General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Property asset sales and long-term leases for NSW Waterways – The Hon Greg Pearce asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Have there been any property asset sales in Ports and Waterways since you have been Minister?

Mr MOORE: I am just thinking now that for the very vital work going on at Port Botany a parcel of land was sold to Sydney Ports Corporation, and that is the only one I can think of.

The Hon, GREG PEARCE: Only that one sale in Ports and Waterways?

Mr MOORE: Yes.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: What about long-term leases? Mr MOORE: I would have to take that question on notice.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Would you take that on notice and provide details of when the sale occurred, what was the purpose, the purchaser, the price and how the price was derived?

ANSWER

I am advised that a property in Port Botany was sold by NSW Maritime to Sydney Ports Corporation in June. The sale price of over \$11M was based on the capitalised rental income being paid by the lessee.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS –SPC application for Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: At the moment, the Sydney Ports Corporation's application is in with the Department of Planning. I understand that it is under active consideration by the department and the Minister.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How long has it been there?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice. The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: You do not know?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I cannot remember the exact dates. I would like to give you an exact

date, so I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

The Development Application and Environmental Assessment was lodged by Sydney Ports Corporation with the NSW Department of Planning on 13 December 2005.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Underspend on Pt Botany expansion – The Hon Greg Pearce asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Straddled? Okay. Why was there nearly a \$10 million underspend last year on planning work that was supposed to have been occurring for the Port Botany expansion?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: You are referring to the expenditure?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: The allocation last year was over \$15 million and only about \$5 million of that was actually spent. I am asking you why that occurred.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Can you detail for me what line item that is under, what heading, or budget item?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: It is in this year's Budget Paper No. 4 at page 127 and in last year's at page 130. You will see the numbers. I am asking you to explain why last year's allocation was not spent.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Okay. I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised at the time of providing information for last year's Budget Paper no.4, the scope of the works for the project and the spending required was an estimate as the location of the 5th berth had not yet been determined. The 5th berth's location was approved by the Minister for Planning in August 2006.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Imports and exports through Sydney ports – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: I understand that in 2005-06, imports through Sydney ports outstripped exports, and that, of the containers that were exported, more than half were empty. Is that correct?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I can get the exact numbers for you.

ANSWER

I am advised there were 34,707 TEUs more imports than exports in 2005-06.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – NSW Maritime IT Services – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: I now turn to New South Wales Maritime and its information technology [IT] services. Will you please provide to the committee the costs of providing information technology support services for each of the divisions of New South Wales Maritime for each of the last five years?

Mr MOORE: We will take that guestion on notice, thank you.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: There may be a number of questions that you would like to take on notice. What has been the annual expenditure on in-house contractors employed to undertake IT duties for each of the last five years? Are contractors employed as individuals or is a service company contracted between New South Wales and some of the people doing the work? If so, which company is that? Does any entity providing personnel also supply hardware or software? If so, can you provide the name of that entity? Will you let the Committee know whether all services and products have been procured in accordance with standing government procedures? If not, how and where have they varied from government policy?

What open tender process was involved in the selection of the main contracting entities? Have all contracts being publicly reported in accordance with the Premier's memorandum No. M2000-11? On the amounts spent in the 2005-06 financial year on IT systems, how much was spent on systems and staff providing geographic information to New South Wales Maritime? Does the Minister consider that the money that has been spent on providing geographic information was well spent?

Mr MOORE: We will take those questions on notice.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to guestion on notice number 204.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Minister, can you tell me the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan commits New South Wales Maritime to, "remove structures that impede access to the intertidal strip"? Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: If it does?

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Yes?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: My understanding of that policy is that does not commit to the removal of structures. The policy itself does not commit to the necessary removal of structures in the intertidal zone.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Would you care to consult page 25 of the policy and just confirm that that is the interpretation that you place on it, based on what is there?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will have to take that question on notice. I do not have that information with me.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 205.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Clean Up Notices – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Could you inform the Committee how many clean up notices New South Wales Maritime has issued since 2004?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW Maritime has issued 26 clean-up notices since 2004.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Prevention Notices – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Similarly, how many prevention notices has New South Wales Maritime issued since that time?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW Maritime has issued six prevention notices since 2004.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Environmental Compliance Checks – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: can you indicate how many environmental compliance checks boating service officers have performed in that time?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers conduct 'on the water' compliance checks, which may incorporate environmental compliance checks. NSW Maritime conducted 42,036 'on the water' compliance checks in 2005/06.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Bilge Inspections – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Are you able to provide any information at all on bilge waste management and bilge management inspections boating service officers have performed on commercial vessels in Sydney Harbour since 2004?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers have carried out 29 bilge inspections on commercial vessels in Sydney Harbour since 2004.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Bilge in Sydney Harbour – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Do you have any information at all on the thoroughness of the checking on bilge released into Sydney Harbour in that time? To have any record of that?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will inquire. I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that during bilge waste checks, Boating Service Officers inspect vessel bilges for waste products, for example, oil fuel or other matter in the bilge water, and inspect vessel log books for records of waste removal from vessels.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Bilge of fishing vessels – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Can you indicate how regularly inspections take place and how many fishing vessels have been inspected for contaminants?

Mr MOORE: I would like to take that question on notice, please.

ANSWER

I am advised that the bilges of fishing vessels in NSW harbours and ports are inspected whenever a pollution incident has occurred and a suspect vessel has been identified.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Bilge treatment techniques – The Chair, Mr Ian Cohen, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

CHAIR: Could you perhaps described the investigation, success or otherwise, and the new techniques that are being looked at?

Mr MOORE: I can only do that from my very high-level knowledge of the briefs that I have had, but certainly we are looking at new bilge absorption products, which are disposable and made from cotton waste and the like. There is also a lot of work being done on separators that actually separate the water from the oil, commercial vessel technology. Matters such as that are under consideration by us quite often. I mean, it has to be cost-effective, too, for the operators. The more useful one for us at the moment is the absorption method.

CHAIR: Are these processes paid for by the operators? There is no input from your department, in terms of cost?

Mr MOORE: No.

CHAIR: Do you have any information to provide to the Committee relating to results so far with these methods?

Mr MOORE: Again, I would have to take that question on notice. I just do not have that detail here.

ANSWER

I am advised that NSW Maritime has trialled an inline bilge water filter system on one of its own vessels. Initial results indicate that this technology is highly effective.

Absorbent materials placed in a bilge can also prevent the discharge of contaminants by absorbing and retaining oily waste.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Percentage of turnover achieved from licensed clubs leasing NSW Maritime property – Ms Sylvia Hale, asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Recently the administrator of Warringah Council achieved a significant increase in rent from a commercial licensed club, Long Reef Golf Club, that is engaged in the hospitality business. In that case an independent valuer recommended the rent be 5 per cent of turnover. What is the effective percentage of turnover achieved from licensed clubs leasing property from NSW Maritime on Sydney Harbour or at other venues such as Doltone at St George?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that guestion on notice.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 206.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Management club memberships – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Will you provide the Committee with a list of memberships of clubs on waterways for yourself, the chief executive officer of NSW Maritime, the executive director of NSW Maritime and the general managers of NSW Maritime?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Yes, I will take that on notice.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Will you provide the Committee with details as to how many of those clubs have been subject to rent increases? How do those rent increases compare with the recommendations of independent valuers?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that one on notice also.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 206.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Rates of rent achieved from commercial tenants, aggregate figure of return for NSW Maritime – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: When the currently invoiced rents for commercial sites are analysed on the basis of the precinct land valuation method of IPART, what rates of return on harbour land have been achieved from commercial tenants?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: From the commercial tenants themselves?

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Yes.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Obviously, only the commercial tenants would be able to tell you that.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: No. They pay you the rentals.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: But you want to know what the return of the commercial tenants are.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: The return to the owner of the land.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: The rate of return.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: That was not the question.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Yes, it was.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: So the question is: What is the commercial return to the landlord, or to the tenants, because I understand the question to be: What is the commercial return to the tenants?

Ms SYLVIA HALE: No. What is the commercial return to Maritime New South Wales?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: So you would like an aggregated average figure?

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Yes, that will do.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice and get that to you.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 206.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Tender process for the operation and expansion of Port Kembla – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

What is the tender process for the operation and expansion of Port Kembla?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: The tendering process?

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Yes.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will have to take that question on notice. It is something that the corporation would be managing.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: There was one?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Yes, I understand there was, but I am happy to take that on notice and come back to you with more detail.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: I will just read quickly through the questions then. How many companies submitted a tender? Just in relation to your earlier question about wanting three stevedoring companies at Port Botany, why is it acceptable to have only one at Port Kembla? Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Sure.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Do you have any thoughts on that?

The Hon. JAN BURNSWOODS: Is this still the series that are on notice?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Yes, it is a series of questions on notice.

The Hon. JAN BURNSWOODS: If he has said that he is taking them on notice, you said that you would go on and read them out.

ANSWER

I am advised that the tender process was in accordance with the NSW Code of Practice for Procurement. The Port Kembla project comprised three parts and between 4-6 tenders were received for each part.

There are 3 stevedores in Port Kembla.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Leasing of port lands at Port Kembla – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Were port lands adjacent to the multipurpose berth in Port Kembla openly offered to the market, or were there exclusive dealings with Australian Amalgamated Terminals? Was that just given over to them? Will you take that question on notice? Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: As you know, that was before I was the Minister. To the best of my recollection, it was before I was the Minister. I will take that on notice and get the port corporation to provide you with an answer.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 179.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Ferry wharf upgrades – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Minister. You can just go through the answer and pick out the wharves.

The Hon. JAN BURNSWOODS: But he gave it before.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: It is our time to ask whatever we want to ask.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I need to keep it in the context of the answer.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: What I am wanting to know is the upgrade required for each of those wharves. Can you take it on notice, please?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Are you talking about the ones that have been upgraded?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: That are going to be upgraded.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Right.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Which ones are they, and can you give us details?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take it on notice.

ANSWER

I refer to my detailed answer given during the estimates hearing on 1 September 2006. Of the wharves for which NSW Maritime will have responsibility, upgrading works are planned for the majority during 2006-07. I would be happy to arrange a briefing for the Honourable Member should he require more detailed information.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Access fees for ferry wharves – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: Does the NSW Maritime Authority receive any access fees from the use of their wharves by ferry operators?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Only those used by commercial operators.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: If so, how much does the NSW Maritime Authority charge for each wharf?

Mr MOORE: We will take it on notice.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: We will come back to that.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: How much did you receive in the 2005-06 financial year for those wharves?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised that Commercial operators pay an access fee per 15 minute time slot for every bookable wharf. The fee varies according to passenger capacity and type of booking.

NSW Maritime received approximately \$0.322M in access fees for those wharves in 2005-06.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Sydney Ferries access fees for wharves – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Yes. Are you referring to the relationship between Sydney Ferries and council-owned wharves? Which wharves are you referring to?

The Hon. JAN BURNSWOODS: She said Birkenhead Point.

The Hon. MELINDA PAVEY: I was referring to Sydney Ferries not paying their wharf fees to Canada Bay council. On that basis, has NSW Maritime received all its money owed to it from Sydney Ferries?

The Hon. JAN BURNSWOODS: But you asked about Birkenhead Point, now you have changed the question.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I am happy to take that question on notice and to give you further information. My understanding is that Sydney Ferries are not charged access fees. But I am happy to take that on notice, if the answer is different from that. Before you continue, I wish to—

ANSWER

I am advised that the Sydney Ferries Corporation is up to date with its wharf lease payments to NSW Maritime.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – White Bay, assurances to P&O – the Hon Melinda Pavey asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I return back to an earlier question from the Hon. Melinda Pavey. She asked whether assurances were given to P&O when it vacated White Bay. I would like to take that question on notice and provide an answer later. It is something that occurred before my time.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 184.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Watson's Bay wharf – the Hon Greg Pearce asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: I turn to the Watson's Bay wharf disabled access provision. Why has there been a delay for a year with that?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: In relation to the same project, why was there a blow-out of \$200,000?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER

I am advised the wharf is still in good condition and other wharf upgrade works have taken priority.

There has been a slight increase in estimated cost of \$20,000, due to general price increases.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Bank Street, Pyrmont – the Hon Greg Pearce asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Yes, I am sorry, I read the wrong line. I refer to the line above that, which is Bank Street, Pyrmont, with a blow-out of two years.

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: NSW Maritime, together with four adjacent landowners, has prepared a master plan for the Bank Street, Pyrmont, precinct. The precinct covers a one-acre site underneath the southern pylon of the Anzac Bridge, between the Sydney Fish Market and the old Glebe Island Bridge. The master plan allows for the development of a facility for the launching and storage of dragon boats, yachts, kayaks and rowing boats as well as a park containing active and passive facilities for the local community. The master plan is being reviewed by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority prior to submission to the Minister for Planning. The master plan will provide the development framework for the precinct and for vastly improved commercial and recreational facilities, including public foreshore access. The Hon. GREG PEARCE: I am so sorry: what was the reason for the two-year delay? Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: It is part of the master planning process that is going on and its

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: How can you say it is still under a master planning process when last year's budget for it was \$828,000, which has increased to \$1.2 million this year? Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Which project are you referring to?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: The same project; the Bank Street, Pyrmont. Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice about the variation.

ANSWER

I am advised the new estimate reflects the provision of public foreshore access.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – Second bulk liquids berth – the Hon Greg Pearce asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Minister, earlier I asked about a number of projects which had delays or cost-over runs which you took on notice to provide responses. Will you add to that list the proposed second bulk liquids berth which is one year over on current budget and also the Walsh Bay one seawall restoration which is a year delayed and over budget?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: Yes.

ANSWER

Due to changing trends in the bulk liquid and gas market, I am advised that the Sydney Ports Corporation is reassessing the need for a second bulk liquids berth.

The White Bay One seawall restoration project was completed at the end of July 2006. Actual expenditure to 30 June 2006 was \$2.235M (estimated at \$2.599M). This amount covered the seawall restoration contract as well as the cost of demolishing the old timber pile wharf structure, which was required to facilitate the seawall restoration.

The project was completed in July 2006 and the allocation for 2006-07 of \$0.411M is for the final contract payment on the project.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

PORTS AND WATERWAYS – IPART review, landholder compliance with procedures of lessees – Ms Sylvia Hale asked the Minister for Energy, Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business and Economic Regulatory Reform-

QUESTION

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Following completion of the IPART review, what action did your department take to ensure landholders were aware of and are complying with procedures of lessees? Did the action on the part of the department include supplying a copy of the brochure "Procedure for changing a lessee"? Did it involve distributing that brochure to lessees? If so, when was that done?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take those questions on notice.

ANSWER

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question on notice number 205.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I understand that the energy sources to which you have referred for the aluminium operations that you have detailed are contracts that currently exist. They are locked in and obviously have a binding effect.

CHAIR: How long are they locked in for?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

Answer:

As Minister for Energy I oversee the regulatory environment for energy in NSW. I do not oversee the business operations of the NSW Government State Owned Corporations. This is a matter for the Shareholding Ministers of the energy SOCs.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Was underground cabling considered for areas north of Schofields?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: If it was considered has it been rejected? If so, why? Will you inform the Committee as to the expected life span for aboveground transmission lines as compared to the life span for underground transmission lines?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

Ms SYLVIA HALE: Will you provide the Committee with a comparison of the maintenance costs of overhead lines compared to underground lines over their expected lifespan?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The answers to these questions were provided in the response to QON 4092 asked by the Honourable Member earlier this year and printed on 4 May 2006.

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: The demand management and planning project, which commenced in 2003, is a \$10 million project running for five years. Are you aware of that project? **Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI:** Yes.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Can you explain why to June 2005 expenditure on the project was only \$1.6 million? Are there any demonstrable and measurable benefits achieved by that project?

Mr JOSEPH TRIPODI: I will take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Demand Management and Planning Project is on time and within budget to achieve the requirements of the Conditions of Consent established by the Department of Planning by May 2008. The project is now two-thirds complete of a five year term. By the end of the 2005/2006 financial year total project expenditure was \$4.4 million with a further \$2.5m committed to a variety of programs. The Project has been and continues to be successful.