



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Transport

Tuesday 25 October 2011

Answers to be lodged by: 18 November 2011

Budget Estimates Secretariat
Telephone 9230 3509
Fax 9230 2981
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
25 October 2011	Transport	18 November 2011 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Transport

25 OCTOBER 2011, 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Questions from the Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

1. Wynyard bus interchange
 - a. Given the Wynyard bus interchange is already at or near capacity, will the government release a report on progress in developing a transport plan for this area of the CBD, prior release of the Transport Masterplan?
 - b. When can we expect further measures at Wynyard interchange?
 - c. What community consultation processes have been included in the preparation of this plan?
 - d. In 2008 a report commissioned by the previous government is reported to have put the cost of congestion at Wynyard to commuters and the state at \$13 million a year. Will the government please provide a copy of this report to the Committee?
 - e. What research or new estimates are available regarding the congestion costs of the delays at Wynyard bus interchange?
 - f. Will the government please provide copies to the Committee?
 - g. What consideration has the government given to a 'set down island' on York Street to allow more space for drop offs at Wynyard bus interchange?
 - h. What consideration has the government given to the use of the old tram tunnels to create more drop-off space?
2. Casino – Murwillumbah Rail Line
 - a. What are the costs associated with running the buses that travel from and to the XPT rail services at Casino?
 - b. Can you provide a breakdown of these costs?
 - c. I understand an agreement with the Australian Rail Track Corporation for the maintenance of the line is changing over. Can you please provide details of the new agreement, including the successor, time-frame, extent and costs involved?
 - d. The government has previously provided maintenance costs for the line to Questions on Notice from Geoff Provest, can you please provide a breakdown of these figures including:
 - i. mowing around stations
 - ii. upkeep of station buildings
 - iii. wages for Countrylink staff at the Murwillumbah, Byron and Lismore stations
 - iv. cost of installing signage at the bus stops in the area; and
 - v. repair/maintenance of road over rail bridges
3. Cooma to Canberra Rail line
 - a. Rail services from Cooma to Canberra were in operation for over 100 years but the line is now closed. When will the government reopen this train line to provide rail services for those residents of Cooma who don't drive to access the services of a large regional centre?
4. Accessibility of rail stations (Easy Access program)
 - a. Is Redfern Station scheduled for works under the Easy Access program to provide disabled access?
 - b. When is this work likely to begin?
 - c. When will it be completed?
5. Disability standards
 - a. When will the Government introduce a communication system on public transport, including boarding and departure provisions, that provide equal access to all commuters - including the hearing impaired?
 - b. Has provision been made in the Budget for conducting an audit of all wheelchair accessible taxis in NSW to check compliance with the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Cth)*?

- c. Has provision been made in the Budget for financial compensation for taxi operators to assist in modifying their vehicles to make them compliant with the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (Cth)*?
6. Community Transport NSW
 - a. While the \$12m extra funding for community transport addresses long standing needs, why is only \$500,000 for the whole of NSW to be provided in 11/12?
 - b. What funding has been allocated for accreditation for community transport drivers and when is this likely to begin?
 - c. How many staff were employed to manage and regulate community transport in 2010-2011?
 - d. How many are currently employed?
 - e. Will the Minister give a commitment to ensure community transport services are appropriately funded to ensure each service has at least one vehicle that has wheelchair access, particularly if the service only has one vehicle, to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against and do not become isolated due to lack of mobility.
7. Bicycle helmet laws
 - a. Has Transport NSW conducted a review or cost-benefit analysis of bicycle helmet laws, either independently or in conjunction with NSW Police? If so can the committee be provided with that information
8. Greenway
 - a. Which company was used by the operator of the Metro Light Rail to cost the Inner West Light Rail Extension and the Greenway?
 - b. The Minister has said that the Greenway project would have delayed construction of the light rail extension due to engineering challenges. What were these challenges?
 - c. Where and how exactly would it have complicated construction?
 - d. Can the Minister tell us the cost of building the light rail extension without the Greenway?
 - e. Can the Minister provide a cost breakdown for the cost to build the Greenway if it is built at the same time as the light rail extension and a cost for the Greenway and light rail extension as a package?
 - f. Can the Minister provide a cost to build the Greenway if it is built after the light rail extension?
9. North West Rail Link
 - a. What is the height of the tunnels that will be built for the NWRL?
 - b. Is the kinematic envelope of these tunnels large enough for double decker trains in use in NSW to pass at an adequate speed to minimise time delays through the tunnels?
 - c. Can the minister assure us that double deck trains in use today will be able to pass through these tunnels?
 - d. Will the kinematic envelope of these tunnels be large enough to accommodate stock size double deck train carriages produced outside Australia?
10. Rail capacity at Sydney Harbour Bridge
 - a. How many times in the last 5 years have rail services to and from the North Shore Line been impacted due to service disruption on the Harbour Bridge?
 - b. What alternative arrangements would Rail Corp have in place to operate the North West Rail Link if any similar incident on the Harbour Bridge were to occur when the NWRL (would have only an underground connection at Epping linking to the North Shore Line, there being no network flexibility without a surface junction north of Epping allowing alternative services to run to and from the City via Strathfield?)
11. Seat belts on school buses
 - a. How many buses used for students travelling to and from school are operating in New South Wales?
 - b. How many of these are installed with seat belts?
 - c. When will the School Bus Advisory Committee report back to the government?

- d. Will this report be made public?
- 12. Transport Advisory Board
 - a. What is the current status of the Transport Advisory Board?
 - b. How will members of the Board be selected?
 - c. How will the selection a member of the board to represent the interests of the community be guided?
- 13. RTA and greenhouse gases
 - a. The RTA website states that two working parties have been established to address direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases by the RTA. Has the working party made recommendations to reduce emissions beyond those listed in the RTA 2009-10 Annual Report?
 - b. If so will these be implemented as soon as possible to reduce emissions considering that the 2009-10 Annual Report shows that the RTAs greenhouse gas emissions continue to grow despite the implementation of various strategies?
 - c. If not what action is the RTA taking to meet the NSW government sustainability policy which has set the target of all government departments being carbon neutral by 2020?
- 14. Taxis
 - a. As the subsidy provided by the NSW Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme has not increased since 1998 while taxi fares have increased by more than 44% since then, could the Minister please explain if the NSW will increase the level of this subsidy given that wheelchair accessible taxis are often the only means of transport available to disabled people?

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

- 15. What role will Nick Greiner and Infrastructure NSW play in the delivery of major rail infrastructure projects?
- 16. Of the 28 entities which lodged Expressions of Interest in providing franchised ferry services, how many have had experience in operating commuter ferry services?
- 17. Of the 5 entities which have been shortlisted for the provision of franchised ferry services, how many have had experience in operating commuter ferry services?
- 18. Will you allow passengers to take dogs on leads onto Government buses, trains and ferries, provided they are not allowed to sit on seats?
 - a. Will you investigate measures to facilitate this reform?
- 19. Will the plastic used for Opal cards be biodegradable?
- 20. Will Opal card readers be placed inside all doors of bendy or extended length buses in order to facilitate easier access and egress and reduce time at stops?
- 21. Will there be an initial cost to purchase an Opal card?
 - a. If so, what will it be?
- 22. Given that Opal cards will be able to be registered to individual users, will their travel data be made available to any other government agencies?
 - a. If so, which agencies will be provided with this data and under what circumstances?
- 23. Given your commitment to upgrade a number of commuter ferry wharves, will you ensure that these upgraded wharves include facilities for the use of recreational fishers such as rubbish disposal, scaling and cleaning facilities in order to reduce potential conflicts between commuters and recreational fishers which in the past have resulted in recreational fishers from using these wharves?

24. Will the Minister provide the Committee with the modelling referred to in the email dated 29 July from Rodney Forrest from Treasury to Peter Crimp?
25. How does the Government's "long term transport plan" referred to by the Minister differ to the Transport Masterplan?
26. Can the Minister provide an update on what progress has been made on each of the 59 recommendations of the Legislative Council inquiry into the NSW Taxi industry? (Please list by recommendation.)
27. The Minister stated that she has asked the "department to undertake a comprehensive review" of the Easy Access Upgrade program for train stations?
 - a. When will this comprehensive review commence?
 - b. What will this comprehensive review involve?
 - c. What is the timeframe for the completion of this comprehensive review?
 - d. When will the public be advised of the stations that will receive upgrades?
 - e. Given the Minister's statement that the program is (or will be) under review and the Government has stopped planned work on Easy Access Upgrades that were earmarked prior to the election, how does the Government expect to meet the requirements of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public transport to have 55 per cent of stations accessible by the end of 2012?
 - f. Will the Minister commit to releasing the review to the public?
28. What is the timeframe for the review of the commuter carpark program?
 - a. When will the public be advised of the stations where commuter carparks will be built?
 - b. Will the Minister commit to releasing this review to the public?
29. When will consultation begin as part of the "Transport Masterplan Process"?
 - a. The Minister said that the Opposition would be included in the consultation process.
 - i. When will this occur?
 - ii. What will this involve?
 - b. When is it anticipated that the Transport Masterplan will be finalised?
 - c. When is it anticipated that the finalised Transport Masterplan will be made available to the public?
 - d. Will the timeframe for the development of the Transport Masterplan align with the 5 year Infrastructure NSW plans?
30. In relation to seatbelts on school buses, has the Government undertaken research into the cost of fitting seatbelts to all buses that travel on Environment 3 bus routes?
 - a. If so, will the Minister provide that data to the Committee?
 - b. If not, why not?
 - c. If such research has not yet been undertaken, will it be made available, if such research is undertaken?
31. Can children attending early-intervention services at NSW government schools access transport subsidies including the School Student Transport Scheme, or Private Vehicle Conveyance scheme?
 - a. If not, why not?
32. In light of the Federal Government's Universal Access to Early Childhood initiative, which aims to encourage children to attend preschool for 15 hours per week, will the NSW Government be providing transport subsidies for children attending preschool?
33. N10 Nightride
 - a. Is the Minister aware that with the introduction of additional nightride services on weekends on the N10 line, passengers travelling from the city to Riverwood now may face an additional wait of up to 45 minutes at Rockdale as they wait for a connecting service to Riverwood on the N20 service?
 - b. Are transit officers deployed at the Nightride stop at Rockdale Station on weekends?

- c. If not, why not?
 - d. What security measures are in place at Rockdale Station on weekend nights?
 - e. Does the Government plan to introduce a direct nightride service from Riverwood to the city?
 - f. If not, why not?
34. In relation to the North West Rail Link information Centre, the Minister mentioned that the centre has received around 2000 contacts from the public.
- a. Can the Minister provide a breakdown of these contacts (number of emails received, visitors to the centre, phone calls received)?
 - b. What was the cost of setting up the North West Rail Link information Centre?
35. In relation to the North West Rail Link information call centre, managed by Link:Q?
- a. How many calls have been received by Link: Q?
 - b. Can the Minister provide the number of calls received by week?
 - c. Of these calls, how many were referred to the North West Project team for follow-up?
 - d. What was the cost of setting up the call centre?
 - e. Given that calls will no longer be going through Link:Q in Victoria, can you detail the costs incurred to date in relation to the call centre and outline whether or not there are any financial penalties as a result of closing the call centre?
36. Will the Minister provide the Committee with copies of the draft reports prepared by RailCorp for the director general about the replacement of XPTs?
- a. If not, why not?
37. In relation to the review that the Government is undertaking into how it can improve CountryLink services:
- a. When is the review being undertaken?
 - b. What is the timeframe for the completion of the review?
 - c. Will the public be able to provide input into that review?
 - d. How will that consultation be managed?
 - e. Will the Minister commit to publically release that review, once completed?
38. In relation to the inner west light rail extension –
- a. When the Department of Transport sought a cost estimate from Metro Transit Sydney for developing the extension to the light rail, was the Greenway included in that costing?
 - b. Will the Minister make that advice available to the Committee?
39. In relation to the GreenWay -
- a. Given the Minister's statement that this project has been deferred, where does funding for the Greenway appear in the forward estimates?
 - b. How long would the light rail extension have been delayed if the Greenway was built?
40. Does the Government have plans to replace any existing CountryLink services by coach services?
41. Can the Minister provide a list of when and where she has travelled on CountryLink services since she became Minister?
42. Can you provide advice on the options for the replacement of XPTs. Please provide the timeframe for each option.
43. Is the Transport Masterplan being developed as stated by Mr Wielinga, or is the process for the Transport Masterplan being developed?
44. Is the freight strategy going to be stand-alone, or part of the Transport Masterplan?

45. Will the Minister provide the Committee with detail of the cost savings planned for by the ferries franchise arrangement?
46. What is the time frame is for people who travel on private buses to get access to real-time GPS data for timetabling?
 - a. Can the Minister provide a list of the areas and estimated times where real-time GPS data will be switched on in private buses?
47. Who operates the twitter accounts for @131500buses, trains and ferries?
 - a. Where are they located?
48. Since 26 March 2011, what has been the total cost of the North West Rail Link information centre at Castle Hill?
 - a. How many people are employed at the North West Rail Link information centre at Castle Hill?
 - b. How many employees are part-time?
 - c. How many employees are full-time?
 - b. How many people visit the information centre each day on average?
 - c. How many information sessions have been held outside the information centre in the community?
 - d. Where were they?
 - e. How much was spent on interactive equipment at the information centre?
 - f. How much was spent on the displays at the information centre?
 - g. How much has been spent on specially designed t-shirts for the North West Rail link?
 - h. How much was spent on the two handouts on the North West Rail link?
 - i. What was the unit cost per handout?
 - j. What was the cost of the forty-nine page high grade, glossy spiral bound publication for the North West Rail Link?
 - k. How much has been spent on the North West Rail Link website?
 - l. Where is the call centre located for the North West Rail Link infoline, 1800 019 989?
 - m. How many people are employed there?
 - n. Has the Government stopped or cancelled any renovations or expenditure related to the North West Rail Link and its information centre?
49. In relation to the Minister's comments that "the department is moving towards a broader definition of accessibility", will the broader definition water down the requirements of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport?
50. 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?
51. 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?
52. 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?
53. 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?
54. Cabcharge
- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?
55. 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?
56. Agency Costs
- a. What is your agency's catering budget?
 - b. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
 - c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
 - d. How much has been spent on stationary?
57. 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?
58. 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?
59. 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?
60. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews
- a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews,

- b. 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?
61. Parliamentary Secretary
- a. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
 - i. kilometres travelled
 - ii. accommodation,
 - iii. air fares
 - iv. meals/entertaining?
 - b. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
 - i. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - ii. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - c. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
 - i. Are these meetings documented?
 - ii. Who attends these meetings?
 - d. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
 - e. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary?
 - f. If so:
 - i. Who conducted the training?
 - ii. When was it conducted
 - iii. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - iv. Who paid for the training?

Questions from the Hon Penny Sharpe MLC

62. The Minister mentioned that the Department had carried out surveying and geotechnical investigations on the Inner West Light Rail extension:
- a. What did this work entail, when it was carried out, where was it carried out, and what technical information is now available that was not available previously because of this work?
 - b. Can the Minister provide a cost breakdown of all new work?
63. In relation to the Minister's statement that "based on this work the department has identified that without modification to the design construction could cost significantly more than previously estimated", what is the new cost estimate for the Greenway?

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There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of Transport.