

Legislative Council Questions on Notice Estimates Committee - Treasury

Infrastructure projects (pages 4 to 11)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Ministers have the authority to vary project allocations within authorisation limit constraints (expenditure limits for the current and future financial years). Accordingly, the allocations and estimated completion year shown against individual projects may alter during the course of the financial year.

Project variations, including estimated total costs and completion years, can occur as a result of construction schedule adjustments due to weather conditions, and revisions to the scope of projects. As the Member for Oxley noted on 6 September 2006 in relation to infrastructure costs, "We know the cost of cement, reinforcing bitumen, has gone up incredibly"

The 2005-06 Budget allocation for capital expenditure by the General Government sector was \$3,825 million. The revised 2005-06 figure in the 2006-07 Budget papers is \$3,788 million.

It should be noted that cost and timing details for the State Infrastructure Strategy projects funded in 2006-07 are consistent with the project details in the 2006-07 Infrastructure Statement (Budget Paper No.4).

Code of Practice for Procurement (page 14)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The NSW Government Code of Practice for Procurement outlines the obligations and standards of behaviour applicable to parties undertaking government procurement. These include fairness, accountability, cooperation, and no conflict of interest.

Under the Code the State Contracts Control Board (SCCB) is responsible for advising government on proposals for government-wide sanctions for code breaches relating to goods and services. The SCCB is the Government's central procurement and contracting authority for the provision of common use goods and services for the public service. The Chairperson of the SCCB is also responsible for the investigation and resolution of grievances arising in the course of government procurement.

The Code of Practice for Procurement is publicly available as part of the NSW Government Procurement Policy in Treasury paper TTP 04-1 and available on the Treasury website at: www.treasury.nsw.gov.au.

The State Contracts Control Board falls under the administration of the Minister for Commerce.

Premier's Roundtable (page 15) - can you indicate to the Committee whether the Premier's business roundtables have commenced?

ANSWER

This issue falls under the administration of the Premier. I note the Premier appeared at Budget Estimates seven days prior to my attendance.

Displaced staff (pages 18 &19)

How many of the 5,000 positions estimated to be made redundant starting from 2005 and extending over the next two to three years have been made redundant to date?

What is the average period that staff made redundant have been on the displaced list?

ANSWER

The Public Employment Office falls under the administration of the Premier.

Land values (pages 20 &21)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Government has established principles for the sale of land from one Government agency to another.

Government Directions generally indicate that:

- Market values should be realised on the sale or lease of Government assets; and
- Where an Authority acquires land already in Government ownership and will continue using it for a Government purpose, the Authority is required to pay compensation on the basis of;

(1) the current market value of the land and any improvements (as determined by the Valuer General) if agreement is reached between the transferring authorities; and

(2) the current market value as determined by an independent valuer or the Valuer General (who may be requested to re-value a site) if agreement cannot be reached between the Authorities involved in the transaction.

Headcount (page 67) – how many people are employed in the public service as at 30 June 2006.

ANSWER

The Public Employment Office falls under the administration of the Premier.

Separations (page 67)

ANSWER

The Public Employment Office falls under the administration of the Premier.

Office of State Revenue (page 70)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

In 2005/06 175,459 infringements were issued to interstate registered vehicles. These infringements totalled \$29,308,246. This includes all traffic and parking infringements.

MICHAEL COSTA