



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016 Supplementary Questions**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6**

Innovation and Better Regulation

Thursday 3 September 2015

**Answers due by: Tuesday 29 September 2015**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

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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?
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?
  - 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?
  - 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'?
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"?

### 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?
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?
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?
7. Did any you 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?
  8. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
    - a) What is the cost of this?
  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?
  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?
  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?
  12. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
    - a) What is the cost of this?
  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?
  14. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

**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?
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?

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
  
18. Have you ever used Uber?
  - a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?
  
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?
  
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?
  
21. Have you used Airbnb?
  
22. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?
  
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?
  
24. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
  - a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**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

**Media and Public Relations**

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

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

**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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?
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?

### **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?
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

**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?
  
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?
  
45. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
  
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?
  
47. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
  
48. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?
  
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?
  
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?
  
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?
  
52. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

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?
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?
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?

### **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
57. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?
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?
59. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?
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?

### **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?



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?
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?
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?

**Efficiency Dividend**

65. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?
66. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?
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?
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?
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?
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?

## 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?
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.
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
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
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?
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?

##### 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?