

**GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No. 5**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011/2012**

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Local Government**

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**Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC**

**Elections**

**QUESTION**

1. Re: Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet: Guidelines for Council Administered Elections 2012, what is the average difference in cost between a council administering its own elections and appointing the NSWEC?

**ANSWER:**

While the Division is aware of the amount each council paid the NSWEC in 2008, and that the NSWEC has advised that this figure will be approximately 10% to 20% higher in 2012 to cover increases in wage and operational costs, it is not possible to quantify the amount a council administering its own elections would spend as this is dependent on variables that will differ from council to council.

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**QUESTION**

2. Has any funding been made available to councils to assist with running their election next year?

**ANSWER:**

No. This is in line with the policy and practice of the previous State government.

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**QUESTION**

3. If the council wishes to continue using the NSWEC it now must pass a resolution before November 30, 2011 (at least a year before the election). Therefore, is the process of appointing an independent administrator now more difficult and time-consuming?

**ANSWER:**

Councils may choose whether to engage the services of the NSWEC and have all the operational aspects of conducting the elections taken care of by that organisation, or to administer the elections themselves, which will obviously require more involvement by the council. If they decide to conduct their own election, they will still have many months to organise a returning officer.

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**QUESTION**

- 4. How many councils have so far applied to continue using the NSWEC?**
  - a. Which councils?**

**ANSWER:**

4-4a: Councils have until 30 November 2011 to resolve whether they will engage the NSWEC to administer the ordinary elections in 2012. The information relating to which councils have applied to continue using the NSWEC will be available after that date.

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**QUESTION**

- 5. How is the independence and objectivity of the General Manager running the elections assured?**

**ANSWER:**

If a council resolves to conduct its own elections, section 296(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that the General Manager is responsible for the overall administration of the council's election. However, section 296A(5) explicitly excludes the General Manager from being appointed as a Returning Officer, substitute Returning Officer or an electoral official.

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**QUESTION**

- 6. Has the Division of Local Government sought advice from ICAC?**

**ANSWER:**

No.

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**QUESTION**

- 7. Are there any programs being developed to train councillors and staff about their new responsibilities (that historically had been the duty of the NSWEC), since the changes to the conduct of elections require increased knowledge and understanding about processes and current elections legislative requirements? Is there an extra cost in terms of training/hiring?**

**ANSWER:**

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW may be in a position to develop various training models should councils make such a request. Generally, it is a matter for an individual council to determine whether training is required and, if so, how this training will be done.

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In addition, the Division of Local Government will shortly roll out a Candidate Diversity Strategy to increase the diversity of candidates who will stand for election at the local government ordinary elections in NSW in September 2012.

The Strategy has a number of components, including:

- Revision of *Becoming a Councillor*, a joint publication with the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, to assist potential candidates to decide whether and how to stand for election and what to expect once elected. The update will provide links to resources targeted at assisting under-represented groups.
- Joint pre-election seminars with the NSW Electoral Commission to be held across NSW to provide information for intending candidates. The seminars will include key messages encouraging diverse groups to stand for election.
- Brochures will be produced in community languages with key information for diverse groups about why and how to stand for election.
- Local councils and other organisations will be provided with resources to undertake local campaigns to encourage diverse groups within their community to consider standing for election.

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**QUESTION**

8. Under the amendment “councils will be able to negotiate on commercial terms how their elections will be administered”. What is meant here by commercial terms?

**ANSWER:**

In the past and under the transitional arrangements that apply to the delivery of the 2012 elections, the NSWEC has determined in large part how the election will be conducted in each council, ie, the number of and location of polling places, the number of staff to be employed and so on.

The amendment to the *Local Government Act 1993* (section 296(2)) will enable a council for all future elections to specify the services it wishes to receive. If the NSWEC undertakes a council’s election, it will do so on the council’s terms.

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**QUESTION**

9. Under the Act there are provisions for allegations of maladministration to be reviewed by the Division. Reviewing possible maladministration internally within the Division seems problematic?

**ANSWER:**

An allegation of maladministration in relation to the conduct of elections would not be problematic, as one of the Division's functions under the Local Government Act 1993 is to investigate complaints and allegations about the conduct and activities of councils, elected members and council staff.

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**QUESTION**

10. Are there other mechanisms or other bodies that would review concerns?

**ANSWER:**

Where complaints arise about the conduct of elections by councils, the following avenues of review or appeal will be available:

- Allegations of corruption will continue to be dealt with by the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
  - Allegations of criminality or wrongdoing of candidates, political party representatives and members of the public at council elections will continue to be dealt with by the Police.
  - Allegations of inappropriate conduct of council or public officials will continue to be dealt with by the NSW Ombudsman.
  - Candidates aggrieved about an election result, qualifications of candidates, etc, will continue to avail themselves of the jurisdictions of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal and the Supreme Court of NSW.
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**Destination 2036**

**QUESTION**

11. Why was this conference, which was advertised as a workshop, held before many local Mayoral elections occurred in September which a number of councillors lost their Mayoral positions?

**ANSWER:**

Destination 2036 was scheduled to coincide with a break in Parliament and to avoid clashes with other already scheduled local government events.

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**QUESTION**

**12. Can the Minister advise, why you didn't arrange the O'Farrell taxpayer funded Destinations Conference to coincide with the LGA conference?**

**ANSWER:**

*Destination 2036* was designed as a strategic planning exercise for local government leaders from every general purpose council, county council and Regional Organisation of Councils within NSW.

The Local Government Association represents primarily metropolitan and regional councils. Combining *Destination 2036* with the LGA conference would have denied rural and some regional councils the opportunity to participate and have their views heard.

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**QUESTION**

**13. Can the Minister advise the consultations you or your department have had with the proposed changes to the status of councils and employment protection provisions of the Local Government Amendment Bill 2011.**

**ANSWER:**

*Status of Councils*

This amendment was requested by the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) as part of their NSW Election Priorities 2011. In response to that request, I gave a commitment to the local government sector to consider reversing the legal status of councils from a body politic of the State back to the pre 2008 status of body corporate under which they operated for the previous 80 years.

The NSW Office of Industrial Relations was also closely consulted in relation to this proposal and advised regardless of the change of council status back to Body Corporate all employees would remain under the jurisdiction of the NSW industrial relations system.

*Employment protections*

Under Legislation still before the House it is proposed that employment protection be reduced from three years to one year. This proposed amendment only applies in the case of amalgamation or boundary change.

Councils which underwent amalgamations for the purpose of improving their efficiencies and providing better services to their ratepayers have expressed concerns that achieving any form of savings proved difficult because they were forced to carry the work forces of two or more councils for a period of three years.

This level of employment protection not afforded to employees in other industries and is an unreasonable burden for councils.

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**QUESTION**

**14. Can the Minister advise what evidence was used to support your proposed changes to the status of councils and employment protections?**

**ANSWER:**

Refer to my response to question 13, above.

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**QUESTION**

**15. Can the Minister provide an updated costing of the O'Farrell funded Destinations Conference?**

**ANSWER:**

The total cost of the Destination 2036 conference to-date is \$284,008.54.

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**QUESTION**

**16. Why is the government devising plans for local government for the next 25 years without any contributions from the people who work in local government, pensioner, ratepayer and community groups?**

**ANSWER:**

The *Destination 2036* workshop was the start of a process for planning a sustainable future for local government. Mayors and councillors from every council were in attendance and they were there representing the interests of all members of the community. The key employee representative bodies also participated.

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The *Destination 2036 Outcomes Report* has been released for detailed stakeholder consultation. The Implementation Steering Committee is currently finalising a Draft Action Plan, which will be released for broad consultation in late November. The range of actions proposed in the draft Action Plan will be the subject of extensive stakeholder and community consultation and participation during 2012, prior to their implementation. All documents have been published on the Division's website and public comment invited.

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**QUESTION**

**17. Can the Minister advise for what length of time did Professor Sohail Inayatullah, and Ms Corin Moffat speak at the conference?**

**ANSWER:**

Professor Sohail Inayatullah was scheduled to speak for one hour and 5 minutes during the day and then again in the evening, as the dinner speaker, with no time limit set on the duration. Ms Corin Moffatt was scheduled to speak for half an hour. No records were kept regarding the actual duration of their speeches.

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**Swimming Pools**

**QUESTION**

**18. What funding will be provided to assist councils in conducting swimming pool safety campaigns?**

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government has a three year funding agreement with Royal Life Saving Society NSW (RLSS). A grant of \$700,000 is provided each year to RLSS upon receipt of an annual performance report and financial acquittal. As part of the current funding agreement, RLSS has identified eight key priority areas and how the annual \$700,000 funding will be allocated in each area. One of its priority areas is preventing drowning in home pools.

Councils also have a range of mechanisms to communicate with residents, such as rates notices, council websites and via community facilities including libraries. Councils are

encouraged to use existing mechanisms to promote swimming pool safety, so additional funding is not considered necessary.

**QUESTION**

**19. Has there been any mention of pool owners being required to obtain an annual certificate of compliance from their local council?**

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is currently considering a range of possible measures which may lead to amendments to the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*.

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**Dogs**

**QUESTION**

**20. Dogs**

- a. In Victoria a “dangerous dog” hotline was recently established in order for people to report dogs they believe to be restricted (and therefore illegally kept). On the first day of its operation, the hotline received 122 calls. Are there similar initiatives being considered in NSW?
- b. According to NSW BP No.3 2011-12, pg (7-11) reported dog attacks are forecast at 5,000, what funding will the government provide to local councils to reduce the number of dog attacks?

**ANSWER:**

- a. There are no plans to introduce a dangerous dog hotline in NSW, as this was introduced to support recent changes to Victorian legislation.
- b. The Government does not provide direct funding to local councils for this purpose. Rather, councils meet their companion animal management responsibilities from general revenue and from lifetime registration money they collect. This money is paid into the Companion Animal Fund, which is administered by the Division of Local Government. Approximately 80% of this money is returned directly to councils each year. In 2009/10 this amounted to over \$4 million.

The Division uses the balance of registration money to administer the NSW Companion Animals Program. This includes the Companion Animals Register, which provides councils with a vital tool to assist in the management of dangerous dogs.

It also includes the Responsible Pet Ownership Schools Education Program, which is valued at \$2.3 million over three years. The Program teaches 5 to 7 year old school children important messages about safety around dogs, thereby aiming to reduce the number of dog attacks against children in this age group.

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**QUESTION**

**21. In BP3 (7-5) Please provide details about Councils which are applying for the \$3.5Million Local government Infrastructure Backlog policy?**

**ANSWER:**

The first round application process for the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme is expected to commence before the end of 2011. Councils will have approximately 3 months to submit an application. Applications will then be assessed and councils advised.

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**QUESTION**

**22. In BP3 (7-8) Titled Future Directions Review of the Local Government Act 1993.**

**The government made an announcement in June that a review will be conducted. When will this review take place, who will conduct the review?**

**ANSWER:**

a.- b. It is intended that the outcomes of Destination 2036 will inform the comprehensive review of the Local Government Act. It is expected that the Act review will commence in the coming year, be conducted by officers of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and involve significant community and stakeholder consultation.

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**QUESTION**

**23. Pensioner Rebate Scheme**

- a. Inflation is at 3.7%, local council rates are rising, pensioners are struggling to make ends meet.
- b. Will you tie the State Government's portion of the pensioner rebate scheme to inflation to help pensioners meet the cost of their Local Council rates?
- c. Minister, for all those hardworking self funded retirees whose income has been slashed by the instability of the markets and GFC, are struggling to pay their local council rates.
- d. Will you extend the rebate scheme to assist them in this time of financial hardship?

**ANSWER:**

a. – d. The level of the concessions provided on ordinary rates, the domestic waste management services charge and water and sewerage charges is specified in section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The cost of providing these concessions is shared between the State Government (55 percent) and local councils (45 percent).

While expanding the current concession is desirable, the Government must have regard to the budgetary implications for the State and local councils of any change to current funding arrangements. The last increase in the pensioner rebate occurred under a coalition government. No increase whatsoever occurred under the 16 years of the previous Labor government.

The Government is aware that the impact of the global financial crisis on superannuation returns may have resulted in an increase in the number of people eligible for the concession. This will include those self-funded retirees who now meet the eligibility criteria and will therefore be able to take advantage of the concessions.

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**QUESTION**

**24. Rates**

- a. Can the Minister rule out appropriating rates for state infrastructure projects?

**ANSWER:**

There is no provision in the *Local Government Act 1993* for the State Government to claim rates income from a council to use on State infrastructure projects.

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**QUESTION**

**25. Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme**

- a. Can you provide details how the scheme will work?
- b. Can the Minister advise who will sit on the assessment panel? .
- c. What are the eligibility criteria?
- d. What defines significant or most critical infrastructure?
- e. When will the scheme come into operation?
- f. What assumptions were made in the modelling done by the government to support the statement that \$70million provided for the interest subsidy scheme will release \$1 billion in infrastructure?
- g. What prudential regulations have you made?
- h. Who will manage the borrowing risk?
- i. What is the risk to the ratepayer?
- j. Will the government underwrite the risk if the council doesn't have the capacity to pay the principal or half the interest?
- k. Will treasury be represented on the assessment panel?
- l. By what mechanism will councils access borrowings of \$1billion dollars to upgrade facilities?

**ANSWER:**

- a. The scheme will provide interest subsidies to councils for loans they secure to fund legitimate infrastructure projects. The project should be part of the council's identified infrastructure backlog. Councils will be required to submit an application in the required form. Guidelines will be issued to NSW Councils to assist them in making an application which addresses certain criteria.

- b. The panel will have an independent Chair and include representatives from the Division of Local Government, Treasury and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. Other agencies may be invited to assist as required.
- c. While specific details are being finalised, in broad terms the project must be part of an identified infrastructure backlog and the council would need to demonstrate that it has the capacity to deliver the project.
- d. Council would need to demonstrate this through its asset management plan.
- e. The first round application to councils is expected to be issued before the end of 2011.
- f. The modelling for the Scheme was undertaken by Treasury as part of the Budget.
- g. A draft probity plan has been developed. No regulations have been made.
- h. Lending institutions will need to manage the risk.
- i. There will be no change to the current risks to ratepayers from councils' borrowing activities.
- j. No.
- k. Yes.
- l. Borrowing through financial institutions.

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## QUESTION

### 26 Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme

The Local Government's Minister's press release on Wednesday 3 August, 2011 stated the Minister made special visits to the North Coast and across Sydney.

- a. Since being appointed can the Minister advise which Councils or Shires he visited on the North Coast or visited a school etc) and:
- b. What topics were discussed?
- c. Who did he meet?
- d. Which councils did he visit across Sydney?
- e. What topics were discussed?
- f. Outline the list of councils he stated he will visit in his media release?
- g. Has the Minister met with any Local Government workers?
- h. Does the Minister support a 2.5% wage cap for local government employees?
- i. Does the Minister support corporatisation of Local Councils?

**ANSWER:**

**a.**

I have visited a large number of schools on the North Coast and various school groups have visited Parliament House. I also have numerous bookings to attend school end of year activities. I have visited and met with a number of Councils on the North Coast and across New South Wales including, but not limited to:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ○ Ballina         | ○ Jerilderie     |
| ○ Bathurst        | ○ Kiama          |
| ○ Broken Hill     | ○ Lismore        |
| ○ Byron Bay       | ○ Maitland       |
| ○ Richmond Valley | ○ Newcastle      |
| ○ Cessnock        | ○ Nowra          |
| ○ Coffs Harbour   | ○ Parramatta     |
| ○ Campbelltown    | ○ Penrith        |
| ○ Canada Bay      | ○ Port Macquarie |
| ○ Darlinghurst    | ○ Queanbeyan     |
| ○ Dubbo           | ○ Sydney         |
| ○ Gosford         | ○ Wagga Wagga    |
| ○ Grafton         | ○ Warringah      |
| ○ Hunters Hill    | ○ Wollongong     |

I attended the annual general meeting of WESROC the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils comprising:

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Auburn Council              | ○ The Hills Shire Council |
| ○ Bankstown City Council      | ○ Holroyd City Council    |
| ○ Blacktown City Council      | ○ City of Liverpool       |
| ○ Blue Mountains City Council | ○ Parramatta City Council |
| ○ Fairfield City Council      | ○ Penrith City Council    |
| ○ Hawkesbury City Council     |                           |

I have also met with the Hunter Councils, another regional organisation of councils comprising:

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ○ Cessnock City Council       | ○ Muswellbrook Shire Council |
| ○ Dungog Shire Council        | ○ Newcastle City Council     |
| ○ Gloucester Shire Council    | ○ Port Stephens Council      |
| ○ Great Lakes Council         | ○ Singleton council          |
| ○ Lake Macquarie City Council | ○ Upper Hunter Shire Council |
| ○ Maitland City Council       |                              |

I recently addressed the SHOROC councils comprising the councils of:

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| ○ Manly  | ○ Pittwater |
| ○ Mosman | ○ Warringah |

I have met with the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC).

Constituent councils include:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Albury City      | • Hay Shire          |
| • Balranald Shire  | • Jerilderie Shire   |
| • Berrigan Shire   | • Leeton Shire       |
| • Carrathool Shire | • Murray Shire       |
| • Conargo Shire    | • Murrumbidgee Shire |
| • Corowa Shire     | • Narrandera Shire   |
| • Deniliquin       | • Urana Shire        |
| • Greater Hume     | • Wakool Shire       |
| • Griffith City    | • Wentworth Shire    |

The Destination 2036 Forum in Dubbo in August was attended by Mayors, Deputy Mayors, general managers and other representatives of every one of the state's 152 councils. I address all of them at the conference and had the opportunity to meet with a great many of them.

b.

A variety of issue were raised at each meeting, including issues raised by the relevant Council staff, General Managers and Mayors.

- c. Please refer to the answer to question 26b, as above.
- d. Please refer to the answer to question 26a, as above.
- e. Please refer to the answer to question 26b, as above.
- f. Please refer to the answer to question 26a, as above.
- g. Yes, including the 3 (three) Unions representing Local Government workers.
- h. The 2.5% wages cap is Government policy.
- i. Please refer to the transcript of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5  
Thursday 27 October 2011 Examination of proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas  
Local Government, the North Coast.

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## QUESTION

### 27. Phones

- a. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?
- b. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- c. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- d. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- e. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- f. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?
- g. How many have phones or devices have been lost in your office?
- h. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

a. to e. For all Ministerial Offices, there is a total of:

- i. Blackberries – 151
- ii. iPads – 19
- iii iPhones - 3

f. Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

g. to h. For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.

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**QUESTION**

**28. Media and Public Relations**

- a. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- b. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- c. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- a. Nil.
  - b. Nil.
  - c. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.
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**QUESTION**

**29. Overseas Trips**

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

**ANSWER:**

I am advised a. to b. Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the relevant Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 'Release of Overseas Travel Information'.

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**QUESTION**

**30. Office Costs**

- a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
- b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
- c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?
- e. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?
- f. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
- g. What is your office budget?
- h. How many political advisors are in your office?
- i. How many administration staff?
- j. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?
- k. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised: a. to c. and h. to i. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

d. and g. Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

e. Yes. Services included removal of walls for reception area and meeting area and installation of a main entry door.

f. \$17,598

j. refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0681—Premier—DEPARTMENTAL LIAISON OFFICERS, that details this information as at 7 August 2011.

k. each Minister is provided with a Ministerial driver, with the Premier provided with three Ministerial drivers.

**QUESTION**

**31. Cabcharge**

- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised for all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011. This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

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**QUESTION**

**32. Restructure**

- a. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
- b. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
- c. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
- d. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

**ANSWER:**

- a. Yes.
  - b. I am advised that there is no decrease in the number of positions in the new structure compared to the current structure.
  - c. I am advised that as the process for filling position has yet to be completed, a definitive answer to this question cannot be provided at this time.
  - d. I am advised that as the process for filling position has yet to be completed, a definitive answer to this question cannot be provided at this time.
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**QUESTION**

**33. Agency Costs**

- a. What is your agency's catering budget?

- b. Since April, has the agency changed it branding?
- c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
- d. How much has been spent on stationary?

**ANSWER:**

- a. The Division of Local Government's catering budget for 2011/12 is \$61,770 (which includes an amount of \$55,000 for Destination 2036).
- b. The Division of Local Government has adopted the NSW State logo.
- c. No additional costs were incurred in moving to the State logo.
- d. The Division spent a total of \$8,260 on stationary in 2010/11. In the 2011/12 financial year to 31 October 2012, the Division has spent a total of \$4,767 on stationary.

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**QUESTION**

**34. Correspondence**

- a. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?
- b. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised: a. and b. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

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

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**QUESTION**

**35. Paying bills on time**

- a. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
- b. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

**ANSWER:**

- a. Out of a total of 705 payments, 83 payments were made more than 30 days after the invoice date.

- b. 121 bills were outstanding for longer than 30 days.
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**QUESTION**

**36. Grants to non-government organisations**

- a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
- b. If yes,
  - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
  - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
  - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
  - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
  - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
  - vii. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
  - viii. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

**ANSWER:** a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0447—Premier—GRANTS TO NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

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**QUESTION**

**37. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews, If so;**

- i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- vi. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

**ANSWER:**

a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0327—Premier—FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AUDITS, TASKFORCES AND REVIEWS