds allocated to RFS aviation services budget for 2009-10?
- v. Was a cost benefit analysis undertaken to assess the case for an increase in the RFS aviation services budget for 2009-10? If not, why not?
- w. Was a cost benefit analysis undertaken to assess the case for the increased use of aviation services in fire suppression for the 2009-10 budget against traditional on ground fire suppression methods? If not why not?
- x. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to community preparedness and public education programs?
- y. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009-10 will be allocated to the following programs?
  - i. Community Fire wise
  - ii. Farm Fire wise
  - iii. Kids Fire wise
- z. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to fire suppression?
- aa. What is the breakdown of the fire suppression budget allocation by RFS zone, team and district?
- bb. What is the ratio of expenditure on fire suppression against fire prevention in the RFS budget for 2009-10?
- cc. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 is devoted to:
  - i. volunteer welfare
  - ii. Occupational health and safety
  - iii. Chaplaincy
  - iv. critical incident stress
- dd. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 is devoted to personal protective equipment for volunteer fire-fighters?
- ee. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to the RFS volunteer fire-fighter training programs?
- ff. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 will be devoted to RFS staff professional training programs?
- gg. What percentage of the RFS budget for 2009/10 will be devoted to consultancy fees?

- hh. What is the breakdown of the consultancy fees by project?
- ii. What percentage of the total RFS budget will be devoted to Fire Investigation?
- jj. What percentage of the total RFS budget for 2009-10 is devoted to media services?
- kk. How much of the funding will be spent on off season training combining ground and air crews?
- ll. How much funding is allocated for overseas projects?
- mm. What is the percentage of bush fire hazard reduction works that were completed in 2008-2009?
- nn. What is the hazard reduction target for 2009-2010?
- oo. What were the hazard reduction targets and the number and percentage of works completed for each of the land management agencies in 2008-2009, including National Parks, Department of Lands, Forests NSW and Local Government?
- pp. What is the standard level, in tonnes, that fuel is allowed to accumulate to until it needs to be hazard reduced?
- qq. How many Bush fire risk management plans have been approved to date? Please provide names of the localities/Committees.
- rr. How many bush fire risk management plans were audited in 2008-2009, please provide specific names? What was the total number of strategies implemented as at the audit date for each plan?
- ss. How do you measure the number of current active volunteers?
- tt. Do brigades make annual returns or reports on the changing number of member figures?
- uu. How many RFS members have retired in the past 10 years?
- vv. How many RFS members have had their membership cancelled due to criminal misconduct over the past 10 years?
- ww. How many RFS members have been removed from the RFS membership list for any other reason, over the past 10 years?
- xx. How many ordinary memberships have been approved over the past five years?
- yy. How many junior memberships have been approved over the past five years?
- zz. If the number of active fire fighters is dropping?
- aaa. Is there a shortage of volunteers in any brigades across the state? If so, please provide brigade names.
- bbb. Of funding allocated to new fire tankers allocated in the 2009-2010 budget, has any been allocated to the Castlereagh Zone in the north-west of the state, East of Coonabarabran?
- ccc. Does the RFS provide funding for bottles water to every brigade?

12. Office of Emergency Services

- a. When will the Sydney Emergency Warning System (public address system) review announced by Premier Nathan Rees on the 31st of March be completed?
- b. In regards to the Hotspots fire project will the RFS be allocating funding for the project in 2009-2010?
- c. Who are the members of the SMS alert system used for CBD emergency situations?

13. State Emergency Services

- a. Why is Kempsey SES not listed on the Telstra phone directory? What measures have been taken to ensure that this problems is rectified?

14. NSW Fire Brigade

- a. What is the procedure in place for triple zero calls in regards to the operator deciding to transfer the call to the Fire Brigade or RFS?
- b. Are there cases where the operator transfers the call to the Fire Brigade, even though the RFS is closer?
- c. How many stations have become permanently managed rather than just retained stations over the past five years?
- d. Do you currently have any plans to build a NSW fire brigade station at Horsley Park? If so, when will the building commence, and how much funding will be allocated?