



The Hon Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister for the Hunter

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Mr Stewart Smith, Director
Budget Estimates
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Smith

Please find attached copies of answers to Budget Estimates questions on notice taken during the hearing for the portfolios of Police, Emergency Services and the Hunter. Also attached are the answers to the supplementary questions on notice and transcript corrections from the hearing.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC

Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Hunter

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES - POLICE
14 AUGUST 2013
PART A : HEARING QUESTIONS

1. CHILD ABUSE SQUAD

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Minister, the report in January 2013 said that 50 cases were ready to proceed in January, but suspects had not been arrested because of lack of resources. Have all these suspects now been arrested and charged?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: I remind the member that there has been substantial debate on this in the House. In fact, I recall answering these questions on a previous occasion. I refer him to my previous answers, but in lieu of that I will also take that question on notice from my perspective in respect of the answers that I have given. If there is anything further I need to add, I will.

ANSWER:

As I advised the House on 18 June 2013 in response to a Question Without Notice, the NSW Police Force has advised that these 50 cases were a subset of 67 matters which the Child Abuse Squad had progressed to a point where a formal complaint had been made.

Police advised that all of the 67 matters, including the 50 matters mentioned in the report, resulted in the offenders being arrested or legal action commenced by 20 December 2012. That is :

- 47 were arrested and charged;
 - 17 had future court attendance notices issued and legal action commenced. All have subsequently been placed before the court;
 - 3 warrants were issued for the arrest of the offenders. Each of those offenders has since been arrested. (These warrants were issued after the future court attendance notice process.)
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2. GUN CRIME - PAROLEES

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Commissioner, how many people currently being targeted on gun crime are out on parole?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The State Crime Command is currently targeting sixty six parolees in relation to gun crime.

3. MONEY LAUNDERING TARGET TEAM

Mr SCIPIONE: ... I do not have the details in terms of what the costing would relate to, but certainly those figures would have been absorbed. We were looking as well to look at

perhaps diverting some existing positions into this team and putting it as part of the Organised Crime Targeting Squad that sits currently within State Crime Command. But I do not have the details of what the costs would be. I could get those for you, but certainly at this stage I do not have them before me.

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: If you could take that on notice that would be good.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The total operating budget for a Money Laundering Target Team for a twelve months 'proof of concept' was estimated at \$2.35 million. It was proposed that funding for the establishment of the team would be provided through the Confiscated Proceeds Account.

4. CHILD ABUSE SQUAD POSITIONS

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: How many of the 30 positions in the Child Abuse Squad have been filled? Those are the additional positions that the Minister announced ... So the actual number of positions filled at the moment is 15? I am talking about positions that actually have someone in the job and working.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As indicated by the Commissioner at the hearing, 15 of the 30 additional positions allocated to the Child Abuse Squad are currently filled. As at 19 August 2013, another nine had a preferred applicant identified, with four of those to commence duties on 15 September 2013. Recruitment action is continuing on the remaining six positions.

5. SUSPENDED OFFICER MARC OSBORN

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: How long after the allegations were raised with the NSW Police Force was he suspended without pay? What is the delay there?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Senior Constable Marc Osborn was charged with a number of offences on 8 January 2013 and suspended with pay the following day, 9 January 2013. On 13 August 2013 the officer was found guilty of three offences and, as a result of the court determination, was suspended without pay on that date.

6. GUN CRIME - BAIL

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Commissioner, I have two quick questions that you can take on

notice. I asked you earlier to take on notice a question relating to the number of people on parole who are being targeted for gun crimes ... Can you include in your response the number of people who are on bail?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This information is not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of policing resources.

7. CONSORTING LAWS

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: You mentioned earlier that you had made 400 orders around consorting laws. Could you also let us know on notice how many of those people were on parole or on bail?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This information is not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of policing resources.

8. TRIPLE ZERO CALLS ON TRAIN NETWORK

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: I was on a train yesterday when the guard made an announcement to the effect that if any passenger saw anything untoward, including people smoking on the platform or on the train, graffiti, or if they were evading fares, their best course of action was to call 000 to report it.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: I did not know that. I was not aware of it but when you ask that question of the Minister for Transport I look forward to hearing the answer. Is that common procedure now?

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: The announcement that is being made on trains at the moment is that if you see someone smoking on the platform you should call 000. Do you think that is a reasonable use of 000?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As I indicated in the hearing, this is a matter for the Minister for Transport.

9. PTC STAFFING - CENTRAL STATION

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Are Police Transport Command officers going to be rostered at

Central station between midnight and 8.00 a.m. from Sunday to Thursday nights?

Mr KALDAS: I will have to take it on notice, check and get back to you.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Can you confirm that the number of officers at Central station on Friday and Saturday nights—obviously busy and difficult nights—will be between only 4 and 6 officers?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Police Transport Command (PTC) officers are rostered at Central Station from Sunday through Thursday on two shifts - 7am to 7pm, and noon to midnight. After midnight on these days, Local Area Commands police Central Railway Station, surrounding railway stations and other transport hubs.

On average each Friday and Saturday night there are ten PTC officers rostered from 7pm to 7am. This does not include staff rostered for specific local or large scale operations.

Rostering of PTC officers is intelligence driven, based on crime trends at Central Railway Station, surrounding railway stations and public transport hubs.

10. ASSAULTS ON PTC OFFICERS

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Mr Kaldas, are you aware of concerns about assaults on Police Transport Command officers on Friday and Saturday nights? ... I have a copy of the July newsletter from the commander of the Police Transport Command. His report states: *Please note of concern to me is the number of police being assaulted in their duties and lack of appropriate action. If you're unsure about your powers—* He then, sensibly, refers officers to that. If the commander is concerned about that, I would like information about what action is being taken in relation to this matter.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All assaults on police officers are of concern, however, there is no identified concern specific to Police Transport Command officers. A comparison of assault rates on Police Transport Command and Local Area Command officers on Friday and Saturday nights has found no statistically significant difference between the two. The Commander's comment was to remind all officers to take the appropriate legal action if assaulted.

11. POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Mr Kaldas, perhaps if I put a specific question. In June 50 positions were advertised. How many of those have been filled?

ANSWER:

I am advised 19 officers were selected from the recent recruitment round. Recruitment activity is ongoing and will continue until all positions are filled, and then as required.

12. MISUSE OF TASERS

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Is it true that no officer has been formally disciplined for the misuse of a taser? If not, how many officers have been formally disciplined for the misuse of a taser?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

From 2008 until July 2013 there have been 3,680 operational taser deployments recorded. Between 2008 and June 2013 there were 11 or approximately 0.3% sustained complaint findings related to misuse of a taser involving a member of the public.

13. TASERS - OMBUDSMAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Could you give us a full response on notice to those other 46 recommendations from the Ombudsman?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Ombudsman's report made 46 recommendations for improving the use of Tasers by general duties police. The majority relate to the Taser Standard Operating Procedures and Taser Review Panel Standard Operating Procedures. The NSW Police Force has considered these recommendations and the majority of the 46 recommendations were supported.

The NSW Police Force has subsequently put in place new Taser User Standard Operating Procedures which have been used to update police mandatory training for the current year and for subsequent annual Taser accreditation / reaccreditation training in the future.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES - EMERGENCY SERVICES
14 AUGUST 2013
PART A : HEARING QUESTIONS

1. RFS - LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE

The Hon. STEVE WHAN: Mr Rogers, a very impressive team of people operate in fire control centres during fire operations. Amongst those key people are often Department of Primary Industries [DPI] staff, who help with stock and fodder. Have you seen or are you anticipating any impact from the departure of more than 30 DPI extension officers who have previously helped farmers with stock losses, fencing and fodder supplies?

Mr ROGERS: I have not been made aware of any concerns being raised so far in relation to that issue. I understand that in the last operations those livestock provisions worked quite well and the support, but nothing has been raised with me about that issue. I can take that on notice if you want me to look into it further, but I have no information.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW RFS has reviewed post season briefings for all major fires during the 2013/2013 bush fire season and can confirm that no reference was made to the change to DPI officers.

2. FRNSW - TOLING

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Have there been any occasions when there have been more than eight stations offline?

Mr MULLINS: Yes, there were. It was early on in the piece. It is a handful that I know of. There were mistakes.

ANSWER:

I am advised by Fire & Rescue NSW:

Since 19 November 2012, there have been no more than eight permanent fire station pumpers offline at any one time.

Following the Budget Estimates Hearing for Police and Emergency Services, and The Hunter on 14 August, clarification was sought in relation to the Member's question about the details of when there have been more than eight stations offline.

There were a couple of occasions where there were initial plans to take offline more than the limit of eight pumpers the Commissioner has put in place. However when it was discovered that the threshold of eight would be exceeded, this was corrected prior to being implemented by senior officers who oversighted the process.

I am further advised that Fire & Rescue NSW only takes small numbers of selected fire stations temporarily offline when unplanned absences result in staff shortages, rather than filling absences with fire fighters on overtime.

Fire stations are only taken offline where their response areas can be covered by crews from an adjoining area within Fire & Rescue NSW response time standards.

3. FRNSW – TOLING

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Can you give details about that on notice—the stations, when the eight was breached?

Mr MULLINS: Certainly. But once they were discovered, they were rectified because the ceiling I put on it was eight fire stations. We could do 20 and not affect response times. But when we did the figures, we said eight is a safe number. I will not go beyond that.

ANSWER:

On reviewing this it was found that there have in fact been no occasions since 19 November 2012 where there been more than eight fire stations temporarily taken offline.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES – THE HUNTER

14 AUGUST 2013

PART A: QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Stockton's only petrol station has closed and now the nearest petrol station is a 25-kilometre return trip away. The previous petrol station was on Crown land, which is now the subject of a new lease agreement. Will the new lease agreement require the site to be used as a petrol station?

ANSWER:

1. I am advised:

Stockton Petrol Station is located on Crown land which is held under a Crown Licence by Stockton Mechanical Services Station for 'Business Purposes'.

The Licence is subject to conditions, including payment of an annual rent that reflects the nature and the commercial use of the site. The Licence has no fixed term and was transferred to the current holder on sale of the business on site.

The Licence was granted for 'Business Purposes', which allows the site to be used as a service station. To operate as a service station the Licence holder must obtain and meet all planning consent conditions and requirements imposed by regulatory authorities. Should the Licence holder fail to obtain the necessary consents, the Department will give consideration to undertaking a competitive process to secure a new operator.

2. The O'Farrell Government is taking \$629.6 million out of the Hunter-based State-owned corporations this year as dividends and tax payments. NSW Trade & Investment estimate around another \$900 million in coal royalties, but you have shut the John Hunter Eye Clinic, so public patients needing treatment for conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration and diabetes now have to travel to the Sydney Eye Hospital. That is a pretty pathetic decision, is it not?

ANSWER:

2. I am advised:

Patients who need urgent or emergency eye care can continue to receive it through the John Hunter Hospital Emergency Department. Patients who are referred for eye surgery can continue to have those surgeries done at local hospitals, including John Hunter.

There are a range of options for patients who require routine, non-urgent care, including seeing ophthalmologists in their private rooms, or other specialists, GPs and optometrists in addition to referral to the state ophthalmic facility.

Until February 2012, four outpatient clinics were offered at John Hunter Hospital for non-urgent, routine consultations related to a small number of conditions, specifically cornea

conditions, reconstruction, uveitis and glaucoma. These clinics were held once a month.

The majority of visiting medical officers who had provided the outpatient clinics for many years were unwilling to continue without significant additional equipment and staffing resources, which the Local Health District felt was unjustified.

The Ministry of Health and the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) are collaborating to improve access to Specialist Outpatient Services such as ophthalmology at John Hunter and across NSW through the Specialist Outpatient Services Project.

A key deliverable of the Project will be the development of a Specialist Outpatient Services Framework that will:

- Define the scope of Specialist Outpatient Services, and inform provision of Specialist Outpatient Services across NSW
- Define the referral process from General Practitioners, Emergency Departments and other acute services to Specialist Outpatient Services to ensure appropriateness of referrals
- Determine Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to increase Local Health District accountability for ensuring that patients across NSW have timely access to Specialist Outpatient Services

The draft Framework is due for completion by the end of September 2013. It will then be rigorously tested by the ACI Clinical Networks to ensure clinical appropriateness, and to commence development of standard clinical prioritisation categories, similar to established systems such as the National Elective Surgery Target (NEST).

Data has been used to identify high volume clinics across NSW, by site and by specialty, to determine the first clinics and facilities to target for improvement with an initial site visit scheduled at Liverpool in August 2013.

3. What specific options do you expect to have for rail corridors through urban areas?

ANSWER:

3.

The NSW Government is conscious of the issues and concerns in the community regarding dust emissions from coal transport. I am advised the regulation of dust emissions from mines, trains and terminals is the responsibility of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Transport for New South Wales will support EPA efforts to resolve dust issues by working with freight operators to see that all practical steps to manage the issue are taken.

4. When the Government decided to sell Port Botany it proclaimed a new Port Botany State environmental planning policy. Will the new port of Newcastle State environmental planning policy have similar provisions?

ANSWER:

4. I am advised any lease of Newcastle Port operations would be supported by a planning regime aimed at facilitating sustainable growth of the port. At this stage no decision has been made in regard to appropriate planning provisions.

5. As Minister for the Hunter can you name one thing you are proposing to do that actually will enable gas contracts to be confirmed after 2015 in the Hunter?

ANSWER:

5. I am advised:

The Government does not have a role in securing or negotiating gas supply contracts. All contracts are negotiated between separate commercial entities. Further, the NSW Government has no role in the approval of the gas industry in Queensland or over the export of LNG from Gladstone.

The NSW Government is currently evaluating the impact higher international gas prices will have on communities, businesses and industries in NSW and is working with all interested parties to identify and propose solutions to future strategic issues which may affect the gas market and customers.

The future development of natural gas resources within NSW is one strategy that will require a significant shift in community attitudes before progress can be expected. The NSW Government has put in place a new regulatory regime to enable the NSW community to have confidence that development will progress responsibly.

At the same time, the NSW Government is undertaking an ongoing process to inform the current debate on the exploration and production of natural gas from coal seams in NSW. The NSW Government is working closely with a range of stakeholder groups to put more factual information into the public domain.

The NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane, is also conducting an independent review of the State's coal seam gas activities. An Initial Report was released on 30 July 2013 which made a small number of recommendations aimed at improving the information available to the community and assisting the Government to build confidence that it has the intention and capacity to oversee a safe industry.

Professor O'Kane anticipates the independent review will continue for many months to come. This work will be fundamental for providing scientific information on this issue to the wider community.

It will be crucial for the future development of the natural gas industry in NSW for community understanding of the issues to be well informed and challenged. The Government is therefore working towards providing the State with a better understanding of the economic benefits of a responsible and appropriately regulated gas industry before development can proceed.

6. In relation to the Xstrata mines, what have you done to ensure the protection of the Aboriginal heritage in that area?

ANSWER:

6. I am advised:

Aboriginal cultural heritage issues are addressed by the Government's environmental impact assessment and approval processes under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* as well as statutory protections under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Exploration activity is assessed under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. As part of the assessment process, proponents are required to submit a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) that addresses all potential impacts of the proposal, including potential impacts relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Mining proposals are required to obtain development consent under the State Significant Development provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. As part of this approval process, proponents are required to prepare a comprehensive environmental assessment that addresses all potential impacts of the proposal, including impacts on the environment, water resources, cumulative impacts and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The planning process also allows for community and agency consultation.

7. Can you tell us three things that person has done for the Hunter in the past six months?

Can you give us a list of those issues on notice?

Can you also give us on notice a list of all the meetings that you have had that are specifically Hunter meetings in the past six months?

ANSWER:

7.

My office deals with many inquiries regarding the Hunter region. While a primary Hunter portfolio staff member deals with most Hunter matters, all of my staff deal to varying degrees with Hunter issues as they arise.

Some of these inquiries include tourism growth including conferences in the region, transport including the Newcastle Rail Line and Cardiff railway station, Newcastle port development, mining issues including coal seam gas information, housing growth and planning reform, redevelopment of police stations in the region, trail bike park, and the Out of Home Care and Quality Improvement Program.

Over the last six months meetings and events have been held with a variety of parties involved with the Hunter, including the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, the Asia Pacific Special Olympics Event forum, IPROWD graduation, various police and emergency services stations and centres, as well as attending a number of meetings and briefings regarding government initiatives in the Hunter. I have also met with local Members regarding specific issues of concern in their electorates.

HON. DR JOHN KAYE MLC

8. The Hon. Peter Primrose asked you about air quality. I had a question on air quality as

well. It relates to the Environment Protection Authority's Newcastle particle categorisation study. Currently that is only going to assess the prevalence of PM 2.5. Those are particles that are approximately 2.5 microns or less in diameter, a micron being 10 to the minus six metres. Why is the study not looking at a PM 1 or a PM 10 or other sized particles, given that the current understanding of the particulate matter is that the spectrum of sizes is as important as the frequency of the individual particles?

ANSWER:

8.

The Government is aware of community issues and concerns regarding coal transport and potential health impacts.

I am advised:

The regulation of dust emissions from mines, trains and terminals is the responsibility of the Environment Protection Authority. The authority has directed the Australian Rail Track Corporation to investigate the contribution of coaldust from trains to the overall level of particulate pollution in the Newcastle area as part of its environmental licence. Both the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the community Coal Terminal Action Group recently released studies into coaldust, but the results are not agreed. An independent review is working with the Environment Protection Authority and the Australian Rail Track Corporation to resolve the outstanding issues. Transport NSW has been asked by the Minister for Roads and Ports to monitor progress on the matter.

9. Minister, you will be aware of the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy [NURS], and you will be aware that NURS advocated for a bus solution and the severance of heavy rail services into Newcastle central. You will also be aware that the community was agitating for the release of NURS for some time. It finally came out in December last year. Why did it take so long to come out, and has it descended into a comprehensive farce, given that the Government has now opted for a light rail solution rather than a bus space solution?

ANSWER:

9. I am advised:

In response to the Member's request to table the answer I was providing:

It will be responsible for progressing delivery, finance, coordination; and facilitation of planning and construction.

Importantly, the long term Port lease will help make a light rail solution for the city centre a reality.

The proposed new light rail will operate between a minimum of Wickham and Newcastle, and is potentially only the beginning of a light rail system for Newcastle.

A broader plan for light rail will be delivered, with \$10 million initially allocated to investigate the feasibility of linking light rail to surrounding suburbs and beaches.

Further to this answer the following information is provided:

Following extensive work by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, in consultation with the City of Newcastle and key stakeholders, the Government released its draft Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy in December 2012.

The draft Strategy supports the Government's aim to transform and revitalise Newcastle's city centre to boost economic activity, reinforcing its role as a 21st century regional centre.

The detailed investigations undertaken as part of the draft Strategy informed the Government's decision to remove heavy rail services between Wickham and Newcastle.

The decision is founded on strategic principles aimed at improving the overall function of the city for transport, community accessibility and conducting business.

The Government has since announced a commitment to build light rail in the Newcastle city centre, as part of the 2013-14 NSW Budget, subject to lease of the Port of Newcastle.

Light rail will transform the way people use public transport in Newcastle and move around the city centre.

The proposed new light rail will operate between a minimum of Wickham and Newcastle, and is potentially only the beginning of a light rail system for Newcastle.

A broader plan for light rail will be delivered, with \$10 million initially allocated to investigate the feasibility of linking light rail to surrounding suburbs and beaches.

Light rail will improve amenity of the city by removing trains from the CBD, facilitate improved movement across the city for pedestrians and traffic, and reconnect the city centre with the harbour foreshore.

Light rail will support urban renewal in Newcastle by delivering a high-capacity public transport service which can carry more passengers than buses.

To progress this initiative, on 9 August the Minister for Transport announced the release of two tenders and the appointment of a project director.

A first tender explores options for where light rail should travel and how it will support the revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD, as well as options for future connections to link the CBD with surrounding suburbs, beaches and the broader Hunter region.

The second tender will take a more detailed look at how people travel around Newcastle – whether by car, bus, rail, ferry, walking or cycling, and where they are travelling.

This work will build an understanding of alternative light rail solutions, and how they impact the way people will travel around the city, particularly as Newcastle continues to grow.

In parallel with these studies, the Department of Planning is considering the extensive community feedback received on the draft Strategy and is working with key stakeholders to finalise the Strategy before the end of 2013.

10. In your capacity as Minister for the Hunter what other new major projects are underway in the area? How much funding is the Government providing for them?

Considering that the decision to release the port of Newcastle was taken recently, how much money from the lease will go into the Hunter?

ANSWER:

10.

Further to the answer provided to the Committee:

Work has also commenced delivering \$33 million in priority health care facilities and upgrades under the Fund, including:

- the \$20 million acquisition of land for a new Hunter Valley Hospital;
- \$8 million toward the acquisition of land for a new cancer treatment facility at Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital; and
- the \$2 million upgrade of the Cessnock Emergency Department.

The NSW Government has worked with the Commonwealth to deliver the Hunter Expressway, which will be completed before the end of 2013.

This is transformational infrastructure – which will dramatically improve productivity in the region, and open up significant new opportunities for the Hunter as a place to live, work and invest.

The Department of Education and Communities have completed work on the new \$7.8 million Technology and Applied Studies building at Callaghan College Technology Campus, Wallsend.

This is a significant new piece of vocational training infrastructure for school leavers transitioning into the workforce.

In terms of public transport, the Government has delivered new passenger lifts and access improvements at Cardiff Station, and upgrades are underway at a series of Newcastle and Hunter line stations including Aberdeen, Adamstown, Greta, and Singleton.

The 2013-14 Budget includes \$8 million towards the total \$21.5 million project to rebuild and refurbish police stations at Belmont, Morisset and Toronto.

More infrastructure announcements are set to come from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, and from Resources for the Regions before the end of 2013.

The Government is also taking action to achieve the NSW 2021 vision to 'strengthen local environments and communities' in the Hunter.

We have demonstrated our commitment to driving down the cost of housing in the region, by helping to unlock supply and accommodate its growing population.

Under the *Housing Acceleration Fund*, the Hunter will benefit from key infrastructure to fast track urban release and housing construction through:

- New waste water infrastructure at Farley near Maitland, supporting the development of 5,300 new homes, and
- New water infrastructure and road upgrades to facilitate the development of a further 5,000 new homes at Lochinvar, west of Maitland.

To provide a comprehensive, whole-of-government framework for tackling the region's air quality issues, the Government has established an Interagency Taskforce on Air Quality in the Hunter, and released its Upper Hunter Air Particle Action Plan.

Action to date on improving air quality includes delivery of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network of 14 stations, accompanied by new regulations to make permanent arrangements for coal mines and electricity generators to contribute towards their running and upkeep.

The Government's Upper Hunter Particle Characterisation Study is also being developed in partnership with ANSTO and the CSIRO, to pinpoint the exact contents of particulate pollutants in mining areas.

The Government has also enacted a suite of new rules of coal seam gas activity, which include exclusion zones for residential areas and lands needed for the Hunter's critical viticulture and equine industries.

Work is also underway with the Commonwealth to improve urban development processes in the region, by developing a strategic approach to addressing environmental requirements for urban development projects in the Lower Hunter.

These are but a few of the many achievements of the Government in the Hunter, and a demonstration of our commitment to the region.

The Hunter Regional Action Plan sets out these and further commitments to improving infrastructure and service delivery in the region to June 2014, and the Government is on track to see these commitments delivered.

11. The Government has recently made a lot of noise about the redevelopment and rejuvenation of the city of Newcastle and in particular has pointed to the light rail project, which is apparently progressing.

Apart from the light rail project, what else can the city look forward to by way of development?

ANSWER:

11.

Further to the answer provided to the Member:

This work will build an understanding of alternative light rail solutions, and how they impact the way people will travel around the city, particularly as Newcastle continues to grow.

The Government is also working with the private sector to breathe new life into the critical Hunter Street mall precinct.

In June 2012, the NSW Government acquired a two-thirds share of Hunter Street lands held by GPT Group, and entered into a Project Delivery Agreement to realise a potential \$400 million mixed-use development.

The Government's new urban development and renewal agency UrbanGrowth NSW has

commenced planning work to deliver an integrated development outcome in partnership with GPT and third party investors. Development of this precinct will incorporate a mix of residential, niche commercial and speciality retail uses.

UrbanGrowth NSW is working toward delivering a detailed project design during 2014, and construction is expected to commence in 2015.

The Government is investing in a number of capital investment projects to help catalyse revitalisation in the Newcastle city centre.

Work on the new Newcastle Courthouse continues with almost \$63 million in funding in 2013-14. Extensive site preparation and excavation works are currently under way, with work on the building structures programmed to commence in early 2014. The Attorney General's Department are working toward completion of the new courthouse complex in the third quarter of 2014.

The NSW Government has also set aside a further \$35 million from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund for new city centre university facilities for its business, law, community and industry engagement programs, and digital library facilities.

A university campus in the heart of Newcastle will combine with existing education providers to develop the 'NeW Space' precinct, and create a vibrant new learning centre for the entire Hunter community.

The Government is also investing in the infrastructure needed for growing populations in Newcastle and Lower Hunter.

The 2013-14 Budget allocates \$8 million toward the acquisition of land for a new cancer treatment facility at Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital.

\$30 million is allocated in 2013-14 to complete work on the Newcastle Inner City Bypass between Shortland and Sandgate.

\$3 million is also allocated to progress planning for the future upgrade of the Tourle Street – Cormorant Road corridor, as critical future infrastructure for expanded port activity at Kooragang Island in Newcastle.

The Department of Education and Communities have completed work on the new \$7.8 million Technology and Applied Studies building at Callaghan College Technology Campus, Wallsend. This is a significant new piece of vocational training infrastructure for school leavers transitioning into the workforce.

More infrastructure announcements are set to come from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and Resources for Regions before the end of 2013.

The Government's new vision for Newcastle is one that sees an increasing focus on the visitor economy, and the NSW Government is providing significant support to positioning Newcastle as a 'destination of choice' for staging major sporting events.

Newcastle has hosted a string of high profile sporting events over the past two years, including:

- The Australia v New Zealand rugby league test match at Hunter Stadium in October 2011,
- The Wallabies v Scotland rugby test in June 2013,

- The recent British and Irish Lions rugby tour match against a combined NSW-Queensland country side at Hunter Stadium.

Newcastle has also hosted the 3rd Special Olympics National Junior Games in September 2012 – an event for which I was proud to be the Patron.

With the support of the Government, the event was successful in bringing approximately 250 athletes to Newcastle from across Australia, accompanied by a further 200 volunteer coaches, carers and family member.

The Government worked intensively with Special Olympics Australia, to successfully secure the 2013 Special Olympics Asia Pacific Games for Newcastle. More than 1,700 athletes, 600 coaches and officials, over 4,000 volunteers, and around 200,000 spectators from 25 nations in the Asia Pacific region will visit Newcastle and the Hunter in November and December 2013 for the event. In terms of visitor numbers, I understand this will be the largest event in NSW in 2013.

In a further win for the city, the Government has worked with the Asian Football Confederation to secure Newcastle as one of five host cities for the AFC Asian Football Cup in January 2015. With a predicted global audience of 2.5 billion in 80 countries, the tournament will provide unparalleled exposure for Newcastle, the Hunter and for NSW.

These are but a few of the many Government's achievements to date in Newcastle, and a demonstration of our commitment to delivering a revitalised city.

The Hunter Regional Action Plan sets out these and further commitments to improving infrastructure and service delivery in the region to June 2014, and the Government is on track to see these commitments delivered.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES - POLICE
14 AUGUST 2013
PART B: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. In May and June of this year, three pork producers located around Young, were the subject of an unauthorised visit by animal activists. Two of the farms were filmed and the footage posted on the internet without the permission or right of reply of the property owners. Animal Liberation have since indicated they were involved in each of these and have indicated that they will do so again. Animal Liberal (*sic*) has also announced it has purchased an unmanned drone for aerial surveillance of on-farm animal welfare and husbandry practices. Is the NSW Police/Attorney General's office considering how adequate current trespass, privacy and nuisance laws are in relation to such land and aerial trespass?
 2. In light of these incidences what support will the Rural Crimes Investigators receive from NSW Police and the Attorney General to deal with legal framework associated with new technology such as drones?
-

ANSWER:

1 and 2. I am advised:

I have been contacted by the Minister for Primary Industries in relation to similar matters and consultation is ongoing. Questions relating to animal welfare should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

The NSW Police Force work hard to ensure that rural crime is effectively policed, with 33 Rural Crime Investigator positions across 26 Local Area Commands. Rural Crime Investigators are designated detective positions providing specialised skills to those Local Area Commands where they are based.

Rural Crime Investigators have an understanding of primary industries as well as experience with practical stock handling and identification, and regularly inspect abattoirs, saleyards, wool, hide and skin dealers and stock and station agents' offices.

Rural Crime Investigators are provided with all necessary support to carry out their duties.

3. Has the establishment of the IWATCH (*sic*) Facebook page assisted the NSW Police force with the reporting of incidences of criminal activity, specifically rural stock theft?
-

ANSWER:

3. I am advised:

NSW Police Force encourages the community to report crime, and to participate in crime prevention in a variety of ways, such as project *Eyewatch*. Rural Crime Investigators confirm *Eyewatch* is a valuable communication tool to reach members of the community and various rural industries.

4. When was the IWATCH (*sic*) Facebook page reviewed to determine its effectiveness?
Who was this review conducted by?

ANSWER:

4. I am advised:

The NSW Police Force recently reviewed governance issues around *Eyewatch*. As a result of this review the guidelines and framework are in the process of being updated.

5. Between March 2011 and August 2013, how many indecencies (*sic*) of Gun Related crime have occurred in the suburb of Kurringah (*sic*)?

ANSWER:

5. I am advised:

Assuming the question relates to **Ku-ring-gai** and **incidents** of crime, I can advise that official crime statistics are reported by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

6. How many arrests have made in relation to drug or gun related crime by the Kurringah (*sic*) LAC?

ANSWER:

6. I am advised:

Assuming this question relates to the Ku-ring-gai LAC, 8 arrests were made for gun related offences and 447 arrests for illicit drug offences have occurred in the Ku-ring-gai LAC since March 2011.

7. As of August 14, 2013 how many child abuse officers are employed in the Child Abuse Squad?

ANSWER:

7. I am advised:

159. Recruitment action to fill vacancies is progressing.

8. As of August 14, 2013 on average how many cases do child abuse officers deal with?

ANSWER:

8. I am advised:

As at 14 August 2013, the Child Abuse Squad had an average of 6.2 active cases per investigator.

It should be noted that active cases are those categorised as 'current' and also 'investigation complete' but which are yet to be closed due to an outstanding legal or case management requirement.

9. What is the longest average turn around period on child abuse case?

ANSWER:

9. I am advised:

According to the NSW Police Force, it is unclear what is meant by longest average. The NSW Police Force also advises it is unclear what is meant by turn around period. As a result it is not possible to provide an answer to this question in the terms requested.

10. How many Child Abuse Officers are located in the following regions or cover the following regions:

- Wollongong
 - Western Region
 - Central West
 - North Coast
 - Mid North Coast (*sic*)
 - Central Coast (*sic*)
 - Hunter
 - Newcastle
 - Western Sydney
 - South Western Sydney
 - South Eastern
 - Northern Sydney
 - Eastern Sydney
 - Inner Western Sydney
-

ANSWER:

10. I am advised:

The NSW Police Force operates on a configuration of six regions being Central Metropolitan, South West Metropolitan, North West Metropolitan, Southern, Northern and Western.

There are 22 Child Abuse Squad offices located across the six regions providing coverage to all of NSW. In addition, the Child Abuse Response Team may be deployed state wide where investigations concern more serious or complex matters. These may include reports

concerning multiple offenders and/or victims, covert investigations or other matters as determined by the Manager and/or Commander of the Child Abuse Squad.

11. Between August 2012 and August 2013, which region/suburb had the highest incidences of child abuse reported to the Child Abuse Squad? How many of these were considered as emergency situations (24 hour response)?

ANSWER:

11. I am advised:

Investigations into allegations of child abuse are allocated to the Child Abuse Squad office closest to where the child lives. For the period 1 August 2012 to 13 July 2013 (latest data available in the timeframe), the Newcastle Child Abuse Squad office accepted 530 cases of reported incidents of child abuse, of which approximately 147 were deemed as Level 1, requiring a 24 hour response.

12. The Commissioner of Police in the estimates hearing identified that 30 new Child Abuse Officers positions have been made available, of those 30, 10 have been filled already with another 5 expected in the short term and the other 15 positions subject to a recruitment process which finished in July. When will the other 15 positions be filled? And when staff will be on active duty?

ANSWER:

12. Refer to my response to the Question taken on Notice at the Hearing.

13. As at 15 August 2013 how many tattoo parlours were there estimated to be in NSW?

14. As at 15 August 2013 how many body art tattoo artists were there estimated to be in NSW?

15. As at 15 August 2013 how many applications had been received from tattoo parlours for licensing under the new scheme?

16. As at 15 August 2013 how many applications have been received from tattoo artists for licensing under the new scheme?

17. As at 15 August 2013 how many applications had been processed from tattoo parlours for licensing under the new scheme?

(a) Of these, how many were approved?

(b) Of these, how many were refused?

18. As at 15 August 2013 how many applications have been processed from tattoo artists for licensing under the new scheme?

(a) Of these, how many were approved?

(b) Of these, how many were refused?

ANSWER:

13 to 18.

While police were involved in the establishment of the scheme, for the most current information these questions should be referred to the lead portfolio, the Minister for Fair Trading.

19. What other industries were considered for licensing and criminal record checks?

ANSWER:

19. I can advise that the Government continues to consider issues as they arise and address them appropriately.

20. How was the \$2,094 licensing fee for tattoo operators calculated?

21. What do these funds go to?

ANSWER:

20 and 21. I can advise the licensing fee was determined based on a range of factors, including covering the cost of conducting national criminal history checks and business database checks. 100% of the revenue received from licence fees is put towards the cost of regulating the industry.

22. What steps have been taken to ensure that tattoo parlour operators are clear on their disclosure obligations?

ANSWER:

22. I am advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Fair Trading.

23. What steps have been taken to ensure that the closure of legitimate tattoo parlours does not result in an increase of the black market for tattoos?

ANSWER:

23. I am advised:

The key elements of the regulatory model for tattoo parlours were to counter criminal involvement in the industry by:

- Requiring industry participants, including close associates as defined, to receive a favourable security determination from the NSW Police Force to lawfully continue their involvement in the industry; and
- To provide Police with powers of entry, entry with drug dogs and closure of tattoo parlours found to be operating unlawfully or illegally.

The NSW Police Force is charged with responsibility to enforce compliance with the legislation and the legislation provides for a range of offences and penalties for anyone found to be performing a licensable activity without a valid licence. Following a grace period to enable the industry time to make applications for licences, legislative offence provisions are scheduled to commence on 1 October 2013.

The regulatory model seeks to cover the commercial body art tattooing industry. Cosmetic tattooing or tattooing conducted for no fee or reward are not covered by the regulatory scheme.

24. Has consideration been given to bringing (*sic*) in an independent person or body to handle police complaints to address the inherent conflict of interest of police investigating their colleagues?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

A number of external bodies may oversee critical incident investigations, including the NSW Coroner, NSW Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission. The Government is considering the complex policy implications arising from recent reports, discussing such issues, and the number of proposals which have been suggested.

25. What is the average time for dealing with complaints?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Complaints Handling Guidelines provide guidance on the management and investigation of complaints about police, including timeframes, pursuant to Part 8A of the *Police Act 1990*. These guidelines are publicly available on the NSW Police Force website. The guidelines suggest from the date the complaint was received, 45 days to complete the resolution investigation. The average time to investigate all Part 8A complaints in 2012 was approximately 53 days. These times can vary depending on the complexity of the complaint.

26. How much does it cost to handle police complaints internally?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is unable to provide accurate data in response to this question.

27. How much does it cost to handle investigations into critical incidents internally?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is unable to provide accurate data in response to this question.

28. What guidelines are there about when officers should be suspended from active duty following:

- (a) Critical incidents?
 - (b) Serious police complaints?
 - (c) Other issues identified?
-

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force Suspension Procedures for Police Officers governs the suspension of a police officer. The Police Commissioner has a number of disciplinary options available to him to deal with misconduct, including the ability to remove an officer in whom he has lost confidence in, to strip officers of rank, pay or promotions, or to transfer an officer from their Command.

29. What is the estimated annual cost of police prosecutions that do not result in a conviction?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is unable to provide accurate data in response to this question.

30. What consideration has been given to the guidance provided to police prosecutors on when to pursue prosecutions?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has adopted and applies the Director of Public Prosecutions' Prosecution Guidelines.

31. Has consideration been given to imposing requirements for legal qualifications on police prosecutors?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force encourages police prosecutors to study law and attain legal qualifications, although this is not mandatory. Police prosecutors receive rigorous, competency based training in criminal law, the law of evidence, court procedure, practical advocacy and professional standards.

32. What is the average cost for a prosecution by the police?

- (a) Of this, how much is court costs?
 - (b) Of this how much is Police costs?
 - (c) Of this, how much are other costs?
-

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force is unable to provide accurate data in response to this question.

33. Has consideration been given to an independent prosecutor model like that used in New Zealand and the UK for all Local Court prosecutions?

34. Has consideration been given to expanding the role of the DPP for all Local Court prosecutions?

ANSWER:

33 and 34. I am advised:
No.

35. Where cases are thrown out of court, what instructions if any are given to the person regarding their rights to make a complaint?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In respect to all cases that are dismissed, the NSW Police Force has a formal process for considering why the prosecution failed. If any misconduct by a police officer is indicated, then the matter is dealt with in accordance with Part 8A of the *Police Act 1990*.

36. How many cases are there each year where charges are laid and later withdrawn by the NSW Police?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

During the 2012/13 financial year 264,023 charges were put before the court by the NSW Police Force and approximately 9.9% of all charges were withdrawn by the NSW Police Force.

37. The NSW Ombudsman's report for 2011-12 advises the police internal reporting policy includes only one person other than the Commissioner who can receive public interest disclosures – the manager of the Internal Witness Support Unit – is this still the case?

38. What steps are being taken to remedy this potentially unfair situation and ensure it does not mean officers are denied appropriate legislative protections?

ANSWER:

37. and 38

I am advised:

No. In addition to the Commissioner, as Principal Officer the following are nominated Disclosure officers under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*:

Assistant Commissioner, Professional Standards
Manager Complaints Service, Professional Standards Command
Manager Administrative Conduct, Professional Standards Command
All Region and Specialist Professional Standards Managers

39. How much did the NSW Police spend in 2011-2012 on training for NSW Police officers in relation to:

(a) Developing proficiency and competency in the use of the information and computer systems used by NSW Police

(b) Developing proficiency and competency in the use of the Computer Operational Policing System (COPS)

(c) Developing or upgrading information and computer systems used by NSW Police to ensure they are reliable?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

(a) and (b)

NSW Police Force is unable to provide specific computer related training information in the terms requested.

(c)

The NSW Government has allocated substantial funding for technology projects to develop, upgrade and enhance the information and computer systems used by the NSW Police

Force. This includes approximately \$7.315 million in 2011/12 for the Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) modernisation project.

40. What has been done to address weaknesses in the NSW Police computer system where it contains incorrect or out of date bail information?

41. How many arrests have there been where it was subsequently found that the COPS information relied upon for the arrest for breach of bail was incorrect?

42. What further steps are police taking to address any wrongful arrests that have occurred as a result of this?

43. What protections are there for post editing of COPS entries?

ANSWER:

40, 41, 42 and 43

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has processes in place to ensure that any editing to records in the Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) is made in line with protocols, and these are verified by a supervisor.

The NSW Police Force also has procedures for managing a dispute on the accuracy of court/bail outcomes recorded in COPS.

The NSW Government has allocated extensive funding for technology projects to fully automate the exchange of information between courts and the NSW Police Force. This includes \$6.4 million across the NSW Police Force and Department of Attorney-General budgets for the Joined-up-Justice Project in 2013/14.

In addition, I am advised that the Attorney-General's Department have allocated \$21.4 million in 2013/14 for the court upgrade program, including JusticeLink.

As court proceedings related to arrests based on allegedly incorrect bail information are underway and the State of NSW is directly involved, it would be inappropriate to comment any further.

44. Regarding sniffer dogs indications – how many times does the dog have to be wrong over the course of the shift before its indications no longer give rise of reasonable suspicion?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Following a Drug Detection Dog indication upon a person, police must conduct further investigations in order to justify the 'reasonable grounds' in order to search a person. Police dog handlers have the training and expertise in monitoring the behaviour and performance of Drug Detection Dogs and do so in the course of all operations.

45. When will the police drug detection dog Standard Operating Procedures be made publicly available?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force has no intention to release these procedures publicly.

46. Since the changes to the move on orders, has there been any monitoring of the impact of these laws by your department on vulnerable groups such as Aboriginal people and the homeless?

47. How many move on orders were given to aboriginal people?

48. How many move on orders were given to homeless people?

49. How many prosecutions for breaches of move on orders were have been commenced?

ANSWER:

46, 47, 48 and 49

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force uses various informal mechanisms to monitor the changes to move on orders. For example police have attended homelessness forums and regularly liaise with the homeless sector to monitor concerns on the use of these powers.

As at 27 August 2013, police have directed 167,682 people to move-on since the changes to the legislation were implemented on 30 September 2011. Of these 3,700 or approximately 2.2% were homeless, as identified by no fixed permanent address and 14,036 or approximately 8.4% were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander at the time of the move-on.

959 Court Attendance Notices have been issued for breaches of move-on orders.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES - EMERGENCY SERVICES

14 AUGUST 2013

PART B: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. Botany Fire Station was recently closed as of 12 July 2013 whilst there was a fuel leak at the Caltex Terminal at Kurnell. Why was this station closed?
2. Was the fire station temporarily offline?
3. What is the closest station to Botany Fire Station which would be able to response to emergencies in the Botany area?
4. For the fuel leak at the Caltex Terminal, why were officers sent from the Campsie Fire Station? Was there a closer station that could have responded to this incident?

ANSWER:

1, 2, 3 and 4. I am advised:

On 12 July 2013 fire fighters were called to a fuel leak at the Caltex facility, Botany Road, Banksmeadow at 1:30am. The closest Fire Stations to Botany are Matraville, Maroubra, Alexandria and Mascot. Matraville Fire Station is 1.5kms from the incident and the crew was on the scene within eight minutes, joined soon by fire fighters from an additional seven stations. Fire and Rescue NSW deployed additional resources from Campsie and Lane Cove Fire Stations along with specialist hazardous material resources from Chester Hill.

Moving fire fighting resources around the Greater Sydney Area to cover other stations is something Fire and Rescue NSW has done daily and safely for more than 100 years. With a large network of fire stations, specialised equipment and fire fighters operating 24/7 in the Greater Sydney Area, Fire and Rescue NSW moved fire fighting resources to cover a number of areas during this emergency.

5. Please list the average level of emergency calls for the 2012/13 period for the following stations:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • Ingleburn | • Lambton |
| • Marrickville | • Mayfield West |
| • Newtown | • Kiama |
| • Menai | • Shellharbour |
| • Merrylands | • Albion Park Rail |
| • Mortdale | • Unanderra |
| • Rhodes | • Berry |
| • Bundeena | • Nowra |
| • Helensburgh | • Casino |
| • Campbelltown | • Lismore |
| • Queanbeyan | • Goonellabah |
| • Carrington | • Alstonville |
| • Stockton | • Bangalow |
| • Merewether | • Coraki |
| • New Lambton | • Penrith |

- Glenbrook
- Springwood

- Riverstone
 - Warragamba
-

ANSWER:

5. I am advised Fire and Rescue NSW reports the number on incidents responded to by station is in its annual report.

6. Of the fires stations listed above, how many times were they registered as being offline during the months of July– December 2012 and January – August 2013?

ANSWER:

6. I am advised:

It is standard practice for Fire and Rescue NSW to move fire crews and fire engines around to maintain response coverage when other stations are attending major emergencies, training exercises and bushfire hazard reduction burns.

Since November 2012 Fire and Rescue NSW has been taking fire stations offline temporarily when unplanned staff shortages occur, rather than filling absences with fire fighters on overtime.

This practice has been occurring for over 100 years on a routine basis to cover training or station forums, assisting in hazard reduction burns or participating in other activities.

7. This year's Coonabarabran bush fire saw a great deal of very brave action from fire fighters but unfortunately saw the loss of a significant number of properties. I understand there is currently an enquiry into the fire, what is the timeframe for that enquiry?

8. What is your response to criticism from the VFFA about handling of the fire?

ANSWER:

7 and 8.

I am advised:

As the NSW Coroner is conducting an Inquiry into the Coonabarabran fires it is not appropriate to comment. I also refer the Member to my response in the House on 28 August 2013.

9. What is the current average age of the RFS fleet?

ANSWER:

9. I am advised that the average age of the RFS fire fighting fleet is 13 years. This figure is

based on Category 1 to Category 11 appliances and it does not include private vehicles or historical vehicles from 1960 or older.

10. Were the Rural Fire Service involved in catering for the riot squad who were protecting Metgasco operations at Doubtful Creek near Kyogle earlier this year?

(a) If so, what actions were they undertaking?

ANSWER:

10. I am advised NSW Rural Fire Service provided catering services for a brief period.

11. What are the details of the Priority Plan put together by Fire and Rescue NSW Executive Team to deal with labour cap expenses? (mentioned by Commissioner Mullins to the General Purpose Standing Committee No 4 on Wednesday 14 August 2013)

ANSWER:

11. I am advised:

Budget initiatives being implemented by Fire and Rescue NSW are on the public record. Where initiatives are being progressed, Fire and Rescue NSW works closely with the Fire Brigade Employees Union and staff to ensure consultation is open and transparent.

The Priority Plan is one of the documents Fire & Rescue NSW is currently in dispute with the Fire Brigades Employees' Union relating to an access application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. A hearing was held before the Administrative Decisions Tribunal on 3 June 2013. As the Administrative Decisions Tribunal is yet to make a decision on the release of this document it would be inappropriate to comment further.

12. Given population growth in the surrounding area, what is the reason for the downgrading of Holmesville Fire Station, from 10/14 roster to day shift Monday to Friday supplemented by retained fire fighters at nights and on weekends?

15. Are the two operational reviews, by FRNSW & NSW Emergency Services, into staffing at Holmesville publicly available?

(a) If so, where?

(b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

12. and 15. I am advised:

This change is about deploying resources in the most efficient way for the region, including Holmesville.

A recent Fire and Rescue NSW operational review concluded the region serviced by fire stations, including Holmesville, would be better served if Holmesville's 24 hour staffing arrangement is changed to a permanent day shift supplemented with retained fire fighters. The 20 permanent staff attached to Holmesville would all be utilised on day shifts. Four

staff will be at Holmesville Monday to Friday and the other 16 staff will be used as relieving staff throughout Newcastle and the Hunter.

Holmesville and surrounding areas will continue to receive coverage and protection commensurate with the level of population, risk and number of responses being experienced. The Newcastle and the Lower Hunter region will still be serviced by some 36 fire stations.

13. What is being done to cater for the increase in population numbers in the area?

14. What contingency plans will FRNSW put into place to account for the population growth in the Newcastle area which has been forecast to occur in 10 years time?

ANSWER:

13 and 14.

Public service agencies continually review service delivery requirements across the state to ensure that the needs of the community are met in an effective and efficient manner.

16. Are there ongoing anomalies in the FireCAD communications system whereby crews at both Hornsby and Holmesville are not being turned out to incidents within their area?

(a) Has this issue been rectified?

(b) If not, when does FRNSW expect this to be fixed?

17. Has this anomaly been considered in calculating the Holmesville call out rate?

ANSWER:

16 and 17. I am advised:

Fire and Rescue NSW is not aware of any recent anomalies in the FireCAD communications system. Fire and Rescue NSW has checked the system and found that the correct resources were dispatched in all but a few cases, where initial address information given by callers was incorrect.

18. Will FRNSW instigate a Memorandum of Understanding with Rural Fire Service in relation to joint response by FRSW and RFS to incidents in the Cameron Park area?

ANSWER:

18. I am advised:

Fire and Rescue NSW will be happy to consider a Mutual Aid Agreement in relation to joint response by Fire and Rescue NSW and the Rural Fire Service to incidents in the Cameron Park area.

19. Does FRNSW have any evidence that fire fighters are being exposed to PTSD in their day to day activities as a fire fighter?

(a) If so, what is the evidence?

ANSWER:

19. I am advised:

Fire and Rescue NSW data was not able to provide the number of confirmed diagnoses of PTSD within the required timeframe. Workers compensation data indicates that over the last five years, there have been 59 claims (or 1.8% of all accepted workers compensation claims for that period) which appear to be related to exposure at an incident. However this data does not necessarily indicate confirmed diagnoses of PTSD - it means the fire fighter has had a psychological injury due to exposure to a traumatic event(s) that has required treatment or time off work.

To support fire fighters and reduce the likelihood of developing PTSD, Fire and Rescue NSW offers a critical incident support program, chaplaincy service and an Employee Assistance Program.

Fire and Rescue NSW has also developed a proactive approach to mental health with a focus on awareness and prevention. These programs and resources aim to reduce the incidence of psychological injury and encourage employees with a psychological issue to seek help.

20. Has FRNSW made any forward budget plans, to deal with future cuts or required savings from labour cap expenses in the next few years?

(a) What are these plans and how they are to be implemented?

(b) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

20. I am advised:

This Government's savings targets are about making sure that expenditure for the emergency services sector are economically sustainable.

Fire and Rescue NSW's primary initiative to meet the savings required in relation to the 'Labour Expense Cap' is reduction of sick leave and resulting overtime.

The introduction of the practice of temporarily taking stations offline has seen a significant reduction in levels of overtime and sick leave in 2012/13.

21. Do you have records of response times to incidents since TOLing started that indicate that crews are responding to incidents within 10 minutes?

22. Are there any examples where response times have exceeded 10 mins?

ANSWER:

21 and 22. I am advised:

Fire and Rescue NSW response times are calculated at the 50th and 90th percentile — the time within which 50 per cent and 90 per cent of the first responding fire engines arrive at the scene of a structure fire.

Fire and Rescue NSW response times to structure fires were:

	2011/12		2012/13	
Structure Fires	50 Percentile	90 Percentile	50 Percentile	90 Percentile
Metropolitan Operations	07.32 mins	11.14 mins	07.07 mins	11.00 mins
Regional Operations	09.14 mins	13.53 mins	08.59 mins	13.27 mins

Fire & Rescue NSW Metropolitan Operations response times are quicker than Regional areas, because Metropolitan Operations consists predominately of permanent fire fighters, whilst Regional Operations are predominately staffed by Retained (on call) Fire Fighters.

23. How does FRNSW account for the occasions when stations within Sydney GSA are TOLed when there has been no absence of staff from sick leave but other forms of planned leave, such as Consolidated Leave, Long Service Leave or Annual Leave?

ANSWER:

23. I am advised:

The guidelines in place for TOLing stations allow a station to be taken temporarily offline for any unplanned leave. Zone Commanders replace planned leave with relieving fire fighters, then on a daily and shift basis make decisions on which stations can be TOLed.

The practice of TOLing has been occurring for over 100 years on a routine basis to cover training or station forums, assisting in hazard reduction burns or participating in other activities.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES – THE HUNTER

14 AUGUST 2013

PART B: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. The Hunter Valley Research Foundation had funding withdrawn by the NSW Government in the 2012-13 Budget. The Minister for the Hunter told the HVRF luncheon in June 2012 that they would be able to realise Government funding through the process of the government paying for research to be done by HVRF during the course of the 2012-13 year. How many projects did the NSW Government engage HVRF to complete during 2012-13 and at what value?

ANSWER:

1. I am advised:

The NSW Government appreciates and understands the Hunter Valley Research Foundation's (HVRF) contribution to the provision of local economic information and has been supporting the organisation for more than two decades.

In late 2011, NSW Trade & Investment conducted a review of its services and information needs and made a decision to bring the bulk of research and statistical delivery functions in-house. As a result, many of the research and statistical services previously provided by HVRF are now managed by NSW Trade & Investment.

As a result of this review, the Department informed HVRF that their service arrangements will not be renewed. However, there will still be opportunities for HVRF to be engaged by the NSW Government on a fee-for-service basis for projects. The value amount for each project undertaken by the HVRF is commercial in confidence.

In 2012-13 the HVRF was successful in being contracted to complete the following projects:

- South-Western Sydney Area Health Service (SWSAHS) – a survey regarding influenza vaccinations for pregnant women that is currently awaiting ethics approval;
- NSW Health Infrastructure – Boundary Analysis for NSW Lower Hunter Hospital;
- NSW Department of Transport – Household Travel Survey;
- NSW Department of Transport – Regional NSW CATI Travel Survey;
- Newcastle Port Corporation - Economic Impact Assessment; and
- Hunter Development Corporation - Mining Impact Assessment.

I am also advised that in 2012-13 the HVRF has been engaged in the following projects;

- Infrastructure NSW and Regional Development Australia Hunter - early economic scoping and regional profiling work for Infrastructure, leading into the Hunter Economic Infrastructure Plan task
- Infrastructure NSW and Hunter Development Corporation - Regional Economic Modelling work focusing on employment and land use linkages
- NSW Bureau of Transport Statistics (an independent entity in Transport for NSW) – to undertake work over the last couple of years.

HVRF also successfully secured the contract for NSW Department of Transport's Travel Survey for 2013-14.

2. Within the Budget Estimates hearing you told the committee that the investment in roads in the Pokolbin vineyards of the Hunter Valley would help the visitor economy. At the same time, the Government has also withdrawn the \$3 million p.a. Cellar Door Subsidy in the Hunter Valley vineyards, a subsidy that supports economical pricing of wine sales at the cellar door, a key driver of the visitor economy. What representations have you made as Minister to have the cellar door subsidy reinstated so that the road budget to improve visitor economy is supported by the subsidy that supports the cellar door experience?

ANSWER:

2.

As Minister for the Hunter I regularly consult with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure the Hunter region continues to have a specific voice in Cabinet.

I am advised the Cellar Door subsidy has been significantly affected by the changes to Commonwealth taxation arrangements applied to the wine industry since 1997, including the introduction of the GST in 2000, and reforms to the Wine Equalisation Tax in 2004. The subsidy provided a rebate for some taxes to the Commonwealth on cellar door sales for winemakers whose total wholesale sales exceeded \$1.724 million annually. These factors have been considered by many private business owners resulting in a business decision on their operational cost. The NSW Government recognises the important contribution of the wine industry to the NSW economy, and will continue to work with the NSW Wine Industry Association to develop new ways to support the industry.

3. Are you aware of how many jobs have been directly lost in the vineyards due to removal of the CDS?

ANSWER:

3. Media reports purporting to the number of job losses within some private enterprises in the wine industry have been publicly documented. I am advised the Government continues to support regional tourism and employment by providing nearly \$1 million for product development and marketing for tourism operators in the Hunter under the Regional Tourism Product Development Program. This program is designed to develop tourism experiences in the Hunter and help support the work of the region's peak tourism organisation, Tourism Hunter.

4. Are you aware of, read or been briefed on the Hunter Valley Research Foundation report that was prepared for the Hunter Valley vignerions?

ANSWER:

4. I am advised the Hunter Valley Research Foundation report, for the Hunter Valley Vignerons, was privately commissioned by the NSW Wine Industry Association and was conducted in March 2013.

5. Are you aware of the number of jobs that have been lost at the Volgren factory, a bus manufacturing factory, as a result of the NSW Government decision to have buses made in Queensland instead of NSW?

6. Do you know what the economic impact to the Hunter Valley and NSW is as a result of these job losses and the closure of the factory at Tomago?

ANSWER:

5 and 6. I am advised:

In July 2012 Volgren, a bus company that manufactures in other states across Australia, made a business decision to cease operations at its Tomago facility. In May 2013 Volgren indicated it will continue to maintain its maintenance and repair capacity in its Tomago and Preston facilities. The company has indicated that it will not rule out resuming operations, which is a decision only Volgren can make.

7. Are you aware as to whether United Group Rail (UGL) train manufacturing base at Broadmeadow may lose staff due to the company's loss of NSW Government contracts?

ANSWER:

7. I am advised:

Transport for NSW procurement is undertaken in line with NSW Government procurement guidelines. Details of the policies are on the Procurement NSW website.

8. Are you aware as to whether Downer train manufacturing base at Glendale/Cardiff mas lose jobs due to the company losing NSW Government contracts?

ANSWER:

8. I am advised:

Transport for NSW procurement is undertaken in line with NSW Government procurement guidelines. Details of the policies are on the Procurement NSW website.

9. When were you made aware that the Minister for Planning would announce the truncation of the heavy rail line at Wickham and replace the rail line with an integrated bus service?

ANSWER:

9. While I am unable to provide an exact date, as the public announcement took place on 14 December 2012, conversations occurred before then.

10. Does the State Government intend to develop a regional Transport Plan for the Hunter?

ANSWER:

10.

Questions relating to Government future decisions are discussed in Cabinet under the auspice of Cabinet in Confidence guidelines.

I can advise that the NSW Government is currently developing Regional Transport Plans, which will specifically address the needs of regional customers. Transport for NSW will work with local government, stakeholders and local communities across NSW to ensure the unique future transport needs and requirements of the region are carefully considered.

11. Are you aware of the Hunter's significance in the history of Aboriginal communities across NSW? Have you visited any aboriginal sites of significance in the Hunter? Have you met with and discussed Aboriginal heritage with any indigenous groups in the Hunter?

ANSWER:

11. As Minister for the Hunter, I visit the Hunter on a regular basis ensuring that regional interests are advocated for in and out of Cabinet. Indigenous groups and organisations are always welcome to make contact with my office. I can advise that I have been in contact with indigenous groups in the Hunter in opposition and in Government.

As the Member would be aware in Newcastle the Traditional Custodians of Newcastle are the Awabakal and Worimi People. In 2011 ABS census counted the Newcastle Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as 3,927, representing 2.6% of all residents.

12. As Minister for the Hunter what do you perceive as the opportunities for diversification for the Hunter's economy to reduce its heavy reliance on coal?

ANSWER:

12.

The Hunter is a diversifying economy, with strong employment growth over the past five years in the health care, manufacturing and education/training sectors.

The Government has worked with industry to attract significant new capital investments to support a diversified regional economy.

I am advised:

Amongst those set to become operational in the next 6 to 12 months are:

- the Stothaven Australasia bulk liquid storage and terminal facility at the Port of Newcastle;
- the Newcastle Agri Terminal export facility; and
- the investment by Aspen Medical in a new International Centre for Resource Health in the Hunter, delivering 250 new jobs.

The Hunter is Australia's largest regional economy, with a gross regional product of \$37 billion in 2012, comprising approximately 8% of the economic activity of New South Wales.

The pipeline of committed private and public non-resources related investment in the region currently exceeds \$2.7 billion.

The Hunter has competitive advantages in resources, health, defence and aerospace, education, agriculture, viticulture and tourism sectors. The region has experienced declining unemployment and rising labour force participation since 2002.

A recently released report on Employment Outlook to 2017 by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations forecasts the Hunter will have the strongest employment growth in NSW over the next 5 years, surpassing Inner Sydney.

The current urban renewal strategy to revitalise Newcastle and attraction of major events acknowledges Newcastle's status as Australia's second largest non-capital city. The development of the Lower Hunter Regional Growth Plan will aim to support the growing population in the Hunter.

The NSW Government established industry-led Taskforces to develop 10-year Industry Action Plans to position key sectors of the State's economy for strong growth, resilience, improved innovation and productivity, global competitiveness, and new investment opportunities.

The Industry Action Plans provide a road map for industries in NSW over the decade to 2021, ensuring both Government and industry can best take advantage of opportunities and curb the threats to growth.

Industry Action Plans for six key sectors have been completed. They are:

- The Digital Economy;
- International Education and Research;
- Manufacturing;
- Professional Services;
- The Visitor Economy; and
- Creative Industries.

NSW 2021 Goal 3 is to drive economic growth in regional NSW. Delivering the Jobs Action Plan, implementing the Hunter Regional Action Plan and new significant investment in regional infrastructure will support the target of increasing economic diversity and the share of jobs in the Hunter Region.

13. Have you made any representation to the Deputy Premier following the exclusion of the Electorates of Maitland, Cessnock and Lake Macquarie from the Resources for Regions program?

ANSWER:

13.

As Minister for the Hunter I regularly consult with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure the Hunter region continues to have a specific voice in Cabinet.

Generally, the NSW Government recognises that mining affected regions face particular challenges and is committed to supporting these communities through the Resources for Regions program. This program is administered by Infrastructure NSW, with assistance from NSW Trade & Investment.

I am advised:

This year the NSW Government will extend \$120 million in funding to the mining-affected regions announced earlier this year, being Cobar, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Muswellbrook, Narrabri, Newcastle, Singleton and Wollongong Local Government Areas. Lake Macquarie Local Government Area was determined to be a Tier 4 community under the Economic Assessment of Mining Affected communities and was therefore not eligible for funding under the program this year.

Lake Macquarie had less mining related truck movements than both Wollongong and Newcastle LGAs and was therefore not eligible for funding under the indirect stream. Local Government Areas of Maitland and Cessnock did not respond to the Economic Assessment survey that was sent by Local Government NSW and were therefore not considered under the indirect stream.

These LGAs will be considered in future rounds of Resources for Regions. The NSW Government does have other regional infrastructure programs, including the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, and Restart NSW, 30% of which is quarantined for regional areas.

14. Does the State Government have a plan to guarantee that Newcastle will develop new residential developments over the next 10 years?

ANSWER:

14.

The Lower Hunter Regional Growth Plan is currently being developed to have much stronger integration between population, jobs, housing needs, transport and infrastructure than in the 2006 Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.

I am advised:

The development process involves targeted consultations with key government stakeholders involved in administering planning and approval processes in the region.

It has also taken on board inputs from the Hunter development sector, which is eager to see the Regional Growth Plan overcome impediments to urban development and affordable housing supply in the region.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure have projected that the Lower Hunter will be

home to an additional 130,000 people by 2031.

In March 2013, the Government called for inputs from the urban development sector, business and the community on the *Lower Hunter Discussion Paper* – to shape urban development in the Lower Hunter over the next 20 years.

Submissions were received by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure until 31 May 2013, and will inform the next stages of work in the development of the Regional Growth Plan.

Submissions are being considered and evaluated against a series of technical studies that analyse the housing market, the economics of commercial centre development, and residential growth scenarios for the Lower Hunter.

With these community and technical inputs incorporated, the draft Regional Growth Plan will be placed on public exhibition in late 2013.

The development of the Regional Growth Plan is taking into account the new strategic directions of the NSW planning system reforms.

Strong, sequenced strategic planning that integrates new urban development with transport and infrastructure delivery, and that streamlines approval requirements, are cornerstones of the Government's planning reform white paper – *A New Planning System for NSW*.

In terms of process improvements, developing flexible responses to dealing with constrained development sites; a more cost effective and 'up-front' planning approach to environmental offsetting; and consolidating planning instruments to better capture all State, regional and local planning requirements are integral to this development work.

Work on the new Regional Growth Plan has these principles at the forefront.

This comprehensive and integrated approach will help ensure the Lower Hunter is well placed to tackle its housing supply, affordability, population and economic challenges.

The job of Government will be to work effectively with industry on the provision of integrated transportation and infrastructure, employment opportunities, community services and facilities to accommodate growth, while also protecting natural resources and the environment.

15. When were you informed that Hunter Health would not be moving 420 workers into a Newcastle CBD site?

(a) Did you make any representations to the Minister for Health to oppose this decision and seek to support the revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD by having government departments located into the city centre?

ANSWER:

15.

As Minister for the Hunter I regularly consult with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure the Hunter region continues to have a specific voice in Cabinet.

Generally I am advised that Health Support Services (HSS) worked with the NSW Government's State Property Authority to identify accommodation options within the area. The Charlestown option was assessed as the best property to meet staffing needs. Staff consultation commenced in August 2012 to advise of the planned move and HSS throughout that time kept staff advised of the move. Two groups moved in late May 2013 and a further two moved in June 2013 to the brand-new office building with plenty of natural light, ceiling lighting that's specifically designed for screen-based workers, lots of meeting rooms, two training rooms and a bridge across Pacific Highway connecting the two buildings and floors. I am advised the Charlestown office is significantly better than the former building.

16. What steps have you taken to lobby for funding for the development of the 5th and final stage of the Newcastle City By-Pass road built?

ANSWER:

16.

As Minister for the Hunter I regularly consult with my Cabinet colleagues to ensure the Hunter region continues to have a specific voice in Cabinet.

Generally, the next stage of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Stage Five, is 3.4 kilometres long and is proposed to run between New Lambton Heights and Jesmond, to the west of John Hunter Hospital.

I am advised Roads and Maritime Services have completed a route options study between Rankin Park and Jesmond. The preferred route corridor has been included in Newcastle City Council's local environmental plan.

17. Have you asked for or been briefed on the expected changes to traffic flow throughout the Hunter as a result of the urban sprawl, construction of the Hunter Expressway and decision to cut the Newcastle Rail Line at Wickham?

ANSWER:

17. I am advised the NSW Government is undertaking concurrent state and region-wide strategic planning processes for transportation and infrastructure planning. These processes will culminate in the creation of the *Hunter Region Transport Plan* and the *20 Year Hunter Infrastructure Plan*.

I will continue to consult with my Cabinet colleagues on present and future plans as the Hunter continues to grow.

18. In August 2012 the O'Farrell Government announced that it had awarded a contract to build double decker deck buses to Bustech, a company that operates out of Queensland's Gold Coast. In same month Volgren, a bus manufacturer with a new, purpose built facility to build double deck buses in Tomago near Newcastle, made the last of its 150 workers redundant because it had no work for them. Volgren was not given the opportunity to tender

for the contract that you awarded to Queensland. Why is the O'Farrell Government sending NSW jobs to Queensland?

ANSWER:

18. I am advised:

All tender exercises by the Government adhere to policies and guideline mechanisms which can be found at www.finance.nsw.gov.au. In July 2012 Volgren made a business decision to cease operations at its Tomago facility. In May 2013 Volgren indicated it will continue to maintain its maintenance and repair capacity in its Tomago and Preston facilities. The company has indicated it will not rule out resuming operations, which is a decision that only Volgren can make.

19. In last year's Budget Estimates hearings on the Hunter, the Minister undertook to raise with the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure concerns I raised with the Minister in those hearings with respect to the cumulative environmental, human health, safety, traffic and air pollution impacts of a large number of developments in the Newcastle port area, including:

- (a) Port Waratah Coal Service's proposed T4 coal terminal,
- (b) The redevelopment of port-side land at Mayfield into a container, bulk and liquid cargo precinct,
- (c) Coal rail infrastructure,
- (d) A gas export terminal on Kooragang Island,
- (e) Coal seam gas drilling at Fullerton,
- (f) Expansion of the infamous Orica plant, and
- (g) The Marstel Fuel Storage at Mayfield.

Can the Minister please state if he has indeed raised these issues with the two ministers and if so, what has been the result?

ANSWER:

19.

I continue to discuss with fellow members of Cabinet issues on a range of topics such as those listed as well as a range of short and long term plans being considered by the Government for the Hunter.

I am advised:

In February this year, the Government announced tough new measures to further strengthen the regulation of the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) industry in NSW.

The NSW Government is in the process of putting in place the strictest and most comprehensive regulatory regime for CSG in the country.

This is an important and complex package of policy measures which the Government is progressively rolling-out in close consultation with stakeholders and the community.

As part of this program, earlier this year the Government committed to excluding new CSG projects from and within two kilometres of residential areas and within identified critical

industry clusters.

A draft State planning policy amendment was then exhibited to implement this position and the Government hopes to finalise the amendment shortly based on the substantial public feedback received.

Issues relating to the Draft Strategic Development Plan for the Port of Newcastle was prepared and exhibited by the Newcastle Port Corporation in early 2013, following extensive consultation. While the plan does not identify a port side rail line, the Government will consider all viable options to improve the rail network from both a capacity and an environmental performance perspective.

Since the unauthorised leaks from the Orica plant in August and November 2011 production at the facility was put on hold, while the terms of prevention notices issued by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) were addressed by the company.

The *Legislative Council Select Committee on the Kooragang Island Orica Chemical Leak* handed down its final report on 23 February 2012 contained recommendations that:

- the Premier issue guidelines to Government Ministers setting out timing requirements for public notification involving matters of public health and safety;
- additional procedures for the Office of Environment and Heritage (EPA) and Department of Health are put in place to improve the timeliness and accuracy of reporting, and verification of the extent of such incidents;
- the Office of Environment and Heritage (EPA) require Orica to engage independent experts to oversee future major plant expansions planned for 2016;
- the Office of Environment and Heritage (EPA) ensure inclusion of additional incident response procedures within Orica's Pollution Incident Management Response Plan.

Each of these recommendations was adopted by Government in 2012 to provide stronger regulatory safeguards over the plant's operation. In the event of a future incident, a sophisticated emergency response will be activated through the Newcastle *Local Emergency Plan*. The plan will address specific industrial hazards within the precinct; road and waterway access needs of the emergency services, and detailed notification and evacuation procedures – to better ensure the safety of surrounding communities.

The environmental assessment for the T4 coal terminal is required to include proposals to effectively manage such potential impacts. On 8 March 2012, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure released the environmental assessment for T4. Submissions closed on 7 May 2012. Port Waratah Coal Services will be required to respond to public submissions, after which a final decision will be made on the project by my colleague the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

The NSW Government is conscious of the environmental issues and concerns held in the community regarding further developments for the Port Waratah Coal Terminal (T4). The NSW Government is committed to maintaining an open dialogue with the community and Port Waratah Coal Services who undertook a range of specialist studies with input from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, through Director General's Requirements and various Australian and International Standards of the construction and operation of the T4 Project.

20. Is the Minister aware of widespread community concerns about existing large stockpiles of ammonium nitrate at Sandgate and on Kooragang Island, and proposals for more? What steps has the Minister taken to address these concerns and in particular, the low probability, high consequence risk of a major explosion and fire that could be 50 times more intense than the explosion that destroyed a plant and much of its surroundings in the city of West in Texas, USA, in April this year?

ANSWER:

20.

As this is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Heritage and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure detailed responses should be sought from these Ministers.

I continue to monitor developments in the region, including with respect to emergency management. Please also refer to the answer to Question 19.

21. Why has the government allowed both Orica and Incitec to not release the blast 'overpressure' maps for their ammonium nitrate facilities in Newcastle?

(a) Does the Minister believe that the community has a right to know the potential impacts of a blast at either of these facilities?

ANSWER:

21. I am advised:

Some of the technical information attached to Orica's and Incitec's development applications relating to blast overpressure has been provided to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on a confidential basis but has been considered as part of the Department's technical assessment of these projects.

All potentially hazardous facilities such as Orica and Incitec are subject to a rigorous risk assessment and development applications are not approved unless the assessment demonstrates that the facility does not pose significant risks to the surrounding area. In this regard, the Government has had risk criteria for land use safety planning for more than 20 years, which are recognised nationally and internationally. The risks from the Orica facility met these criteria.

Incitec has lodged a development application for a new facility on Kooragang Island, which, if approved, would also include the storage of ammonium nitrate. The development application for this project is currently under merit assessment by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

22. What steps has the Minister taken to support the development of a port-side rail line at Mayfield on the banks of the South Arm of the Hunter River to relieve the adverse impacts of the transport of coal to Kooragang Island, on passenger train movements, on urban motor vehicle traffic (because of crossings closures) and on urban amenity and health (because of the proximity of the existing line to residents including the noise impacts of night-time train movements)?

ANSWER:

22.

I consult with my Cabinet colleagues on many aspects of the Hunter.

I am advised:

The Draft Strategic Development Plan for the Port of Newcastle was prepared and exhibited by the Newcastle Port Corporation in early 2013, following extensive consultation. While the plan does not identify a port side rail line, the Government will consider all viable options to improve the rail network from both a capacity and an environmental performance perspective.

23. Have plans of the proposed Western Freight By-Pass line been advanced?

(a) If so, what progress has been made?

(b) What steps has the Minister taken to promote the project?

ANSWER:

23. I am advised preliminary investigation into a Lower Hunter Freight Corridor, between the Main Northern Line to the north of Awaba and the vicinity of Hexham, has commenced.

The results of the investigation will be reported to Government in late 2013 at which time, I will consult with the Minister for Roads and Ports on the findings made in the investigation.

24. At what stage did the O'Farrell government decide that their co-sponsorship of the Art Gallery re-development was no longer a priority?

(a) Given the considerable leverage the state could have had from the matching funds offered by the Commonwealth and the substantial local government and community contributions, why did the Government decide that this was not a cost-effective investment?

(b) Has the O'Farrell government entirely abandoned a new art gallery for Newcastle or is there some chance that the project can be revived at a later date?

ANSWER:

24. I am advised:

The NSW Government has made no commitment to the Newcastle Art Gallery for funds for the re-development.

Consideration may be given for major regional capital developments in subsequent budgets.

On 9 April 2013, the Newcastle City Council voted to halt the Newcastle Art Gallery redevelopment. The Gallery is a Council facility and as such Newcastle City Council is the principal financial supporter of the Gallery. Due to the current fiscal environment, no State funds have been identified to support this project. The NSW Government is committed to

supporting arts and culture in regional NSW. Over \$7 million has been provided so far this year under the 2013 Arts Funding Program to 100 organisations and individuals in regional NSW. This includes funding of \$670,103 to arts organisations, programs, and projects based in the Hunter region.

25. Given that the long-awaited and much-debated Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy (NURS) advocated a bus-based transport replacement for heavy rail services between Wickham and Newcastle, what additional data or other information did the government receive between December 2012 when it was finally released and the June 2013 announcement of a light-rail alternative?

ANSWER:

25.

The decision to deliver light rail in the Newcastle city centre is a coordinated, whole-of-government decision to support the revitalisation of Newcastle. It is based on principles aimed at improving the overall function of the city for transport, community accessibility and conducting business.

Light rail will be a transformative project that will contribute to urban renewal and drive development in the city centre.

I am advised:

It will be closely aligned with land use planning, such as the construction of a university campus in the city centre, to maximise transport benefits as part of the broader plans for the revitalisation of the city centre.

Light rail will deliver a regular, high-capacity public transport service, while facilitating improved movement across the city centre for pedestrians and traffic, and reconnecting the city centre with the harbour foreshore

The proposed new light rail will operate between a minimum of Wickham and Newcastle, and is potentially only the beginning of a light rail system for Newcastle.

A broader plan for light rail will be delivered, with \$10 million initially allocated to investigate the feasibility of linking light rail to surrounding suburbs and beaches.

Light rail will improve the amenity of the city by removing trains from the CBD, facilitate improved movement across the city for pedestrians and traffic, and enable the city centre to be reconnected with the harbour foreshore.

Light rail can carry more passengers than bus and will provide a modern, accessible transport system to support urban renewal in Newcastle.

To inform the delivery of this initiative, on 9 August 2013 the Minister for Transport announced the release of tenders for two key studies.

The first tender explores options for the location of light rail and how it will support the revitalisation of the Newcastle CBD, as well as options for future connections to link the CBD with surrounding suburbs, beaches and the broader Hunter region.

The second tender will take a more detailed look at how people travel around Newcastle – whether by car, bus, rail, ferry, walking or cycling, and where they are travelling.

This work will build an understanding of alternative light rail solutions, and how they impact the way people will travel around the city, particularly as Newcastle continues to grow.

26. Is it correct that the Environment Protection Authority's Newcastle Particle Characterisation study will only measure PM2.5 particles (i.e. particles with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 micrometers) and not other size classes such as PM10 and PM1, and will use only two samplers for a single year?

(a) Is this because budget constraints prohibit the measurement of other particle size classes and the provision of more samplers for a longer period?

ANSWER:

26.

The Government is aware of community issues and concerns regarding coal transport and potential health impacts.

I am advised:

The regulation of dust emissions from mines, trains and terminals is the responsibility of the Environment Protection Authority. The authority has directed the Australian Rail Track Corporation to investigate the contribution of coaldust from trains to the overall level of particulate pollution in the Newcastle area as part of its environmental licence. Both the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the community Coal Terminal Action Group recently released studies into coaldust, but the results are not agreed. An independent review is working with the Environment Protection Authority and the Australian Rail Track Corporation to resolve the outstanding issues. Transport NSW has been asked by the Minister for Roads and Ports to monitor progress on the matter.

2013 BUDGET ESTIMATES - GENERAL PORTFOLIO

14 AUGUST 2013

PART B: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

1. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?
 2. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?
 3. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?
 4. To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?
 5. In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?
-

ANSWER:

1 to 5.

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

6. Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any interstate or intrastate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?
-

ANSWER:

6. Yes.

7. Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all travel?
 8. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions?
 9. What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?
 10. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?
 11. Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?
 12. Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?
-

ANSWER:

7 to 12.

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

13. Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?

ANSWER:

13.
Information regarding reimbursement payments is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

14. Have you had meetings scheduled interstate or intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?

15. Did you take your spouse/partner on these trips?

ANSWER:

14 and 15.
Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

16. Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?

17. If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?

ANSWER:

16. I am advised:

Information on Department of Premier and Cabinet Memorandum 'Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying' can be found at

18. How many blackberries or smart phones are assigned to your staff?

ANSWER:

18. I am advised:

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers Offices.

19. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER:

19. I am advised:

The total expenditure on all phone types by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$483,310	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226	\$232,286

Note: 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

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

ANSWER:

20. I am advised:

For Premier's Office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

21. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER:

21. I am advised:

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

22. How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

22. I am advised:

The number of iPads issued for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices for 2012/13 is 75.

23. How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

23. I am advised:

iPads are supplied by DPC.

24. How many iPhones or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

24. I am advised:

169 phones have been issued to NSW Ministerial Offices.

25. How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER:

25. I am advised:

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC.

26. How many iPhones or other smart phones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER:

26. I am advised:

For Premier's Office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

27. How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?

ANSWER:

27. I am advised:

For Premier's office and Ministers' offices the number of iPads lost was 2.

28. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?

ANSWER:

28. I am advised:

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

ANSWER:

29. I am advised:

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (MPES): Nil

NSW Police Force (NSWPF) : 40

NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC) : Nil

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) : 7

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) : 4

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) : 3

30. What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER:

30. I am advised:

MPES: Nil

NSWPF : \$4,793,507

NSWCC : Nil

FRNSW : \$951,051

NSW RFS : \$421,102

NSW SES : \$254,125

31. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

32. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

ANSWER:

31 and 32. I am advised:

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

33. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

34. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

35. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

ANSWER:

33 to 35. I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

36. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

ANSWER:

36. I am advised:

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at
http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

37. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

38. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

ANSWER:

37 and 38. I am advised information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

39. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?

ANSWER:

39. I am advised:

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

40. How many political advisors are in your office?
41. How many administration staff?

ANSWER:

40 and 41. I am advised:

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

42. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

ANSWER:

42. I am advised:

Number of Department Liaison Officers (DLOs) are:

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012	Number of DLOs as at 30/06/2013
Premier	1	1
Ministers	57	54
TOTAL	58	55

43. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

ANSWER:

43. I am advised:

Agencies within the police and emergency services portfolio have staff who provide support to the Minister in my statutory, Parliamentary, Cabinet and other portfolio responsibilities. Workforce data is reported in each agency's annual report.

44. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?

45. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

ANSWER:

44 and 45. I am advised:

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

46. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER:

46. I am advised:

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094	\$92,829

Note: 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

47. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

48. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

49. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER:

47 to 49. I am advised:

Agencies undertake internal reviews of their structures to ensure functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work involves reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of reports.

50. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

51. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

52. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?

ANSWER:

50 to 52. I am advised:

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

53. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2012/13?

ANSWER:

53. I am advised:

MPES: \$19,000

NSWPF : \$2.9 million. This figure includes catering at the NSW Police Academy and at police operations.

NSWCC : \$5,854

FRNSW : \$390,019

NSW RFS : \$122,284. The NSW Rural Fire Service does not have a specific budget solely for catering. Line items identified as catering total \$122,284.

NSW SES : \$205,000. This figure includes catering at official functions and sustenance for the agency's 10,000 members, staff and volunteers at various events such as training.

54. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2012/13?

ANSWER:

54. I am advised:

MPES: \$45,000

NSWPF : \$1.5 million

NSWCC : \$59,683

FRNSW : \$439,989

NSW RFS : \$89,238

NSW SES : \$212,803

55. What is your Department's catering budget?

ANSWER:

55. I am advised:

MPES: \$15,000 in 2012/13

NSWPF : Estimated at \$2.9 million

The NSWCC, FRNSW, NSW RFS and NSW SES do not have discrete catering budgets.

56. What is your Department's stationery budget?

ANSWER:

56. I am advised:

MPES: \$45,000 for 2012/13.

NSWPF : \$1.3 million.

NSWCC : The NSWCC does not have a discrete stationery budget.

FRNSW : \$380,000 for 2012/13.

NSW RFS : Approximately \$90,000 for 2013/14.

NSW SES : \$202,000 for 2013/14.

57. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

58. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

ANSWER:

57. and 58. I am advised:

Further to the answer provided to GPSC4 supplementary questions 94 and 95, lodged on 6 November 2012 -

MPES: No.

NSWPF: A corporate branding style for the three police contact numbers (000, Police Assistance Line and Crime Stoppers) has been introduced.

NSWCC: No.

FRNSW: Yes, rebranding was completed in-house at nil cost.

NSW RFS: The RFS made some changes to corporate branding such as design templates for publications with \$13,875 spent.

NSWSES: After the change to NSW State Emergency Service, approximately \$30,000 was spent developing artwork for new corporate stationery, building signage and vehicle designs to be used as new assets come on line or additional stationery is required.

59. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

60. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

ANSWER:

59 and 60. I am advised:

All six agencies in the Police and Emergency Services portfolio have recommended time frames for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public from the date of receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this timeframe for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

61. In 2012/13 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

62. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

63. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

ANSWER:

61 to 63. I am advised:

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at:
<http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

64. 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 fun
 - (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - (i) Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?
-

ANSWER:

64. I am advised these details can be found in each agency's Annual Report.

65. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?

ANSWER:

65.

MPES : Four, at a cost of \$20,000

NSWPF : 203, at a cost of \$8.45 million during 2012/13

NSWCC : Nil

FRNSW : Four

NSW RFS : Two, at a cost of \$24,815 (as at 2 August 2013)

NSW SES : Nine, at a cost of \$548,841

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

67. How has that changed since 1 July 2012?

ANSWER:

66 and 67. I am advised:

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at June 2013 will be included in the Workforce Profile 2013 Report, due to be released with the 2013 State of the Public Sector Report in November 2013. NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 outlines Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

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

ANSWER:

68. I am advised:

MPES : Nil

NSWPF : In 2012/13 approximately \$30,000

NSWCC : Nil

FRNSW : In 2012/13 approximately \$40,970

NSW RFS : \$5,208

NSW SES : Nil

69. 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?

ANSWER:

69. I am advised:

As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are being undertaken across the NSW Government.

70. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2012

(a) kilometres travelled

(b) accommodation

(c) air fares

(d) meals/entertaining?

ANSWER:

70. I am advised:

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

71. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2012;

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

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

- (a) Are these meetings documented?
- (b) Who attends these meetings?

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

ANSWER:

71 to 73.

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier and Ministers of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier and/or Minister, or which have the Premier's and/or Minister's endorsement.

74. 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?
-

ANSWER:

74. No.

75. 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?
-

ANSWER:

75. I am advised:

No.
