



**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**

Minister for Primary Industries

Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Mr Stewart Smith  
Director of Budget Estimates  
Room 812, Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Smith

Please find attached responses to the questions on notice and supplementary questions asked at the Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-2015 on Monday 18 August for my portfolio of Primary industries.

Yours sincerely

**Katrina Hodgkinson MP**  
**Minister for Primary Industries**  
**Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events**

9.9.14

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5**

### **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

**Monday 18 August 2014**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**  
**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 9**

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** When you announced the subsidies for water saving infrastructure in north-western New South Wales several farmers had already been experiencing drought for some eight months or more and had already expended significant funds on infrastructure—in one case I am aware of, \$200,000; in another case, \$70,000. Why did you not backdate the starting period for that support to the actual start of the drought conditions in that area?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** If I can just go back to your previous question in relation to the dairy farmers and the letter, I am advised that we can consider their claim against agreed criteria, but I am not sure what their request exactly was, so we will have a look at that.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Thank you. I am sure they will appreciate that.

**ANSWER**

The NSW Government made decisions in relation to back-dating and expansion of the temporary emergency assistance package based upon the independent and expert advice of the Regional Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC).

RAAC monitors objective rainfall, soil moisture and pasture growth data, in addition to on ground information provided by Local Land Services, to inform recommendations and advice provided to the NSW Government.

**Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 9**

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** In relation to the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate scheme, almost 3,000 applications were received by the Rural Assistance Authority for this highly popular program since it commenced in November 2013. As at 1 August the RAA has approved in excess of 1,400 applications to the value of \$20 million. There are 1,461 claims yet to be processed, with a value of approximately \$17 million. While the claims are reasonably well spread across northern New South Wales, the following local government authorities have had approvals greater than \$1 million: the Warrumbungle, \$1.66 million—

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Can I interrupt you? Will you be able to table those figures?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** There are only five.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** What I wanted specifically—

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** Sure.

## **ANSWER**

As at 31 August 2014 the NSW Rural Assistance Authority has approved more than 2300 applications, to the value of approximately \$29 million, for the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate.

Per Local Land Services region, this equates to:

- Central West: 521 applications approved, to the value of \$6.6 million;
- Central Tablelands: 62 applications approved, to the value of \$0.6 million;
- North Coast: 11 applications approved, to the value of \$0.07 million;
- North West: 662 applications approved, to the value of \$8.4 million;
- Northern Tablelands: 638 applications approved, to the value of \$6.9 million; and
- Western: 434 applications approved, to the value of \$6.3 million.

### **Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 10**

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** As to your previous response about the response to the letters from the dairy farmers in Kempsey, can you take on notice what action you are able to take on that and come back with an answer?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I will have a look at the letter and see what agreed criteria—

## **ANSWER**

On 11 and 24 July the Hon Thomas George MP, Member for Lismore, made representations regarding the temporary drought assistance measures for dairy farmers in the Kyogle district.

On 2 June 2014 the NSW Government announced that the Kyogle LGA would be eligible to access the temporary emergency support package. While there was less time to lodge applications than previously announced areas, there was approximately one month where information could be obtained and an application submitted.

The independent and expert Regional Assistance Advisory Committee considered this issue and advised the NSW Government that the timeframe was sufficient.

While the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate and the Transport Assistance Reimbursement concluded on 30 June 2014, other drought relief mechanisms remain available.

### **Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 10**

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** The RAAC releases its seasonal conditions report every month. That is publicly available.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** If you could take that on notice that would be appreciated.

**ANSWER**

The Regional Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC) provides information on the DPI website. The RAAC assessment process, Seasonal Conditions Reports and summaries of the monthly meeting are reported.

**Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 11**

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Can you take on notice if necessary or tell us now how much in addition to the money that you have previously announced through drought support for those infrastructure grants the department has needed to provide?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** That \$8 million was topped up by an extra \$4 million from the Commonwealth.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** From the Commonwealth.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** Yes.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** So were there any other funds from within the department?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** For that particular project we would probably need to take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments committed \$21 million to the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years. While the final figure is not known until all applications are processed, additional expenditure of \$14.6 million is currently anticipated.

**Question from the Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 13**

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** Do you know how many major water storages are on the Belubula River?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** On the Belubula or on the Lachlan?

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** On the Belubula.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER**

Carcoar Dam is the only major dam on the Belubula River.

**Question from the Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 13**

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** You said that in your estimate the Commonwealth and the State had identified the Needles Gap dam as a project worthy of consideration. Would you

provide details in which Commonwealth or State document the Needles Gap dam was identified as a major project? Would you table that?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** Yes, because I certainly cannot tell you straight off the top of my head.

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water.

**Question from the Hon. Scott MacDonald, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 18**

**CHAIR:** Before I go to the Opposition: Minister, would you be able to provide to the Committee a copy of the 2009 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I can provide you with the signed copy of the intergovernmental agreement [IGA], which was some years later. The West Australian trial commenced in 2009—that is off the top of my head—it went for two years and then an IGA was devised. I am happy to table the IGA on the National Drought Reform Program.

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD:** Who signed that?

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** It was in 2012.

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD:** 2010.

**CHAIR:** Let us not waste time. The Minister will table the document.

**Document tabled.**

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I will provide you with a list of the signatories on notice. Some of the Ministers have changed.

**ANSWER**

The IGA was tabled during the meeting. This included the list of names of signatories and the date of signing. The names of signatories are also provided below.

Signatory	Representing
Sen the Hon Joe Ludwig	Commonwealth of Australia
The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP	State of NSW
The Hon John McVeigh MP	State of Queensland
The Hon Gail Gago	State of SA
Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA	ACT
The Hon Peter Walsh MP	State of Victoria
The Hon Ken Baston MLC	State of WA
The Hon Bryan Green MP	State of Tasmania
The Hon Willem Westa van Holthe MLA	NT of Australia

## **Question from The Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 20**

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** The Snowy Mountains lakes trout fishery is the most significant trout fishery in New South Wales. It is of great social and economic importance to the region. After many years of exceptional rainbow trout fishing from the lakes—I went down to Lake Eucumbine recently and it is fantastic at the moment—some fishers have reported reduced catches in Lake Jindabyne and Lake Eucumbine over the past two years; this is especially the case for shore-based fly and bait fishers. Fishers trawling lures with boats still report reasonable catches. The New South Wales Government provides around \$1 million for freshwater fish stocking research, management and production. Around \$1.1 million is received from the Recreational Fishing Trust to support DPI fish hatcheries with production and to provide community grants for the purpose of native fish for stocking under the Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program. An additional \$340,000 is received from the trust to support stocking assessment and research.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Is there new research being proposed to look, on a long-term basis, at the trout stocks in the Snowy Mountains given the meetings that have occurred recently in the mountains and the issues that have been raised there?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** A meeting was held with fisheries researchers and managers recently to identify current research knowledge gaps and to consider future research options for the Snowy Mountains lakes. The DPI is developing a draft research plan which will look to continue and improve current monitoring of the spawning runs. It will be conducting a survey of the food chains and water quality of lakes Jindabyne and Eucumbene, and implementing an angler survey to quantify species composition of catch rates, angler satisfaction and expectations. This future research will help to ensure that there will be ongoing quality recreational fishing opportunities at the Snowy lakes. Outcomes of the public forum will be communicated with the angling public through the department's website. The New South Wales Government is committed to maintaining this high-quality fishery for the benefit of New South Wales anglers.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** You may wish to take this question on notice: How will the research be funded? Some anglers are unhappy as they believe all the funding will come from the licence fees and they believe the Government should provide funding towards it as well. Could you inform us, perhaps on notice, where the funding for that will come from? Is the research you are talking about going to be long-term over decades rather than short-term research?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** In relation to the recreational fishing licence fee, of course all the moneys from that fee—which was established under the former Government—do go back into the benefits of recreational fishing. It may well be that such research as conducted with the Snowy Mountains lakes will be of benefit to recreational fishing. It may fall well within the remit of the Recreational Fishing Trust fee. I would struggle to think off the top of my head of any reason it would not fall into that basket.

## **ANSWER**

The research will be almost exclusively of benefit to recreational fishing and will mainly be funded from an existing recreational trust funded research project which investigates a range of freshwater fisheries with in-kind government support. Any additional research required would be the subject of an application to the recreational fishing trusts. I am advised that fisheries researchers are also discussing the research with several

universities and already incorporate longer term water quality data from organisations such as Snowy Hydro.

**Question from The Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 20**

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Last year in the estimates hearings the departmental staff acknowledged that funding from fishing licence fees was being utilised to fund departmental officers to assess proposals for closures of Crown roads. For the past year can you tell us how many staff have been engaged in this work and what the expenditure of fishing trust funds has been? How many road closure applications has the department assessed and how many of those have not proceeded as a result of recommendations against closure by the department? You may wish to take some of that question on notice.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** Of course, the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing [ACORF] does make recommendations in relation to the distribution of the funding from the recreational fishing licence fee. I am advised approximately \$100,000 of the licence fee has been used for that purpose.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** For that purpose. Can you take the rest of my question on notice and find some figures for us on what the actual impact of those fees has been?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** The breakdown of the figures per person?

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** The breakdown of the amount that has been spent, how many road closure applications have they assisted in assessing and how many of those have not proceeded as a result of recommendations against closure by the department?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** Sure.

**ANSWER**

I am advised that two trust-funded employees work in assessing road closure applications. However, only one of these positions is employed with the primary role of assessing road closures. The other position has additional broader responsibilities. Approximately \$100,000 from the recreational fishing trust has been used directly for the purpose of assessing crown road closures.

In regard to the amount of road closures assessed, I am advised that NSW DPI Fisheries staff have assessed approximately 7550 individual roads proposed for closure since March 2013. NSW DPI Fisheries staff have requested that 222 of these roads be retained for use by anglers. Crown Lands has made a determination on 66 of these roads of which 46 have not proceeded.

**Question from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing - page 22**

**Comprehensive study to identify development opportunities for the New South Wales dairy industry**

**Mr HANSEN:** While there have not been any public calls for submissions in consultation on this front, what this report does is draw a lot on already completed industry research

that has been done by Dairy Australia and others that has drawn widely on the available options out there at the moment for the dairy industry as well as strengths and weaknesses in the current supply chains. So it is tapping into a lot of industry consultation that already has occurred and just really targeted into those two organisations, plus obviously the regional dairy boards have been spoken to as well.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** When was the development of this strategy publicly announced?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I might just take on notice the exact date.

#### **ANSWER**

NSW DPI commissioned a study into the opportunities for growth in NSW's dairy sector. This will form the basis of the development of a 2020 industry growth strategy and will involve extensive industry consultation.

#### **Questions from the Hon. Steve Whan, MLC taken on notice at hearing - Page 24**

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Are Local Land Services currently paying all their bills or are bills being paid by a central agency on their behalf?

**Mr PATERSON:** The Department of Trade and Investment undertakes the corporate services for LLS.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** As the Department of Trade and Investment undertakes the payment, how does that structure work and what is the time frame for payment of bills? Do they have a maximum period?

**Mr PATERSON:** Government policy in relation to the payment of accounts is to pay them as soon as they are practically settled. There are special arrangements in relation to payment for small businesses, with a 30-day time frame after receipt of a properly rendered invoice. That applies to LLS claimants in the same way as it applies to other activities they are responsible for.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Are you meeting the 30-day benchmark for those bills?

**Mr PATERSON:** Not in every case, and nor does any part of Government meet the 30-day time frame in relation to the payment of every account.

**The Hon. STEVE WHAN:** Would you be able to give us figures on how many bill payments meet the time frame each month? You may need to take that on notice.

**Mr PATERSON:** I will take on notice a breakdown for each month.

## ANSWER

Local Land Services Payments	Payment Statistics, where due date is 30 days from invoice receipt date							
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Number invoices paid within 30 days after invoice receipt	406	1,190	2,119	1,903	2,625	3,453	3,274	2,055
Number invoices paid outside 30 days after invoice receipt	26	231	384	310	553	594	298	238
Total invoices paid	432	1,421	2,503	2,213	3,178	4,047	3,572	2,293

Local Land Services Payments	Payment Statistics, where due date is 30 days from invoice receipt date							
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Number invoices paid within 30 days after invoice receipt	94%	84%	85%	86%	83%	85%	92%	90%
Number invoices paid outside 30 days after invoice receipt	6%	16%	15%	14%	17%	15%	8%	10%

### Question asked by Robert Brown, Chair of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 and taken on notice at hearing – page 25

**CHAIR:** I have a follow-up question on service level agreements. Mr Paterson, in around November or December 2012 it appears from the records that the department cancelled the service-level agreement with the Game Council. Is that correct?

**Mr PATERSON:** I could not confirm the timing of it. You suggested November 2012?

**CHAIR:** November/December 2012 is the information that was contained in the Standing Order 52 documents.

**Mr PATERSON:** I would need to take it on notice.

## ANSWER

The final Service-Level Agreement (SLA) with the Game Council of NSW was for the period 1 July 2011 up to 30 June 2013, with an option to extend the agreement for a further two years.

As the agreement neared the end of its term the Department was implementing a major project to replace the existing corporate systems with a single Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform (SAP ByDesign). Re-negotiation of the agreement could not occur until the ERP project was finalised as certain amendments to the terms and schedules of the SLA would be dependent on the new processing arrangements and changes to the agreed processing time frames.

On 21 January 2013, Deputy Director General, Finance Strategy and Operations wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of the Game Council, proposing to extend the current SLA, due to expire on 30 June 2013, up to 31 December 2013. The agreement was therefore 'in force' in November/December 2012.

**Question asked by Robert Brown, Chair of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 and taken on notice at hearing – page 25**

**CHAIR:** If you could take it on notice. The last time I attempted to get an answer from you pertaining to advice you had given to your Minister we got ourselves into a little bit of a problem, from my point of view. Minister, were you aware that that unilateral decision to deny the service level agreement to the Game Council was being made prior to it being made?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I will take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

A Service Level Agreement between Game Council NSW and the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services was 'in force' during November/December 2012.

**Question from the Hon David Shoebridge, MLC taken on notice at hearing – page 28**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Minister, what has happened to the annual reports on the difference between the frames estimate for yields of logging operations and the actual harvest that occurs, consistent with the 2009 Auditor-General's recommendation?

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** How does *Hansard* describe confusion?

**CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS:** Point of order—

**CHAIR:** Order! There is no need for a point of order. Mr David Shoebridge will come to order.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** The Forest Industries Taskforce reports back on that.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** When did they last report to you?

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I have received regular reports from the Forest Industries Taskforce. I just need to seek advice as to the exact date.

**CHAIR:** Perhaps you could take it on notice.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I am happy to.

**ANSWER**

This information is made available to the public through the Forestry Corporation of NSW website. The most recent report covers the five year-period to June 2013.

**Questions from the Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC taken on notice at hearing - page 28**

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** How many hectares of both invasive native species and native vegetation were approved for clearing in 2013 and 2014, and how many were actually cleared?

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS:** Point of order: That question would be better directed to the Minister for Natural Resources, Land and Water.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I would love to be able to answer that question.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** No, they are approved under PVPs, which fall under the LLS. Property vegetation plans are approved by Local Land Services.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** They are.

**CHAIR:** I will not uphold the point of order.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** While the Hon. Rick Colless is correct, native vegetation falls under the Office of Environment and Heritage, but PVPs fall under Primary Industries so I am happy to take that question on notice and provide a more detailed answer.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** In relation to PVPs, does any government agency or any agency for which you are responsible assess the amount of native vegetation regeneration in New South Wales?

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD:** Point of order: The Minister for the Environment reports on native vegetation. PVPs might be a mechanism for a farmer to apply to do some work but it is reported under the Office of Environment and Heritage. This is the wrong portfolio.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** To the point of order: It is relevant. It is pertinent to this portfolio because PVPs are managed by the Department of Primary Industries through the LLS.

**CHAIR:** Order! I will not uphold the point of order because the Minister has already agreed that she will do her best to answer the question and we will leave it at that.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** If the Minister would like to take that question on notice, that will be fine.

**Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON:** I do have a paper here on native vegetation but I am happy to take it on notice rather than read it and use the Committee's time in that way.

**ANSWER**

The number of hectares approved for clearing under Property Vegetation Plans (PVPs) and any associated offsets is publicly available at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/approvedclearing.htm>

Additional information is publicly available in the *NSW Report on Native Vegetation* available at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation/reports.htm>

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Primary Industries**

<b>Answers to be returned by:      Wednesday 10 September 2014</b>
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**Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC**

**Game and Feral Animal Control  
Ducks**

1. What is the estimated number of ducks killed each year as part of the Game Bird Mitigation program?

**ANSWER:** The Native Game Bird Management Program was transferred to the Department of Primary Industries from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (part of the Office of Environment and Heritage) in July 2014. The Native Game Bird Management Program is due to commence in September 2014 and as at the time of writing, there have been no ducks harvested as part of this program to date.

2. What data is collected by the Department about this killing?

**ANSWER:** Licenced hunters are required to report the numbers and types of native game birds harvested under the Native Game Bird Management Program to the DPI Game Licensing Unit.

3. How many staff are allocated to enforcement operations to ensure that this program is carried out humanely?

**ANSWER:** There are three Game Licensing Compliance Officers that have been tasked with regulatory enforcement duties in the Riverina as part of the Native Game Bird Management Program. A further nine Compliance Officers located across the State will also participate in the program to provide them with operational experience in enforcing native game bird management regulations.

4. What is the justification for the continued inclusion of the pink-eared duck in this program, particularly considering this native bird does not target any relevant crops?

**ANSWER:** Under the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*, landholders may apply for a licence to have specific native game birds killed that are both present on their properties and impacting their crops.

Evidence of rice damage by Pink Eared Ducks has occurred in the Riverina and the National Parks and Wildlife Service has issued Section 120 licences for this species under their former Game Bird Management Program. The evidence suggests that these species may not eat seed but land in crops in large groups and create muddy water which affects rice growth and also creates open water patches which are then used by seed eating ducks to access crops.

## **Forestry**

### **IFOAs**

5. What is the current status of the Coastal IFOA remake?

#### **ANSWER**

The Forestry Corporation of NSW is continuing to work with the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Primary Industries to develop a draft for further public consultation.

6. Regarding Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals what are the projected cost savings anticipated to be brought about as a result of the newly relaxed prescriptions?

#### **ANSWER**

There is to be no relaxation on delivering environmental outcomes. Prescriptions under the IFOA are yet to be finalised.

7. What are the anticipated job losses that will come as a result of the absence of pre harvest assessments under the IFOAs?

#### **ANSWER**

No job losses are expected. Requirements relating to pre-harvest assessments under the IFOA have not been determined.

## **Mapping**

8. Given the acknowledged shortcomings of FRAMES, what steps are being taken to update mapping and spatial data to provide an accurate desktop of forestry operations in NSW?

#### **ANSWER**

Recording information on harvesting operations is the basis for the FRAMES reconciliation analysis. Forestry Corporation of NSW is continuously improving its processes for collecting this data. Forestry Corporation has improved links between the harvest volumes recorded in the sales system and the related harvest plan areas, and is doing further work to improve the collection of harvest boundary information using mobile devices.

## **SEFE**

9. Given the collapse of the agreements between Victoria and South East Fibre Exports, what consideration is being given to the relationship between NSW and SEFE?

### **ANSWER**

The Forestry Corporation of NSW has a long-term wood supply agreement with South East Fibre Exports and both parties are continuing to meet their obligations under that agreement.

## **Wood supply agreements**

10. How many compensation claims are currently lodged with the State of NSW and/or Forestry corporations as a result of wood supply breaches?

### **ANSWER**

None.

11. What consideration has been given to buying out or renegotiating existing wood supply agreements in order to ensure realistic and sustainable yields?

### **ANSWER**

This was considered by the independently-chaired Project 2023 steering committee. The NSW Government has acted on its recommendation by buying back about 50,000 cubic metres of annual timber allocations, as publicly announced on 24 June 2014.

## **Glenbog wombats**

12. What action will be taken against the contractor for damage to wombat burrow?

### **ANSWER**

The Forestry Corporation of NSW is investigating the incident. The appropriate action will be determined once this investigation has concluded.

13. What steps have been taken to ensure this does not happen again?

### **ANSWER**

The investigation will look at opportunities for continuous improvement. Appropriate actions will be determined once the investigation has concluded.

14. Given the existence of voluntary measures and a claimed 2,000 prescriptions were not sufficient to protect these burrows, what changes is the Minister proposing to make to the regulations?

**ANSWER**

Forestry activities are regulated by the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs), which contain appropriate measures for protecting wildlife across the landscape. The Forestry Corporation of NSW is committed to continuously improving its operations to minimise any environmental impact as a result of harvest operations.

15. Will any action be action against the contractor for damage to wombat burrow?

**ANSWER**

The Forestry Corporation of NSW is investigating the incident. The appropriate action will be determined once the investigation has concluded.

16. Regarding the logging of Glenbog State Forest Compartments 2301,11 and 21:

- (a) What factors were responsible for the suspension of logging in the vicinity of Log Dump F in the week ending 15 August 2014?
- (b) When did the Forestry Corporation become aware of these factors?
- (c) Why were these factors not known or acted upon before the logging commenced?
- (d) Which contractor was engaged to undertake the logging of Glenbog Cpts 2301, 11 and 21?

**ANSWER**

- a) Allegations were published in the media relating to deliberate breaches of the harvest plan. Forestry Corporation of NSW is investigating the incident.
- b) The allegations were published on Sunday 10 August 2014.
- c) No allegations of deliberate breaches of the harvest plan were brought to the attention of the Forestry Corporation of NSW before harvesting commenced.
- d) The Forestry Corporation of NSW's contracts relating to timber harvesting in Glenbog State Forest are with Blue Ridge Hardwoods and South East Fibre Exports. Harvesting contractors are engaged by these companies directly.

17. Will the principle of avoiding logging in the vicinity of wombat burrows be applied in future logging operations?

- (a) If so, will this be done on a case by case basis or will a requirement be incorporated into the IFOAs.
- (b) If not, why not?

**ANSWER**

No.

a) N/A

- b) The harvest plan instruction in Glenbog State Forest was to avoid damage to wombat burrows as far as practicable, not to avoid harvesting in the vicinity. The Forestry Corporation of NSW's ecologists make an assessment of the appropriate environmental prescriptions to apply within the framework of the IFOA and other related legislation when planning each compartment.

## **Winter logging**

18. Does the Government support the principle that logging should not occur during winter months because of harm done to native wildlife which hibernate or rest in torpor during the winter?

### **ANSWER**

Habitat for species that use periods of torpor over the cooler months is already routinely protected during timber harvesting in State forests, due to regulated exclusion zones around specified environmental features and requirements to retain habitat and recruitment trees across the landscape. The existing prescriptions protect native wildlife and their habitat during timber harvesting, including during periods when they may be hibernating or resting in torpor.

19. Will the Government consider applying the principle of avoiding winter logging under the authority of the Forestry Corporation?

### **ANSWER**

The protective measures for wildlife habitat applied in State forests were developed by expert panels and have taken into account the specific fauna groups and individual species' habitat needs, including those that enter periods of torpor. Application of these conditions means native wildlife and their habitat are protected during timber harvesting, including during periods when they may be hibernating or resting in torpor, and accordingly there is no need to avoid timber harvesting during winter.

## **Steep slope logging trial**

20. Who will pay for the purchase or hire, transport of equipment required to undertake the trial of Steep Slope logging to be conducted as part of the coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA) Remake?

### **ANSWER**

This will be determined once a trial has been designed.

21. Will a financial cost benefit analysis be conducted?

### **ANSWER**

Yes.

22. How will soil erosion and water pollution issues be evaluated?

### **ANSWER**

A process will be developed to assess these issues as part of the trial, with input from regulators and other relevant agencies.

23. Over what period will erosion and pollution issues be evaluated?

**ANSWER**

This will be determined in the design of the process, with input from regulators and other relevant agencies.

**Crown Lands**

24. What overall records are kept detailing Crown Lands across the State?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water.

25. Is there a State level map that details the location and status of Crown Lands?  
(a) If not, why not?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water.

26. In the absence of state-wide comprehensive records and mapping, how are Statewide impacts on Crown Land assessed?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water.

**Land tax**

27. What consideration has been given to extending the Land Tax exemption that applies to primary industry to land that is used to grow native trees or allowed to return to its natural state?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Finance and Services.

**Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC**

**Regarding animal welfare:**

28. "Animal welfare", "animal protection" or the prevention and prosecution of "animal cruelty" are not once referred to in the NSW Budget,  
(a) How does this budget seek to protect animals from cruelty and ensure their welfare?

- (b) How will this Budget focus on improving animal husbandry practices and implementing more sustainable and higher welfare alternatives to intensive animal production systems – such as organic or free range systems?
- (c) Is the NSW Government seeking to improve the education and awareness of both primary industries and the broader community on animal welfare / animal protection issues? If not, why not?
- (d) In the wake of the Federal Government stepping away from its commitments under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) and dissolving the Primary Industries Ministerial Council and Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, what steps is the NSW Government taking in regards to updating the Model Codes Of Practice for Animal Welfare into Standards and Guidelines?
- (e) How has this budget supported the enforcement capabilities of the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare league, or provided for the support of animal protection law enforcement generally, particularly in the case of agricultural animals?
- (f) Is the DPI or local police prepared to enhance its enforcement capabilities to tackle animal cruelty, particularly in the case of agricultural animals?

## ANSWER

- a) The 2014-15 NSW Budget provides funding for animal welfare programs that provide for animal welfare standards to be effectively managed to allow market access and meet community expectations. This includes the development and implementation of Commonwealth and State welfare legislation and policy frameworks and implementation of regulatory schemes for animals, including exhibited animals and animals used in research. The 2014-15 Budget provides for animal welfare grants, including to RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League NSW, which are two of the enforcement agencies under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.
- b) Under this budget, programs include beginning a review of the Model Code of Practice for Domestic Poultry to formulate evidence-based standards and guidelines for the welfare of domestic poultry. Guidelines for free range poultry production will also be developed to inform the free range industries.
- c) Yes, particularly in the development of web ready resources to inform and educate the free range industries on best-practice and sustainable management practices.
- d) The Model Code review and conversion to standards and guidelines program is on the agenda of the Agricultural Ministers Forum, Agriculture Senior Officials Committee and Animal Welfare Task Group, on which the NSW Government is represented.
- e) See the answer to (a) above.
- f) The Department of Primary Industries does not enforce the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*. Enforcement is undertaken by RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and NSW Police. All the enforcement agencies maintain appropriate capability to undertake their enforcement activities for all animals, including agricultural animals.

## Regarding factory farming:

29. The ACT Government recently introduced a prohibition on cruel, inhumane production practices – like sow stalls, farrowing crates, battery cages and the practice of “de-beaking” laying fowl . The Tasmanian Government also introduced a partial ban on the use of sow stalls, and Australian Pork Limited – the industry representative for the Australian pork industry – has announced a voluntary (albeit partial) phase out of sow stalls by 2017.
- (a) Will the NSW Government also consider phasing out these cruel husbandry practices? If not, why not?

### ANSWER

- a) The NSW Government has committed to national agreements regarding welfare standards for pigs and will not be amending legislation unilaterally. Husbandry and housing for poultry will be reviewed as part of the review of the Model Code of Practice for domestic poultry. The ACT does not have any commercial piggeries.
30. Recent statistics including the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation’s statistic show that livestock production is responsible for approximately 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, and the CSIRO’s statistic that over 30% of greenhouse gas emissions produced in Australia can be attributed to animal industries.
- (a) In light of the above statistics, are there any plans to research the effects of animal agriculture on climate change?
- (b) To what extent will the industries be required to mitigate their contribution to climate change, and by what policy mechanism will this be achieved, in light of the omission of agriculture from present Federal carbon emissions reduction schemes?

### ANSWER

- a) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is exploring ways to both reduce emissions and improve livestock productivity and has been a national leader in livestock methane research for more than 10 years. The main focus of DPI’s ongoing methane research program is developing breeding tools to better select productive animals with low methane emissions.
- b) Under the Commonwealth Government’s Direct Action policy, the agricultural sector, along with other sectors, will be provided with financial incentives to take action to reduce emissions. While the Direct Action policy has not yet passed through the Senate, it aims to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-e emissions by five per cent by 2020, the same target adopted by the former Labor government.

The Emission Reduction Fund (ERF) provides opportunities for land sector abatement including the livestock sector. The ERF expands upon the original Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI), widening its scope to create opportunities for abatement to be sourced across the economy. Recent policy documents (Green

and White Papers) indicate that the Commonwealth anticipates further development of methodologies including ways of reducing livestock emissions.

**Regarding kangaroos:**

31. How much funding does the NSW Government provide or plan to provide for the marketing, promotion, maintenance and development of NSW's kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

32. The ACT Government is presently considering trials for the non-lethal management of kangaroo populations. Given the cruelty inherent in the commercial kangaroo industry, will the NSW government invest in research into non-lethal means of 'pest' control and management?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

33. The method of calculating kangaroo numbers has been highly criticised for being out-dated and inaccurate. It is also argued that ecological incentives for the harvesting of kangaroos should not be conflated with the commercial trading of kangaroo products, leading the ACT to prohibit the commercial slaughter of kangaroos.
- (a) Will the NSW government consider a NSW parliamentary inquiry into the methodology of calculating for the purpose of commercial harvesting, and on the continued practice of permitting kangaroos to be slaughtered on commercial grounds?

**ANSWER**

a) This is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

34. Kangaroo meat has been found to contain high levels of e-coli and pathogenic organisms, such as salmonella. Improper handling of kangaroo meat is linked to a heightened risk for toxoplasmosis and salmonellosis.
- (a) Since this issue came to light, what processes has the government put in place to monitor the toxicity and pathogen levels in kangaroo meat to adequately protect consumers?

**ANSWER**

(a) This is a matter for the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

### **Regarding the Marine Estate Management Authority:**

35. What baseline and control site data was used for the assessment of the impact of line fishing on ocean beaches and headlands for mainland marine park sanctuary zones to enable an effective comparison before and after fishing was allowed in these areas?
- (a) Did the assessment undertake to evaluate the negative impacts of an amnesty on line fishing on non-extractive industries such as SCUBA diving, snorkelling, swimming and boating?
  - (b) The assessment was to be conducted within six-months of the amnesty being announced. It is now well over 15months. What is the reason for the delay, and when will a decision be made?
  - (c) If the evidence provided in the assessment to the Department for Primary Industries indicates that the amnesty was not fulfilling the objectives of the Marine Parks Act 1997 to conserve marine biological diversity and maintain ecological processes, will the marine sanctuaries be restored immediately?

### **ANSWER**

The assessment relied on the available site specific ecological data that had been collected, the scientific literature and technical and expert input.

- (a) The level of potential social risk and access conflict with non-extractive users at the amnesty sites was included in the overall assessment.
- (b) The assessment has been conducted but further information regarding aspects of the assessment is being sought. The outcome of the assessment is currently being considered by the NSW Government.
- (c) The assessment included an evaluation of relevant ecological, social and economic issues. The economic and social considerations in addition to biodiversity conservation and ecological objectives, will inform the NSW Government's decision.

### **Regarding Biosecurity:**

36. The 2014/15 budget allocated substantial resources to NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021, including \$10 million to a biosecurity information system upgrade and \$4.8 million as part of inter-jurisdictional biosecurity arrangements. As part of these efforts the NSW Government has announced its intentions to introduce legislation to target animal activists trespassing onto farms to film on-farm practices.
- (a) What details can the government provide as to the specifics of these laws that propose to target animal activists?
  - (b) Will the proposed anti-activist laws prohibit audio/video surveillance, as well as the dissemination of such surveillance footage to the public?
  - (c) Will the proposed anti-activist laws require activists to hand over surveillance footage immediately to authorities?

### **ANSWER**

- a) No announcement has been made regarding legislation to specifically target animal activists who trespass onto farms. The NSW Government has announced legislation that will include a general biosecurity obligation applying to any person whose actions may create a biosecurity risk. The general biosecurity obligation requires all persons to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks on the economy, environment or the community.
- b) No.
- c) No.

### **Regarding transparency within the agriculture industry:**

37. Animal cruelty in animal management facilities, such as in factory farms, processing facilities and slaughterhouses, is a significant concern and one which the NSW government must address. One of the most significant obstacles to effectively combating animal cruelty is detection – particular in the case of agricultural animals, many of which suffer behind closed sheds away from public scrutiny.
- (a) Will this government legislate for mandatory CCTV in NSW abattoirs, factory farms and meat processing facilities? If not, why not?

### **ANSWER**

- a) No. The most effective way to prevent animal welfare problems in animal facilities is by implementing a comprehensive approach based on training, adequate supervision, accountability and a culture of upholding required animal welfare requirements. Nine out of ten domestic red meat abattoirs, accounting for approximately 95 per cent of production, now have CCTV monitoring without the need for unnecessary regulation and red tape. The major poultry abattoirs, which account for more than 95 per cent of production, also have CCTV monitoring in place.

### **Regarding the use of antibiotics in agriculture:**

38. The prevalence of the use /misuse of antimicrobials in Australian agriculture is difficult to assess, given Australian regulations do not require the reporting, monitoring, or auditing of the use of antimicrobials by agribusiness.
- (a) What is the NSW government doing to prevent the rise of antimicrobial resistant bacteria (or superbugs) from developing as a result of their use or misuse by agribusiness industries in NSW?

### **ANSWER**

- a) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has longstanding involvement in the issue of antimicrobial use in animals and antimicrobial resistance in animals and the food chain. These issues have a State, national and international aspect and the DPI has been active in contributing to meaningful progress in reform at all of these levels through the provision of expert advice and research services.

## **Regarding the NSW Shark Meshing Program:**

39. When is the 5 year review of the program expected to get underway given the current program was approved in August 2009?

### **ANSWER**

In accordance with clause 9 of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) for the Shark Meshing Program, the review commenced on 17 August 2014.

40. In May 2012 the scalloped hammerhead and great hammerhead shark were listed under the Fisheries Management Act. What action has the NSW government taken to ensure these species are not further impacted by the Shark Meshing Program?

### **ANSWER**

The NSW Government has continued to retain hammerhead sharks from the program for DNA analysis to better understand the catch composition of the three hammerhead species, noting that catch data since 1999/2000 indicate that the unlisted smooth hammerheads comprise 95 per cent of the catch, scalloped hammerheads 4 per cent and great hammerheads 1 per cent.

41. Are the contractor's obligations linked in any way to the 5 year review?

### **ANSWER**

The existing contractual obligations arose out of the 2009 JMA for the program, and it follows that if the five-year review of the JMA identifies the need for operational changes, then there may be associated changes to those contracts.

42. What action has the NSW government taken in light of the fact that six critically endangered grey nurse sharks were killed during the 2012-13 meshing period?

### **ANSWER**

While the deaths of those grey nurse sharks is unfortunate, it did not trigger a review of the program in accordance with the JMA and Management Plan for the program.

43. Has the Government considered shortening the length of time nets are in the water to minimise by catch of non-target animals, or removing nets from beaches with no history of shark bite incidents?

### **ANSWER**

No.

## Questions from Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

### Local Land Services

44. How much funding is there currently in the Pest Insect fund and who holds it?

#### ANSWER

The NSW Department of Primary Industries holds the levy in a trust account. The account, as at 28 August 2014, held a total of \$6,653,296.82

45. What consideration did you give to gender balance in your appointments to the LLS? Was there any policy applied to the selection process for representation of women, indigenous people or people from geographically diverse locations?

#### ANSWER

Local Land Services Board members were selected, through both a merit-based appointment process and public elections, based on the same set of criteria covering four important pillars of activity: biosecurity; natural resource management; agricultural advisory services; and emergency management. Regional location in respect of the LLS area was also a consideration.

46. What is the total number of extension officers now employed by the Department and the Local Land Services? What was the number prior to the Government's reforms?

#### ANSWER

The total number of extension officer positions currently filled across Local Land Services regions is 43.6. Forty-nine extension officer positions existed in legacy organisation structures prior to Local Land Services commencing on 1 January 2014. LLS Boards are able to employ additional staff on an "as needs" basis.

47. How many extension officers or agronomists are employed within the following Local Land Services regions:
- (a) Murray,
  - (b) Riverina,
  - (c ) Western,
  - (d) North West
  - (e) Northern Tablelands
  - (f) North Coast
  - (g) Hunter
  - (h) Greater Sydney
  - (i) Central Tablelands
  - (j) Central West
  - (k) South East

#### ANSWER

Positions currently filled in each region are as follows:

- a) 4
- b) 5
- c) 1
- d) 6
- e) 4.6
- f) 3
- g) 3
- h) 3
- i) 4
- j) 4
- k) 6

48. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 July 2014 what was the total revenue raised from ratepayers in each LLS?

**ANSWER**

Rates revenue generated in June 2014 totalled \$37,719,765 including \$7,105,564 in special rates and levies (special rate contributed to the Pest Insect Destruction fund and Meat Industry Levy on behalf of NSW Food Authority).

49. Does each LLS board member have a set salary, remuneration or allowance for their role on the LLS board?
- (a) If so what is their total annual amount of salary, remuneration and/or allowance?

**ANSWER**

a) Yes. Each Local Land Services board member receives an annual stipend of \$20,000.

50. What is the annual salary, remuneration or allowance of the Chair of each LLS board?

**ANSWER**

\$60,000.

51. What is the annual salary, remuneration and/or allowance of the LLS Chair of Chairs?

**ANSWER**

Annual remuneration \$198,633 inclusive of superannuation.

52. How many staff work centrally with the LLS?
- (a) How many of these are administrative staff?
- (b) How many of these staff are responsible for media and communications?
- (c) How many of these staff have management roles?

**ANSWER**

Nine in total.

a) None.

b) One (currently vacant).

c) Four positions, consisting of three ongoing and one temporary.

53. How many staff work in each LLS region?

(a) How many of these are administrative staff?

(b) How many are front line staff?

(c) How many of these staff are responsible for media and communications?

(d) How many of these staff have management roles?

**ANSWER**

	Total	Admin	Front line	Media/comms	Management
Central Tablelands	64	3	57.7	1	4
Central West	87	6	81	2	5
Greater Sydney	48	2.4	35.9	1	5
Hunter	63	4.3	72.6	1	5
Murray	65	10	60	1	5
North Coast	61	6	48	1.5	5
North West	80	7	72.9	1	5
Northern Tablelands	65	11.9	56	0.8	3.8
Riverina	86	3	70	2	5
South East	114	4	107	1	4
Western	66	5.4	47.1	0.6	6

54. What is the total amount of ongoing costs (utility, and rent expenses) for LLS offices and accommodation for each LLS local office in each region?

(a) How many of these offices are owned by DPI/LLS?

(b) How many of these office spaces are rented?

**ANSWER**

Total of \$3.9M in rental and property outgoings annually

a) 52 owned by Local Land Services.

b) 67 under lease arrangements.

55. What was the communications budget for each LLS for the 2014-15 financial year?

**ANSWER**

The budget does not contain specific item for communications – included in 'other operating expenses'.

56. What was the employment budget for each LLS for the 2014-15 financial year?

**ANSWER**

Employment budget inclusive of on-costs included in the 14/15 budget as follows (expressed in \$'000):

<b>Central Tablelands</b>	4,337
<b>Central West</b>	5,405
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	3,720
<b>Hunter</b>	5,860
<b>Murray</b>	4,451
<b>North Coast</b>	4,550
<b>North West</b>	5,562
<b>Northern Tablelands</b>	4,416
<b>Riverina</b>	5,437
<b>South East</b>	8,549
<b>Western</b>	4,127

57. How many ballot papers were distributed to rate payers in each LLS region for the first LLS election?

**ANSWER**

<b>Central Tablelands</b>	1087
<b>Central West</b>	1240
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	128
<b>Hunter</b>	989
<b>Murray</b>	604
<b>North Coast</b>	1340
<b>North West</b>	1100
<b>Northern Tablelands</b>	925
<b>Riverina</b>	1050
<b>South East</b>	1365
<b>Western</b>	405

58. How many informal votes were counted in each LLS region?

**ANSWER**

<b>Central Tablelands</b>	26
<b>Central West</b>	3
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	3

<b>Hunter</b>	12
<b>Murray</b>	3
<b>North Coast</b>	19
<b>North West</b>	5
<b>Northern Tablelands</b>	14
<b>Riverina</b>	20
<b>South East</b>	1
<b>Western</b>	11

59. What were the total funds allocated to DPI and LLS to promote and advertise the LLS election between 1 November 2013 – 30 April 2014?

**ANSWER**

Funds were not allocated to Local Land Services or the predecessor organisations to promote or advertise the election – any such costs were borne out of the operating budgets.

60. What were the total funds allocated to print advertising for the LLS elections?

**ANSWER**

Funds were not allocated to Local Land Services or the predecessor organisations to promote or advertise the election – any such costs were borne out of the operating budgets.

61. What was the total amount of funds allocated to radio advertising for the LLS elections?

**ANSWER**

Funds were not allocated to Local Land Services or the predecessor organisations to promote or advertise the election – any such costs were borne out of the operating budgets.

62. What was the total amount of funds allocated to digital and online advertising?

**ANSWER**

Funds were not allocated to Local Land Services or the predecessor organisations to promote or advertise the election – any such costs were borne out of the operating budgets.

63. Was there a tender process for the LLS website development?
- (a) Was the website developed within LLS/DPI?
  - (b) What was the total amount of funds allocated to the website development?
  - (c) Which IT development company was the successful tender?
  - (d) What was the final cost of the website development?

(e) Have there been any ongoing costs to the LLS website?

**ANSWER**

- a) Yes. The website was developed internally, additional resources were contracted for independent user experience testing and website design and builds.
- b) \$113,553.
- c) Squiz P/L for user testing and design; Ivory IT for frontend development and responsive build.
- d) See response to question 63 B.
- e) Nil – resourced internally by each Local Land Services region.

64. What was the total amount of funds allocated the LLS website development?

**ANSWER**

See response to question 63 B.

65. What was the total cost of the development of the website development?

**ANSWER**

See response to question 63 B.

**Drought support**

66. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 July 2014 how many applicants applied for water infrastructure grants?  
(a) How many grants are approved?

**ANSWER**

As at 30/06/14 there were 1425 applicants that applied for Emergency Water Infrastructure Grants

a) 846 applicants have been approved.

67. What was the total amount of funding allocated in the 2013/14 budget for the water infrastructure grants?

**ANSWER**

\$6 million.

68. What is the total amount of funds allocated in the 2014/15 budget for the water infrastructure grants?

**ANSWER**

\$8 million.

69. What was the total amount of funds allocated for stock and fodder subsidies for the 2013/14 budget?

**ANSWER**

\$12 million, however, a further \$2.2 million was redirected from underspend in other programs.

70. Have funds been set aside for stock and fodder subsidies for 2014/15 financial year?

**ANSWER**

No.

71. What was the total amount of funding allocated for the financial period 2013/14 for drought support?

**ANSWER**

\$33.6 million.

72. How many applicants were there for drought support in the 2013/14 financial period?

(a) Of the 27 Local Government Areas identified as suffering from drought how many applicants were there in each LGA?

**ANSWER**

a) The table below shows applications paid and approved as at 30 June 2014. It does not include applications pending at that time. An applicant may have lodged more than one application and it is also possible for an applicant to have applied for both schemes.

<b>EMERGENCY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REBATES</b>		<b>30/06/2014</b>	
<b>LLS District</b>	<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b><i>Paid #</i></b>	<b><i>Committed #</i></b>
Central West	Bogan	32	12
Central West	Coonamble	38	7
Central West	Gilgandra	25	10
Central West	Warren	25	11
Central West	Warrumbungle	70	29
Central Tablelands	Mid-Western Regional	6	7
Central Tablelands	Oberon	3	-
Hunter	Gloucester	1	-
North West	Gunnedah	18	13
North West	Gwydir	46	37
North West	Liverpool Plains	6	7
North West	Moree Plains	18	5
North West	Narrabri	19	12
North West	Tamworth	51	32
North West	Walgett	41	10
Northern Tablelands	Armidale Dumaresq	15	8
Northern Tablelands	Glen Innes Severn	36	15
Northern Tablelands	Guyra	32	7
Northern Tablelands	Inverell	53	25
Northern Tablelands	Tenterfield	3	1
Northern Tablelands	Uralla	27	11
Northern Tablelands	Walcha	19	11
Western	Bourke	99	13
Western	Brewarrina	35	4
Western	Broken Hill	3	2
Western	Central Darling	32	14
Western	Cobar	7	7
Western	Unincorporated	46	12
Other	Other	3	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>325</b>

<b>DROUGHT TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES</b>		<b>30/06/2014</b>	
<b>LLS District</b>	<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b><i>Paid #</i></b>	<b><i>Committed #</i></b>
Central West	Bogan	30	7
Central West	Coonamble	102	28
Central West	Gilgandra	45	9
Central West	Warren	15	1
Central West	Warrumbungle	187	30
Central Tablelands	Mid-Western Regional	35	15
Central Tablelands	Oberon	5	2
Hunter	Gloucester	4	5
North West	Gunnedah	37	8
North West	Gwydir	118	35
North West	Liverpool Plains	16	15
North West	Moree Plains	41	10
North West	Narrabri	120	30
North West	Tamworth	188	54
North West	Walgett	395	32
Northern Tablelands	Armidale Dumaresq	116	32
Northern Tablelands	Glen Innes Severn	144	61
Northern Tablelands	Guyra	157	53
Northern Tablelands	Inverell	101	39
Northern Tablelands	Tenterfield	39	15
Northern Tablelands	Uralla	95	25
Northern Tablelands	Walcha	178	34
Western	Bourke	312	49
Western	Brewarrina	205	10
Western	Broken Hill	5	11
Western	Central Darling	38	9
Western	Cobar	15	4
Western	Unincorporated	70	7
Other	Other	31	11
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>641</b>

## Fisheries

73. What involvement will the Department have in assessing the impact on native fish populations of the proposed Needles Gap Dam?

### ANSWER

With respect to the proposed Needles gap Dam, the NSW Government announced funding for a scoping and feasibility study in the 2014-15 Budget. These studies will canvas a range of issues including the social, economic and environmental implications of the proposal. The assessment of potential environmental issues will include an assessment of the dam proposal on native fish. As the key agency responsible for the management of native fish in NSW, the Department of Primary Industries will be involved in the provision of information and advice during these studies.

74. What is the current status of Murray Cod in NSW? Is the Department considering seasonal fishing closures for Murray Cod?

**ANSWER**

While there is currently no formal stock assessment status for Murray cod in NSW, I am advised that the NSW population has shown significant recovery with a 740 per cent increase in abundance between 1994 and 2011 in some areas. The species is listed as vulnerable under commonwealth legislation but is not considered threatened in NSW. A seasonal spawning closure on Murray cod is in place across NSW from September to November inclusive.

**Marine Science**

75. How many marine scientists are currently working on marine research in NSW within Fisheries?  
(a) Where are they located?

**ANSWER**

a) There are 26 marine scientists who are working on marine research within Fisheries NSW. They are located at Batemans Bay, Huskisson, Wollongong, Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens, Mosman and Menangle.

76. What are the current research projects into specific fish species? Please list  
(a) How many research officers are working on each of these projects?

**ANSWER**

Currently there are specific research projects on four marine fish species: Mulloway, Grey Nurse Shark, Pipis and Tailor. Other projects on fish cover a range of harvested species (114) or species of conservation concern.

a) The table shows numbers of research officers working on fish species projects:

Table 1: Number of Marine Scientists working on each of the projects

Project	Number of scientists (& technicians)
Mulloway	1
Grey Nurse Shark	1 (1)
Pipis	1 (1)
Tailor	1
Other harvested fish species (Stock Assessment)	10 (5)
Marine fish species of conservation concern	3 (1)

77. How much was allocated in the 2013/14 financial period to these research projects?

**ANSWER**

Approximately \$2.4 million was spent on these research projects in the 2013/14 financial period.

78. How much has been allocated in 2014/15 budget for each of these research projects?

**ANSWER**

Approximately \$2.8 million has been requested for these research projects for the 2014/15 financial period, including for the new project on tailor.

79. Has Fisheries taken on any new research staff as either full time/part time or contracted staff? And if so how many?

**ANSWER**

Fisheries NSW has taken on seven new research staff since the beginning of 2013.

80. How many DPI staff are currently employed to manage and maintain each of the States Marine Parks?

**ANSWER**

There is currently 17 EFT staff located in marine parks allocated specifically to their management as follows:

Cape Byron MP = 3 Solitary Island MP = 3, Lord Howe Island = 2,  
Port Stephens Great Lakes MP = 3, Jervis Bay MP = 3, Batemans MP = 3.

In addition there is a 20 EFT staff from across Fisheries NSW that provide support, research, management, policy and compliance services to manage and maintain marine parks in NSW.

**Noxious Weeds**

81. How much has been allocated to fund noxious weed control through the Department of Primary Industries in the 2014/15 budget?

**ANSWER**

\$11.3m has been allocated to a variety of weed management activities through the NSW Weeds Action Program.

82. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding to each LGA in NSW?

**ANSWER**

Funding is not allocated to specific LGAs. It is delivered on a regional basis through 13 regional projects which cover multiple LGAs.

83. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding by State Electorate?

**ANSWER**

Funding is allocated to regions that cover multiple electorates. It is not possible to give an accurate figure.

84. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding by LLS?

**ANSWER**

The current NSW Weeds Action Program funding is not aligned to Local Land Services boundaries.

**Consultancy Work**

85. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?

(a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?

(b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

**ANSWER**

No

86. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER**

No

87. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? 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?

**ANSWER**

No

88. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER**

No

89. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?

(a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?

(b) Was there a tender process for these projects?

**ANSWER**

No

90. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER**

No

**Forestry Advisory Group**

91. What is the role of the Forestry Advisory Group? And what role does it have within DPI?

**ANSWER**

The role of the NSW Forest Industries Taskforce provides advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on forest policy issues as requested.

The Taskforce's specific functions are to:

- a. represent the broad spectrum of Forest Industries and provide advice on the status of the industry;
- b. provide advice to the Minister on matters requiring policy responses; and
- c. consider matters referred by the Minister.

The Department of Primary Industries provides secretariat support to the Taskforce.

92. Who does the Forestry Advisory Group appoint to?

**ANSWER**

The NSW Forest Industries Taskforce is appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries for a period of two years unless otherwise determined by the Minister.

93. How many times has the Advisory Group met?

**ANSWER**

Since the inception of the Taskforce in April 2012, the group has had eight meetings.

94. Who has been appointed to the Advisory Group?

**ANSWER**

The Taskforce is comprised of fourteen members including:

- one representative from Forests Corporation NSW;
- two representatives from the NSW Forest Products Association, NSW;
- three representatives from the Australian Forests Products Association;
- two representatives from the Australian Forest Contractors Association;
- one representative from the Institute of Foresters of Australia;
- one representative from VISY;
- one representative from Timber Communities Australia;

- one representative from the Australian Forest Growers;
- John Halkett from Forestland Consulting; and
- Bob Smith from Leaf Carbon Pty Ltd.

95. What is the salary/remuneration of the group's appointed members?

**ANSWER**

There are no salaries or remuneration payable to members of the Taskforce. Individuals who are not representing organisations or businesses may apply for out-of-pocket expenses relating to travel and accommodation.

96. Does this group work with Forest Corp and the Office of Environment & Heritage?

**ANSWER**

Agencies are invited or can ask to attend Taskforce meetings on an as required basis.

97. How many times have you (minister) met with the Advisory Group?

**ANSWER**

From inception of the Forest Industries Taskforce in 2012 until April 2014, the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources was the Chair of the Taskforce. The Minister appointed the Chair, and has met with the Taskforce. Representatives from the Minister's office have attended all meetings.

**Sydney Basin**

98. What involvement has the Department of Primary Industries had in planning for the future of agricultural production in the Sydney basin? Has the Department had input into planning for Sydney and have you raised consideration of the impacts of urban sprawl on local horticultural production?

**ANSWER**

The NSW Government is committed to promoting and strengthening agriculture production in the Sydney basin.

Agricultural production in the Sydney region is an important contributor to the NSW economy and is a significant supplier of the food consumed in Sydney.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) continues to provide ongoing input into planning for Sydney. DPI co-chaired an interagency working group which released a report: *The Agriculture in the Sydney Region Working Group Report*. The majority of the actions in the report are now reflected in the Metropolitan Plan for Sydney to 2036.

DPI has raised issues of the impact urban sprawl on local horticultural production in recent years, when the growth centres for Sydney were established.

During the last 12-18 months DPI has continued to provide input into planning for Sydney including:

- facilitated workshops with key agriculture industries to gather information for submission to the Department of Planning & Environment's (DP&E) Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney;
- continued to provide advice to DP&E regarding metro planning initiatives;
- assisted in the development of Agricultural Industry Action Plan by encouraging Sydney agriculture industries to attend the Sydney workshops; and
- provided advice on progress for the Western Sydney and Central Coast Action plans relating to agriculture.

## **Donations**

99. Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors, can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?

### **ANSWER**

This question does not relate to any line item in the budget, however I voluntarily disclose that I did not receive an illegal donation prior to the last election.

100. Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:

*"I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation."*

Will you make that same statement?

### **ANSWER**

See 99. above

101. Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?

### **ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

102. Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and

organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

103. Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

104. In the interest of transparency and accountability, will you commit to publicly release the source of donations for the 2015 election?

**ANSWER**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

**Lobbyists**

105. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

106. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

107. The Minister for Finance has banned lobbyists from meeting him and his office; will you make the same commitment?  
(a) If not, why not?

**ANSWER**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**Cross Border Commissioner**

108. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:  
(a) In the last twelve months  
(b) Since the creation of the position.

**ANSWER**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

109. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:  
(a) In the last twelve months  
(b) Since the creation of the position.

**ANSWER**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**Labour Hire Firms**

110. 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

## ANSWER

a) b)

Supplier name	Sum of Total Invoice Amount ex GST \$
Adecco	\$18,633.33
Alexander Appointments	\$2,097.60
Ashdown Consulting	\$49,680.00
Australia Personnel Global	\$851.15
Bluestone Recruitment	\$143,927.71
Challenge Recruitment	\$70,209.48
Challenge Recruitment Ltd	\$190,427.38
Chandler Macleod	\$984,365.19
Charterhouse Partnership	\$378,915.61
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd	\$17,086.17
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Click Recruitment	\$75,264.94
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Clicks IT Recruitment	\$13,467.80
Complete Staff Solutions	\$344,998.50
Cox Purtell Staffing Services	\$21,000.51
DOB Enterprises Pty Ltd T/as MBC Recruitment	\$14,579.34
Enterprise IT Resources	\$66,379.41
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd	\$1,045,355.70
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd Consortium	\$525,517.21
Finite Recruitment Pty Ltd	\$165,210.81
Forsythes Recruitment	\$122,842.12
Future Prospects	\$18,982.90
Genesis IT&T Pty Ltd	\$2,780.75
Greythorn Pty Ltd	\$738,313.59
Greythorn Smalls	\$80,861.09
Griffiths Skills Training Centre Inc	\$42,622.53
Hamilton James and Bruce	\$33,731.62
HAYS Specialist Recruitment	\$972,284.95
HOBAN Recruitment	\$42,114.00
IT Matters Recruitment Services	\$51,907.50
KellyServices Australia	\$748,296.67
Michael Page	\$1,132,440.23
National Workforce Pty Ltd	\$2,632.24
North Coast Recruitment	\$1,788.21
people2people recruitment pty ltd	\$87,835.64
Peoplebank	\$2,427,769.86
peoplefusion	\$19,096.00
Precision Sourcing Australia	\$61,837.88
Quay Appointments	\$547,837.28

Randstad	\$16,975.25
Randstad Pty Ltd	\$1,412,342.05
Record Information Management Solutions	\$36,455.57
Reed Specialist Recruitment	\$105,644.90
Robert Walters	\$135,183.34
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	\$39,223.68
S2M Recruitment	\$3,084.00
Skilled - T & P	\$56,552.64
SKILLED Group Limited	\$48,872.53
Small & Associates Pty Ltd	\$5,706,719.23
Talent International (NSW) Pty Ltd	\$5,361,494.08
Talent2 Pty Ltd	\$42,256.97
The Conduit Group Pty Ltd	\$52,955.86
The Next Step	\$13,624.50
The Next Step	\$20,119.00
The Next Step Recruitment Company (NSW) Pty Limited	\$10,385.00
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) P/L	\$538,318.86
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) Pty Ltd	\$132,753.29
TRC Group	\$597,266.99
Zenith Management Services	\$24,897.06
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$25,619,067.70</b>

c)

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Average of Tenure (calendar days entire assignment)</b>
Adecco	159
Alexander Appointments	168
Ashdown Consulting	176
Australia Personnel Global	269
Bluestone Recruitment	231
Challenge Recruitment	144
Challenge Recruitment Ltd	170
Chandler Macleod	336
Charterhouse Partnership	730
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd	303
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Click Recruitment	254
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Clicks IT Recruitment	325
Complete Staff Solutions	138
Cox Purtell Staffing Services	83
DOB Enterprises Pty Ltd T/as MBC Recruitment	107
Enterprise IT Resources	188
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd	203
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd Consortium	234
Finite Recruitment Pty Ltd	200
Forsythes Recruitment	203

Future Prospects	75
Genesis IT&T Pty Ltd	130
Greythorn Pty Ltd	633
Greythorn Smalls	211
Griffiths Skills Training Centre Inc	135
Hamilton James and Bruce	162
HAYS Specialist Recruitment	834
HOBAN Recruitment	61
IT Matters Recruitment Services	100
KellyServices Australia	271
Michael Page	144
National Workforce Pty Ltd	42
North Coast Recruitment	364
people2people recruitment pty ltd	100
Peoplebank	534
peoplefusion	80
Precision Sourcing Australia	74
Quay Appointments	641
Randstad	758
Randstad Pty Ltd	236
Record Information Management Solutions	260
Reed Specialist Recruitment	182
Robert Walters	202
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	241
S2M Recruitment	67
Skilled - T & P	202
SKILLED Group Limited	245
Small & Associates Pty Ltd	152
Talent International (NSW) Pty Ltd	230
Talent2 Pty Ltd	105
The Conduit Group Pty Ltd	170
The Next Step	102
The Next Step	121
The Next Step Recruitment Company (NSW) Pty Limited	121
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) P/L	156
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) Pty Ltd	137
TRC Group	247
Zenith Management Services	157

d)

	<b>Max of Tenure (calendar days entire assignment)</b>
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**Supplier: Chandler Macleod**

**Agency: Crown Lands**

Worker: Toomby

1889

e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company include:

Accountant / Management Accountant / Senior accountant, Accounts Payable Administration Assistant, Analyst Programmer / Applications Developer, APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR, Applications Developer, Architect, Assess. Officer, ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT, Business Analyst / Financial Analyst, Business Analyst-IT/Systems, Business Continuity Manager, Business Support Officer, Call Centre Customer Service Inbound, Change Management Specialist, Civil Engineer

Client Services Officer, Communication Consultant, Communications / Media / Promotion / Public Relations, Communications Manager, Communications Officer, Computer Network and Systems Engineer, Construction Manager, Consultant, Contract / Procurement / Vendor (Officer or Manager), Corporate Communications Officer, Correspondence Officer, Credit Officer / Manager, Customer Service Advisor, Customer Service Consultant, Customer Service Officer, Data And Applications Support, Data Centre Support Analyst, Data Entry Operator, Data Management, Data Modeller / Architect, Data Warehouse, Technologist / Specialist / Developer, Database Administrator, Database Administrator / Designer / Analyst, Database Operator, Database Specialist, Database Support, Desktop Support, Destination NSW, Director of Licensing (SO3) EA To Director, EA to Director of Energy, Engineer, Engineer / Technical Engineering Associate / Technician, Engineering Associate/Technician, Environmental Chemist, Environmental Officer, Environmental Officer / Scientist, Environmental Officer/Scientist, ERP/CRM Functional / Technical Consultant, Events Coordination, Executive Administration, Executive Assistant, Facilitator, Field Officer, Finance Officer / Accounts Clerk / Bookkeeper, Finance Specialist, Financial Analyst, Financial Controller, Geographic Information Specialist, Geologist, GIS Operator, Graphic Designer, Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA Recruitment, Help Desk Support / Manager, Help Desk Support / Manager , HR Business Analyst, HR/ Executive, Human Resources / Training & Development / Trainers, Hydrologist, ICT Business Analyst, ICT Project Management, ICT Specialist/ICT Consultant, ICT Strategy Planner/Consultant, ICT Trainer, Infrastructure Project Manager, Integration Tech Lead, Internal Auditor, Interview Panel Member, IT Manager, IT Specialist / ICT Consultant, Java Developer, Labourer – Various, Library / Archives / Record Management, Licensing Support Officer, Maintenance Technician, Marketing / Advertising (Officer, Manager or Specialist), Marketing Assistant, Marketing Comms Manager, Media Relations, Multimedia Designer / Specialist, Network / Operations Manager, Network Administrator, NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing, Office Administration, Office Assist, Office of Water, Office Support, Accounts Officer, Planner, Plant Operator, Policy (Officer or Manager), Policy Officer, Program Officer, Project

(Officer, Manager or Analyst), Project Accountant, Project Consultant, Project Coordinator, Project Coordinator / Project Manager / Program Manager, Project Manager, Project Manager / Officer, Project Manager, Digital Excellence Program, Project Officer, Project Planner / Cost Engineer, Quality Assurance Manager, Quality Assurance Officer, Receptionist / Switchboard Operator, Research Officer, Safety Specialist, Sales Assistant Retail, SAP FICO, Business Analyst, SAP Professionals, SAP Professionals, SAP Training Consultant, Security Consultant / Specialist, Senior Policy Officer, Senior Project Manager, Senior Project Officer, Server Engineer, Shared Service Officer, Social Media Co, Solaris / Unix Administrator, Solution Architects / Designers, Solution Lead, State Library, Support and Test Engineers, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR, System Tester, Systems Administrator, Systems Architect / Designer, Team Leader, Technical Consultant, Technical Manager, Technical Officer, Technical Superintendent, Technical Support, Test Manager, Test Manager / Leader / Analyst, War Memorials Officer, Water Management Specialist, Web Site Content Manager, Web Site Designer / Consultant / Developer

f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company are Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Bega, Camden, Casino, Cobar, Cooks Hill, Cowra, Dangar, Dubbo, East Maitland, Gosford, Maitland, Menangle, Moree, Newcastle, Newington, Orange, Parramatta, Paterson, Penrith, Picton, Port Macquarie, Potts Hill, Queanbeyan, Queens Square, Singleton, Sydney CBD, Tamworth, Tumut, Ultimo, Wagga Wagga, Wellington, Wollongbar, Wollongong, Yanco East

## **Phones/iPads**

111. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

### **ANSWER**

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

112. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?

### **ANSWER**

The 2013-14 total phone bill expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$363,877 (63%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2008-09 of \$578,691 total expenditure.

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

### **ANSWER**

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

114. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

### **ANSWER**

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

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

**ANSWER**

96 iPads have been issued for the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

iPads are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

204 phones have been issued to the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

Nine phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

Zero iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

**ANSWER**

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

## **Media/public relations**

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

### **ANSWER**

Sixteen (16) full time equivalent media and communications staff employed by NSW Trade and Investment during 2013-2014.

123. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

### **ANSWER**

There are no plans to expand or decrease existing numbers.

## **Overseas trips**

124. 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?

### **ANSWER**

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information"

## **Office costs**

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

### **ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers)

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

### **ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

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

### **ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

128. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?

**ANSWER**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

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

(a) If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

**ANSWER**

Minor office works were undertaken in NSW Government Ministerial offices at no cost.

130. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?

**ANSWER**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

131. How many political advisors are in your office?

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers)

132. How many administration staff?

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at: [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers)

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

**ANSWER**

Number of Department Liaison Officers for NSW Government Ministerial offices at 30 June 2014 was 56.

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

**ANSWER**

NSW Government Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are provided with road transport services, with Ministerial Drivers assigned for this purpose.

135. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?  
(a) If so, in what capacities?

**ANSWER**

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

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

**ANSWER**

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

**Cabcharge**

137. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2013/14 financial year?

**ANSWER**

The 2013-14 taxi expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices was \$117,783 (67%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$175,776.

**Restructure**

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

**ANSWER**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

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

**ANSWER**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

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

**ANSWER**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

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

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

142. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

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

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way

to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

144. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?

**ANSWER**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**Agency costs**

145. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?

**ANSWER**

NSW Trade and Investment spent \$420,042.97 on catering in 2013/14.

146. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationery in 2013/14?

**ANSWER**

NSW Trade and Investment spent \$846,012.16 on stationery in 2013/14.

147. What is your Department's catering budget?

**ANSWER**

Based on nature and materiality, the Department does not allocate a specific budget for catering. Catering expenses are typically funded from a general business unit or specific project budgets.

148. What is your Department's stationery budget?

**ANSWER**

Based on nature and materiality, the Department does not allocate a specific budget for stationery. Stationery expenses are typically funded from a general business unit or specific project budgets.

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

(a) If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

**ANSWER**

Yes

a) In total, since April 2011 NSW Trade and Investment has spent \$121,684 rebranding the agency.

**Correspondence**

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

**ANSWER**

The department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other departments and sources.

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

**ANSWER**

The department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other departments and sources.

**Paying bills on time**

152. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

**ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

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

**ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

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

**ANSWER**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

**Grants to non-government organisations**

155. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?

If yes,

- (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
- (c) On what date was the funding advanced?
- (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
- (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?
- (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

**ANSWER**

Yes

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 community organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier's Memorandum 91-34 and Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2010 - Schedule 1.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Animal Welfare League NSW	75 000 (Ex GST)	28/5/14	Animal welfare	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Cat Protection Society	15 500 (Ex GST)	22/5/14	Animal welfare	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Domestic Animal Birth Control Cooperative Society	3 000 (Ex GST)	28/5/14	Animal welfare	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
RSPCA NSW	424 000 (Ex GST)	9/5/14	Animal welfare	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
WIRES	15 500	2/6/14	Animal	No	n/a	Nil	n/a

	(Ex GST)		welfare				
Dominion Consulting Pty Ltd	\$27,500 (Ex GST)	26/07/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Ballina Marine Discovery Centre	\$50,000 (Ex GST)	2/08/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Southern Cross University	\$34,689 (Ex GST)	9/08/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Hamata Pty Ltd	\$10,000 (Ex GST)	12/08/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Southern Cross University	\$5,520 (Ex GST)	9/09/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Southern Cross University	\$25,312 (Ex GST)	13/09/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Port Stephen Family Support Service	\$7,000 (Ex GST)	30/09/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of Sydney	\$9,500 (Ex GST)	11/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Burringbah Fishing Club	\$5,000 (Ex GST)	11/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW Branch	\$1,570 (Ex GST)	15/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW Branch	\$500 (Ex GST)	17/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW Branch	\$18,500 (Ex GST)	17/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of NSW	\$22,030 (Ex GST)	22/10/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Boating Industry Association NSW	\$50,000 (Ex GST)	4/11/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of NSW	\$11,015 (Ex GST)	4/11/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of NSW	\$64,503 (Ex GST)	11/12/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$40,000 (Ex GST)	12/12/2013	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Australian National Sportsfishing Association NSW Branch	\$56,000 (Ex GST)	23/01/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$18,500 (Ex GST)	24/01/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty	\$10,000 (Ex GST)	24/01/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a

Ltd							
Southern Cross University	\$20,000 (Ex GST)	6/02/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$3,317 (Ex GST)	12/02/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$5,000 (Ex GST)	4/03/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of NSW	\$500 (Ex GST)	7/03/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Pepperell Research & Consulting Pty Ltd	\$6,000 (Ex GST)	12/03/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Southern Cross University	\$20,000 (Ex GST)	16/05/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Southern Cross University	\$8,000 (Ex GST)	23/06/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW	\$10,909 (Ex GST)	23/06/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of NSW	\$10,594 (Ex GST)	23/06/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
University of Sydney	\$25,000 (Ex GST)	23/06/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Rural Financial Counselling Service – Central West Inc	\$349,800 (Inc GST)	Quarterly	Rural Financial Counselling Service co-contribution	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Rural Financial Counselling Service – Southern Region	\$264,000 (Inc GST)	Quarterly	Rural Financial Counselling Service co-contribution	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Rural Financial Counselling Service – Northern Region	\$255,200 (Inc GST)	Quarterly	Rural Financial Counselling Service co-contribution	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Rural Financial Counselling Service - Bourke	\$55,000 (Inc GST)	Quarterly	Rural Financial Counselling Service co-contribution	No	n/a	Nil	n/a
Council of Freshwater Anglers	\$9,000 (Ex GST)	9/4/2014	Recreational Fishing	No	n/a	Nil	n/a

## Contractors

156. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2014 and at what cost?

**ANSWER**

NSW Trade and Investment has contracted 47 contractors since 1 July 2014. As these contracts have just commenced, the total cost of these contractors will not be known until works have been completed.

**Aboriginal employment**

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

**ANSWER**

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including information regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. The level of Aboriginal employment as at 30 June 2014 is estimated at 2.9%. This is still subject to final quality checks, prior to the November release of the Workforce Profile 2014.

158. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?

**ANSWER**

The 30 June 2014 estimate of Aboriginal employment in the sector is 2.9%. This compares to the Workforce Profile 2013 report which estimated the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at 2.7%.

**Charter air flights**

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

**ANSWER**

Since 1 July 2011, the Department has spent \$50,633.82 on charter air flights

**Reviews and studies**

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

160. 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**

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.

**Media training**

161. 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**

No