

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

Tuesday 9 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 2 November 2012

Budget Estimates Secretariat

Telephone 9230 2412

Fax 9230 2981

budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

Questions relating to the portfolio of Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and
Services

Tuesday 9 October 2012, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm

Questions from Mr J. Buckingham MLC

QUESTION 1

1. How much is Newcrest Mining's contribution to the \$13.9m Orange Airport upgrade project compared to the NSW Government's \$1.27million and the Federal Government's of \$4.9million contribution.

ANSWER

1. \$2.5 million.

QUESTION 2

2. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with representatives of Shenhua or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

2. Twice
 - a) April and June of this year. Sydney and Shanghai.

QUESTION 3

3. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with representatives of Hume Coal, Cockatoo Coal or POSCO or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

3. Once
 - a) South Korea, June 2012.

QUESTION 4

4. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with the NSW Minerals Council in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

3. Twice
 - a) Sydney, December 2011 and May 2012.

QUESTION 5

5. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

- 4. Nil
- a) Not applicable

QUESTION 6

- 6. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with Santos or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
- a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

- 5. Once
- a) August this year, in Sydney

QUESTION 7

- 7. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with AGL or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
- a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

- 6. Nil
- a) Not applicable

QUESTION 8

- 8. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with METGASCO or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
- a) Where and when were these meetings held?

ANSWER

- 7. Once
- a) June this year, in Lismore.

Questions from The Hon. S. Whan MLC

Royalties for Regions

QUESTION 1

1. Has the Government allocated any funds through the Royalties for Regions scheme in the Hunter Valley?
 - a) If so how much?
 - b) Is this scheme funded through Restart NSW?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
 - a) \$9.9 million.
 - b) Yes.

QUESTION 2

2. Considering that the Government made an election promise to fund Resources for Regions with up to 160 million over a 4 year period, will the Government commit to the 150 million over the next 2.5 years?

ANSWER

2. The Resources for Regions election policy committed up to \$160 million over four years beginning 2012-13 and ending 2015-16.

QUESTION 3

3. What wind-fall gains have been identified to fund Resources for Regions?

ANSWER

3. That question should be directed to the Treasurer.

QUESTION 4

4. When will the funding for Muswellbrook Hospital be available to be spent on upgrading the emergency department?

ANSWER

4. In the 2012 -2013 financial year.

QUESTION 5

5. How much finding is required for the upgrade of the Hospital emergency department?

ANSWER

5. That question should be directed to the Minister for Health

Departmental Savings

QUESTION 6

6. What are the overall savings in dollar terms Trade and Investment is being expected to find over each year for the next four years?

ANSWER

6. The original targets imposed by the previous government using 2010-2011 as the baseline were:

2012/2013	\$39.2 million
2013/2014	\$57.5 million
2014/2015	\$80.1 million
2015/2016	\$87.0 million

An additional savings target of \$189.1 million over 2012-2013 to 2015-2016 was imposed in the 2012/2013 budget process. In addition to this other savings targets imposed during the 2012/2013 budget for contributions to the State Contracts Control Board Fees, and Public Service Commission Leadership Program in 2012/2013 are:

2012/2013	\$1.4 million
2013/2014	\$2.0 million
2014/2015	\$2.4 million
2015/2016	\$2.6 million

QUESTION 7

7. How many positions are being cut or made redundant?

ANSWER

7. As outlined in the 2012/13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

QUESTION 8

8. In evidence to the recent Cronulla fisheries committee hearings DG indicated that he had some 32 change management processes underway in the Department. Can you list those plans, are they publicly available, can you make them available?

ANSWER

8. The Department is undertaking an ongoing program of organisational change. The change program is being rolled out in a logical progression and by its conclusion all areas of the Department will be reviewed. Industry, Innovation and Investment Division has recently completed a large change process covered by four change plans. Crown Lands and Catchments NSW and Destination NSW have plans that will reach finalisation in the next two months. NSW Forests has completed four plans that cover different parts of its business and have a large change process running. NSW Water and Fisheries has active change plans in place. Finance Strategy and Operations Division has recently commenced a change plan affecting its corporate operations area and has finalised a plan that covered the Legal Services Area. Primary Industries is currently developing four plans to address recent Government announcement regarding regional service delivery. A further five plans are in drafting stages. Eight change plans were completed in 2011/12. The plans are not publically available; they are released to affected staff and representatives during consultation. These plans contain information relating to specific employees and are not considered public documents.

QUESTION 9

9. What areas of Trade and Investment currently based on the Sydney basin are you considering for decentralisation? How many employees does Trade and Investment have in the Sydney basin? Will you be moving the head office from rental accommodation in the CBD to a regional area?

ANSWER

9. The Department has a number of change management plans that will result in decentralisation of positions from the Sydney basin to regional NSW. The operational areas are NSW Office of Water, Crown Lands Office and NSW Fisheries as well as the division of Finance Strategy and Operations.

NSW Trade & Investment has 1,394 employees in the Sydney basin in an area bounded by West Pennant Hills, Richmond and Menangle.

The NSW Government has no plans to move the head office from rental accommodation in the CBD to a regional area.

QUESTION 10

10. What areas of the Department are affected by the 32 change management plans that your Department head has said are currently in operation?

ANSWER

10. The Department is undertaking an ongoing program of organisational change. The change program is being rolled out in a logical progression and by its conclusion all areas of the Department will be reviewed. Industry, Innovation and Investment Division has recently completed a large change process covered by four change plans. Crown Lands and Catchments NSW and Destination NSW have plans that will reach finalisation in the next two months. NSW Forests has completed four plans that cover different parts of its business and have a large change process running. NSW Water and Fisheries has active change plans in place. Finance Strategy and Operations Division has recently commenced a change plan affecting its corporate operations area and has finalised a plan that covered the Legal Services Area. Primary Industries is currently developing four plans to address recent Government announcement regarding regional service delivery. A further five plans are in drafting stages. Eight change plans were completed in 2011/12.

QUESTION 11

11. As Nationals leader do you think that when a Government grant goes to an organisation it is coming from the Government or the National Party? (Government presumably) Why is it that when National Party members of Parliament announce funding for community groups they do it with cheques that have the National Party logo prominently displayed and the MPs name? Isn't that inappropriate?

ANSWER

11. This question does not fall within the scope of the Minister for Trade and Investment or Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services.

QUESTION 12

12. What analysis has your department undertaken to ascertain if any recipients of the regional relocation allowance have made a decision to move to a regional area as a result of the allowance?

ANSWER

12. This question should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services

QUESTION 13

13. What performance criteria do you have in place for the scheme?

ANSWER

13. This question should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services

QUESTION 14

14. Is the Government continuing the Country Halls Renewal Program? If not why not?

ANSWER

14. The Country Halls Renewal Fund ceased to operate on 1 July 2012. Two alternative programs are available to provide assistance toward community based infrastructure through a competitive application process; the Public Reserves Management Fund administered by Crown Lands, and the Community Building Partnership Program administered by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

QUESTION 15

15. What was the total amount allocated to the community building partnership program in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Budget?
a) What was the reason for cutting this funding?

ANSWER

15. The question should be directed to the Premier.
a) The question should be directed to the Premier.

QUESTION 16

16. What criteria are you applying to consider what areas can be decentralised? What measure will you apply to determine success of the decade of decentralisation?

ANSWER

16. The Government's Decade of Decentralisation policy is designed to support regional communities by implementing strategies that encourage decentralisation and promote steady and strategic growth in regional NSW. Elements of this policy include:

- identifying more public sector job opportunities which could locate to regional areas;
- ensuring that viable services are available to make regional living attractive; and
- giving back to local communities as much local decision-making and participation as possible, along with appropriate accountability and responsibility.

A key initial element of this policy is to identify public sector jobs and services which can be decentralised from the Sydney CBD to other locations in metropolitan Sydney and regional NSW. Broadly, two main criteria are being used to identify what areas can be decentralised from the CBD:

- (1) the nature of service delivery and CBD interactions; and
- (2) alignment with Government's strategic objectives.

The Government will also decide whether any agencies with state-wide functions in metropolitan Sydney can be decentralised. An example of the policy being implemented is the recent decision to locate 105 new public sector jobs in Grafton, covering a range of functions carried out by Roads and Maritime Services, Crown Lands, Renting Services, and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The success of the policy will be demonstrated by the additional jobs, skills and expenditure brought to regional communities.

QUESTION 17

17. What process will you follow?

ANSWER

17. Work is currently underway to identify centres that have the suitable skills and infrastructure to support additional public sector jobs and services. Other elements of the work include: a review of principal agencies' leased and owned office tenancies in the Sydney CBD and metropolitan Sydney to make an assessment of potential for relocation; formulating a plan to strategically release CBD property holdings with particular attention on higher cost office space; and assessing procurement and workplace design options that will optimise economic benefits from relocations.

QUESTION 18

18. You were involved in the decision on Cronulla fisheries, what could you have done better? Will that be a model for future decentralisation?

ANSWER

18. The NSW Government is committed to delivering the Decade of Decentralisation policy.

The Government is currently considering the Legislative Council Report into the Closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence.

Infrastructure NSW (INSW) Report

QUESTION 19

19. The Government identified several projects for development as part of the 20 year Infrastructure Strategy including the upgrade of the Rail Line in Gunnedah – what role will Royalties for Regions play in the development of this project?

ANSWER

19. The specifications for components of the pinch points program referred to and the role for Resources for Regions will be developed with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and published by Infrastructure NSW in the first five year State Infrastructure Plan with the 2013-2014 budget papers.

QUESTION 20

20. Do you agree with INSW report to sell the Government's stake in Snowy Hydro?
- a) Has Trade and Investment consulted with INSW about any possible arrangements for this privatisation?
 - b) How much is expected to be gained through this sale?

ANSWER

20. NSW Treasury is the relevant agency and any questions on this matter should be referred to the Treasurer.

QUESTION 21

21. INSW has identified that within the next 5 years 'coal communities' in the Hunter will have their road and rail infrastructure upgraded. What are the projects identified?
- a) What contribution will Resources for Regions provide to these programs?

ANSWER

21. The specific projects for the Coal Communities program referred to and the contribution of Resources for Regions will be developed with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and published by Infrastructure NSW in the first five year State Infrastructure Plan with the 2013-2014 budget papers.

Infrastructure NSW does envisage that Resources for Regions and Commonwealth Regional Infrastructure Funding will be sought to support the highest priority items in this program.

In another initiative the NSW Government, through the Department of Premier and Cabinet, is currently establishing a Regional Taskforce Group to examine impacts on mining affected communities in Western NSW, including those relating to infrastructure provision. Local government representatives will be invited to participate on the Taskforce.

The Bridges for the Bush program delivers on the Government's commitment to improve road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges over the next five years at 17 key locations in regional NSW.

Bridges in mining communities which will be upgraded include the Gunnedah Railway Bridge (\$16m), Middle Falbrook Bridge (\$10.5m), Dunmore Bridge (\$15m) and Brig O'Johnston Bridge (\$14m)

Payroll Tax Incentives

QUESTION 22-24

22. How many businesses have relocated to regional NSW from Sydney over the past year?
23. How many businesses have received payroll tax concessions from your Government over the past year?
24. What is the value of those concessions and what areas of NSW have benefited from the new or expanded businesses?

ANSWER

22 – 24 These questions should be directed to the Minister for Finance and Services

National Broadband Network (NBN)

QUESTION 25

25. What work has your Department done to ensure that regional NSW businesses and residents are able to fully utilise the NBN?

ANSWER

25. NSW Trade & Investment's Office of Regional Development has provided funding assistance to a number of projects relating to the NBN:

- NBN Information workshops were initiated and organised by the Department in Armidale in March 2011, Inverell in May 2011 and Glen Innes in June 2011. Funding was provided by NSW Trade & Investment to Regional Development Australia Northern Inland to engage a speaker and organise the workshops in Tamworth in October 2011, and in Gunnedah, Narrabri and Moree in November 2011.
- 'NBN Explained for Small Business' workshops were held in Eurobodalla and Merimbula in the 11/12 year. The Department funded a speaker and organised the workshops.
- Financial assistance was provided to Southern Cross University in 2011 to develop and operate an e-demonstration centre where the benefits of high speed broadband can be demonstrated and promoted to businesses, organisations and the public. The centre commenced operating in early 2011 and will operate for three years.
- RDA Northern Inland was provided assistance in 2011 towards a New England North West NBN Co-ordinator to develop a roll out strategy for the New England, to help secure NBN in the region and to run workshops to educate businesses on the NBN.
- RDA Hunter was also provided with assistance to employ an NBN project officer for the Hunter and Central Coast. The aim was to present the Hunter and Central Coast as priority regions for NBN, to work with councils, businesses and other stakeholders for preparedness of the NBN and to identify opportunities as a result of NBN.

- RDA Northern Rivers was provided with funding in March 2011 to conduct a broadband needs and services survey for critical industries in the region.
- RDA Northern Inland was offered funding in early 2012 to develop a broadband smart house to attract commercial operators.
- The roll out of the Community Broadband Development Program is underway. The program is administered by NSW Trade & Investment and the roll out is due to be completed in December 2014 subject to delays, i.e. adverse weather conditions. It will provide high speed broadband access to a number of small country towns and areas with a population below 5,000 which are not covered by the NBN.
- The Community Technology Centre network was established by the Commonwealth and NSW governments to provide information and training to businesses and residents in rural and remote small communities on how to connect to the NBN and how it can be used. NSW Trade & Investment is the government department with responsibility for oversight of the network.

Burrinjuck trust and other sacked trusts

QUESTION 26

26. Why did you decide to sack the trusts who had previously managed the crown reserve at Burrinjuck dam and other similar areas around the state?

ANSWER

26. The NSW Government and the community are very grateful to the hard-working volunteers who have managed the seven inland State Parks up until now. However, State Parks are forced to operate in an increasingly complex regulatory environment and competitive marketplace. This requires a commitment beyond that which can be reasonably expected from part-time volunteers. Therefore, following consultation with the current management of State Parks, it was announced that a single professional management structure will replace the seven separate trusts previously responsible for these valuable community facilities. The new structure will provide a sustainable future for these State Parks to enable them to operate in an increasingly competitive leisure market. By introducing more efficient and professional management practices, the Inland Water Holiday Parks will be able to offer improved access, facilities and overall a better experience for visitors. The expertise and local knowledge available from local communities is highly valued, which is why community advisory committees will be established to advise park management.

QUESTION 27

27. Will you rule out leasing out the management of those areas?

ANSWER

27. It will be the responsibility of the new trust to determine the optimum management model.

Cronulla Fisheries

QUESTION 28

28. What involvement did you have in the decision to close the Cronulla Fisheries Research centre of excellence?

ANSWER

28. The NSW Government is committed to delivering the Decade of Decentralisation policy.

The Government is currently considering the Legislative Council Report into the Closure of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre of Excellence.

Extension Officers

QUESTION 29

29. As Minister for Regional Development do you approve of the plan to move DPI Extension Officers in with CMAs and LHPAs?

ANSWER

29. As Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services I support any plan which improves service delivery to farmers and landholders in regional NSW. The *Local Land Services* reforms announced by Minister Hodgkinson will see the end of multiple agencies providing unco-ordinated, highly duplicative, inequitable and unnecessarily expensive services to farmers and regional landowners.

Transport NSW report

QUESTION 30

30. Are you concerned that out of the nearly \$137 billion worth of projects compiled by Transport NSW, the Bells Line road was not one of those projects listed?
- a) What is the Governments agenda for the Bells Line road?
- b) Did you make any attempt to guarantee that the Bells Line road would be added to Transport NSW report?

ANSWER

- 30, a),b) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Roads.

Crown Lands

QUESTION 31

31. When did you take responsibility for the portfolio of Crown Lands?

ANSWER

31. The Minister for Primary Industries and I have had joint responsibility for the Crown Lands Act since 3 April 2011

QUESTION 32

32. Through the appointment of new staff to the Grafton Lands office, what are the current skills requirements for the positions that will be advertised?
- a) When will they be advertised?
 - b) Will staff that recently lost their job at the Grafton Gaol be suitable for these jobs?

ANSWER

32. The positions are all focused on delivering on the Crown Road Disposal project. There are numerous positions at various levels and the skills and expertise required are clearly stated in the Position Descriptions. The successful applicants will be undertaking tasks associated with land administration such as the closure and sale of Crown roads, within a business centre environment.
- a) The positions were advertised on line in early October via the normal government channels and in the Maclean Coastal Views and the Grafton Daily Examiner on 12 and 13 October 2012, with a closing date of 4 November 2012.
 - b) Individual applications will be assessed on their merits

QUESTION 33

33. As the Government has made the decision to relocate the Native Title office to Newcastle – where will all the native title mapping information be held?
- a) Will it be easy for staff to access? Will they have to travel from the office in Newcastle?

ANSWER

33. The information supporting Native Title applications is provided through the Status Branch, which is being relocated to Newcastle. Most of the mapping information for Native Title is stored in information systems available to staff on-line, although there is still some reliance on historical records that are not yet available online. A review is being undertaken to ensure that improvements to information systems including the scanning of historical records are addressed.
- a) Arrangements will be made to minimise the need for travel by staff and to improve the accessibility of information online.

QUESTION 34

34. Is the government seeking to make regional Job Plans available for the rest of the State, considering that Crown Land jobs in Nowra, Griffith, Hay and Parramatta are being relocated?

- a) What will be the effect of these relocations to the communities?
- b) Has the Government developed regional impact statements for these areas?

ANSWER

34. a) & b)

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to jobs and employment growth in regional NSW. The Jobs Action Plan will help create 100,000 new jobs, of which 40,000 will be in regional NSW. Employers are eligible for a payroll tax rebate of \$4,000 for each new employee they take on.

Under the Regional Relocation Grant, people selling a house in Sydney and buying a house or land in regional NSW are eligible for a \$7,000 in order to help them make the move.

The Government will shortly release Regional Action Plans which will outline key priorities for each region.

QUESTION 35

35. How many State Trusts does the Government look to privatise as part of its review of inland water parks, North Coast and South Coast holiday parks?

ANSWER

35. These reserves will remain within the Crown reserve system.

QUESTION 36

36. As Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services do you consider the allocation of funds in this year's budget for the Kings Highway to be adequate?

ANSWER

36. This question should be directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

QUESTION 37

37. What are the employment periods contained in the employment contracts for staff appointed to the Grafton Crown Lands positions to expedite the crown road lease sale process?

ANSWER

37. Conditions are consistent with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002

Trade and Investment Account Payments

QUESTION 38

38. As at 30th September 2012 are there any accounts payable by Trade and Investment outside 30 days?
- If so, how many?
 - What are the amounts for each invoice outside the 30 days?
 - What strategies are being put in place to bring the accounts within the 30 days?

ANSWER

38. As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

Grafton Gaol Downsizing

QUESTION 39-41

39. When was the Deputy Premier first made aware of the decision to downsize the Grafton Gaol?
40. Was there a Rural Impact Statement was submitted to Cabinet regarding the downsizing of Grafton Gaol?
41. Did this decision go to the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet?

ANSWER

39 – 41

Grafton Correctional Centre (Grafton) has recently been restructured as an intake and transient facility.

The facility will cater for offenders who are remanded in custody in the local, regional area, and for inmates who need to attend court in the Northern Rivers region.

Grafton had unsustainable operating costs due to its age. The restructure will save taxpayers \$5.8 million per year.

Staff affected by the decision will be offered the opportunity to transfer to Cessnock or another NSW correctional centre or voluntary redundancies.

The decision to move towards the restructuring of Grafton Gaol was made earlier this year.

The decision regarding full extent of the restructure, including the final details concerning staff, inmate and bed numbers, was only made shortly before the announcement by the former New South Wales Corrective Services Commissioner Ron Woodham on 29 June 2012.

Northern Rivers Jobs Plan

QUESTION 42

42. Minister, in early September you announced the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan was delivering 79 new jobs.
- How many of these 79 jobs will last more than 12 months?

- b) How much of the announced funds have been expended to date in supporting the two companies?
- c) Is there a review date on the success or otherwise of the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan?

ANSWER

- 42 a) In September, two successful projects supporting 79 new jobs, including 77 jobs over a six month period, were announced under the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan. Further successful applicants will be announced in coming weeks.
- b) Payment of funding is subject to companies meeting milestones set out in the terms of their individual contracts with the NSW Government. Under the terms of the contract, companies are entitled to claim funds when they demonstrate they have met agreed milestones including the employment of an agreed number of fulltime equivalent employees. The companies have to provide evidence via a statutory declaration when making their claim for payment. These two companies are not yet due to reach their milestones. Contracts with the companies remain commercial in confidence.
 - c) The reporting of the results of the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan will be determined by timing of the milestones in the contacts with the companies that have received funding. Program results are reported in the Department's annual report and through the Government's communications activities.

Public Sector Job Relocations

QUESTION 43

43. After the decision to downsize Grafton Gaol was announced you were tasked with identifying possible public sector jobs for relocation to Grafton.
- a) How many of the public sector jobs that are to be relocated to Grafton will be offered with employment contracts?
 - b) Will the employment contracts contain finite employment periods?
 - c) If so, what are the employment periods available for each position?
 - d) What was the cost associated in identifying the public sector jobs that are to be relocated to Grafton?
 - e) Was there a budget allocation created for this exercise?
 - f) How many staff (FTE's) were involved in the process?

ANSWER

43

- (a-f) Conditions consistent with the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* would be imposed by the individual agencies concerned. This process was managed within existing resources

Infrastructure NSW Report – Coal Communities Fund

QUESTION 44

44. Minister, do you support the recommendation of INSW to create a Coal Communities Fund worth \$500M? Do you envisage the Resources for Regions programme will be rolled into any such fund? Will the Resources for

Regions programme operate as a separate scheme to the Coal Communities Fund?

ANSWER

44. Infrastructure NSW's Strategy 2012-2032, *First things first*, does not recommend creation of a coal community fund worth \$500 million. The government is currently considering the recommendations in the strategy, and will be responding to them by the end of the year.

QUESTION 45

45. INSW has identified that within 5 years Coal Communities of the Hunter will need their road and rail infrastructure upgraded. Which projects has your department identified? Will the Resources for Regions programme be used to fund these projects? What will be the criteria to receive funding?

ANSWER

45. My department does not formally identify infrastructure projects, however in the course of its economic development activities, it is made aware of projects which are then referred to the appropriate agency. Examples of road infrastructure include the upgrade of the southbound bridge on the New England Highway at Aberdeen, and the Muswellbrook and Singleton bypasses.

Miscellaneous Questions

Phones/iPads

QUESTION 46

46. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?

ANSWER

46. In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

QUESTION 47

47. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

47. The total expenditure on mobile phones by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier's Office	\$103,152	\$76,457	\$68,475	\$27,570
Ministers' Offices	\$475,539	\$358,396	\$120,285	\$169,655
TOTAL	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

QUESTION 48

48. How many have phones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER

48. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of phones lost was:

	2011/12
<i>Premier</i>	1
<i>Ministers</i>	5
Total	6

QUESTION 49

49. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER

49. The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

QUESTION 50

50. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER

50. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices the number of iPads issued was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	10
Ministers	43
Total	53

QUESTION 51

51. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER

51. iPads are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

QUESTION 52

52. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER

52. In 2011/12, 179 phones were assigned to the Premier's and Ministers' offices.

QUESTION 53

53. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

ANSWER

53. Phones supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

QUESTION 54

54. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?

ANSWER

54. Nil

QUESTION 55

55. How many iPads have been lost in your office?

ANSWER

55. For Premier's office and Ministers' offices, the number of iPads lost or stolen was as follows.

	2011/12
Premier	1
Ministers	0
Total	1

QUESTION 56

56. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

ANSWER

56. The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

Media/public relations

QUESTION 57

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

ANSWER

57. The Industry, Innovation and Investment division of NSW Trade and Investment employs 6 media or public relations advisers.

QUESTION 58

58. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER

58. The Industry, Innovation and Investment division of NSW Trade and Investment forecasts in 2012-13 7 media or public relations advisers will be employed at a cost of \$770,000 per annum.

Overseas trips

QUESTION 59

59. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

ANSWER

59. All official travel within Australia and overseas is in accordance with M2009-04 "Official Travel within Australia and Overseas" available at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au. Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

QUESTION 60

60. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

ANSWER

60. All official travel within Australia and overseas is in accordance with M2009-04 "Official Travel within Australia and Overseas" available at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au. Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

Office costs

QUESTION 61

61. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

ANSWER

61. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

QUESTION 62

62. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

ANSWER

62. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

QUESTION 63

63. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

ANSWER

63. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

QUESTION 64

64. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

ANSWER

64. The total budget allocation for the Premier's and Ministers' offices in 2012-13 is \$40,103,650, with \$5,744,883 allocated to the Premier's office and \$34,358,767 to the Ministers' offices.

QUESTION 65

65. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

ANSWER

65. Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

QUESTION 66

66. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

ANSWER

66. Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

QUESTION 67

67. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?

ANSWER

67. The budget allocations for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices are as follows.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Premier	\$7,002,312	\$8,500,000	\$9,075,038	\$5,309,465	\$5,744,83
Ministers	\$39,673,567	\$40,334,000	\$40,978,962	\$31,516,017	\$34,358,767
TOTAL	\$46,675,879	\$48,834,000	\$50,054,000	\$36,825,482	\$40,103,605

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

QUESTION 68

68. How many political advisors are in your office?

ANSWER

68. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

QUESTION 69

69. How many administration staff?

ANSWER

69. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

QUESTION 70

70. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

ANSWER

70. None

QUESTION 71

71. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

ANSWER

71. 36 FTE across all Divisions of NSW Trade and Investment, including DLOs in cluster Ministers' offices

QUESTION 72

72. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?

ANSWER

72. No

QUESTION 73

73. If so, in what capacities?

ANSWER

73. Not applicable

QUESTION 74

74. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

ANSWER

74. Nil

Cabcharge

QUESTION 75

75. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

75. Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Premier	\$26,418	\$32,525	\$27,600	\$15,485

Ministers	\$133,697	\$143,251	\$32,678	\$80,609
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

Restructure

QUESTION 76

76. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

ANSWER

76. Yes.

QUESTION 77

77. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER

77. All departmental staff in the areas subject to change plans are affected by the plans. However, the majority of affected staff members are able to be redeployed or transferred to new locations.

QUESTION 78

78. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER

78. None

QUESTION 79

79. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

ANSWER

79. As outlined in the 2012/13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

QUESTION 80

80. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

ANSWER

80. As outlined in the 2012/13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

QUESTION 81

81. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

ANSWER

81. As outlined in the 2012/13 budget, the Government's 2011-12 program of voluntary redundancies remains on track to reach its target of 5,000 positions.

A labour expense cap has also been introduced as a new savings measure across the public sector with the target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth.

Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. If it was solely achieved through headcount this would equate to up to 10,000 jobs over four years.

Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

Agency costs**QUESTION 82**

82. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?

ANSWER

82. Operating expenses are documented in the NSW Trade and Investment annual report

QUESTION 83

83. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2011/12?

ANSWER

83. Operating expenses are documented in the NSW Trade and Investment annual report

QUESTION 84

84. What is your Department's catering budget?

ANSWER

84. Catering expenses are typically funded from general business unit or specific project budgets.

QUESTION 85

85. What is your Department's stationery budget?

ANSWER

85. Stationery expenses are typically funded from general business unit or specific project budgets.

QUESTION 86

86. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

ANSWER

86. Yes.

QUESTION 87

87. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

ANSWER

87. Destination NSW spent \$15,000 to develop a new marketing brand for NSW tourism. NSW Trade & Investment adopted the NSW Government's waratah brand. No funds were spent by agencies within NSW Trade & Investment, other than Destination NSW on external contractors to develop new agency brands.

Correspondence

QUESTION 88

88. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

ANSWER

88. Two to three weeks.

QUESTION 89

89. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

ANSWER

89. None.

Paying bills on time

QUESTION 90

90. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

ANSWER

90. As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

QUESTION 91

91. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

ANSWER

91. As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

QUESTION 92

92. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

ANSWER

92. As the Premier stated in Parliament on 23 August 2012, the 30 day bill payment policy formally commenced on 1 January 2012. The first quarterly performance report is currently being finalised for release. In the first quarter almost 92 per cent of invoices were paid within 30 days, consistent with our policy and initiative. 31 small businesses have already been eligible to receive automatic interest charges on overdue accounts.

Grants to non-government organisations

QUESTION 93-100

93. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
94. If yes,
95. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
96. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
97. On what date was the funding advanced?
98. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
99. Was any funding withheld or returned?
100. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

ANSWER

93-100. NSW Government agencies provide grants to local government councils and a range of non-government, non-profit organisations for the purpose of providing a service to the community or undertaking a project of benefit to the community. Grants administration in NSW occurs within the legal and regulatory framework in which the NSW Government operates. All Government Departments and authorities are required to publish details of grants made to non-government organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier's Memorandum 91-34.

QUESTION 101

101. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

ANSWER

101. Grant fund amounts are typically based on a funding submission or specific criteria and not indexed.

QUESTION 102

102. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER

102. Internal audit and risk management systems are consistent with TPP 09-05 Internal Audit and Risk Management for the NSW Public Sector. Audits which are undertaken are documented in the annual report.

Contractors**QUESTION 103**

103. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

ANSWER

103. Expenses on contractors are recorded in the NSW Trade and Investment annual report.

Aboriginal employment**QUESTION 104**

104. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

ANSWER

104. 2009, 2010 and 2011 data can be found as published in the annual Workforce Profile Snapshot Reports.
2012 data is due to be released when the State of the Public Sector Report is released, late 2012.
These reports can be found on the PSC website:
<http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/pscinternet/informaiton.page?>
Additionally, NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 prescribes the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

QUESTION 105

105. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

ANSWER

105. 2009, 2010 and 2011 data can be found as published in the annual Workforce Profile Snapshot Reports.
2012 data is due to be released when the State of the Public Sector Report is released, late 2012.
These reports can be found on the PSC website:
<http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/pscinternet/informaiton.page?>
Additionally, NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 prescribes the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

Charter air flights

QUESTION 106

106. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

ANSWER

106. All official travel within Australia and overseas is in accordance with M2009-04 "Official Travel within Australia and Overseas" available at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au. Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

Reviews and studies

QUESTIONS 107-108

107. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

108. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER

107-108. (a-f) As with previous NSW Governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

Consultants

QUESTION 109

109. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

109. Yes.

QUESTION 110

110. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

110. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 111

111. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?

ANSWER

111. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 112

112. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

112. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 113

113. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

113. Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

Sponsorships

QUESTION 114

114. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

114. Financial statements, including expenditure on sponsorships and funds granted to non-government community organisations, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 115

115. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

115. Financial statements, including expenditure on sponsorships and funds granted to non-government community organisations, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 116

116. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

ANSWER

116. Financial statements, including expenditure on sponsorships and funds granted to non-government community organisations, are available in agency annual reports.

QUESTION 117

117. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

117. NSW Trade & Investment has no discrete budget for sponsorships in the 2012/13 financial year. Sponsorships are funded (or received) by the relevant division, branch or unit to meet that group's business goals.

Media training**QUESTION 118**

118. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

- a) Who conducted the training?
- b) When was it conducted?
- c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- d) Who paid for the training?

ANSWER

118. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

Parliamentary Secretary**QUESTION 119**

119. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011

- a) kilometres travelled

- b) accommodation,
- c) air fares
- d) meals/entertaining?

ANSWER

119. Travel related costs* for the Premier's and Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries was as follows.

	2011-12
Premier's Parliamentary Secretaries	0
Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries	\$19,609
TOTAL	\$19,609

*Flights, accommodation and hire car expenses as detailed in travel contractor report.

- a. Information not available
- b. The total cost of accommodation for travel by Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$1,925.
- c. The total cost of flights for Ministers' Parliamentary Secretaries during 2011/12 was \$17,477.
- d. Information not available

QUESTION 120

120. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;

- a) meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- b) functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

ANSWER

120. Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier and Ministers of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier, or which have the Premier's endorsement.

QUESTION 121

121. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- a) Are these meetings documented?
- b) Who attends these meetings?

ANSWER

121. Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier

and Ministers of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier, or which have the Premier's endorsement.

QUESTION 122

122. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

ANSWER

122. Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier and Ministers of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Premier, or which have the Premier's endorsement.

QUESTION 123

123. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;

- a) Who conducted the training?
- b) When was it conducted?
- c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- d) Who paid for the training?

ANSWER

123. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's financial system does not show any record of speech, voice or media training for the Premier or any other Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.

Questions from Dr. J. Kaye MLC

QUESTION 1

1. Can the Minister explain how removing \$3 million from TAFE on the North Coast for Fine Arts (including Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Sculpture, Furniture Design and Fashion), potentially removing employment for over 50 people and closing the doors on opportunity for students, can improve the regional infrastructure of the North Coast region?

ANSWER

1. This question should be directed to the Minister for Education.