



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016 Supplementary Questions

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6

Innovation and Better Regulation

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Answers due by: Tuesday 29 September 2015

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Questions from Shaoquett Moselmane [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]

GPSC No: 6

Innovation and Better Regulation

1. Why in a report of 11 March 2015 did Fair Trading claim that 'Fair Trading does not have any evidence to support the claim that using a licensed tradesperson over other unqualified workers will increase the risk of exposure for consumers', when the National Institute of Painting and Decorating provided evidence in its correspondence to Fair Trading and the Minister on 2 March 2015, with references to studies and publications published in the Journal of Health Politics, the World Health Organisation, the Department of Environment, Safe Work Australia, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the Department of Health?

Response:

Low value internal paintwork has always been excluded from the requirements of the Home Building Act by means of a threshold. The previous Labor Government amended the Home Building Act in 2004 to include a five-fold increase the threshold for work (other than specialist work) requiring a licence (from \$200 to \$1,000).

The NSW Government's decision to increase the threshold to \$5,000 in 2014 was adopted in response to recommendations made by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This new threshold better aligns NSW with applicable thresholds in Victoria (\$5,000) and Queensland (\$3,300).

Recent changes to the scope of work regulated under the Home Building Act 1989 have not altered the work health and safety (WHS) obligations of Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs). Every PCBU, whether they or their workers are required to hold trade licences or not, continues to be subject to obligations to carry out work safely.

The health and safety obligations of traders to ensure safe work practices (including managing risks of exposure to hazardous substances such as asbestos and lead) are stringently regulated by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

These laws include general 'primary duty of care' obligations that PCBUs must not put people's health and safety at risk from their work, and must ensure employees have adequate information, training, instruction or supervision. The law also contains specific obligations for traders in respect of lead risk work and work involving asbestos, including training obligations and licensing of certain work involving asbestos.

2. Why did the Minister claim that the decision to remove the requirement for internal paintwork to be carried out by licensed painters was made through an 'extensive consultation' process, but documents obtained through the GIPA process show that the Office of Fair Trading did not receive any input from the painting industry at all, and did not include the policy in the draft Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement in July 2014, or in any of Fair Trading's 'Foundation' E-newsletters to the industry?

Response:

The *Review of the Home Building Act 1989* was widely publicised during 2012 to 2014 by means of media releases, social media, the NSW Fair Trading website, letters from the then Minister and

Commissioner for Fair Trading to identified stakeholders including to the peak body for the NSW painting industry (Master Painters Australia Association of NSW), and via Fair Trading's e-newsletter for the residential building industry (*Foundations*). The Master Painters Australia Association of NSW participated in elements of the consultation process, including responding to an industry survey in 2012. Their response is published on the Fair Trading website. They also nominated painting industry members to participate in a roundtable in 2012.

Information about the review was published in issues of the *Foundations* e-newsletter on:

- 6 September 2012
- 19 December 2012
- 4 September 2013
- 18 June 2014
- 29 September 2014
- 18 December 2014.

Copies of the above e-newsletters are published on the Fair Trading website. In addition, email alerts about the review were also sent to *Foundations* subscribers on 4 July 2012 (for the Issues Paper launch), on 2 October 2013 (for the Position Paper launch), and on 25 July 2014 (about consultation on the Home Building Regulation).

The NSW Government announced its intention to exclude stand-alone contracts for internal paintwork from the Home Building Act in the review's Position Paper on 24 September 2013. The reform was introduced into the NSW Parliament on 6 May 2014 as part of the Home Building Amendment Bill 2014, and was specifically noted in the then Minister's second reading speech. The Home Building Amendment Bill 2014 was passed by the NSW Parliament on 28 May 2014. The Home Building Regulation 2014 does not contain any provisions about internal paintwork.

- a. Why was the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and the Department of Industry included as two of only four 'stakeholders' who supported the reforms, while the 5 industry associations who opposed it were ignored? How can a government department from Queensland be considered a 'stakeholder' in the NSW building industry?

Response:

All individuals and organisations that made submissions to the public consultation about the Home Building Regulation are referred to as 'stakeholders' because they have indicated an interest in matters relevant to the Regulation. NSW Fair Trading considered all of the submissions, and the issues that they raised were considered on their merits. The perspectives of regulators in other States and Territories and the Commonwealth are relevant because they share similar experiences and challenges regulating industry.

The NSW Government's decision to increase the threshold to \$5,000 in 2014 was adopted in response to recommendations made by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This new threshold better aligns NSW with applicable thresholds in Victoria (\$5,000) and Queensland (\$3,300).

The input of jurisdictions with which NSW shares a border is of particular interest because of the impact that NSW laws have on traders in border communities who do cross-border work (e.g. in Albury-Wodonga, Tweed-Coolangatta, Canberra-Queanbeyan).

- b. Why did Fair Trading ignore the licensing models in WA, SA, and QLD, but instead choose to model its regulations on the Victorian Building Regulations, in which the Victorian Auditor-General's Office recently reported that it found 'critical weaknesses' in the state's consumer protection framework for building industry regulation and that it 'does not provide adequate consumer protection'?

Response:

The NSW Government's decision to increase the threshold to \$5,000 in 2014 was adopted in response to recommendations made by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This new threshold better aligns NSW with applicable thresholds in Victoria (\$5,000) and Queensland (\$3,300).

The Home Building Regulation 2014 is not modelled on the laws of any one jurisdiction. NSW Fair Trading compared aspects of NSW's regulatory arrangements to those in other States and Territories as part of developing reforms, and this was not restricted to Victoria.

3. Why has the Office of Fair Trading ignored correspondence from WorkCover NSW, which recommended to Fair Trading that it "identify training courses or units of competency that could be used by painters and industry in terms of minimum acceptable training qualifications"?

Response:

NSW Fair Trading publishes on its website a list of qualifications that are acceptable for the issue of a painting licence as well as links to further information about nationally recognised training packages. These resources are also available to unlicensed businesses or individuals who are seeking guidance about suitable qualifications for painting work that is not regulated under the *Home Building Act 1989*.

Ministerial Office Administration

4. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
 - a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?
 - b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

Response:

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

5. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
 - a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
 - b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

Response:

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

6. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
 - a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
 - b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

Response:

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

7. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
 - a) If so, how many times did this occur?
 - ii. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

Response:

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

8. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
 - a) What is the cost of this?

Response:

No.

9. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?
 - a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

Response:

No.

10. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?
 - a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
 - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

Response:

My office has an ongoing subscription to major daily newspapers which includes access to online news sites. My office does not subscribe to any other newspaper, magazine, journal or periodical.

11. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?
- a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?

Response:

The cost of gifts is managed appropriately within the Minister's office budget.

12. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- a) What is the cost of this?

Response:

No.

13. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?
- a) Do they have ABN's?
 - ii. If so, please provide details?
 - b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
 - c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

Response:

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

14. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

Response:

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

Ministerial and Office Travel

15. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
- a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Response:

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

16. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
- a) What were the nature of these trips?
 - b) Who paid for these trips?

Response:

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

17. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:

- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine hire
- c) Private hire care
- d) Hire car rental

Response:

Expenditure on taxis across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776

18. Have you ever used Uber?

- a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

Response:

No.

19. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

Response:

No.

20. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

Response:

No.

21. Have you used Airbnb?

Response:

No.

22. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

Response:

No.

23. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?
- a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

Response:

(a) Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$33,270 in 2014/15. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$282,000.

24. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

Response:

None.

Labour Hire Firms

25. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:
- a) The names of the firms utilised
- b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
- c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

Response:

The Finance, Services & Innovation Cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall employment expense budget.

Media and Public Relations

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

Response:

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation employs a team of eight media and public relations adviser positions.

27. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Response:

No forecasts have been completed.

28. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

Response:

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009/10.

29. Have you had media training or speech training?
- a) If yes, who paid for it?
 - b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

Response:

No.

Consultants, Lobbyists and Former Parliamentarians

30. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

31. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

32. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?

- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

33. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

34. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

35. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

36. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

37. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

38. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
 - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
 - c) What was discussed?
 - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

Response:

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

39. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?
- a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

Response:

No.

40. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

Response:

No.

Consulting

41. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Response:

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

42. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:
- a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - b) Photography
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - c) Acting training
 - i. And the cost of these services
 - d) Ergonomics
 - i. And the cost of these services

Response:

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

Department/Agency Administration

43. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
- a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
 - b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

44. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- a) What was the nature of these works/services?
 - b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

45. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

46. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
- a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

47. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

48. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

49. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?
- a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

50. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
- a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

Response:

During 2014-15, the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation received four allegations involving suspected internal fraud. Three of those matters were investigated and the allegations were not substantiated. The other matter was referred to the NSW Police and an investigation is still pending. The estimated total sum alleged to have been defrauded is \$800.

51. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?
- a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?
 - b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?
 - c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

52. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

53. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?
- a) What is their remuneration band?
 - b) For each SES employee, how many have:
 - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
 - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
 - iii. less than 5 staff?

Response:

Information regarding SES employees is available in agency annual reports.

54. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:
- a) workplace bullying;
 - b) stress leave; and
 - c) sick leave?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

55. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?
- a) If so, what is:
 - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?

- ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
- iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

Response:

No.

Department/Agency Travel

56. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
- a) Taxi hire
 - b) Limousine/private car hire
 - c) Hire car rental

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

57. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

Response:

No.

58. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?
- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

Response:

No.

59. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

Response:

No.

60. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?
- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

Response:

No.

Departmental/Agency IT

61. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 62. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
 - a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
 - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 63. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?
 - a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

Response:

Given the number of entities within the Department, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

- 64. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
 - a) If so, how many times did this occur?
 - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

Response:

No.

Efficiency Dividend

- 65. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the

service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

66. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

67. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

68. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

69. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:
- a) 2014/15 financial year
 - b) 2013/14 financial year
 - c) 2012/13 financial year?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

70. For the 2015/16 financial year:
- a) What savings measures will the Department save?
 - b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
 - c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
 - d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

Response:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's

original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Questions from John Kaye

GPSC No: 6

Innovation and Better Regulation

Labelling of free-range eggs

71. Can the Minister please outline any additional farms that he intends to visit as part of the development of a national legislated definition of free range eggs?

Response:

During my time as Minister, both staff and I have visited egg producers Pace Farm and Oaks Organics with plans to visit further farms later this year.

72. Have NSW Fair Trading representatives visited any farms as part of the development of a national legislated definition of free-range eggs?
- (a) If so please provide details.
- (b) If not why not.

Response:

During my time as Minister, both staff and I have visited egg producers Pace Farm and Oaks Organics with plans to visit additional farms later this year.

There may also be further opportunities for Fair Trading representatives to visit egg farms as part of the consultation on the draft national information standard.

73. Please provide a list of companies and or/organisations that the Minister has consulted with as part of the development of a national legislated definition of free range eggs

Response:

As Minister, I have consulted with the Greens (The Hon. Dr John Kaye MLC), CHOICE, the Humane Society and Egg Farmers of Australia Inc.

I have also convened a roundtable which included Matt Levey (Director of Campaigns and Communications, CHOICE), Katinka Day (Policy and Campaigns Adviser, CHOICE), Christopher Zinn, Paul Pace (General Manager, Pace Farm), Bede Burke and John Dunn (Egg Farmers Australia) and Rod Stowe – NSW Fair Trading Commissioner.

During my time as Minister, both staff and I have visited egg producers Pace Farm and Oaks Organics with plans to visit additional farms later this year.

74. Please provide a list of companies and or/organisations that the NSW Department of Fair Trading has consulted with as part of the development of a national legislated definition of free range eggs

Response:

NSW Fair Trading has consulted with CHOICE, Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL), AECL members, Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia Limited, the Humane Society, the NSW Food Authority, and Professor Christine Parker. Consultation with industry is ongoing.

75. How long will public consultation be open on the regulation impact statement [RIS] as part of the development of the national standard for free-range eggs?

Response:

It is expected that there will be a four-week public consultation process.

76. Has the Minister or representatives from the NSW Department of Fair Trading consulted with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) as part of the development of a national standard for free-range eggs?

- (a) If so what was the nature and outcome of this engagement?
(b) If not why not?

Response:

Yes.

- (a) NSW Fair Trading, the Commonwealth Treasury and the ACCC have been working together on developing options to enhance consumer confidence and certainty around egg labelling. To this end, options for a national information standard for egg labelling have been included in a regulation impact statement (RIS) for release for public consultation. The development of the draft information standard has taken into account the outcomes of legal proceedings concerning egg producers being taken by the ACCC.
- (b) N/A

Labelling of free-range pig products

77. Can the Minister please outline how the NSW government intends to respond to the misuse of the free-range label by pork producers as exposed by the ACCC on 3 September?

Response:

The misuse of the label 'free range' for pork products would be most appropriately heard through the Consumer Affairs Forum, which is due to meet next year.

As an issue of importance to consumers in NSW, I will continue to monitor this issue and advocate for consumers to be able to make genuine, informed decisions about the pork products they consume.