



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Local Government
The North Coast

Thursday 11 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 6 November 2012

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Questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

1. Are there any plans to change or phase out the one-member ward system as operates in Botany?
2. What impact on services is expected to occur based on the lack of flexibility Local Councils have in setting rates?
3. Are there plans to improve the fiscal autonomy of local councils?
 - a. If so, what are these plans?
 - b. If not, why not?
4. How many Code of Conduct complaints were made in 2011-2012?
5. Is there a centralised comprehensive record of Code of Conduct complaints?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If not, what changes are proposed to address this?
6. What plans are there to reduce the amount of vexatious Code of Conduct complaints?
7. Has there been any consideration of introducing a form of "parliamentary privilege" to local government?
8. How much money has been budgeted by the Division of Local Government to promote projects that work in partnership with Aboriginal communities in NSW?
9. Is the Division of Local Government undertaking any activities to promote Local Government Authorities working with Aboriginal communities, including Local Aboriginal Land Councils?
10. Does the Division of Local Government have any strategies or programs in place to help Aboriginal communities to engage with Local Government?
 - a. Has any money been budgeted for this purpose in 2012/13?
11. Does the Division of Local Government have a monitoring system to track how many local government authorities include Aboriginal-specific targets in social and community plans?
 - a. If so, can the Minister provide details about how many Local Government Authorities include such targets and whether Local Government Authorities are on track to include Aboriginal specific targets in social and community plans?
12. Has any money been budgeted to update the Department of Local Government handbook '*Engaging with local Aboriginal communities: A resource kit for Local Government in NSW*' that was published in 2007 to encourage local government to engage with Aboriginal communities?

End of questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC.

Questions from the Hon. Sophie Cotsis, MLC

Local Government

1. How has the new Organisational Structure (as of 23 January 2012) improved the operation of the Division of Local Government and its distribution of services to local communities in NSW?
2. What is the position description for the Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does this role directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. In what ways does the Chief Executive interact with
 - i. The Innovation and Development group?
 - ii. The Investigations and Performance group?
 - iii. The Operations group?
 - iv. and the Executive Support group?
3. Does the Chief Executive actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
4. What is the position description for the Deputy Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does this role directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. In what ways does the Deputy Chief Executive interact with
 - i. The Innovation and Development group?
 - ii. The Investigations and Performance group?
 - iii. The Operations group?
 - iv. and the Executive Support group?
 - v. The Principal Lawyer of the Executive Support Group?
 - vi. The Coordinator of DLG Governance of the Executive Support Group?
 - vii. The Ministerial Officer of the Executive Support Group?
 - c. Does the Deputy Chief Executive actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
5. What does the Innovation and Development Group aim to achieve?
6. What does the Investigations and Performance group aim to achieve?
7. What does the Operations group aim to achieve?
8. What does the Executive Support group aim to achieve?
9. What is the position description for the Principal Lawyer play in the Division of Local Government?
 - a. How does this role directly influence the delivery of local council services?
10. What is the position description for the Manager of Innovation and Development play in the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. How does the Manager of Innovation and Development interact with the rest of the Innovation and Development Group?
 - c. Does the Manager of Innovation and Development directly influence the delivery of local council services?
 - d. How does the Manager of Innovation and Development interact with the Acting Leader of Development?
 - e. How does the Manager of Innovation and Development interact with the Leader of Innovation?
 - f. How does the Manager of Innovation and Development interact with the Leader of Council Governance?
 - g. Does the Manager of Innovation and Development actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
11. What is the position description for the Manager of Legislative Review in the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Manager of Legislative Review actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
12. What is the position description of the Manger of Investigations and Performance in the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. How does the Manager of Investigations and Performance interact with the Leader of Investigations?
 - c. How does the Manager of Investigations and Performance interact with the Leader of Performance and Compliance?
 - d. Does the Manager of Investigations and Performance actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
13. What is the position description for the Manager of Operations in the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Manager of Operations actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Manger of Operations interact with
 - i. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - ii. The Executive Officer of Operations?
 - iii. The Excutive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - iv. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - v. The Records Officer?
 - vi. The Coordinator of the Sydney Office?
14. What is the position description for the Leader of Development in the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?

- b. Does the Manager of Operations actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Development interact with the Manger of Innovation and Development?

- 15. What is the position description for the Leader of Innovation in the Division of Local Government?
 - a) Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b) Does the Leader of Innovation actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c) How does the Leader of Innovation interact with the Manager of Innovation and Development?

- 16. What is the position description for the Leader of Council Governance in the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Leader of Council Governance actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Council Governance interact with the Manager of Innovation and Development?

- 17. What is the position description for the Leader of Investigations in the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Leader of Investigations actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Investigations interact with the Manager Investigations and Performance?

- 18. What is the position description for the Leader of Performance and Compliance in the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Leader Performance and Compliance actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Performance and Compliance interact with the Manager of Investigations and Performance?

- 19. What is the position description for Senior Investigators (5) in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Senior Investigators actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Senior Investigators interact with the Leader of Investigations?

- 20. What is the position description for Senior Performance Analysts (2) in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?

- b. Do the Senior Performance Analysts actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Senior Performance Analysts interact with
 - i. The Leader for Performance and compliance?
 - ii. The Principal Performance Analyst?
 - iii. The Performance Analysts?
 - iv. The Senior Assessment Officer?
 - v. and the Assessment Officer?
21. What is the position description for the Principal Performance Analyst in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Principal Performance Analyst actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Principal Performance Analysts interact with
 - i. The Leader for Performance and compliance?
 - ii. The Senior Performance Analysts?
 - iii. The Performance Analysts?
 - iv. The Senior Assessment Officer?
 - v. and the Assessment Officer?
22. What is the position description for Performance Analysts (2) in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Performance Analysts actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Senior Performance Analysts interact with
 - i. The Leader for Performance and compliance?
 - ii. The Principal Performance Analyst?
 - iii. The Senior Performance Analysts?
 - iv. The Senior Assessment Officer?
 - v. and the Assessment Officer?
23. What is the position description for the Senior Assessment Officer in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Senior Assessment Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior Assessment Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader for Performance and compliance?
 - ii. The Principal Performance Analyst?
 - iii. The Senior Performance Analysts?
 - iv. The Performance Analysts?
 - v. and the Assessment Officer?

24. What is the position description for the Assessment Officer in the Investigations and Performance Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Assessment Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior Assessment Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader for Performance and compliance?
 - ii. The Principal Performance Analyst?
 - iii. The Senior Performance Analysts?
 - iv. The Performance Analysts?
 - v. and the Senior Assessment Officer?
25. What is the position description for the Coordinator of ICT in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Coordinator of ICT actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Coordinator of ICT interact with
 - i. The Manager of Operations?
 - ii. The Senior ICT Officer?
 - iii. The Companion Animals Helpdesk Officer?
 - iv. The Executive Officer for Operations?
 - v. The Executive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - vi. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - vii. The Records Officer?
 - viii. and the Coordinator of the Sydney Office?
26. What is the position description for the Executive Officer of Operations in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Executive Officer of Operations actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Executive Officer of Operations interact with
 - i. The Manager of Operations?
 - ii. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - iii. The Business Services Operations Officer?
 - iv. The Executive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - v. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - vi. The Records Officer?
 - vii. and the Coordinator of the Sydney Office?
27. What is the position description for the Executive Officer of the Grants Commission in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Executive Officer of the Grants Commission actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Executive Officer of the Grants Commission interact with

- i. The Manager of Operations?
- ii. The Coordinator of ICT?
- iii. The Executive Operations Officer?
- iv. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
- v. The Records Officer?
- vi. and the Coordinator of the Sydney Office?

28. What is the position description for the Coordinator of Communications and Operations in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Coordinator of Communications and Operations actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Coordinator of Communications and Operations interact with
 - i. The Manager of Operations?
 - ii. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - iii. The Executive Operations Officer?
 - iv. The Executive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - v. The Records Officer?
 - vi. and the Coordinator of the Sydney Office?
 - vii. Administration Support Officers (6)?
 - viii. The Senior Communications and Operations Officers (2)?
 - ix. The Cadet?

29. What is the position description for the Records Officer in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Records Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Records Officer interact with
 - i. The Manager of Operations?
 - ii. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - iii. The Executive Operations Officer?
 - iv. The Executive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - v. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - vi. and the Coordinator of the Sydney Office?

30. What is the position description for the Coordinator of the Sydney Office in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Coordinator of the Sydney Office actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Coordinator of the Sydney Office interact with
 - i. The Manager of Operations?
 - ii. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - iii. The Executive Operations Officer?
 - iv. The Executive Officer of the Grants Commission?
 - v. The Records Officer?
 - vi. and the Coordinator of Communications and Operations?

- vii. The PIDT Admin Officer?
- viii. The Administrative Support Officer?

31. What is the position description for the Senior ICT Officer in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Senior ICT Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior ICT Officer interact with
 - i. The Coordinator of ICT?
 - ii. and the Companion Animals Helpdesk Officer?
32. What is the position description for the Business Services Operations Officer in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Business Services Operations Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Business Services Operations Officer interact with
 - a) The Executive Officer of Operations?
33. What is the position description for the Business Services Operations Officer in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Business Services Operations Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Business Services Operations Officer interact with
 - a) The Executive Officer of Operations?
34. What is the position description for the Administrative Support Officers (6) in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Administrative Support Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Administrative Support Officers interact with
 - i. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - ii. The Senior Communications and Operations Officers (2)?
 - iii. and The Cadet?
35. What is the position description for the Senior Communications Officers (2) in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Senior Communications Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Senior Communication Officers interact with
 - i. The Coordinator of Communications and Operations?
 - ii. The Administrative Support Officers?
 - iii. and The Cadet?

36. What is the position description for the PIDT Admin Officer in the Operations Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Cadet actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the PIDT Admin Officer interact with
 - i. The Coordinator of the Sydney Office?
 - ii. and the Administrative Support Officer?
37. What is the position description for the Leader of Innovation in the Innovation and Development group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Leader of Innovation actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Innovation interact with
 - i. The Manager of Innovation and Development?
 - ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
 - iv. The Principal Policy Officer (2)?
 - v. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Senior Policy Officer?
 - vii. The Policy Officer?
 - viii. The Coordinator of Education?
 - ix. The Leader of Development?
 - x. The Coordinator of Infrastructure?
 - xi. The Leader of Council Governance?
38. What is the position description for the Coordinator of Education in the Innovation and Development group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Coordinator of Education actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Coordinator of Education interact with
 - i. The Manager of Innovation and Development?
 - ii. The Leader of Innovation?
 - iii. The Leader of Development?
 - iv. The Coordinator of Infrastructure?
 - v. The Leader of Council Governance?
39. What is the position description for the Leader of Development in the Innovation and Development group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Leader of Development actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Leader of Development interact with
 - i. The Manager of Innovation and Development?
 - ii. The Leader of Innovation?

- iii. The Coordinator of Education?
- iv. The Coordinator of Infrastructure?
- v. The Leader of Council Governance?
- vi. The Principal Program Officer (4)?
- vii. The Senior Program Officer (2)?
- viii. The Senior Finance Program Officer?
- ix. The Program Officer?

40. What is the position description for the Coordinator of Infrastructure in the Innovation and Development group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Coordinator of Infrastructure actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Coordinator of Infrastructure interact with
 - i. The Manager of Innovation and Development?
 - ii. The Leader of Innovation?
 - iii. The Leader of Development?
 - iv. The Coordinator of Education?
 - v. The Leader of Council Governance?

41. What is the position description for the Leader of Council Governance in the Innovation and Development group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Leader Council Governance actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Leader of Council Governance interact with
 - i. The Manager of Innovation and Development?
 - ii. The Leader of Innovation?
 - iii. The Coordinator of Education?
 - iv. The Coordinator of Infrastructure?
 - v. The Leader of Development?
 - vi. The Senior Council Governance Officer (2)?
 - vii. Principal Council Governance Officer?
 - viii. Council Governance Officer (2)?

42. What is position description for the Principal Legal Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Principal Legal Policy Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Principal Legal Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?
 - ii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Policy Officer (2)
 - iv. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
 - v. The Senior Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Policy Officer?

43. What is position description for the Principal Finance Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Principal Finance Policy Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Principal Finance Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?
 - ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Policy Officer (2)
 - iv. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
 - v. The Senior Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Policy Officer?
44. What is position description for the Principal Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Principal Policy Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Principal Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?
 - ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
 - iv. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
 - v. The Senior Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Policy Officer?
45. What is position description for the Senior Finance Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Senior Finance Policy Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior Finance Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?
 - ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
 - iv. The Principal Policy Officers?
 - v. The Senior Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Policy Officer?
46. What is position description for the Senior Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Senior Policy Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?

- ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
- iii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
- iv. The Principal Policy Officers?
- v. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
- vi. The Policy Officer?

47. What is position description for the Policy Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Policy Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Policy Officer interact with
 - i. The Leader of Innovation?
 - ii. The Principal Legal Policy Officer?
 - iii. The Principal Finance Policy Officer?
 - iv. The Principal Policy Officers?
 - v. The Senior Finance Policy Officer?
 - vi. The Senior Policy Officer?

48. What is position description for the Principal Program Officers (4) in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Do the Principal Program Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How do the Principal Program Officers interact with
 - i. The Senior Program Officers (2)?
 - ii. The Senior Finance Program Officer?
 - iii. The Program Officer?

49. What is position description for the Senior Program Officers (2) in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Do the Senior Program Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How do the Senior Program Officers interact with
 - a) The Principal Program Officers (4)?
 - b) The Senior Finance Program Officer?
 - c) The Program Officer?

50. What is position description for the Senior Finance Program Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?

- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
- b. Does the Senior Finance Program Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
- c. How does the Senior Finance Program Officer interact with
 - a) The Principal Program Officers (4)?
 - b) The Senior Program Officers?
 - c) The Program Officer?

51. What is position description for the Program Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Program Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Program Officer interact with
 - a) The Principal Program Officers?
 - b) The Senior Program Officers?
 - c) The Senior Finance Program Officer?

52. What is position description for the Senior Council Governance Officers (2) in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Senior Council Governance Officers actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How do the Senior Council Governance Officers interact with
 - a) The Leader of Council Governance?
 - b) The Principal Council Governance Officer?
 - c) The Council Governance Officers (2)?

53. What is position description for the Principal Council Governance Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Principal Council Governance Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Principal Council Governance Officer interact with
 - a) The Leader of Council Governance?
 - b) The Senior Council Governance Officers?
 - c) The Council Governance Officers (2)?

54. What is position description for the Council Governance Officer in the Innovation and Development Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Do the Council Governance Officers (2) actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Council Governance Officer interact with
 - a) The Leader of Council Governance?
 - b) The Senior Council Governance Officers?
 - c) The Principal Council Governance Officer?

55. What is the position description for the Coordinator of DLG Governance in the Executive Support Group of the Division of Local Government?
 - a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Coordinator of DLG Governance actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Coordinator of DLG Governance interact with

- i. The Deputy Chief Executive?
- ii. The Principal Lawyer?
- iii. The Ministerial Liaison Officer?

56. What is the position description for the Ministerial Liaison Officer in the Executive Support Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Ministerial Liaison Officer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Ministerial Liaison Officer interact with
 - a) The Deputy Chief Executive?
 - b) The Principal Lawyer?
 - c) The Coordinator of DLG Governance?
57. What is the position description for the Senior Lawyer in the Executive Support Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Senior Lawyer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Senior Lawyer interact with
 - i. The Principal Lawyer?
 - ii. The Lawyer?
58. What is the position description for the Lawyer in the Executive Support Group of the Division of Local Government?
- a. Does the position directly influence the delivery of local council services? How?
 - b. Does the Lawyer actively take part in the delivery of services to councils?
 - c. How does the Ministerial Liaison Officer interact with
 - i. The Principal Lawyer?
 - ii. The Senior Lawyer?
59. Which financial institutions will be participating in the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme? Have any financial institutions been approached by local councils?
60. Has the risk that councils may lose substantial revenue been taken into account in TCORP's financial audit and the approval process for the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme?
61. If there is a project variation, and it increases the cost of the project and if the council requires an increase in their loan, will the Government increase the interest subsidy to that council project?
62. Will the Government publish the names of contractors awarded tenders?
63. Has there been an assessment of each council's capacity to cope with market changes over the period of the interest subsidy loan in circumstances such as a recurrence of the Global Financial Crisis, changes to local demographics, or market shock or interest rate rises?

64. If the cost of a project funded under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme is in excess of original expectations, what will happen?
65. Can the Minister advise what measures the Government will undertake in circumstances where a council is unable to repay its loan?
66. Can the Minister provide details regarding the process for progress work reports?
67. Have rate variations been taken into account in providing the interest subsidy?
68. Why do original documents (including circulars to councils) in 2011 state that the Scheme will be rolled out over 5 years, while later documents (including circulars to councils) in 2012 state that the Scheme will be rolled out over 6 years?
69. If the Scheme will be rolled out over 6 years, and councils have 10 years to repay the loans, will the interest subsidy provided by the Government cover the full 10 year period?
70. In 2011, the Government announced that \$70 million in interest subsidies would unlock \$1 billion in infrastructure spending. In 2012, the Government increased the funding from \$70 million to \$100 million yet the figure to be unlocked remains at \$1 billion. Can the Minister account for this variation in input without an increase in output?
71. Various statements issued by the Government have provided a figure (such as 4% or 5%) for the Government's interest subsidy. Other statements have provided a proportion, namely half. Can the Minister clarify?
72. Is the Division of Local Government conducting the actual council by council infrastructure audit? If so, which unit within the Division is responsible for this task? If not, can the Minister provide the name of the person or company conducting the audit and the total cost to government.
73. Will a progress report on the council by council infrastructure audit be published on the Division's website?
74. In Budget Estimates Committee Hearings on 11 October, the Minister stated that he had in his possession a list of the councils in NSW that are struggling financially. The Minister referred to Percy Allan's report in 2006 as the basis of this list. Can the Minister advise whether more recent information is available? If so, can the Minister provide recent information to support his claim that "half the councils in NSW are struggling financially"? If not, why not?
75. In Budget Estimates Committee Hearings on 11 October, the Minister stated his support for the Auditor-General's report *Monitoring Local Government*. Page 2 of the report states that "although DLG meets its legislative obligations, it does not have adequate information to monitor important aspects of council performance, including service delivery. The Act does not require councils to provide such information, nor DLG to review

it". In light of these observations regarding the shortcomings of existing legislation, will the Government introduce legislation to strengthen the Division of Local Government's powers?

76. In Budget Estimates Committee Hearings on 11 October, the Minister stated "at any one time there can be up to 20 or 25 councils that are being watched – you might say a credit watch almost. On top of that we have a number of councils that are struggling and may have been on credit watch in the past but have now taken certain measures at the recommendation of the Division of Local Government, or Treasury possibly in more recent times". Can the Minister advise:
- a) Whether any councils currently on "credit watch" have been approved for an interest subsidy?
 - b) Where a council has previously been on "credit watch", how long after being taken off "credit watch" a council is eligible for an interest subsidy?
 - c) Will the Minister disclose the council "credit watch" monitoring on the Division of Local Government website?
 - d) Will the Government disclose further assessments by Fiscal Star that rates local councils' financial sustainability?
 - e) Will the Government disclose Fiscal Star data for the 2010/11 and 2011/12 financial years?
77. On 14 August 2012 the Minister told 2UE Radio that there are "we have way too many councils". If councils are amalgamated in the future, what will be the financial impact on loans amalgamating councils have taken out under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme?
78. Will the Minister rule out an increase in council rates in cases where councils are unable to afford to pay back their loans under the Scheme?
79. Minister, can you update the Committee on the seven reviews you are conducting?
- Reviews are:
- a) An audit of council infrastructure needs announced May 2011, due March 2013
 - b) Review into the Intergovernmental Agreement announced June 2011
 - c) Review of the *Local Government Act 1993* announced June 2011
 - d) A Companion Animals Taskforce announced August 2011
 - e) Destination 2036 – the outcome of the closed door conference (which cost taxpayers close to \$400,000 was the appointment of an "Implementation Steering Committee" to develop an "Action Plan" for Local Government Reform without the inclusion of ratepayers, employees and pensioners
 - f) Local Government Review Panel announced 2012: "listening tour" to begin July 2012, report due July 2013
 - g) Review of the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* announced January 2012
80. Minister, with regard to the work of the Independent Local Government Review Panel and now that the Council elections have been held returning many new Councillors, do you propose to conduct a second "Listening Tour" by the Panel to hear what the newly

elected and re-elected Councillors have to say, given that the meetings were all conducted prior to the 8 September elections?

81. In the 2010-2011 financial year, the NSW Environmental Trust funded 10 local councils to clean up illegally dumped waste in their local government areas:
- a) Blacktown City Council
 - b) Eurobodalla Shire Council
 - c) Fairfield City Council
 - d) Hawkesbury City Council
 - e) Hurstville City Council
 - f) Lane Cove Council
 - g) Liverpool City Council
 - h) Marrickville Council
 - i) Strathfield Municipal Council
 - j) The Council of Camden

Can the Minister advise whether these councils, or any other councils in NSW, received funding for the clean up of illegally dumped waste in 2011-12?

82. Can the Minister advise whether the Government is providing funding for the proper disposal of asbestos and other demolition waste? If so, to which councils and how much?
83. It was reported on Lismore ABC on Tuesday 9 October that a Lismore builder has been fined for illegally disposing of asbestos near a play area and high school in Kadina. What support is the Government providing to Lismore Council to clean up asbestos?
84. What support are North Coast councils receiving to clean up asbestos?
85. Will your Government continue to provide funding to the Local Government Asbestos Disposal Program ?
86. The last available figures on this program are for the 2010-11 financial year. Did you fund the program in 2011-12? If not, why not?
87. On the 6th of September 2012, the Minister for Finance and Services was asked in a Question Without notice:

"In light of the Government's support for the Schott report's recommendation for periodic review of all concessional arrangements across government, will the Minister guarantee that the pensioner rebate scheme will not be abolished or reduced?"

The Minister responded that the Government "will be acting on that recommendation".

Will the Minister for Local Government be acting on the Schott report's recommendation to abolish or reduce the pensioner rebate, which will lead to higher rates for pensioners?

88. Can the Minister rule out making changes that will see pensioners pay more for their rates?
89. Has the Government received any unsolicited proposals with regards to the roads and maintenance contracts?
90. Last year in Budget Estimates, the Minister stated that the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme would be funded by T-Corp. Can the Minister explain why part of the \$13 million increase to the Division of Local Government is to do with the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme if it's being overseen by a completely separate government body?
91. Which councils missed out on the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme? Why?
92. On the 3rd of July, the ABC reported that Gosford, Coffs Harbour, Hurstville, and Parkes councils lost several million dollars each as a result of their participation in collateralised debt obligations through a subsidiary of Lehman Brothers. Can you provide a brief on the current financial situation of these councils with respect to Collateralised Debt Obligations?
93. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has just elected new councillors after several years in administration. They have lost millions of dollars. Can you provide an update on their current financial circumstances?
94. In relation to Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme application and projects on the North Coast, what role did you play?
95. Many of the 62 councils that have been approved for Round 1 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme also rely on road maintenance contracts for their revenue. Currently the Government is planning to outsource road maintenance contracts. In assessing Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme applications have you factored in the ability of councils to repay their loans if your government cuts off a vital revenue stream by outsourcing road maintenance contracts?
96. Can the Minister advise what policies or codes of conduct are in place regarding conflicts of interest in circumstances where senior council employees participate on tender panels and also seek employment with successful tenderers?
97. In August of this year, the Upper Hunter shire Council raised concerns about the number of staff leaving the organisation to pursue other careers, including well-paid jobs in the mining sector. In the 2011/12 financial year the Council advertised 26 positions as a result of staff departures. More than 30 per cent of those who left did so to take up jobs in the

mining sector. Can the Minister advise the House what the O'Farrell Government is doing to assist councils in retaining their staff, particularly in rural and mining areas?

98. The Minister for Local Government told 2UE radio on the 14th of August 2012: "we have way too many councils". If the NSW Government is considering local government amalgamations, can the Minister advise whether the potential cost of de-amalgamation has been assessed in light of the Queensland Government's decision to reverse the process of local government amalgamations in that State? If so, what is that cost estimated to be?
99. On 21 September 2012 the Federal Court found Lehman Brothers Australia guilty of deceptive and misleading conduct, which induced 72 Australian councils, charities and church groups to spend more than \$1 billion on synthetic collateralised debt obligations. What support has the Government provided to the three New South Wales councils involved in this law suit and to the other New South Wales councils affected by Lehman Brothers' conduct?
100. The Infrastructure NSW document *State Infrastructure Strategy* divides Sydney into two categories: Greater Sydney and Global Sydney. Graphics on page 25 of the document indicate that Global Sydney consists of 18 Local Government Areas. The graphics also divide Greater Sydney into 6 groups:
1. North West
 2. South West
 3. West Central
 4. North
 5. Central Coast
 6. South

Are these methods of dividing Local Government Areas in Sydney a blueprint for the amalgamation of councils in "Greater Sydney" into 6 "super councils"?

101. On the 16th of September 2011 the Minister for Local Government told the 7:30 NSW programme:

"I as a Minister in the Government support the idea of local government being recognised in the Federal Constitution. Particularly if that support leads to financial arrangements that enable the Federal Government to give local government money directly rather than having to come through the State, as is the case at the moment. I think we'd get better use of the money coming from the taxpayers' money coming from the Feds going to local government. And I think also the financial situation with local councils across the state, if they can tap into a source of revenue, whether it be GST - that's probably the most practical one - a percentage of GST revenue, that would be very helpful to local government".

On the 25th of November 2011 the Premier and Minister for Western Sydney wrote to the Chair of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government. In relation to financial recognition of local government, the Premier stated:

"...an amendment to the Constitution that would allow the Federal Government to grant funds directly to local government may result in the NSW State Plan and other major State Government policies being sidetracked or not given due regard."

Can the Minister advise whether the NSW State Government supports or opposes financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution? If the Government does support it what practical measures have been taken to demonstrate this support?

102. In answer to Question on Notice No. 2121 the Minister provided figures for the total cost of consultants working for the Division of Local Government for the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12. Can the Minister provide the names of those consultants and the work they performed?
103. The Division of Local Government document *Division of Local Government – Organisational Structure* states that the position of Principal Lawyer is vacant. Can the Minister advise:
- When will the Division of Local Government fill this vacancy;
 - How long has this position been left vacant
 - What is the process of recruitment for the Principal Lawyer's position?
 - Has it been advertised?
 - Who has been performing the tasks normally performed by the Principal Lawyer. If these tasks are being performed by contractors, at what cost?
104. In relation to the position of Manager Innovation and Development, can the Minister advise:
- On what date was this position taken up by its current holder;
 - Was this position advertised. If yes, when and where? If not, why not?
 - What processes were undertaken in filling this position;
 - Did the Division of Local Government seek advice from the Public Service Commissioner in filling this position, and other executive management positions in the Division's new structure?
105. Will the Government rule out altering the boundaries of the City of Sydney so that they emulate those of the Sydney Central Business District?
106. Section 16 of the Infrastructure NSW document *State Infrastructure Strategy* refers to difficulties in financing key infrastructure.
- Will the Government rule out introducing legislation to introduce a special purpose property levy to pay for key infrastructure such as roads or light rail, passing the cost onto residents of suburbs through which this infrastructure passes?

- b) How will the Government determine whether new infrastructure projects will increase the value of property assets?
107. The Division of Local Government document *Division of Local Government – Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015* states on page 10 that one of the indicators set for *Goal 2 – Councils are actively engaged with their communities* is to "increase the percentage of councils where the demographics of their councillors and council staff reflect the demographics of the population in their council area". What strategies does the Division have in place for increasing the number of:
- a) Women
 - b) People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds?
108. The Division of Local Government document *Division of Local Government – Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015* states on page 14 that one of the indicators set for *Goal 6 – New South Wales is a recognised leader in Local Government infrastructure asset management* is "all councils have an infrastructure renewal ratio consistent with industry minimum standards".
- a) Can the Minister advise how this goal will be met in cases where local councils lack the financial capacity to meet such a ratio?
 - b) Can the Minister advise how this goal will be met in cases where local councils' finances preclude them from participation in the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme?
109. The Division of Local Government document *Division of Local Government – Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015* states on page 14 that one of the strategies for achieving *Goal 7 – Divisional resources are optimised* is to "ensure the Division has effective planning and reporting mechanisms".
- a) Will the Government address the Auditor General's concerns on page 3 of the report *Monitoring Local Government* that the current reporting processes, which requires councils to supply information about their financial and non-financial performance to the Division of Local Government, have resulted in variations in "timeliness, completeness and accuracy" of information gathered?
110. In April 2012 the *Local Government Act 1993* was amended and a new section 451(4) was inserted. The new section enables a councillor to participate in discussions and voting in:
- a) the making of a principal environmental planning instrument applying to all or a significant part of the Local Government Area or;
 - b) the making of amendments to such an instrument; or
 - c) the abolition of such an instrument

If a special disclosure is made:

Is there an increased risk of corruption in cases where s 451(4) enables councillors to participate in decision making even though they may have major land holdings in their Local Government Area?

111. What data or financial criteria were utilised by TCORP in conducting audits of council finances?
112. 62 councils have been approved for interest subsidies in Round 1 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. Can the Minister advise the total amount that each council will borrow to fund their projects?
113. I refer to the statement made by Len Robinson, Liberal Councillor on Blacktown City Council that childcare is not a council function. Do you support his statement that childcare should not be run by local councils?
114. In light of the Government's unqualified support for the NSW Commission of Audit Report's recommendation for periodic reviews of all concessional arrangements across government, will you assure all eligible pensioners that the Government will keep the Pensioner Rebate Scheme?

(Commission of Audit Report p 333-339; Barry O'Farrell Media Release 9 August 2012)

115. I refer to the Minister's statements on radio 2UE Channel 10 in August that there are too many Councils in Sydney. Which Sydney metropolitan councils does the Minister propose to abolish after the elections?

(Transcripts 2UE 14 August 2012; Channel 10 15 August 2012)

116. In light of your amendment to the Local Government legislation earlier this year allowing councillors to vote on matters despite a vested or financial interest in the matter under discussion, what mechanisms have you put in place to stop corruption?

(Sophie Cotsis Sydney Central 28 April 2012)

117. Minister, the discussion document released as part of the work being undertaken by your Independent Local Government Review Panel states that some communities would be able to afford increased rates. Can the Minister tell us which NSW communities would be able to afford to pay increased rates?

(Strengthening your Community Consultation Paper, p 12.
www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au)

118. Action 5B of the Destination 2036 Action Plan calls for an examination of current local government revenue system including looking at rating provisions. Will you reject any recommendation by the Local Government Review Panel to change the current system of rate control which provides councils with annual rate income increases yet protects ratepayers from unjustified rate hikes?

(Destination 2036 Action Plan, June 2012 p.27)

119. The Outcomes Report from your Destination 2036 initiative lists for review the development of processes for implementing the deregulation of local government fees and charges. Do you support this?
120. The Outcomes Report from your Destination 2036 initiative lists for review specific options to increase the financial sustainability of councils including removing, phasing out or further revising rate pegging. Do you support this?
121. The Outcomes Report from your Destination 2036 initiative lists for review and the development processes "other options" to improve financial sustainability. Can you outline what these "other options" might be?

(Appendix B: Suggested Actions from [Destination 2036 Outcomes Report](#) p56. Refer: [Elton Outcomes Report](#) [click here](#))

122. When is the Government expecting to release the next stage in your proposals to change the funding model for emergency services?
123. Do you think that it is reasonable that the discussion paper failed to outline any estimates of what a new model might cost either for ratepayers or the Government? Do you think it is reasonable that the paper selectively quoted the report from the Public Accounts committee failing to point out that the committee recommended against changing? Is that an example of a balanced information according to the O'Farrell Government?
124. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has stated to the Parliament and the Treasurers comments seem to indicate that the current system is going to be changed, to you agree with their comments?
125. What commitment can you give to local government that if they are expected to collect a new charge on rates they will be fully compensated for the cost?
126. What research has the Government undertaken to model the application and impacts of changing to a new emergency services funding model?
127. Can you provide the committee with any independent modelling undertaken by the Government on the impacts?
128. Are you aware of modelling commissioned by the Insurance Council regarding alternative models for rates based Levies?
 - a) Has either your office or the Department of Local Government reviewed the have you read the work undertaken by Deloitte on behalf of the Insurance Council of Australia?

129. Are you aware that under the Deloitte modelling for the Insurance Council rural property owners will be between \$219 and \$1,000 worse off by a change to a property based levy. Do you agree that a similar levy should be implemented?
130. Are you aware of when the review into the RFS funding model restructure will be completed?

The North Coast

131. As Minister for The North Coast do you have:
- a) An office (apart from your electorate office) in The North Coast?
 - i. If so where the office is located, which person or business owns the premises, what is the floor space, what is the annual rent, what is the staffing of the office and how frequently, if ever, do you work out of that office?
 - b) Dedicated staff to deal with this portfolio responsibility?
 - i. If so, how many staff are there and what is their annual remuneration and in which office are they located?
132. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited The North Coast in your capacity as The North Coast.
133. With whom did you meet and what was the purpose of the meetings?
134. Were you accompanied by any family members, staff or friends during those visits? If so who accompanied you on each trip and what was the cost to the taxpayer of this?
135. How many representations have you made to other Ministers in your capacity as the Minister for The North Coast and what was the nature of those representations?

Miscellaneous

136. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
137. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
138. How many mobile phones have been lost in your office?
139. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
140. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
141. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

142. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
143. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
144. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
145. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
146. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?
147. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
148. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
149. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
150. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
151. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
152. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
153. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
154. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
155. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
156. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
157. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
158. How many political advisors are in your office?
159. How many administration staff?
160. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
161. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

162. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
If so, in what capacities?
163. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
164. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?
165. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
166. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
167. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
168. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
169. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
170. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?
171. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
172. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
173. What is your Department's catering budget?
174. What is your Department's stationary budget?
175. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
176. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
177. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
178. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
179. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
180. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
181. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

182. 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 2011/2012?
- h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

183. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

184. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

185. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

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

187. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

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?

188. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

189. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?

190. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?
191. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
192. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?
193. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?
194. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?
195. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?
196. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?
197. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;
 - a) Who conducted the training?
 - b) When was it conducted?
 - c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - d) Who paid for the training?

End of questions from the Hon. Sophie Cotsis, MLC.