



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Police and Emergency Services, the Hunter

Thursday 27 October 2011

Answers to be lodged by: 22 November 2011

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Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
27 October 2011	Police and Emergency Services, the Hunter	22 November 2011 [21 days]

Questions relating to the portfolio of Police Emergency Services, the Hunter

27 October 2011, 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

1. When will the Malabar Police Station be made fully operational in accordance with the Liberal Party's election promise to the people of the electorate of Maroubra?
2. In view of the recommendations of the NSW Deputy Coroner that NSW HEALTH should abandon a controversial policy allowing hospitals to use a potentially deadly restraint technique (the "prone restraint" position, where patients are held face-down on the ground, often with heavy pressure from body weight on top of them) what changes have NSW Police made to procedures to stop police from using this technique?
3. Given the recent recommendations from the Victorian state coroner on the overhaul of security guard training which stated that security guards should be given probationary licences before becoming fully qualified and be drug and alcohol tested if involved in violent incidents with patrons that result in injury or death, what action are NSW Police taking to review the operations of the security industry in NSW?
4. In relation to the Parsons Review:
 - a. Minister did your action in recruiting former Assistant Commissioner Peter Parsons to undertake a review of police indicate a lack of confidence in your current Deputy Commissioners?
 - b. Commissioner can you confirm that the Parsons Review report has now been provided to the Minister's office. Will the full review be publicly released?
5. In relation to Authorised Strength:
 - c. Do you agree with the general proposition that service provision from Governments should match population growth?
6. In relation to Police Housing:
 - d. Minister will you commit to ensuring that all rents paid by officers in the form of salary deductions are directed into the housing budget for maintenance of police housing?
 - e. Will you agree to set up a Police Housing working group be established consisting of Senior NSW Police Officers, Police Properties Group and the Police Association of NSW.
 - f. the Police Association has demanded an immediate \$100m commitment to fix the problem what steps have you taken to secure the funding?
7. In relation to police equipment:
 - g. Minister what is your view of the Police Associations request that Government fund the purchase of additional portable radios so that they become individually issued to all Officers and that each officer be issued with a portable computer?
8. In relation to Right to silence:

- h. Minister do you believe the 'right to silence' is exploited by professional criminals and should it be modified?

9. In relation to Pay and Conditions:

- a. Do you believe the current superannuation for police is adequate? What is your response to the police unions claim for an increase in superannuation to 15% and how would that fit with the Government's wages policy?
- b. Do you agree with Police Association Of NSW President Scott Weber in his comment that the State Government has betrayed the people of NSW by keeping its hardline IR policies a secret until after the election?

10. In relation to public service redundancies:

- a. Will you give a commitment that support staff within the police force will be quarantined from any of the Government's 5000 redundancies announced in this year's budget?

11. In relation to capital works:

- a. Minister do you share the concern of the police association about the cut of \$10m in funding for capital works for police this year?

12. In relation to sobering up centres:

- a. You promised to establish special dry-out cells for drunks, yet the budget contains zero detail. When are these to be operational?

13. In relation to three strikes policy:

- a. Did police provide advice to you regarding the 'three strikes' policy as it relates to licensed premises? What was that advice?

14. In relation to death and disability:

- a. Policing can be very dangerous work, do you agree? On that basis, will police continue to have access to the current death and disability scheme?

15. In relation to operating costs:

- a. Commissioner was there an additional cost to police for the resources used to police the "Occupy Sydney" camp in Martin Place, what was the total cost for this policing and for the operation to remove the protesters?
- b. Will you be seeking budget supplementation for the cost or will it be absorbed by the Police force?
- c. Minister do you agree with the Commissioners position (will you commit to additional supplementary budget funding)?

16. In relation to mitigation grants

- a. Similarly Commissioner can you tell us how much of the \$13.7m for fire mitigation grants is new money over and above the amount you expected to be allocated - has that additional money come from the tanker program?

17. In relation to budget bids

- a. Commissioner can you describe the process of budget bids for this year? What role did the Director General of the Department of Attorney General and Justice play in your budget process? Where you in all meetings involving Senior Officers with Treasury, the Department of Attorney General and Justice and the cabinet budget committee?
- b. Commissioner what is the difference between the current structure of the Police and Emergency Services and the structure that was the subject of much protest in 2009?
- c. Commissioner do you consider that in budget matters the RFS remains a standalone agency? (“The Liberal and Nationals give a 100 per cent commitment, that under a Liberal and Nationals Government, the RFS will remain a standalone agency” (media release))

18. In relation to the Funding System

- a. Minister, have you or anyone in the Government initiated a review of the funding system for the Emergency Services? What is your personal view on the funding model?

19. In relation to State Emergency Services

- a. Commissioner with the Government proposing increased urban development in Western Sydney particularly around the Hawkesbury River, are you seeing increased demand on the SES to provide advice on flood planning for new and existing communities? Has the Government provided additional funding for flood modelling and planning to ensure new communities are not put in danger from flooding?
- b. Commissioner has the SES been asked by the Government to contribute in any way to a NSW response to the interim report into the Queensland floods?
 - i. If no – Minister will the NSW Government be responding to relevant issues raised by the Queensland Royal Commission?
 - ii. If yes – Minister who is coordinating the response and when do you expect to release it?
- c. The budget papers indicate an increase in the average age of the Fire & Rescue NSW fleet of appliances, how many new appliances will be being provided this year compared to last year? What is the reason for the increase in average age?

20. In relation to Fire and Rescue NSW Workforce

- a. Commissioner are you concerned that a cap of 2.5% for fire-fighters wages could make it more difficult to retain experienced fire-fighters?

21. In relation Disaster Recovery Plan

- a. to Minister prior to its abolition by your Government Emergency Management NSW employed a number of staff who specialised in Disaster Recovery planning, how many people are now working on Disaster Recovery planning for NSW in the new Department and how does that compare to last year?
- b. Minister why has your Government rejected the clear aim of creating a State Emergency Recovery Controller – a measure you voted for when it was introduced – by removing the specialised position and instead handing the title on to an already busy Director General of the Super agency Police and Emergency Services?
- c. Minister when your Government abolished Emergency Management NSW how many positions were lost and what roles did those positions have?
- d. Previously Emergency Management NSW was funded via an allocation through the NSW RFS, how are those functions now funded?
- e. Minister do you acknowledge that your Government's removal of the people with the direct expertise in National disaster recovery arrangements was at least in part a contributing factor in the Government's very slow process of applying for Commonwealth funding for flood affected areas on the mid north coast earlier this year?

22. In regards to issues in the Hunter Valley;

- a. Minister have any workers been laid off or given voluntary redundancies from Power Stations in the Hunter Valley?
- b. Is the government planning on selling off any power stations in the Hunter Valley?
- c. Did you lobby your Ministers to keep the controlling powers for Hunter Region Venues Sporting Authority in the Hunter? What will happen to the funding in the Budget (page 3-24) that has been allocated for this body?
- d. Will you seek to secure funding for Arts & Culture across the entire Hunter/Upper Hunter to support galleries in Singleton, Maitland, Cessnock and Newcastle?
- e. Are you aware that the Hunter Vineyards are lobbying to have a Convention Centre built to host events for up to 1500 people and what can you do in future budgets to support the Convention Centre concept for Hunter Wine Country?
- f. What is the timeline for planning, construction and operation of the proposed Glendale Police Station?
- g. How many of the additional Police in 2011/12 will be allocated to Commands in the Hunter?
- h. Does centralised Policing work in areas such as the Hunter where geography can be significant between towns, incidents and problems?
- i. What funding has been allocated in this year's budget for the operation and maintenance of Branxton Police Station?

- j. What funding has been allocated in this year's budget for the operation & maintenance of Lochinvar Police Station?
- k. Are you aware of critically low Police staffing numbers for Upper Hunter Commands?
- l. Apart from existing road projects, what road works do you see as being critical to "un-locking" the potential of the Hunter?
- m. Of the money allocated in this year's Budget to the Hunter Expressway, how much of that is State funding and how much of that is Federal funding?
- n. Are you aware of the Upper Hunter road feature called "the hole in the wall"? What do you consider to be a solution for this?
- o. How will the Coalition Governments "Royalties for Regions" work and when will it be implemented?
- p. When will the Glendale Interchange be completed?
- q. When will the Newcastle Justice precinct be completed?
- r. What size workforce will be required in the Upper Hunter mining expansion in the coming 5 years?
- s. Are there any plans or funding to renovate or expand any of the Hunters Power Stations?

23. Phones

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

24. Media/public relations

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

25. Overseas trips

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

26. Office costs

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

27. Cabcharge

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

28. Restructure

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

29. Agency costs

- a) What is your agency's catering budget?

- b) Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
- c) How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
- d) How much has been spent on stationary?

30. Correspondence

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

31. Paying bills on time

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

32. In relation to Grants to Non-Government Organisations

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

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

- a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews, If so;
 - i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - vi. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Questions for Mr David Shoebridge MLC

34. When did you become aware of the United Group Services report NSW Police Force Property Portfolio Strategic Plan?
35. Why was this document not disseminated to the Police Force for more than 12 months after it was received?
36. Are you satisfied that you have responded to the Police Association's request on behalf of police stating: "All police want is a full investigation into how this occurred, why it occurred and a reassurance that something like this will never happen again"?
37. The PANSW has asked for a minimum of \$100 million to address this problem. Have these funds been committed already?
38. Of the 460 police properties effected how many have had work done so far to remove hazardous materials?
39. What is the timeframe for completion of the remaining properties?
40. How many families are living in housing which contains asbestos or lead as identified in this report?
41. How many police are working in stations which contain asbestos or lead as identified in this report?
42. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for the police water cannon?
43. What is the operating cost per hour for the police water cannon?
44. How much did the Water Police's patrol vehicle Nemesis Cost the Government (including both purchase and fit out)?
45. What are the ongoing maintenance costs for Nemesis?
46. What is the operating cost per hour for Nemesis?
47. How many occasions has the Nemesis been engaged on active duty in each of 2010 and 2011?
48. In response to my questions on notice of 16 September regarding Police Media Spending I was advised that data relating to this spending was "not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources from frontline policing". What data on media spending is collected?
49. My original questions included a question asking: "How much was spent on media and communication by the NSW Police Force" in the previous 3 financial years. Can you confirm that this information is not available?
50. How much did the NSW Police Force spend as a result of complaints, court orders, compensation payouts or settlements relating to police making unlawful arrests [and/or unlawful detaining people] in:
 - a. 2009-2010?
 - b. 2010-2011?

51. Of this amount in (17) how much was:
 - a. Legal Costs
 - b. Payments to victims
 - c. Cost of investigating complaints
52. How many of these payments related to unlawful arrests for breaches of bail?
53. How much of these payments were to young people under the age of 18?
54. How much did the NSW Police Force spend as a result of court orders or on settlements relating to police officers using unreasonable force and causing injury for 2009-2010?
 - a. How many of these case involved minors?
55. What numbers of children and young people are projected to be referred to the Bail Assistance Line annually?
56. How many young people were referred to the service by Police:
 - a. In 2009-2010
 - b. From 2010-2011
57. What, if any, barriers, exist to the use of the bail assistance line service by NSW Police?
58. The original recommendation envisaged state wide access to the bail assistance line service. Is the Government still committed to this and what timeframes are there for the expansion of this program state-wide?
59. Do the SOPs for TASER use specify that Tasers should not be aimed at the chest?
 - a. If not, why not?
60. Were requests received in the last 12 months to increase police powers from the PANSW or the Commissioner?
61. What consultation was undertaken before moving for the expansion of these powers in NSW Parliament?
62. What consultation was undertaken with police regarding the removal of certain discretions when dealing with minor graffiti offences as proposed in the Graffiti Amendment Bill?
63. What are the current policies regarding police officers wearing identification badges, particularly at protests and rallies?
64. How many complaints were received in the last 12 months regarding police officers not wearing identification when at protests or rallies?
65. How was the number of police who attended a rally in Martin Place on October 22 this year determined?
66. What were the grounds for authorising the large numbers of riot and other special forces police, and police rescue vans, and ambulances to attend this rally?

67. Why did the Police authorise a pre-dawn operation in particular to remove people camping in Martin Place?
68. Why did the Police authorise the riot police and bomb disposal unit to carry out this operation?
69. What was the cost of this pre-dawn operation?
70. What consideration was there of alternative removal scenarios?
71. What investigations are current or planned to assess reports of police violence in this removal?

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There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of Police and Emergency Services, the Hunter,