



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Treasury

Tuesday 25 October

Answers to be lodged by: 18 November 2011

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
25 October 2011	Treasury	18 November 2011 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Treasury

25 OCTOBER 2011, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

1. Waratah Bonds
 - a. How many applications for Waratah Bonds have been lodged by close of business on October 26?
 - b. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in Sydney?
 - c. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in Wollongong?
 - d. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in Newcastle?
 - e. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes outside Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle?
 - f. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in Tamworth?
 - g. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in Tweed Heads?
 - h. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from post codes in western Sydney?
 - i. How many of those applications for Waratah Bonds came from people who were over 65 years of age?
2. Payroll Tax rebates
 - a. How many payroll tax rebates - as created under the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Bill 2011 -- were issued/paid for people working less than 10 hours a week?
 - b. How many payroll tax rebates - as created under the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Bill 2011 -- were issued/paid for people working less than five hours a week?
 - c. How many payroll tax rebates - as created under the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Bill 2011 -- were issued/paid for people working less than one hour a week?
3. Regional Relocation Grant
 - a. How many people have been successful in receiving the Regional Relocation Grant as of today's date?
 - b. How many people have applied?
 - c. Where in Sydney were they located before the move?
 - d. Where did they move to?
 - e. How many west of the dividing range?
 - f. What were the ages of the successful recipients?
 - g. With regard to the marketing of the program, how much has been spent so far in advertising the scheme out of the 1 million?
 - h. Is there a budget for the campaign?
 - i. Who was engaged to prepare the marketing?
 - j. Was the ad campaign an open tender or a selective/exclusive process?
 - k. Who was awarded the contract for the work?
 - l. How many people are responsible for administering the Grant program?
 - m. How many Staff are paid to check compliance with the Grant Program?
 - n. How do you intend to recoup the money if recipients do not adhere to the conditions of the Grant Program?
 - o. Can you guarantee that unspent funds will not be considered 'windfall gains'?
 - p. Can you guarantee that any unspent funds will in fact be spent in Country NSW – West of the dividing range?
4. Treasurer, consistent with both the comments on page 3 of the Budget speech (Budget Paper No. 1) and Goal 31 of the document NSW 2021 relating to transparency, will the Budget Papers over the

forthcoming forward estimates period with respect to infrastructure spending clearly distinguish between State and Commonwealth contributions to the projects?

5. Treasurer, consistent with both the comments on page 3 of the Budget speech (Budget Paper No. 1) and Goal 31 of the document NSW 2021 relating to transparency, will the Budget Papers over the forthcoming forward estimates period with respect to grants clearly distinguish between State and Commonwealth contributions to the total amounts?
6. What were the assumptions in the modelling by Treasury that led to the establishment of the payroll tax rebate being set at the amount of \$4000?
7. On page 3 of the Budget speech (Budget Paper No. 1) reference is made to the Government's priority to introduce greater contestability in the provision of public services –
 - a. Has formal advice been sought and obtained from Treasury to confirm that the policy of contestability is appropriate to be applied across the entire range of public services?
 - b. If it has, what does the advice say?
8. On page 12 of the Budget speech (Budget Paper No. 1) it is stated that Restart NSW will be funded from a range of sources including windfall revenues when in surplus, funds made available by the long term lease of the Sydney Desalination Plant and Waratah bonds. Other than these three examples given what will be the other sources of funding for Restart NSW?
9. What criteria has been provided by Treasury with respect to determining both the number and size of all the grants announced in the 2011-12 budget?
10. Phones
 - a. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?
 - b. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - c. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
 - d. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - e. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
 - f. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?
 - g. How many have phones or devices have been lost in your office?
 - h. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?
11. Media and Public Relations
 - a. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
 - b. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
 - c. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?
12. Overseas Trips
 - a. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
 - b. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
13. Office Costs
 - a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
 - b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
 - c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
 - d. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?
 - e. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?
 - f. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

- g. What is your office budget?
 - h. How many political advisors are in your office?
 - i. How many administration staff?
 - j. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?
 - k. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
14. Cabcharge
- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?
15. Restructure
- a. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
 - b. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
 - c. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
 - d. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?
16. Agency Costs
- a. What is your agency's catering budget?
 - b. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
 - c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
 - d. How much has been spent on stationary?
17. Correspondence
- a. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?
 - b. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
18. Paying bills on time
- a. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
 - b. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?
19. Grants to non-government organisations
- a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
 - b. If yes,
 - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
 - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - vii. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - viii. What is the indexation rate applied to non recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
20. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews
- a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews,
 - b. If so;
 - i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - vi. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

21. Parliamentary Secretary
- a. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary (Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC) incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
 - i. kilometres travelled
 - ii. accommodation,
 - iii. air fares
 - iv. meals/entertaining?
 - b. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
 - i. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - ii. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - c. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
 - i. Are these meetings documented?
 - ii. Who attends these meetings?
 - d. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
 - e. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary?
 - f. If so:
 - i. Who conducted the training?
 - ii. When was it conducted
 - iii. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - iv. Who paid for the training?

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

22. For each of the state-owned electricity transmission and distribution companies, please provide for each of the last five years
- a. the net profit?
 - b. the total dividend paid to the NSW government?
 - c. the tax equivalent payment to the NSW government?
23. For each of the state-owned electricity transmission and distribution companies, please provide for each of the next four years, the government's estimate of
- a. the net profit?
 - b. the total dividend paid to the NSW government?
 - c. the tax equivalent payment to the NSW government?
24. For each of the state-owned electricity generation corporations, please provide for each of the last five years, the government's estimate of
- a. the net profit?
 - b. the total dividend paid to the NSW government?
 - c. the tax equivalent payment to the NSW government?
25. For each of the state-owned electricity generation corporations, please provide for each of the next four years, the government's estimate of
- a. the net profit?
 - b. the total dividend paid to the NSW government?
 - c. the tax equivalent payment to the NSW government?

26. Please provide an analysis of the impacts of the gentrader transactions, including the sale of the retailers, on each of the state-owned energy services corporations (transmission, distribution and retail and generation) in terms of reductions in actual past or estimated future:
 - a. the net profit?
 - b. the total dividend paid to the NSW government?
 - c. the tax equivalent payment to the NSW government?

27. Does the NSW government hold any investments in the Altria Group?
 - a. If so, when were they purchased and by which government agency, how many shares or other equity instruments were purchased, how much did they cost and what is the current rate of return on this investment?
 - b. If not, when were they sold and for how much?

28. Does the NSW government hold any investments in any corporations manufacturing, importing, wholesaling, retailing or marketing tobacco products?
 - a. If so, for each investment, please provide the following information: the name of the corporation, when were they purchased and by which government agency, how many shares or other equity instruments were purchased, how much did they cost and what is the current rate of return on this investment?

29. Does the NSW government hold any investments in any corporations manufacturing, importing, wholesaling, retailing or marketing alcohol products?
 - a. If so, for each investment, please provide the following information: the name of the corporation, when were they purchased and by which government agency, how many shares or other equity instruments were purchased, how much did they cost and what is the current rate of return on this investment?

30. Does the NSW government hold any investments in any corporations involved in gambling or gambling products?
 - a. If so, for each investment, please provide the following information: the name of the corporation, when were they purchased and by which government agency, how many shares or other equity instruments were purchased, how much did they cost and what is the current rate of return on this investment?

31. Does the NSW government hold any investments in any corporations involved in manufacture, design, research, development, trading or other activities involving armaments and weapons?
 - a. If so, for each investment, please provide the following information: the name of the corporation, when were they purchased and by which government agency, how many shares or other equity instruments were purchased, how much did they cost and what is the current rate of return on this investment?

32. Please provide the total amounts of money paid to each credit rating agency for each of the past 5 financial years.

33. Please provide updated information on the total costs of services provided in respect of the Gentrader transaction (including the sale of the retailers), including, for each financial year
 - a. the name of the service provider?
 - b. the services provided?
 - c. the total payment?

34. Please provide information on the total costs of services provided to date in respect of the proposed transaction involving Sydney Desalination Limited and its Kurnell desalination plant, including,
 - a. the name of the service provider?
 - b. the services provided?
 - c. the total payment?

35. For each state-owned energy service company (the distributors, TransGrid and the three state-owned generation companies), please provide
 - a. the total level of debt?
 - b. a breakdown of to whom this debt is owed and when payment is due?
 - c. the total interest paid on this debt in the previous financial year?

36. Please provide an analysis of total state debt, with a separate analysis of debt held by state-owned corporations, indicating
 - a. the total amount?
 - b. for each of the following financial year the amount that matures and the weighted average interest rate paid on it?

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There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of Treasury.