



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Police and Emergency Services
The Hunter

Thursday 11 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 6 November 2012

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Questions from the Hon. Robert Borsak MLC

1. In Budget Paper 3 at page 2-39, the Policy and Finance Unit in the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services had a budget of \$4.5 million for 2011-12, but had it revised to \$10.7 million, and this year has a further increase in funding to \$10.9 million. Why the need for such an increase and how many extra staff work in the Unit now, compared to two years ago?
2. How many staff are there in the Policy and Finance Unit. How many of them have a background in policing and firearms, and in what disciplines do these staff hold tertiary qualifications?
3. What studies were done which informed the previous Government's decision to locate the Firearms Registry at Murwillumbah, and what work has been done since, to determine if it is in the right place and readily accessible to its core users?
4. How many people are employed at the Firearms Registry, how many of them hold a firearms licence, and what has been the staff turnover in the Registry in each of the last three years?
5. What percentage of Permit's to Acquire are approved in a timely fashion so as the applicants wait no longer than the prescribed 28 days?
6. By postcode, how many applications for firearm licences are made from the Murwillumbah area, compared to Dubbo, Wagga, Griffith, Tamworth, Cessnock and Parkes?
7. I note the Policy and Finance Unit drew up 32 Cabinet minutes in 2011-12, and is forecasting 25 for this year. Are all cabinet minutes drawn up in consultation with the Minister, or does the Unit simply draw up what it thinks the Minister needs and presents it to him? Can you go through the process please?
8. In relation to the Firearms Amendment – Ammunition Control Bill, was a cost evaluation of the implementation of this Bill done before its introduction, and has one been done since. If so, what are the expected costs, and is this an additional impost on policing resources?
9. Was the increased red tape that will result from the Firearms Amendment (Ammunition Control) Act, considered under this review?
10. How many staff are there in the Police media unit, and how does this compare to the media unit in Family and Community Services. How has this number varied over the last four years, and how many of these staff in the Police media unit work on the Eyewatch program on Facebook?
11. What is the budget cost of the Media Unit? How has it changed in the last four years, and how much of this change is attributed to Eyewatch?
12. Under our law, a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. How then does the Commissioner justify inviting the media along to report on arrests or even serving of a

warrant to search premises?

13. How many firearms have been confiscated from licensed firearm dealers in each of the last four years? How many charges were actually laid in regard to these firearms, and how many of these charges were successfully prosecuted in court?
14. What steps does the Commissioner intend to take to make reparations for loss of income and damage to reputation in regard to widely publicised "raids" on licensed firearms dealers, where either no conviction is made, or the case is reduced to unintentional breaches of the mountains of red tape facing dealers?
15. One of the achievements noted in the performance report for the Attorney General and Justice Cluster for 2011-12 is the finalisation of a review into reducing police red tape. When will the results of that review be made available, and what recommendations were included that would reduce the red tape attached to the ownership and use of firearms in New South Wales, the licensing and operation of commercial firearms businesses, or the licensing and operation of firing ranges in NSW?
16. How many safekeeping inspections of licensed firearms owners have been conducted each year over the last five years?
17. How, and on what database, are these safekeeping inspections recorded?
18. Do licensed firearms owners continue to be provided with a record of the date and result of the safekeeping inspection? If not, why not?
19. Some firearms owners have reported that they have been inspected several times in the last few years, but that the inspecting officer on subsequent inspections has been unable to locate a record of any previous inspections. Why would police be unable to find a record of previous inspections? What procedures are in place to ensure that police resources are not wasted by repeat inspections of the same premises?
20. What procedure is followed to ensure that errors in the Firearms Registry identified during such inspections are relayed to the Firearms Registry so that the Registry records can be corrected?
21. How old are the extracts from the Firearms Registry used by officers from a LAC when they conduct a safekeeping inspection? How often does the Registry supply LACs with updated extracts, and what arrangements are in place within LACs to ensure the security of these lists?

End of questions from the Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC.

Question from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

1. Are Tasers currently permitted to be used by NSW Police as a "compliance technique"?
2. How many regional reviews of Taser use have been conducted?
3. How many uses of Tasers by officers were found in breach of guidelines as a result of such reviews?
4. What action, if any, was taken to address these breaches?
5. What data is collected about dog identifications and searches by police following indications?
6. Does the data currently being collected allow a full assessment of the efficacy of the sniffer dog program?
7. What is considered an acceptable level of instances where dogs indicate the presence of drugs but a search proves the person identified by the dog is not in the possession of any drugs (false positives)?
8. What data is collected to identify dogs or handlers who have particularly high "false positive" rates resulting in searches?
9. What records are kept regarding the suicide or attempted suicide of active police officers?
10. What records are kept regarding the suicide or attempted suicide of former police officers?
11. What steps are being taken by the NSW Police Force to address suicide of officers?
12. Of the 460 police properties reported in 2011 as being affected by asbestos and other hazardous materials, how many still have not had work completed to remove hazardous materials?
13. What is the timeframe for completion of the remaining properties?
14. How many families are living in housing which contains asbestos or lead as identified in this report?
15. How many police are working in stations which contain asbestos or lead as identified in this report?
16. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for the police cannon?
17. What is the operating cost per hour for the water cannon?
18. On how many occasions was the water cannon used in:
 - a. 2012 to date?
 - b. 2011?

c. 2010?

19. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for Nemesis?

20. What is the operating cost per hour for Nemesis?

21. On how many occasions was Nemesis used in:

- a. 2012 to date?
- b. 2011?
- c. 2010?

22. Are there any current plans to make changes to Part 6B of the Firearms Act to improve public safety?

23. When investigating reports of firearms stolen from properties, do the Police investigating each incident check whether the provision of that secure environment in each case had been done by a contractor with a Master Security Industry licence?

- a. If not then why not?

24. Can a secure environment for firearms be installed by a contractor without a Master Security Industry licence?

- a. If so, under what provision of the Security Industry Act
- b. If not, has any such non-licence holder been prosecuted?
- c. If not, has any Master Security Industry licence holder been investigated to see whether their workmanship in general meets the mandatory requirements of the Security Industry Act?

25. Has any Master Security Industry licence holder providing that security environment where firearms have been stolen been prosecuted for failing to meet the mandatory requirements of the Security Industry Act?

26. How many people are employed in the Police Media department?

27. What funding is allocated towards to the police media department?

28. How many LACs in NSW have facebook pages?

29. What is the purpose of having LACs on facebook?

30. Regarding moderation of the NSW Police Facebook page to remove "inappropriate posts" what does this cover?

Emergency Services

31. Are there plans in NSW to provide access to a 000 service in NSW through emergency SMS for deaf people?

Crime Commission

32. When will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be finalised?
33. When will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be published?
34. Will the guidelines for the Crime Commission's criminal asset recovery proceedings be made public?
 - a. If so, when?
 - b. If not, why not?
35. Who was consulted in the formulation of the guidelines for the Crime Commission for Criminal Asset recovery proceedings?

References on notice

The following reference on notice was provided by Mr Shoebridge following questions directed to Mr Shane Fitzsimmons, Commissioner, NSW Rural Fire Service (see page 42 of the hearing transcript):

Lindenmayer DB, Hunter ML, Burton PJ, Gibbons P. 'Effects of logging on fire regimes in moist forests', *Conservation Letters*, 2009, Vol 2 No 6, pp. 271-277.

(Document attached; web link: <http://soln.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/effects-of-logging-on-fire-regimes-in-moist-forests.pdf>)

Mr Shoebridge also suggested the research of Dr Chris Taylor, Melbourne School of Land and Management, University of Melbourne.

End of questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC.

Questions from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC.

Police and Emergency Services

1. Has the Minister received any representations from the Hon John Ajaka MLC requesting that the Middle Eastern Crime Squad be disbanded or renamed to remove any reference to the term "Middle eastern"? If so please provide copies of his representations and your replies?
2. Will you act to implement any recommendations on the use of tasers made by the NSW Coroner following the inquest into the death of Roberto Laudisio Curti? If not, why not?
3. On 11 October the South Australian Commissioner of Police, Gary Burns, announced that South Australian police will not use a taser in any circumstances where an offender isn't armed. Will this policy be adopted in NSW and if no, why not?
4. Minister, I refer to the exclusive interview given by the Commissioner to Andrew Clennell of the Daily Telegraph on 7 August 2012 on bail law reform. Do you think it is appropriate for the Commissioner of Police to refer to the Attorney General, the Hon Greg Smith MP, the first law officer of the Crown as a "good worker who knows the law"?
5. Will you and or any of your agencies be making submissions in response to the Government's Planning Green Paper on heritage matters? If not, why not?
6. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of the Newcastle Police Transport Command is 27,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
 - b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
7. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Brisbane Waters Police Transport Command is 27,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
 - b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
8. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Ku-ring-gai Police Transport Command is 36,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
 - b. If the number is not 36 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
9. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of the Parramatta Police Transport Command is 138,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
 - b. If the number is not 138 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
10. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Central Police Transport Command is 118,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
 - b. If the number is not 118 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
11. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Liverpool Police Transport Command is 105,
 - a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?

- b. If the number is not 105 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
12. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Lidcombe Police Transport Command is 36,
a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 36 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
13. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Campbelltown Police Transport Command is 27,
a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 27 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
14. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Wollongong Police Transport Command is 18,
a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 18 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
15. Can you confirm that the authorised strength of Hurstville Police Transport Command is 45,
a. what is the current number of operational FTE police in this unit?
b. If the number is not 45 authorised strength can you please provide the figure?
16. The Police website states that as at 24 August 2012 the authorised strength of the Police Transport Command is 301 yet the operational FTE is only 272.5. In the Transport estimates committee on Tuesday 9 October, the Minister for Transport provided the advice that the Police Transport Command was 328 (without stating whether this was authorised strength or operational FTE) Can you please confirm the authorised strength and the operational FTE of the Police Transport Command as at 31 October 2012?
17. Can you please provide the number of patrols the Police Transport Command has made on:
a. Buses
b. Cityrail train services
c. Ferries
d. Countrylink train services
18. Can you please provide the number of arrests the Police Transport Command has made on:
a. Buses
b. Cityrail train services
c. Ferries
d. Countrylink train services
19. Will the Police Transport Command be fully operational by the June 2014 deadline?
20. Is the Police Railway Vandalism Taskforce no longer operational?
21. Minister, what do you define as Frontline Police?
a. What roles are undertaken by frontline services?
b. What are the roles undertaken non-frontline officers?
c. What considerations have been made of the effectiveness of frontline officers to do their duties if non-frontline staff are taken from the force?

22. What is the appropriate level of authorised strength?
23. Due to the police reduction numbers will this mean that these frontline police will be required to cover and complete backroom duties?
24. If you have reduced the amount of Police Numbers, the authorised strength levels are low, the required levels of actual police numbers in LACs are down why did you cancel the September intake at the Goulburn Police Academy?
25. Commissioner have you raised any concerns with the Minister for Police and /of the Premier about funding cuts and or extra funding, resources and or staff in any area – LAC?
 - a. Have these requests been met?
26. As of the weekend beginning Friday, 28 of September how many arrests were made as of the work conducted by Police through Operation Rushmore?
 - a. How many of these were in relation to alcohol abuse?
 - b. How many of these were related to possession of illegal substances?
27. How many bus services were made available to patrons in Kings Cross as of Friday 28 of September?
 - a. What is the cost of these services?
28. How many more security guards have been added to the taxi ranks in the Cross?
 - a. Has the pre-paid system successfully been trialled?
29. How many pubs and clubs have introduced the linked ID scanners in the Cross?
30. Has the government estimated the cost of the proposed Sobering Up Centre?
 - a. What is the monthly and annual cost of the program?
 - b. Is this a trial program? How long will the program be trialled for?
 - c. Where will this centre be located?
 - d. Will be located within the vicinity St Vincent's Hospital?
 - e. How many trained staff will be required to service this program i.e. doctors and nurses?
 - f. Will Officers be required to undergo additional training? If so what kind of training?
31. Since the Governments announcement on 18 September to increase security in Kings Cross, has it installed any new CCTV cameras in the Kings Cross district? If not why not?
 - a. What current working relationships does the Government and NSW police have in place to work with current private CCTV cameras installed by Clubs and Council?
32. Minister within the Police NSW, within each branch are there select committees that deal with budget savings measures?
33. What are the names of these committees?
34. How often do they meet?

35. Who is on these committees?
36. What process was conducted to appoint Mr Peter Hastings QC to the head of the NSW Crime Commission?
37. Was he appointed by media release or by departmental due process?
38. Did this decision of his appointment go before cabinet?
39. In 2011, 1744 head of cattle and 28,389 sheep were reported stolen across NSW, costing an estimated \$3.8 million across the state. What is NSW Police doing to combat this epidemic?
40. What is NSW Police doing to help combat fuel theft from Rural Industries?
41. Are you aware of when the review into the RFS funding model restructure will be completed?

The Hunter

42. Why has the Government decided to cut \$1.7 billion out of the NSW education budget? Can you tell us what impact these cuts will have on schools in the Hunter?
43. Are you aware of how many schools in the Hunter have demountable classrooms?
44. I refer you to Hunter River Community School - a special needs school in Maitland
 - a. Have you visited this school? Will you commit to visit it?
45. Nukalba Public School in Cessnock – have you visited this school?
46. The Junction School in Newcastle? Do you know how many demountables they have?
47. Has the Government been in contact with the school to tell them when their demountables will be replaced?
48. Earlier this year, four Hunter people died in less than a month waiting for ambulances to arrive because the vehicles were detained at John Hunter Hospital. It was reported on the front page Newcastle Herald on Friday, July 27.
 - a. Did the Government investigate these incidents?
 - b. As Minister for the Hunter, did you make it your business to take a special interest in these investigations?
49. As Minister for The Hunter do you have:
 - a. An office in The Hunter?
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?

If so, how many staff are there and what is their annual remuneration and in which office are they located?

50. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited the Hunter in your capacity as Minister for The Hunter.

51. With whom did you meet and what was the purpose of the meetings?

52. 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?

53. How many representations have you made to other Ministers in your capacity as the Minister for The Hunter and what was the nature of those representations?

Miscellaneous

54. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

55. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?

56. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

57. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

58. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

59. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

60. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

61. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

62. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

63. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

64. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

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

66. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

67. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
68. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
69. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
70. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
71. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
72. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
73. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
74. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
75. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
76. How many political advisors are in your office?
77. How many administration staff?
78. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
79. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
80. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
81. If so, in what capacities?
82. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
83. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?
84. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
85. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
86. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
87. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
88. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

89. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?
90. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
91. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
92. What is your Department's catering budget?
93. What is your Department's stationary budget?
94. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
95. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
96. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
97. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
98. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
99. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
100. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?
101. 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?
102. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?
103. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
104. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

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

106. 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?

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

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

109. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

110. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

111. What is your Department budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

112. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?

113. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?

114. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

115. What is your Department budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

116. 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?

117. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011

- a. kilometres travelled

- b. accommodation,
- c. air fares
- d. meals/entertaining?

118. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;

- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

119. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- a. Are these meetings documented?
- b. Who attends these meetings?

120. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

121. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? 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?