

**Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing Committee No.2
Budget Estimates 2011-12**

SPORT AND RECREATION

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION 1

The previous government recognised that shooting clubs needed funding assistance on Firearms Registry Compliance issues, and allocated \$600,000 per year to the Safe Shooting grants program. How much has the Government allocated in this Budget for the Safe Shooting program?

ANSWER:

Nil.

QUESTION 2

Given that the previous government decided in 2004 to redevelop the Hilltop rifle range into the Hilltop Regional Shooting Complex, and at last year's estimates we were told shooting would be taking place by March 2011 – that is seven months ago – what is the current position with the range and when will the five rifle/pistol/shotgun/air ranges be ready?

- a. Will there be an investigation into how more than \$6 million can be spent on the Hilltop Regional Shooting Complex and the project not completed as expected?

ANSWER:

A number of factors have delayed completion including court challenges and adverse weather conditions.

The 500m rifle range has been substantially completed.

Earth works for the 50m pistol range have been completed but funding is not available in the current financial year to complete the building infrastructure.

Development approval was only provided initially to meet the commitments of the former Government to provide a 500m rifle and 50m pistol range. Additional ranges will be considered in the light of future funding priorities.

(a) The Office of Communities has already conducted a thorough review of the management and costs of this project.

QUESTION 3

Is Sport and Recreation involved in negotiations to build new ranges in and around the Sydney Basin to compensate for the closure of the Anzac Range, and what areas are under consideration at the moment, given that the need for new ranges is urgent?

ANSWER:

The Anzac Rifle Range is a Commonwealth owned facility and it is the Commonwealth's responsibility to relocate current users of the site.

Any questions related to this should be directed to them.

QUESTION 4

How many shooters are receiving coaching and training at our Regional Sports Academies?

ANSWER:

26

QUESTION 5

What sports are eligible for funding grants, and specifically, what funding is available through Sport and Recreation for recreational fishing, particularly junior fishers to encourage kids to get outdoors?

ANSWER:

A sport represented by a NSW incorporated, community based not-for-profit organisation or a NSW Local Government Authority operating under the Local Government Act, 1993 is eligible to apply for funding under Sport and Recreation grant programs.

Funding for activities such as recreational fishing is available through the Sport and Recreation Participation Grant Program as its focus is on increasing regular and on-going participation opportunities. Access to funding is via a competitive submission process with advertised opening and closing dates and assessed on merit by a panel against published selection criteria.

QUESTION 6

Why there was a huge blow out in grants and subsidies in Sport and Recreation services last year (at page 3-21 of the Budget Paper No 3)?

- a. Where did the extra funds go, and why is the allocation for this year less than the initial figure budgeted for last financial year?

ANSWER:

The variation is mainly due to one-off grants, including:

- Netball Australia for the construction of a netball facility at Sydney Olympic Park
- Hockey NSW to build new and upgraded facilities throughout NSW
- Woodville Community Services for the acquisition of a passenger van
- Guildford Soldiers Memorial School for the repair and upgrade of the Arts Community Building
- Illawarra Venues Authority to complete works at WIN Stadium
- Fairfield City Council for a new community hall, early childhood centre and children's playground
- Regional tourism for Dump-ezy caravan sites across NSW

Additional expenditure was due to post-budget decisions including spending on:

- Bradman Foundation to develop Stage 2 of the International Cricket Hall of Fame
- Belmore Oval to complete Stage 1 of redevelopment
- Kogarah Oval to complete redevelopment
- Eastern Creek Raceway for track extension and pit lane building

QUESTION 7

The Government is committed to spending \$133 million on a range of sport and recreation programs this year, including grants to peak sporting bodies and managing government owned or controlled sporting and recreational facilities. Is this an increase on last year's funding?

ANSWER:

No.

QUESTION 8

What sport and recreation and community facilities will be developed under the funding allocation this year of \$14 million?

ANSWER:

\$11.9m of this allocation is for sport and recreation facilities:

- \$0.16m - Milson Island Dining Hall
- \$0.263m - Jindabyne Sports Centre Upgrade
- \$2.294m - Broken Bay – Recreational Hall
- \$3.356m - Southern Highlands Shooting Complex
- \$5.8m - Minor Works

The remainder of the \$14m is allocated to the Citizenship and Communities portfolio and I am advised that further queries on this are more appropriately dealt with by Minister for Citizenship and Communities.

QUESTION 9

One of the achievements of last year was to support international sporting events like the Shooting World Cup. What support was provided for this event?

ANSWER:

The 2011 International Sport Shooting Federation World Cup was held at the Sydney International Shooting Centre. A grant of \$20,000 was provided for this event through the International Sporting Events Program. In-kind support was also provided to this event. This was in the form of additional staff hours. A new electronic target worth more than \$150,000 was provided for the finals range in order to comply with the standard required of a World Cup and to ensure world records were allowed.

QUESTION 10

Phones

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

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

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

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

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

QUESTION 11

Media and Public Relations

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

ANSWER:

- (a) No staff are employed as “Media Adviser” or “Public Relations Adviser”
- (b) Nil
- (c) Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

QUESTION 12

Overseas Trips

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

ANSWER:

- (a) I have not taken any work-related overseas trips.
- (b) Not applicable

QUESTION 13

Office Costs

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

(a) to (c) and (h) and (i) Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

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

(e) Yes

(f) \$2,196

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

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

QUESTION 14

Cabcharge

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

- (a) For all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

QUESTION 15

Restructure

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

ANSWER:

- (a) No
(b) to (d) Not applicable

QUESTION 16

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 stationery?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

- (a) The agency's catering budget for 2010/11 was \$3.685M with the budget for 2011/12 yet to be determined.
- (b) As a result of the Administrative Orders issued by government, Communities NSW, the former Department, was abolished in April 2011 and Sport and Recreation was established in the newly created Department of Education and Communities.
- (c) There are no costs to report.
- (d) The budget for Sport and Recreation in 2010/11 for stationery was \$90,173.53.

QUESTION 17

Correspondence

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

- (a) The target for turnaround of correspondence to Sport and Recreation is 21 days and the majority of correspondence meets that target.
- (b) There are not any letters to Sport and Recreation that have been outstanding for more than 60 days.

QUESTION 18

Paying bills on time

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

ANSWER

I am advised:

(a) and (b) During the period 1 April - 31 October 2011, a total of 12,253 of 12,951 invoices were paid on time, clearly the agency could not pay invoices dated before the service was provided or where the invoice was incorrectly made out.

QUESTION 19

Grants to non-government organisations

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

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Communities publishes information on funds granted to non-government community organisations in its Annual Report. The Department's 2011 Annual Report will be published in May 2012.

QUESTION 20

- 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?

ANSWER:

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.