

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Questions taken on notice during the hearing

Gaming & Racing

Q.1 Page 3

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: Can you tell me how much the Government had to reimburse the seven hotels in relation to legal fees?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: Are you talking about the cost to the Government in terms of our legal fees?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: No, as I understand it, apart from your legal fees, the Government had to reimburse the seven hotels in relation to their legal fees.

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I will take that on notice.

Q.1A Page 3

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: If you could also take on notice what the Government paid in relation to your own legal fees—two separate amounts.

ANSWER:

The Government's response to this Supreme Court legal action was managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Q.2 Page 6

Ms LEE RHIANNON: All I was asking was whether there is a comprehensive list and if it is publicly available.

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I am not sure that there is a comprehensive list. I can take that on notice. As I say, those grant allocations are determined by local committees set up within local communities. Many clubs—but I am not sure all—in their annual reports list the various groups within the community that they provide financial assistance to. But I am not sure that they actually have to send the list to us.

ANSWER:

Clubs provide details to the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority on the individual grants made under the Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme. Under delegated authority Communities NSW assesses this information to check compliance with the Scheme.

Provisions in the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and the *Taxation Administration Act 1996* prevent information on individuals and organisations relating to the Community Development and Support Expenditure Scheme being disclosed to third parties.

Q.3 Page 14 - 15

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: Was there any money spent by the Government in relation to the restructure or was that also spent by the industries?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I will take that on notice, but I am pretty sure they funded the bodies previously. The final direct costs of winding up the authority and the transfer of functions will be met by the receiving bodies, Greyhound Racing New South Wales and Harness Racing New South Wales.

ANSWER:

The direct costs of the restructure were funded by Greyhound Racing NSW and Harness Racing NSW and will be reported by those bodies in their annual reports.

The Government incurred some indirect costs by way of chairing and participating in the Transition Working Party, which oversighted the winding-up of the former Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority and the transfer of its functions to Greyhound Racing NSW and Harness Racing NSW.

Sport & Recreation

Q. 4 Page 17-18

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: Can you produce some statistics or other information that shows some results of what your department is doing? I am happy for you to take that on notice, obviously. I do not expect you to do it now.

Mr KEVIN GREENE: Okay, yes.

Q. 4A Page 17-18

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: According to the 2007-08 annual report, \$45,000 was provided to support athletes travelling to international sporting competitions. Are you able to indicate how much has been allocated for 2008-09 for the same purpose?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I should be able to give you that. Sorry, was it for 2008-09 or 2009-10?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: In 2007-08 it was \$25,000. I am trying to ascertain the figure for 2008-09. It sounds like a very small amount.

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I will have to take that on notice and get the exact figure for you. I might add that that is part of some of those figures I was going through in the talented programs.

ANSWER:

Information regarding Departmental programs and activities is available in the Annual Report.

Q 5. Page 20-21

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I specified who requested that. I understand that the clubs involved are the Southern Highlands Rifle Club, the Illawarra Regional Shooting Association, the Illawarra Service Rifle Club, the Kiama-Albion Park Rifle Club, the "74" Pistol Club, the Phoenix Pistol Club, the Illawarra branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, and the Shooters Party. Which of those bodies, or any other body, made that request?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I will have to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Communities NSW, Sport and Recreation Division.

Q. 5A Page 20-21

Ms LEE RHIANNON: You explained that the modifications were undertaken to ensure that it could work successfully as a complex. Some changes have been made to hours, and you explained about it working at the weekend. Could you explain the changes that have been proposed with regard to storing ammunition on the site?

Ms MILLS: I will have to take that question on notice.

ANSWER:

The changes proposed allow for licensed shooters who are travelling to the complex from out of the area for major events to temporarily store firearms and ammunition overnight. The storage will comply with the requirements of the NSW Firearms Registry.

Q. 5B Page 20-21

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Could you take on notice why you applied for each modification?

Ms MILLS: We would be happy to provide that information.

ANSWER:

Following consultation with representatives of the Southern Highland Regional Shooting Complex, it was felt that the modifications would assist in making the venue more effective for users.

Q. 5C Page 20-21

Ms LEE RHIANNON: As the shooting complex is promoted as a sporting complex and it receives money from the new administration, why are military rifles used at the site. I am not referring to the operations of the Australian Army but where military rifles are used for sporting activities there—SR98 and SR25 military rifles?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I would have to take that question on notice. I do not claim to be an expert on guns.

The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: There is a big difference between rifles and guns.

ANSWER:

I am advised that SR25 military rifles are not used at the complex. The SR98 is a bolt action military style rifle manufactured in Australia and can be legitimately shot by target shooters for the Service Rifle competition.

Q. 5D Page 20-21

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I understand that the Army uses the site five to 10 days per month. Could you explain the arrangement that you have with the Army with regard to its level of involvement and payment?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: I would have to take that on notice. That is very detailed and specific.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: Seriously?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: Yes.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: I just thought you would have had some of that detail, but fair enough. Please take that on notice.

ANSWER:

I am advised that the Army has not used the range for two years, other than to carry out noise testing for the proposed development.

Q. 5E Page 20-21

The other aspect I was hoping you would have some information about—otherwise please take it on notice—is the issue of contamination. Considering that contamination is considerable—that issue has been covered, I understand, in the work that you have set out to date—and it has to be cleaned up, will it be necessary to allocate money from any Department of Sport and Recreation grants or any other budgets to clean up the contamination? How will that be handled?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: Hilltop itself has been funded through a special line item in the budget and my advice is that it will take in part of that funding. I know that environmental standards, which I presume you are referring to, in terms of contamination will be maintained. I cannot be more specific than that.

Ms LEE RHIANNON: There is a history of conditions of consent being broken, and that information has been regularly detailed in the past on the department's website. That was one reason I was exploring the issue. The other reason is to clarify where the payment for that contamination clean-up will come from. Can you take that on notice?

Mr KEVIN GREENE: Certainly.

ANSWER:

The clubs using the site will be responsible for carrying out any contamination clean-up.