

Supplementary Questions

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Primary Industries, Lands and Water

Friday 4 September 2015

Questions from Hon Robert Brown MLC

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1. With respect to the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program, (a) How has the NSW government addressed concerns raised by the Commercial Fisheries sector regarding shareholders who would end up receiving less than their current activity levels under the proposed scheme;
- (b) What modelling has been done by the NSW government to ensure equitability and fairness of the Program; and
- (c) Will the government be abandoning the Program if it fails to achieve equitability and fairness?

ANSWER

(a) The Government is yet to receive the final recommendations of the independent Structural Adjustment Review Committee (SARC) in relation to how shares in the relevant commercial fisheries should be linked to catch or fishing effort and what the appropriate total catch and effort levels are. The Government will give careful consideration to the final recommendations and stands by its policy commitment to inject \$15.5 million in adjustment funding to subsidise the acquisition of shares by buyers as well to allow the sale of shares from shareholders who wish to exit.

(b) A number of analyses have been undertaken at both the share class level and the individual fishing business level using best available data to look at the potential impacts of the various share linkage options. Independent analyses have also been commissioned by external consultants, including an 'Economic Analysis of NSW Commercial Fisheries Reform Package' completed by AgEconPlus, a 'Review of the NSW Commercial Fisheries Exit Grant Proposal' completed by Prof. Jacob Goeree from the University of Technology and a 'NSW Fishing Cooperative Viability Study' completed by GHD Pty Ltd.

(c) The NSW Liberals and Nationals' 2011 Fisheries Policy 'Securing Sustainable, Viable and Healthy Fisheries' committed the Government to "ensur[ing] the public are confident that the fisheries of NSW are environmentally responsible and both ecologically and economically sustainable." The Government will continue to pursue the Business Adjustment Program to improve the long term viability and sustainability of commercial fishing in NSW. The Government will strive to minimise short run impacts on existing operators during the process of building a better future for the fishing industry and the NSW community in general.

2. What consultation did the NSW government have with recreational fishers regarding the changes to recreational fishing rules in November 2014?

ANSWER

The NSW Government released a discussion paper on recreational saltwater and freshwater fishing rules for public comment between May and August 2013. A comprehensive consultation process was run involving a wide range of media, including:

- Media releases
- Mailout of discussion papers to 900 recreational fishing clubs and organisations and charter boat operators.
- Distribution of the discussion paper by 900 fishing licence agents, Fisheries Offices and Fishcare Volunteers.
- Articles in the DPI recreational fishing newsletter titled 'Newscast' which was distributed to 120,000 recreational fishing licence holders (number on distribution list accurate as of November 2013).

- Attendance by DPI representatives at fishing club meetings by request, including a public meeting at the Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club.
- Provision of a specific feedback email address

A total of 5,440 submissions and more than 30,000 comments were received by the NSW Government as part of the public consultation process. About 90 per cent of responses were from people with recreational fishing interests.

Modest changes were made to the NSW recreational fishing rules in November 2014 to ensure the current rules reflect the recreational fishing community's needs and expectations, while maintaining quality recreational fishing for the future.

A three-month advisory period after the commencement of the changed rules was implemented to provide time for recreational fishers and the public to adjust and learn about the changes. A comprehensive media campaign was also run using the majority of methods outlined above, as well as the following:

- Publication of 'Frequently Asked Questions' and 'Fact sheet' documents
- Publication of a YouTube video
- Social media
- Update of bag and size limit signage throughout NSW
- Distribution of updated fishing rule summaries brochures, sticky rulers and fishing guides
- Direct contact with prominent fishing stakeholders and personalities

3. What consultation has the NSW government had with recreational fishing organisations and clubs about the recreational fishing trust?

ANSWER

The NSW Government consults with two expenditure committees of anglers on priorities for expenditure from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. Some major recreational fishing organisations and fishing clubs are represented on the committees. The expenditure committees provide expenditure recommendations to the Minister for Primary Industries via the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.

DPI also provides information on the Recreational Fishing Trusts to recreational fishers using a range of media, including:

- DPI website
- A Recreational Fishing Trust brochure which is sent with recreational fishing licence renewal notices to one and three-year licence-holders when their licences expire.

Articles in the DPI recreational fishing newsletter 'Newscast' which is distributed to 150,000 recreational fishing licence holders (number on distribution list accurate as of November 2013).

- Social media posts

Each year an expression of interest is advertised by the NSW Government calling for applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The expression is widely advertised using many of the above media methods. The expression of interest is also mailed to 900 recreational fishing clubs and organisations.

Anyone can apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, including fishing clubs and organisations, universities, councils, community groups, individuals etc. A comprehensive angler survey of the Recreational Fishing Trusts, completed in 2013, indicated widespread support for the current range of programs funded from the Trusts.

Questions from Hon David Shoebridge MLC

Wood supply agreements

4. Since 2003 how much has been paid to timber companies in north-east NSW for failure to supply timber committed in Wood Supply Agreements?

ANSWER

None

5. Can the Government guarantee that current Wood Supply Agreements will be able to be fully met and that no further compensation or buyouts will be required? If not, what is the anticipated liability?

ANSWER

Current modelling indicates that wood supply commitments can be met for the remaining terms of the Wood Supply Agreements.

6. Have any Wood Supply Agreements been renegotiated or renewed between 2010 and 2015? If so, please provide details.

ANSWER

Yes, 16 long-term hardwood and softwood long-term Wood Supply Agreements have been renegotiated or renewed between 2010 and 2015.

7. Does the Forestry Corporation intend to renew any Wood Supply Agreements before the current Regional Forest Agreements expire?

ANSWER

No.

Boral Forestry Contracts buyout

Regarding the 50,000m³ buyout from Boral:

8. Was an extension of Boral's contract for 5 years part of this buyout?

ANSWER

Yes.

9. Was this extension publicly announced? Was Parliament informed of this extension?

ANSWER

Once complete, the renegotiated WSA was placed on the corporation's website.

10. Where did funding to pay for the Boral buyout come from?

ANSWER

From revenue of Forestry Corporation of NSW.

11. What annual volumes of the following were bought back as part of this buyout:

- a) Large High Quality Sawlogs?
- b) Small High Quality Sawlogs?
- c) Blackbutt?

ANSWER

The buyback of 50,000m³ per annum included 40,000m³ pa of Blackbutt. The annual volumes of large and small HQ sawlogs supplied varies from year to year.

12. For hardwoods, what are the current commitments for north East NSW (UNE and LNE) in wood supply agreements:
- a) Large High Quality Sawlogs?
 - b) Small High Quality Sawlogs?

ANSWER a-b

High Quality Large Sawlogs	127,137	Cubic metres per annum
High Quality Small Sawlogs	45,984	Cubic metres per annum

13. For each of the last 5 financial years, what were the volumes of the following were harvested from North East NSW:
- a) Large High Quality Sawlogs?
 - b) Small High Quality Sawlogs?

ANSWER a-b

Financial Year	High Quality Large Sawlog	High Quality Small Sawlog	
2011	128,793	47,716	Cubic metres per annum
2012	163,754	57,119	Cubic metres per annum
2013	152,323	50,891	Cubic metres per annum
2014	149,408	47,458	Cubic metres per annum
2015	134,425	46,429	Cubic metres per annum

14. For each of the last 5 financial years, what volumes of the following were harvested from hardwood plantations in North East NSW:
- a) Large High Quality Sawlogs?
 - b) Small High Quality Sawlogs?

ANSWER a-b

Financial Year	High Quality Large Sawlog	High Quality Small Sawlog	
2011	12,990	5,580	Cubic metres per annum
2012	9,281	2,970	Cubic metres per annum
2013	12,652	6,923	Cubic metres per annum
2014	8,677	4,079	Cubic metres per annum
2015	3,972	1,815	Cubic metres per annum

15. If current commitments for Large High Quality Sawlogs from north east NSW (UNE and LNE) are fully utilised until 2023, what annual volumes of Large High Quality Sawlogs are expected to be able to be supplied over the next 80 years (i.e. from 2024-2103)?
- a) What percentage of this will come from plantations?

ANSWER

Estimates of annual quantities of Large High Quality Logs able to be supplied sustainably from 2024 to 2103 vary from year to year. These logs have not been allocated into either Large High Quality Sawlogs or other speciality Large High Quality Log products such as Veneer, Girders, Poles and Piles beyond 2023. Therefore annual volumes of Large High Quality Sawlogs only is not able to be supplied.

15(a)

Estimates of percentages of Large High Quality Logs per annum able to be supplied sustainably from plantations from 2024 to 2103 also vary from year to year. These logs have not been allocated into either Large High Quality Sawlogs or other speciality Large High Quality Log products such as Veneer, Girders, Poles and Piles beyond 2023. Therefore annual percentages of Large High Quality Sawlogs only is not able to be supplied.

Nullica Logging

16. Regarding logging in Nullica State Forest currently underway, what protections are in place in this forest as a result of the spotted tail quoll record in the forest?

ANSWER

The spotted tail quoll record adjacent to operations occurring within Nullica SF is adequately protected by general landscape habitat protection measures, as well as additional conditions for the retention of its prey.

17. What is the net area of forest set aside to protect this endangered species (in addition to any exclusion zone already set aside for other purposes or to protect any of the other 11 threatened species) in this logging operation?

ANSWER

The 1984 spotted tail quoll record does not trigger any additional protection measures under the Eden Threatened Species Licence, with landscape habitat protection measures and prey retention conditions adequately catering for the species.

18. What protection is provided in the RFA for the EPBC listed quoll?

ANSWER

Further to general landscape protection measures, riparian habitat protection measures and prey habitat retention conditions identified in answers to questions 17 and 18, additional protection measures for spotted tail quoll under the Eden Threatened Species Licence include protection of all maternity and other den sites, as well as all latrine sites.

19. What is the estimated number of jobs dependent on the native forest logging industry in NSW?

ANSWER

This data is held by the Australian Bureau of Resource Economic Statistics.

20. Of the estimated jobs in native forestry, how many are in:

- a) logging crews
- b) haulage

- c) Sawmilling
- d) woodchipping
- e) other (please list)

ANSWER a-e

Refer to the answer provided to question 19.

Q 21 How many staff are employed in managing the native forest logging sector in NSW in:

- a) Forestry Corporation

ANSWER

235.56 FTE staff employed in the Hardwood Forests Division as a whole.

- i) What proportion of the total employees is this?

ANSWER

44%

Forestry Corporation

22. How many Full Time Equivalent staff positions are there in each office of the NSW Forestry Corporation?

ANSWER

Office	FTE
Baradine	9
Barham	5
Batemans Bay	30.97
Bathurst	43.01
Batlow Workshop	13.18
Black Springs	9
Bombala	27.96
Casino	10.5
Coffs Harbour	41.79
Coffs Harbour Jetty	11
Condobolin	1
Deniliquin	5
Dorrigo	6.99
Dubbo	6
Dungog	1
Eden	19.79
Forbes	4
Gloucester	3
Grafton	29.2
Grafton Nursery	11.72
Inverell	1
Maitland	12.6

Mandalong	6
Moss Vale	3.75
Narrabri	3
Narrandera	2
Orange	6
Sunny Corner	1
Taree	10
Toronto	1
Tumbarumba	3
Tumut	74.54
Tumut Nursery	2
Urbenville	1.89
Walcha	10.54
Wauchope	35.92
West Pennant Hills	69.93

23. How many full time equivalent staff are employed in each State Forest region in the logging and processing of native State Forests as:

- a) Forestry Corporation personnel directly engaged in planning, supervision, support and monitoring?
- b) Fellers?
- c) Truckers?
- d) Saw Mills workers?
- e) Chip Mills workers?

ANSWER

a) The Hardwood Forests Division of Forestry Corporation employs 34 FTE staff in managing forests in Western Region, and 66.7 in its Planning team and 71.92 FTE in Production business units for the coastal area of NSW.

b-e) Forestry Corporation does not employ staff in these capacities.

24. How many full time equivalent staff are employed in each State Forest region in in the logging and processing of State Forests Hardwood and Softwood Plantations as:

- a) Forestry Corporation personnel directly engaged in planning, supervision, support and monitoring?
- b) Fellers?
- c) Truckers?
- d) Saw Mills workers?
- e) Chip Mills workers?

ANSWER

a) Forestry Corporation employs 179.89 FTE staff in its Softwood Plantations Division as a whole. Hardwood Forests Plantations are a part of the Hardwood Forests Division. The planning team (66.7 FTE) and production north team (46 FTE) work across both native forests and hardwood plantations.

b-e) Forestry Corporation does not employ staff in these capacities.

25. How many full time equivalent staff are employed by Forestry Corporation for native State Forests operations as:

- a) Forest ecologists?
- b) Botanists?
- c) Biologists?
- d) Soil scientists?
- e) Hydrologists?

ANSWER

- a) 11
- b) 0
- c) 0
- d) 1
- e) 1

The Corporation also funds several ecologist positions in DPI Forest Research section through the Research SLA.

26. What profit/loss has the Forestry Corporation made on its native forests logging operations for each of the last five years?

ANSWER

The operating profit of Forestry Corporation's HFD is published in its annual report or Sustainability Supplement each year. These are available on the corporation's website. Results for FY15 have not yet been published.

27. For each of those years how much were the Forestry Corporation paid for their Community Service Obligations?

ANSWER

This information is available in the Forestry Corporation's annual report published on its website.

28. Did the Forestry Corporation receive any other Government funding in any of these years, if so how much and for what purpose?

ANSWER

This information is available in the Forestry Corporation's annual report published on its website.

Wildlife protections in Forestry

29. Since 2014, on how many occasions have wildlife such as wombats been mentioned in Harvest Plans? Please provide details?

ANSWER

All harvest plans identify wildlife in the context of threatened species records, surveys and prescribed protections under the relevant IFOA.

30. What provisions are in place to protect wildlife during logging operations from death or cruelty when those creatures are not listed as threatened species?

ANSWER

The general provisions of the IFOAs threatened species license cover requirements for the general maintenance of biodiversity and habitat for forest dwelling species, with landscape level protections such as rainforest, old-growth wildlife habitat corridors and riparian buffers. Additional measures are assigned to threatened and protected species and populations that are deemed to require additional protection, typically through surveys and protections such as 'exclusions' and 'buffers'. From time to time specific measures are developed and incorporated into harvest plans to manage unique populations of non-threatened species on specific sites.

31. Are any animal welfare protocols either (a) in place or (b) under consideration to protect wildlife injured or displaced during logging operations?

ANSWER

a) See answer to Q30.

b) A draft protocol has been prepared to manage wombats and avoid harm in compartments 2331 and 2332 of Glenbog State Forest.

32. Are logging contractors required to take any precautions to protect active wombat burrows from bulldozers or other logging machinery during logging operations. In the event that a wombat is buried alive by a bulldozer or other logging machine, is the contractor required to take any action to rescue the wombat?

ANSWER

In implementing a draft protocol for compartments 2331 and 2332 of Glenbog State Forest, Forestry Corporation will trial the draft protocol. Under the draft protocol, if impact on a wombat burrow cannot be avoided during the construction of a road or log dump, contractors will advise the Corporation and the advice of the Corporation's ecologist and the Wombat Protection Society will be sought in determining an appropriate course of action.

33. Will the Commonwealth Government be consulted about the new Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) to determine whether they provide equivalent protection to that available to threatened species under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

ANSWER

This should be referred to the EPA.

Royalty payments

34. What was the total of royalty payments (for hardwood and softwood separately) made by South East Fibre Exports to the NSW Forestry Corporation (and its predecessors) in:

- a) 2012
- b) 2013
- c) 2014
- d) 2015 to date?

ANSWER a-d

Calendar Year	Royalty Payments – Hardwood Forests (\$)	Royalty Payments – Softwood Plantations (\$)
2012	4,131,205	4,877,830
2013	4,104,170	4,819,907
2014	4,176,230	577,644
2015	2,689,961	228,762

35. Has the NSW Forestry Corporation estimated how much it saves by non-payment of local government rates to councils? If so, provide details for each LGA.

ANSWER

The corporation contributes considerably to local government through the provision of gravel for roadworks and the maintenance of forest roads for community use.

36. Regarding the end of the Regional Forest Agreements:

a) What cost benefit analysis has the Government undertaken in preparation for this?

ANSWER

The NSW Government is negotiating with the Commonwealth Government regarding the renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements.

b) What findings are there regarding the costs and benefits of native forest logging including: expenditure on threatened species programs on species threatened by harvesting,

ANSWER

The costs of minimising impacts on threatened species during harvesting operations are included as a timber planning and harvesting cost.

financial assistance given to Forestry Corporation,

ANSWER

Forestry Corporation of NSW receives no financial assistance for forest harvesting. The Community Service Obligation payments that it receives cover some of the costs of managing non-productive areas of its estate and providing services (e.g. recreation facilities) that a commercial entity would not normally be expected to supply.

dividends to the state from forest products,

ANSWER

This information is available in relevant Budget papers and annual reports.

ecosystem services

ANSWER

FCNSW provides ecosystem service (water protection; biodiversity protection etc).

and the market transition to plantation forestry?

ANSWER

Plantation forests usually service different markets to native forests. The establishment of plantations has mostly been associated with softwoods or short rotation hardwoods

(e.g. pulpwood). The Commonwealth government provides tax incentives for plantation establishment but this is otherwise market-driven.

c) Does the government intend to factor greenhouse gas emissions into its calculations when considering the future use of native forests when the regional forest agreements expire?

ANSWER

The NSW Government is negotiating with the Commonwealth Government regarding the renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements

37. What financial assistance does the NSW treasury give to Forestry Corporation for land management practices, including access roads and trail maintenance, fire management and pest and weed control?

ANSWER

The NSW Government provides annual funding for the provision of community obligation services (CSO) including management activities for non-commercial native forests like fire and weed control, roads used primarily or wholly by the community and provision of access to forests and facilities for recreation. In FY15 the CSO income received by the Corporation was \$15.589.

38. How many hectares of State forests are affected by Bell Miner Associated Dieback?

ANSWER

Forestry Corporation of NSW and DPI have a research program underway to determine the extent of Bell Miner Associated Dieback

Bell miner associated dieback

39. What action is the Forestry Corporation taking to:

- a) Map the extent of Bell Miner Associated Dieback?
- b) Stop the spread of lantana and Bell Miner Associated Dieback?
- c) Restore the health of Bell Miner Associated Dieback affected forests?

ANSWER a-c

Forestry Corporation in conjunction with DPI Forest Research is undertaking a large scale BMAD mapping project in the northern rivers area of the state, mapping the extent of BMAD on state forest, national park, private lands and hardwood timber plantations. A pilot mapping flight was conducted in early September 2015. The full mapping project is expected to be finalised in 2016.

The corporation continues to undertake monitoring programs of two trial locations, where regeneration surveys are planned for late 2015.

Where appropriate the corporation targets lantana through hazard reduction burning.

Forestry Corporation considers the extent and severity of BMAD in its harvest planning and where appropriate the corporation will plan for and apply rehabilitation treatments following harvesting to ensure that regeneration is achieved.

40. What is the estimated cost per hectare to restore the health of Bell Miner Associated dieback affected forests?

ANSWER

See Question 38

41. Has the government assessed the cost of mitigating bell-miner associated dieback associated with native forest logging and compared this cost to the dividend from native forest logging?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 38

42. What does the government intend to do to address the threats to World Heritage areas of NSW as a consequence of bell-miner associated dieback as detailed in a Caring for our Country grant report?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 38.

Joint Venture Plantations

43. How many joint venture hardwood plantation agreements has the Forestry Corporation cancelled?

ANSWER

230 since 1995.

44. How many joint venture hardwood plantation agreements is Forestry Corporation currently proposing to cancel?

ANSWER

4.

45. How many hectares of joint venture plantation are there in NSW?

ANSWER

This information is reported in the Corporation's Sustainability Supplement available on the corporation's website.

46. What was the cost to the Forestry Corporation and/or taxpayers of establishing and maintaining these plantations?

ANSWER

Each venture was treated individually and this information has not been collated in this way.

47. What are the estimated values of these plantations at the time they were cancelled, and at maturity?

ANSWER

Each venture was treated individually and this information has not been collated in this way.

48. How much has the Forestry Corporation paid to landholders as compensation for cancelling joint venture hardwood plantation agreements?

ANSWER
\$1,463,754.48

Road transport subsidies

49. What road transport subsidies, or other freight costs, were paid to logging, milling and or transport companies for the haulage of logs obtained from publicly owned native forests to timber mills for each of the last five financial years?

ANSWER
Nil.

50. For what volume of logs hauled were road transport subsidies or freight costs paid, for each of the last five financial years?

ANSWER
Refer to question 49.

51. Over what distances were logs hauled, for each of the last five financial years

ANSWER
Refer to question 49.

Legal costs of court proceedings

52. What were the total costs incurred by the Forestry Commission / Corporation in the legal proceedings *Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) v Forestry Commission of NSW [2011] NSWLEC 102 (Nullica SF)* for each of the last five financial years?

Of the above, how much was for:

- a) Preparing its defence
- b) Legal fees
- c) Court costs
- d) Fines
- e) Restoration works
- f) Other costs?

ANSWER
a) no figure is available
b) \$13,585
c) Nil
d) \$5,600
e) The \$5,600 fine was applied in a project monitoring the occurrence of the Smoky Mouse in the Eden Management Area the results of which have continued to detect the Smoky Mouse at a number of sites in Nullica State Forest.

f) Prosecution costs of \$19,000

Compliance costs: Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs)

53. How many Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) have been issued to Forestry Commission / Corporation for non-compliance with environmental protection licence requirements for each of the last five financial years by the following authorities:

- a) NSW Environment Protection Authority?
- b) NSW Fisheries?
- c) Any other authority?

ANSWER

Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued to the corporation are reported annually in the Sustainability Supplement. These are available on the corporation's website.

54. What was the total of the fines imposed on Forestry Commission/Corporation for Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued for non-compliance with environmental protection licence requirements?

ANSWER

Information relating to Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued to the corporation are reported annually in the Sustainability Supplement. These are available on the corporation's website.

55. How much has been paid by Forestry Commission / Corporation for Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued for non-compliance with environmental protection licence requirements?

ANSWER

Information relating to Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) issued to the corporation are reported annually in the Sustainability Supplement. These are available on the corporation's website.

56. Have any legal costs been incurred by Forestry Commission / Corporation relating to any of these PINs?

- a) If so, in relation to which Penalty Infringement Notice(s)?
- b) And if so, what legal costs have been incurred?

ANSWER

No external legal costs have been incurred for PINs that the Corporation has not elected to have heard in court.

Costs of proposed Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOA) re-make

57. What costs have been incurred for the remake of the new IFOAs in the last three financial years?

ANSWER

Staff costs have been incurred in relation to a number of staff across the corporation contributing to the IFOA remake process, including travel expenses associated with community consultation meetings. External ecological consultants have been used to provide expert advice on various key threatened species groups from time to time.

58. What costs have been incurred in the last three financial years for the trials associated with the new IFOAs in publicly owned native forests in the state's Eastern Division?

ANSWER

These costs have not been tracked separately to costs incurred as part of the IFOA remake generally.

Costs of EIA of forestry operations and associated roadworks

59. Has the Forestry Commission / Corporation undertaken any assessment of the environmental impacts of the new logging regimes proposed in the new IFOAs, under the s 69B Forestry Act 2012?

a) If so, what was the result of this assessment?

b) If not, why not?

ANSWER

The requirements of the Forestry Act 2012 have been considered as part of the IFOA remake process. An EIA is not required as the trial was conducted under the Lower North East IFOA.

60. Has any environmental impact assessment been undertaken in association with the NSW EPA under the *Forestry Act 2012* for the proposal to hold trials of the IFOA?

ANSWER

The trials held in 2015 as part of the IFOA remake process were conducted under an amendment to the existing Lower North East IFOA, consistent with requirements under the Forestry Act 2012.

61. If so, what have been the costs to NSW Forestry Commission / Corporation for these EIA processes, for each of the last three financial years?

ANSWER

There was no requirement to undertake an EIA.

Compliance with principles of ecologically sustainable development

62. From 1 January 2013 (when the Forestry Act 2012 commenced) to 28 February 2013 (when IFOAs were authorised) what work did Forestry Corporation/Forestry Commission undertaken to ensure that the IFOA regime would be compliant with ESD requirements under the Act?

a) What was the cost of any such work done?

ANSWER

Operations under the IFOA are consistent with ESD. The new Act did not change this situation.

63. What work was undertaken to ensure the IFOA trials would be compliant with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development before the Amendment to the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for the Lower North East region in May 2015?

ANSWER

The IFOA trials are effectively a routine timber harvesting operation, with the same net outcomes as any other timber harvesting operation under the LNE IFOA. Consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, a sustainable supply of timber was delivered to industry, adequate protections were in place for threatened species and the expectations of the general community were considered and met.

64. What additional costs, if any, are estimated to have been incurred ensuring that operations are in compliance with s 10(1)(c) *Forestry Act 2012* in each of the last 3 financial years?

ANSWER

Nil; All works undertaken by the forestry corporation are consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Questions from Hon David Shoebridge MLC

Scenic Hills

65. Can the Minister outline the reasons for supporting for supporting the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust's proposal to rezone Environmental Protection land in Campbelltown's Scenic Hills for a 136,000 grave cemetery (Varroville Cemetery), as per a letter dated 9 December 2014?

ANSWER

The proposal is supported in the context of resolving burial space shortages in the Western Sydney region and Sydney Metropolitan area.

66. Is it appropriate for this statement of support to have been before the proposal had been assessed by the relevant planning authorities?

ANSWER

Yes.

67. Will the Minister withdraw their support for this proposal pending its assessment by the planning authorities, and request that the letter dated 9 December 2014 be deleted from assessment reports and from the Supporting Notes on the NSW Department of Planning's Local Plan Making Tracking System?

ANSWER

No.

Cable Logging

68. When will the government proceed with the cable logging trial?

ANSWER

Facilitation of a steep slope harvesting trial was proposed as part of the IFOA remake and there are no plans to undertake such a trial at this time.

69. What compartments have been selected for the trial?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

70. What is the area of each compartment selected?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

71. What forests products will be taken from each compartment by weight, volume, and species?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

72. What compartments have been identified in each of the following State Forest regions for cable logging:

- a) Central Region?
- b) Hume Region?
- c) Macquarie Region?
- d) Monaro Region?
- e) North East Region?
- f) Northern Region?
- g) Southern Region?
- h) Western Region?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

73. What is the total area of those compartments in each region?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

74. Has Forestry Corporation or the Department prepared cost estimates and revenue estimates for the cable logging trial, including any necessary road construction or upgrades?

a) If so, what are those estimates and when were they made?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

75. Has Forestry Corporation or the Department sought or obtained estimates or quotations for the purchase or hire of equipment required or the services of a contractor with the appropriate specialised equipment for the cable logging trial?

a) If so, what are those quotations or estimates and when were they sought or received?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

76. Has Forestry Corporation or the Department contracted to purchase or hire equipment or engage a contractor for the cable logging trial?

a) If so, what are the details of those contracts?

ANSWER

Refer to question 68.

77. Has Forestry Corporation or the Department identified possible sources from native State Forests or privately owned Private Native Forests, licensed by the EPA, for supply of forest biomass for either domestic power station consumption?

ANSWER

No.

78. If the answer to 66 (77) is yes, what are those sources identified in the following State Forest Regions for biomass supply, by weight, volume, and species:

a) Central Region?

b) Hume Region?

c) Macquarie Region?

d) Monaro Region?

e) North East Region?

f) Northern Region?

g) Southern Region?

ANSWER

Refer to question 77.

79. Is Forestry Corporation already supplying native forest biomass to power stations in Australia from native State Forests or Private Native Forests?

a) If so, what are the details of those arrangements or contracts?

ANSWER**No.**

80. Has Forestry Corporation offered to or sought expressions of interest from potential customers for native forest biomass supply?

a) If so when were those offered or sought and what are the locations, weight, volume and species?

ANSWER**No.****Firewood**

81. What is the volume of logs extracted for firewood supply under approved Harvest Plans from native State Forests for the following financial years:

a) 2012-13?

b) 2013-14?

c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

a) 91668.224 m3

b) 79849.219 m3

c) 89770.698 m3

Note: Western includes relevant sales from Western Lands Leases.

82. Can you provide a breakdown by State Forest region of the volume firewood extraction under approved Harvest Plans and the respective weight, volume and main species for the following financial years:

a) 2012-13?

b) 2013-14?

c) 2014-15?

ANSWER a, b and c

Management Area	2013	2014	2015
Production North			
Blackbutt	770.174	121.381	47.582
Bloodwood	248.497	5.626	
Grey Gum		74.956	23.683
Hardwood	23591.568	13595.619	9971.852
Ironbark	267.598	22.878	70.886
Spotted Gum	91.458		
Sydney Blue Gum		118.495	23.348
Tallowwood	24.47		
White Mahogany	20.609	27.739	267.809
Production North m3	25014.374	13966.694	10405.16
Production South			
Apline Ash		118.206	266.513

Blackbutt		23.517	
Brown Barrel			32.5
Hardwood	20940.061	15762.266	16185.339
Ironbark	47.5	28.092	70.301
Spotted Gum			606.233
Sydney Blue Gum			67.933
White Stringybark			44.316
Woodybutt		4.325	46.692
Yellow Stringybark			0.583
Production South m3	20987.561	15936.406	17320.41
Western			
Ironbark	2877.496	4139.125	3374.793
River Red Gum	42788.793	42001.38	51810.106
White Cypress		3805.614	6860.229
Western m3	45666.289	49946.119	62045.128
Total m3	91668.224	79849.219	89770.698

Note: Western includes relevant sales from Western Lands Leases.

Forestry Corporation customers

83. What are the numbers of sawmills and chip mills supplied by Forestry Corporation for the logging and processing of native State Forests in each of the following State Forest regions:

- a) Central Region?
- b) Hume Region?
- c) Macquarie Region?
- d) Monaro Region?
- e) North East Region?
- f) Northern Region?
- g) Southern Region?

ANSWER a-g

Native Forest Customer Numbers (Financial Year 2014/15)	
Region	Number of Mills
Upper North East (previously North East region)	43
Lower North East (previously Central region)	39
Southern	63

Included in the numbers above are one chipmill in southern and one in lower north east.

84. What are the contract supply details to each sawmill and chipmill as:

- a) high quality logs,
- b) low quality logs,

c) chiplogs

by weight, volume and main species for the following financial years:

d) 2012-13?

e) 2013-14?

f) 2014-15?

ANSWER a-f

Summary of contract supply details by volume or weight and main species from Native Forest and Plantation Forests that applied over the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15						
Company	Region	Sub region	Main Species	HQ Logs	LQ Logs	Chip logs
				(m³/yr)	(Tonnes/yr)	(Tonnes/yr)
Mill 1	North	UNE	All species of the Genera Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Lophostemon and Syncarpia		21,863	
Mill 2	North	LNE			3,650	
Mill 3	North	UNE			18,000	
Mill 4	North	LNE		2,000	7,733	
Mill 5	North	LNE		710	454	
Mill 6	North	UNE		16,502		
Mill 7	South	South		24,000		
Mill 8	North	UNE & LNE		122,250		
Mill 9	South	South		47,000		
Mill 10	South	South		3,243		
Mill 11	North	LNE			496	
Mill 12	North	UNE			4,200	
Mill 13	North	UNE		657	16,513	
Mill 14	North	UNE		6,820	688	
Mill 15	North	LNE			17,925	
Mill 16	North	UNE			7,875	
Mill 17	North	UNE		11,888	4,800	
Mill 18	North	UNE		5,065		
Mill 19	North	LNE		8,123	27,200	
Mill 20	North	UNE		20,260		
Mill 21	North	UNE		3,035	2,000	
Mill 22	North	UNE			10,000	
Mill 23	North	LNE		545		
Mill 24	North	LNE		1,115	20,000	
Mill 25	North	UNE		14,579	2,000	
Mill 26	North	LNE			1,570	
Mill 27	North	LNE			1,500	
Mill 28	North	LNE		5,698	2,545	
Mill 29	South	South		5,886		

Mill 30	South	South		12,500		
Mill 31	North	LNE		3,692		
Mill 32	South	South	As above except, Red Bloodwood, White Mahogany, Red Mahogany, Turpentine, Tallowwood, Ironbark, Grey Gum or other as advised.			290,000
Mill 33	South	South	All species of the Genera Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Lophostemon and Syncarpia		2,100	
Mill 34	South	South		1,318		
Mill 35	North	UNE		4,465	38,162	
Mill 36	North	UNE			6,462	
Mill 37	South	South		9,000		
Mill 38	South	South			3,000	
Mill 39	North	LNE		229		
Mill 40	North	LNE				15,000
Mill 41	North	UNE			300	
Mill 42	North	LNE			360	
				330,580	221,396	305,000
Other quantities in excess of the above commitments are from time to time sold under spot sale (up to 12 month) contracts						

85. What are the numbers of sawmills and chip mills supplied by Forestry Corporation for the logging and processing of State Forests Plantations in each of the following State Forest regions:

- a) Central Region?
- b) Hume Region?
- c) Macquarie Region?
- d) Monaro Region?
- e) North East Region?
- f) Northern Region?
- g) Southern Region?

ANSWER a-g

Hardwood plantations are represented in the numbers for question 83.

For Softwood Plantations, Snowy Management Area (previously Hume and Bombala) supplies 6 sawmills and 3 pulp mills and Northern Softwoods Management Area (previously Macquarie and Northern) supplies 11 sawmills and 4 pulp mills.

Note: some mills draw timber supply from both management areas and so are represented twice in the numbers above.

86. What are the contract supply details to each sawmill and chipmill as:

- a) high quality logs,
- b) low quality logs,
- c) chiplogs

by weight, volume and main species for the following financial years:

- d) 2012-13?
- e) 2013-14?
- a) 2014-15?

ANSWER a-a

Mill	Region	Annual Quantity	Qty	High Quality Logs (tpa)	Low Quality Logs (tpa)	Pulp or Chip Logs (tpa)	FY13 Qty (t)	FY14 (t)	FY15 (t)
1	Snowy	56,000	t	56000	0	0	45136	43616	51159
2	Snowy	250,000	m3	261000	0	0	96610	173941	215000
3	Snowy	0	t	0	0	5000	146600	78812	7052
4	Northern	525,000	t	525000	0	0	503265	538024	510385
5	Northern	9,000	t	5000	4000	0	9526	10439	12724
6	Northern	30,000	t	23750	1250	0	12375	17868	25118
7	Snowy	130,000	t	0	0	130000	113037	112829	131564
8	Northern	200,000	t	0	0	200000	122663	137009	101601
9	Snowy	120,000	t	0	0	120000	133461	124153	128093
10	Snowy	500,000	t	0	0	471500	639451	560858	534956
11	Snowy	80,000	t	0	0	80000	37394	33979	34305
12	Northern	70,625	t	63562	7063	0	65291	74784	79678
13	Snowy	35,000	t	35000	0	0	31569	31064	32662
14	Snowy	52,000	t	52000	0	0	40636	37265	38467
15	Snowy	422,600	m3	440208	0	0	420067	427711	410431
16	Snowy	531,277	m3	553414	0	0	443530	471406	463590
17	Northern	87,379	t	87379	0	0	74330	61694	61957

18	Northern	17,000	m3	0	17000	0	15712	15859	13545
19	Northern	15,000	t	3000	12000	0	13203	13770	15714
20	Northern	5,000	t	5000	0	0	0	0	1567
21	Northern	290,000	t	0	0	180000	160151	155120	135929
22	Northern	70,000	t	0	0	70000	66944	68974	83500
23	Northern	10,000	t	0	0	10000	1580	1096	215
24	Northern	4,000	t	4000	0	0	2149	2157	1402
25	Northern	22,000	t	22000	0	0	30904	30476	7032
26	Northern	0	t	0	0	0	20889	15595	5580

Questions 87-89 are missing - BE Secretariat aware

Questions from Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

Biodiversity Legislation Review

90. What is the total allocated cost for the review of the Biodiversity legislation review for 2015-16?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Treasurer.

91. What resources have been allocated to Local Land Services to assist in the implementation of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act?

ANSWER:

Local Land Services will receive \$4.151 million to assist with the design and implementation of the NSW Government's biodiversity reforms.

92. What resources have been allocated to local councils to assist in the implementation of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act?

ANSWER:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Local Government.

93. What resources have been allocated to protecting native vegetation and fauna on private land in light of commitments to dissolve the Native Vegetation Act 2003?

ANSWER:

When the Government announced its commitment to implement the Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel's reforms it also announced \$100 million over five years to

protect the State's unique and endangered plants and animals under the Saving Our Species Program.

94. At last year's Budget Estimates hearing the Minister said the five-year review of the Shark Meshing Program commenced on 14 August 2014:

- (a) Has the Minister received a draft or any version of the review?
- (b) When will the review be released publically

ANSWER

(a) No

(b) **The Department of Primary Industries and the Office of Environment and Heritage have completed their five-year review of the two Joint Management Agreements (JMA) that authorise and manage the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program. The review report contains some recommendations that have informed development of a new draft Joint Management Agreement and a draft Management Plan for the SMP. The five-year review of the two Joint Management Agreements (JMA), the draft 2015 JMA and the draft 2015 Management Plan will be on public exhibition in prior to the end of 2015.**

95. After this year's Super Storm in the Hunter, how did the LLS and the Department of Primary Industries liaise with farmers regarding Hay Drops and emergency funding?

ANSWER

Information was distributed through the Hunter – Central Coast Recovery Centres, DPI Rural Support networks, interaction with Local Land Services staff, advertising in regional papers including The Land, and on websites including the NSW Rural Assistance Authority and Emergency New South Wales.

96. When was Category C funding available to be applied for, and when was the funding actually granted and delivered to successful applicants?

ANSWER

Category C grants were made available to storm-affected primary producers on 15 June 2015. The first payments to successful applicants occurred on 7 July 2015.

97. How did the Government notify farmers that Category C funding was available?

ANSWER

A joint press release was issued by the Premier and the Prime Minister on 15 June 2015. Communication strategies also included information being distributed through the Hunter – Central Coast Recovery Centres, DPI Rural Support networks and on websites including the NSW Rural Assistance Authority and Emergency New South Wales.

98. How did the Government identify farmers in the community?

ANSWER

The national Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements specify that to be eligible for natural disaster assistance a primary producer means an individual, partnership, trust or company that:

- a) has a right or interest in a farm enterprise, and**
- b) contributes a significant part of his, her or its labour and capital to the enterprise, and**
- c) derives at least 51 per cent of his, her or its income from the farming enterprise.**

Questions from Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

DPI Operations

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

ANSWER

The cash balance as at 17 September 2015 is \$11,113,926. The fund is held by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

100. Can the Minister provide an update on the trial programme to control feral pigs in Western NSW by using 1080 meat baits at selected demonstration sites?

ANSWER

Trials of 1080 meat baits to control feral pigs in Western NSW will continue while the temporary use permit is in place until 30 June 2016. Trials are looking at the rate of bait uptake by feral pigs as well as potential non-target risks.

101. What was the total cost of developing the Agriculture Industry Action Plan, including consultation, printing and distribution?

ANSWER

The costs for the DPI's involvement in the process were met from within existing funds.

102. What was the profit and loss for each of the 27 Soil Conservation Services depots across the state in 2014-15?

ANSWER

This information can be found in the relevant annual report.

103. 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) g) Hunter
- (h) Greater Sydney
- (i) Central Tablelands
- (j) Central West
- (k) South East

ANSWER

Local Land Services do not employ staff known as agronomists or extension officers, as they are not positions included in the Local Land Services Award 2013. Position titles in the Award are available via this link:

<http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/irc/ircgazette.nsf/021c377754250efaca256ad9001f2d88/4d53ab2dbf5da126ca257c8c00063888?OpenDocument>

Extension and agronomy services are provided by a range of staff as part of the integrated service model.

104. What was the total revenue raised from ratepayers in each LLS in 2014-15?

- (a) Please list by the amount per LLS region.

ANSWER

Answer summarised in the table below:

Note: Meat Industry Levy and Special Rate - Pest Insect are collected by Local Land Services but do not contribute to the operations of the entity.

Region	Rates – Animal Health	Rates – General	Levy-Meat Industry	Special Purpose Rate – Pest Insect
North West	1,141,080.54	2,430,556.08	107,902.33	684,863.46
Northern Tablelands	1,075,654.72	1,522,727.85	98,616.16	550,119.56
North Coast	869,573.68	1,744,141.87	121,594.54	501,096.03
Central West	1,508,584.08	2,491,942.76	132,293.85	786,042.05
Greater Sydney	163,143.36	509,543.91	25,165.35	124,069.79
Hunter	807,205.47	1,541,628.01	103,952.23	504,019.02
Central Tablelands	1,094,627.51	1,780,555.74	104,194.35	608,031.88
Western	285,207.58	942,220.79	46,606.03	289,273.83
Riverina	1,608,457.76	2,207,775.94	128,076.97	803,871.56
Murray	909,683.64	1,214,580.50	73,362.15	449,477.18
South East	1,653,171.93	3,112,137.50	151,401.66	711,534.81
TOTAL	11,116,390.27	19,497,810.95	1,093,165.62	6,012,399.17

105. How many staff work in each LLS region as at 30 June 2015?

- (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 a-d

Answer summarised in the table below:

Region	No. of staff	No. of Admin staff	No. of Front line staff	No with Media and Communications roles	No with management roles
Central Tablelands	60	5	54	1	4
Central West	85	6	77	2	5
Greater Sydney	45	6	42	0	6
Hunter	75	8	65	1	5
Murray	74	7	66	1	5
North Coast	63	7	54	1	5
North West	73	6	64	1	5
Northern Tablelands	61	6	53	1	4
Riverina	76	4	71	1	4
South East	105	9	91	1	5
Western	37	3	33	0	5
TOTAL	756	67	670	10	53

106. What is the value of land sold by each LLS region in 2014-15?

- (a) Please list each sale.

ANSWER

Value of land and buildings sold during 2014/15 amounted to \$260,000. This was for a property in the Hunter Region at Hambledon Hill near Singleton. The value was inclusive of the land and buildings on the property.

107. What is the value of buildings sold by each LLS region in 2014-15?

- (a) Please list each sale.

ANSWER

Value of land and buildings sold during 2014/15 amounted to \$260,000. This was for a property in the Hunter Region at Hambledon Hill near Singleton. The value was inclusive of the land and buildings on the property.

108. Has there been any review of the LLS website?

- (a) If so, when did this occur?
(b) If not, when will this occur?

ANSWER

This occurs on an ongoing basis.

109. Who is undertaking the search for the replacement Chair of Chairs of Local Land Services?

- (a) How much will the recruitment process cost?
(b) What is the timeframe for completion of the recruitment process?
(c) Where will the new Chair of Chairs be located?
(d) What will be the contract for the new Chair of Chairs?

ANSWER

Boomerang Partners

- (a) **This is commercial-in-confidence.**

- (b) **See Hansard –**

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/lc/qalc.nsf/53d07b86bd15264dca257c9a001d62b7/74547ec0a9c95fe7ca257e6f001348e5?OpenDocument>

- (c) **To be negotiated with the successful applicant.**

- (d) **The standard Senior Executive Service contract.**

110. During the last election campaign the Government promised \$1 million per annum in extra funding for Local Land Services (LLS) extension services:

- a) Is it correct that this funding must be met from the existing Department of Primary Industries budget?
b) If so, how is this requirement being achieved?

ANSWER

a) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). The additional funding for LLS will come from within the overall DISRD budget.

b) Funding for the election commitment is available within the overall DISRD budget.

111. What is the Minister doing to address circumstances where farmers continue to experience a deficit in extension services some 18 months after the creation of the Local Land Services model?

ANSWER

Under the Local Land Services Act 2013, Local Land Services must do and has provided an advisory service function which will now be complemented by the development of a draft Advisory Strategic Plan, which is currently under public and stakeholder consultation.

Further to this, as part of the NSW Government's Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Farmers, \$4 million has been committed over four years in additional resources to biosecurity and extension services within Local Land Services. Local Land Services will consult with relevant stakeholders to identify key priorities for the funding.

112. How much funding from the overall LLS budget is dedicated to pest animal control measures?
(a) Further, what is the specific amount of funding allocated to wild dog control?

ANSWER

Approximately \$12,387,678 of the Local Land Service 2014-15 budget was dedicated to pest animal control expenditure.

(a) Wild dog control is not separated from the pest animal control expenditure.

113. What was the cost of payroll expenses to LLS in 2014-15?

ANSWER

Wages cost \$75.6 million in 2014-15. In terms of processing payroll, a partnership agreement is in place between Local Land Services and the Department of Industry covering a range of corporate support services including payroll. There is one annual corporate service fee of \$3.2 million with no regional breakdown.

114. What was the cost of education and marketing materials for LLS as a whole and per LLS region in 2014-15?

ANSWER

The total cost of education and marketing for Local Land Services 2014-15 was \$922,776. Regional breakdown (excluding Executive Service Unit) is as follows:

Region	Cost
North West	\$173 233
Northern Tablelands	\$59 259
North Coast	\$128 283
Central West	\$93 044
Greater Sydney	\$25 396
Hunter	\$30 071
Central Tablelands	\$55 723
Western	\$97 384
Riverina	\$91 371
Murray	\$79 813
South East	\$71 658

Note: This table includes the cost of marketing, promotion, printing and production of publications and advertising.

115. What charges are paid by each LLS region back to the Department of Industry for the administration of corporate services, particularly the use of its SAP cloud based centralised

accounting system?

(a) Please list the type and amount of charges per each LLS region.

ANSWER

There is a partnership agreement in place between Local Land Services and the Department of Industry covering a range of corporate support services including payroll. There is one annual corporate service fee of \$3.2 million.

a) No regional breakdown of charges.

116. Has Local Land Services (LLS) taken on any extra staff or consultants to assist with the Pilot Management Review of TSRs?

ANSWER

Yes.

117. In the 2014-15, period did the LLS divest any TSR management back to the Crown Lands Division?

ANSWER

No.

118. Has the LLS undertaken any ecological sustainability reviews of TSRs?

ANSWER

No.

119. Does the LLS work with any NGOs such as Landcare groups to help manage TSRs and if so, which TSRs?

ANSWER

Yes. As at 30 June 2014, Local Land Services had care, control and management of 490,927ha of TSRs. Local Land Services works with a range of local groups to manage TSRs.

120. Does the LLS work with any Local Aboriginal Councils or groups to identify Aboriginal cultural, heritage or archeological sites on TSRs?

ANSWER

Yes.

121. In the financial year 2014-15, how much did the LLS spend on Biosecurity and noxious weeds management on TSRs?

ANSWER

In the 2014-15 financial year, Local Land Services spent \$10,344,486 on biosecurity. TSR management expenditure was \$6,484,075, which included noxious weed control on TSRs under Local Land Service's care and control.

122. How much money has been budgeted in 2015-16 by the Local Land Services to promote projects that work in partnership with Aboriginal communities in NSW?

ANSWER

Local Land Services partners with Aboriginal communities in a range of integrated cultural heritage and Landcare projects. Up to \$2.5 million of funding is budgeted for these projects.

123. Has LLS implemented any initiatives to improve the working relationship and consultation between Local Land Services and local Aboriginal communities?

Has LLS allocated any funds to contribute to the Governments Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment (OCHRE) programs/initiatives?

(a) If so how much and for what initiatives?

ANSWER

Yes.

(a) Local Land Services has had discussions with the Division of Aboriginal Affairs in relation to Industry-based agribusiness agreements, which is part of the NSW Economic Development Framework (OCHRE). Initiatives and a budget are still being discussed.

Drought support

124. How many applicants applied for water infrastructure grants in 2014-15?

a) How many grants are approved?

ANSWER

During 2014-15 the NSW Rural Assistance Authority received 1191 applications for assistance provided under the original Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, with an additional 497 applications received for the 2015 Scheme which was introduced in January 2015.

a) 2149 applications have been approved as at 30 June 2015 (which includes applications received in the previous financial year). In 2013-2014 the number of applications was 2616 and the number of applications approved was 1633.

125. What was the total amount of funding allocated in the 2015-16 budget for the water infrastructure grants?

ANSWER

No funding was allocated for water infrastructure grants in the 2015-16 budget.

126. How many applicants were there for drought support in 2014-15? (a) Please list in table form, broken down by LLS District and Local Government Area.

ANSWER

Local Land Services	Local Government Area	TOTAL DROUGHT SUPPORT APPLICANTS
Central Tablelands	Bathurst	5
Central Tablelands	Cabonne	11
Central Tablelands	Cowra	3
Central Tablelands	Lithgow	13
Central Tablelands	Mid-Western Regional	81
Central Tablelands	Oberon	29

Central Tablelands	Orange	2
	Total:	144
Central West	Bogan	62
Central West	Coonamble	142
Central West	Dubbo	4
Central West	Forbes	14
Central West	Gilgandra	64
Central West	Lachlan	29
Central West	Narromine	6
Central West	Parkes	22
Central West	Warren	50
Central West	Warrumbungle	218
Central West	Weddin	5
Central West	Wellington	9
	Total:	625
Greater Sydney	Hawkesbury	2
Greater Sydney	Liverpool	2
	Total:	4
Hunter	Cessnock	1
Hunter	Gloucester	48
Hunter	Muswellbrook	1
Hunter	Greater Taree	10
Hunter	Upper Hunter	24
	Total:	84
Murray	Berrigan	6
Murray	Conargo	1
Murray	Corowa	6
Murray	Deniliquin	4
Murray	Greater Hume	16
Murray	Jerilderie	4
Murray	Murray	2
Murray	Tumbarumba	1
Murray	Urana	6
Murray	Wakool	5
	Total:	51
North Coast	Ballina	2
North Coast	Bellingen	6
North Coast	Byron	1
North Coast	Clarence Valley	8
North Coast	Coffs Harbour	2
North Coast	Port Macquarie-Hastings	10
North Coast	Kempsey	63
North Coast	Kyogle	90
North Coast	Lismore	3
North Coast	Nambucca	1
North Coast	Richmond Valley	3
	Total:	189
North West	Gunnedah	67
North West	Gwydir	252
North West	Liverpool Plains	112
North West	Moree Plains	124
North West	Narrabri	149
North West	Tamworth	312
North West	Walgett	227

		1243
Northern Tablelands	Armidale Dumaresq	240
Northern Tablelands	Glen Innes Severn	344
Northern Tablelands	Guyra	258
Northern Tablelands	Inverell	195
Northern Tablelands	Tenterfield	108
Northern Tablelands	Uralla	159
Northern Tablelands	Walcha	208
	Total:	1512
Riverina	Bland	15
Riverina	Carrathool	2
Riverina	Coolamon	7
Riverina	Cootamundra	5
Riverina	Gundagai	6
Riverina	Hay	12
Riverina	Junee	5
Riverina	Leeton	4
Riverina	Lockhart	15
Riverina	Murrumbidgee	4
Riverina	Narrandera	6
Riverina	Temora	9
Riverina	Tumut	5
Riverina	Griffith	6
Riverina	Wagga Wagga	21
Riverina	Young	4
	Total:	126
South East	Bombala	4
South East	Boorowa	4
South East	Cooma-Monaro	2
South East	Goulburn Mulwaree	3
South East	Kiama	1
South East	Palerang	1
South East	Wingecarribee	1
South East	Wollongong	1
South East	Yass Valley	2
	Total:	19
Western	Balranald	4
Western	Bourke	69
Western	Brewarrina	63
Western	Broken Hill	20
Western	Central Darling	56
Western	Cobar	41
Western	Wentworth	6
Western	Unincorporated	77
	Total:	336
Grand Total:		4333

127. The budget estimates show that the NSW Rural Assistance Authority has granted an almost 40% increase in funding for the 2015-16 budget, however the estimates also say that it is still expected to employ the same number of staff:

- (a) What is the new money being spent on?
(b) Can the Minister provide a full break down of the budget for the NSW Rural Assistance Authority?

ANSWER

- (a) The increased funding relates to the NSW 2015 Drought Strategy which will provide concessional loans under the Farm Innovation Fund, farmer scholarships for vocational training and farm business planning, transport assistance, enhanced network of weather stations, Rural Support workers, enhanced drought co-ordination and response and increased communication of available assistance.
(b) Refer to the 2015-16 Budget Papers.

128. What is the cost to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority of administering the Commonwealth Drought Concessional Loans and Commonwealth Drought Recovery Loans? (a) What is the breakdown in administrative cost for these loans between the state and federal governments?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth is paying a total of \$1.375 million to the NSW Rural Assistance Authority for the performance of administrative services for the Drought Concessional and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Schemes during 2015-16.

129. What was the total amount of available funding for drought-related loans for farmers in the last financial year?

- (a) How much of that was distributed to farmers?
(b) How much was the total amount of claims made?

ANSWER

The Australian Government provided New South Wales a total of \$150 million for the provision of Drought Concessional and Drought Recovery loans to eligible farm businesses in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

a) As at 30 June 2015, the NSW Rural Assistance Authority has approved \$62.289 million in Drought Concessional Loans since the commencement of the scheme on 20 June 2014 and \$2.268 million for Drought Recovery Concessional Loans since it was introduced in NSW on 17 March 2015.

b) The total amount of funds claimed under both Commonwealth loans schemes during this time was \$80.826 million.

130. What action has the Minister taken to ensure weather data more accurately depicts the areas that are in drought and eligible for assistance NSW?

ANSWER

The NSW Government announced, as part of its 2015 Drought package, \$2.5 million to work with the Bureau of Meteorology to develop an enhanced network of weather stations across the State – giving NSW the best weather technology anywhere in Australia.

This project will strengthen the weather station network in NSW and the associated analysis of rainfall information to enhance State Government and farmers' decision making and improve drought resilience.

The project will reduce prioritized gaps in the observation network and improve the interpolation methods used to produce gridded data. This will improve the way in which local scale climate variability is represented and ensure a more accurate analysis of drought conditions across NSW.

There are two main components to this project:

- (i) The strengthening and upgrading of the weather station network over Central and Western New South Wales; and
- (ii) Enhancing the analyses of rainfall data that feeds into drought analysis processes.

This project is being managed by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority.

In addition a new research project has recently commenced to create an Enhanced Drought Information System to provide clearer advice on drought predictions. It will be based on the latest geo-spatial modelling and meteorological data. The system will be similar to fire risk indicators and has the capacity to make assessments down to parish level detail. It will support government and farmers in managing climate related risks. DPI is developing an experimental prototype which will be followed by consultation with the sector in early 2016.

131. What representations has the Minister made to his federal ministerial counterpart over his Government's delay in renewing Rural Financial Counselling Service contracts?

ANSWER

Both the Department and the Minister for Primary Industries have been in contact with the Commonwealth regarding this program. Officials from the Commonwealth and the Department are working together to finalise the arrangements to ensure a continuity of the Rural Financial Counselling service.

Fisheries and Marine

132. How many marine scientists are currently working on marine research in NSW within the fisheries division NSW DPI? (a) Where are they located?
(b) How much funding was allocated in 2014-15 to fisheries research projects?
(c) How much funding was budget for 2015-16 to fisheries research projects?

ANSWER

There are 28 scientists working on marine research with four leaders who also practice science.

- a) Mosman, Port Stephens, Coffs Harbour, Huskisson**
- b) \$9.7 million**
- c) \$11.4 million**

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

ANSWER

There are currently 40 EFT staff who are employed in the management and maintenance of marine parks in NSW.

Raw milk

134. What action has the Minister taken to combat the dangers associated with the sale and consumption of raw, unpasteurised milk in NSW?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has issued a public health warning to consumers about the dangers of drinking raw, unpasteurised milk.

DPI has also reiterated to NSW producers of raw milk their obligation not to sell raw milk for human consumption.

DPI has conducted state-wide checks for raw milk products in the market. A small retail market for unpasteurised milk from QLD has been identified in NSW, and DPI has commenced investigations into the sale of unpasteurised milk for human consumption.

The Minister has also raised concerns about the trend of drinking raw, unpasteurised milk through the Australia & New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation.

The NSW Government is represented on the National Raw Milk Working Group that has been set up to ensure a nationally consistent, regulatory approach to prevent the supply of raw unpasteurised milk for human consumption in Australia.

The Authority has also previously prosecuted and seized product where the illegal sale of raw milk for human consumption has been found previously.

135. What were the dates and venues of meetings of the Forestry Advisory Group in 2014-15 and from 1 July 2015 to date?

ANSWER: There is no group known as the Forestry Advisory Group.

136. How many forestry jobs are there in the NSW native forestry sector?
a) What percentage of all forestry jobs are within the softwood sector?

ANSWER: See Question 19

137. What percentage of wood harvested in NSW comes from the softwood sector?

ANSWER: This data is held by the Australian Bureau of Resource Economic Statistics. Forestry

138. Does the Forestry Corporation of NSW propose to include the forests around Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Kempsey in the intensive logging regime of 50 hectare clearfells, currently being negotiated in the new Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals?

ANSWER

Clearfelling is not a practice employed in native forest harvesting in NSW.

Aboriginal fishing

139. Will the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) continue to be convened in 2015?

ANSWER

Yes

140. What is the role of the Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council in the development of Aboriginal cultural fishing regulations?

ANSWER

The Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council will be consulted during the development of these regulations. The Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council has the main consultancy role, as per the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

141. Given that legislation in relation to Aboriginal cultural fishing was passed by Parliament in 2009 but has not yet been commenced what is the timeframe for commencing section 21AA of the Fisheries Management Act 1994? (a) What is the timeframe for the development of regulations that recognise Aboriginal cultural fishing rights? When will regulations be in effect?

ANSWER

Section 21AA will be commenced in concert with cultural fishing regulation. Commencement is dependent on the next round of community consultation which is imminent and the process of drafting of a final regulation.

142. How many Aboriginal people have been fined, cautioned or prosecuted for fishing in:

(a) 2013-14?

(b) 2014-15?

ANSWER

Compliance detail held by the Department of Primary Industries cannot be considered as fully and accurately capturing a person's Aboriginality. This is due to there not being a legislated requirement for people to identify themselves as Aboriginal. On the basis of data held it shows a significant overall reduction in court prosecutions has taken place since 2009/10 down from 84 to 28 in 2014/15. Other sanctions such as written caution or penalty notice have remained relatively static. All sanctions show levels of fluctuation over time (see table below).

Table: Sanctions issued to persons identifying as aboriginal.

Sanction Name	Count	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Prosecution	336	84	79	54	66	25	28
Written Caution	258	43	49	39	39	35	53
Penalty Notice	155	32	24	24	33	18	24
Sum:	749	159	152	117	138	78	105

143. In what areas were penalties issued?

ANSWER

Offences investigated go across a range such as: taking or possessing prohibited size fish; being above allowable take or possession limits; fishing in closed waters; using unlawful equipment; using in excess of the amount of equipment allowed. Offences relate to various species of fish and are in various locations across the state both inland and coastal.

Commissioners

144. How many items or issues have you referred to the Land and Water Commissioner since you have been the Minister?

(a) If so, what were the details of each item or issue?

(b) What were the dates and venues of meetings between you and the Land and Water Commissioner?

145. How many items or issues have you referred to the Cross-Border Commissioner since you have been the Minister?

(a) If so, what were the details of each item or issue?

(b) What were the dates and venues of meetings between you and the Cross-Border Commissioner?

146. How many times has the Minister met with the Land and Water Commissioner since becoming a minister?

147. How many times has the Minister met with the Cross-Border Commissioner since becoming a minister?

ANSWER 144 – 147

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

148. For each of the following financial years, what were the locations of any new beach observation towers constructed, when were they constructed, and what was the cost of each tower:

(a) 2011-12?

(b) 2012-13?

(c) 2013-14?

(d) 2014-15?

ANSWER

Funds allocated under the program, including observation towers and equipment are detailed below:

	Council	Location/Beach	Amount (Excl.GST)	Details
2014/15 SEASON	Coffs Harbour City Council	Park Beach	\$1,967.27	Provision of 1 set of high powered recording binoculars
	Lake Macquarie City Council	Red Head Beach	\$15,000	Contribution towards the purchase of a mobile observation tower
	Wyang Shire Council	The Entrance North Beach	\$3,000	Contribution towards the construction of an observation tower
	Surf Life Saving NSW	Surf Life Saving Services in NSW	\$9,000	Provision of 150 sets of binoculars to all Surf Life Saving services in NSW
TOTAL			\$28,967	of \$30,000 Granted
2013/14 SEASON	Manly Council	Manly, North Steyne & Queenscliff.	\$3,000	Provision of 4 sets of waterproof binoculars.
	Wollongong City Council	Windang Surf Life Saving Club	\$16,000	Contribution towards construction of an observation tower
	Surf Life Saving NSW	Surf Life Saving Services in NSW	\$11,000	Provision of 160 loud hailer to all Surf Life Saving services in NSW
TOTAL			\$30,000	of \$30,000 Granted
2012/13 SEASON	Warringah Council	Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club	\$3,450	Provision and installation of public address (PA) System
	Manly Council	North Steyne Beach	\$3,000	Contribution towards the construction of an observation deck to be attached to the council building
	Great Lakes Council	Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club	\$13,550	Contribution towards the construction of an observation tower
	Surf Life Saving NSW	Surf Life Saving Services in NSW	\$10,000	Provision of water resistant binoculars to all Surf Life Saving services in NSW
TOTAL			\$30,000	of \$30,000 Granted
	Council	Location/Beach	Amount (Excl.GST)	Details
2011/12 SEASON	Great Lakes Council	Tea Gardens Hawks Nest SLSClub	\$10,000	Contribution towards the construction of observation tower & observation equipt
	Port Stephens Council	Birubi Point Surf Club Beach	\$14,000	Contribution towards the redevelopment of surf club and an observation tower
	Wyang Shire Council	Lakes Beach	\$3,000	Contribution towards the construction of observation tower & observation equipt
	Wyang Shire Council	Soldiers Beach	\$3,000	Contribution towards the construction of observation tower & observation equipt
TOTAL			\$30,000	of \$30,000 Granted

Ministerial Office Administration

149. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?

b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

ANSWER

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

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

a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?

b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office? i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?

b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage? ii. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

ANSWER

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

152. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

a) If so, how many times did this occur? iii. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

ANSWER

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

153. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office? a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER

Artwork has either been privately procured or is on loan at no cost from the NSW Parliament or the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

154. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?

b) If so, what was the cost of these items?

ANSWER

No.

155. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?

- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

ANSWER

The office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

156. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
i. Who were they gifted to?

ANSWER

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

157. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER

No.

158. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?

- (a) Do they have ABN's?
i. If so, please provide details?
(b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
(c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

ANSWER

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

159. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

ANSWER

See Answer to Question 158.

Ministerial And Office Travel

160. 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

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

161. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

- b) What were the nature of these trips?
c) Who paid for these trips?

ANSWER

No.

162. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental

ANSWER

Expenditure on taxis across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776.

163. Have you ever used Uber?

- (a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

ANSWER

No.

164. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- (a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

ANSWER

No.

165. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- (a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

ANSWER

No.

166. Have you used Airbnb?

ANSWER

No.

167. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

ANSWER

No.

168. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?

- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

ANSWER

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$33,270 in 2014/15. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$282,000.

169. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

ANSWER

None.

170. 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
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

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

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

172. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

173. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

ANSWER

The department uses the centralised media monitoring service provided through DPC. This incurs no cost for the department.

174. Have you had media training or speech training?

- a) If yes, who paid for it?
- b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

ANSWER

No public funds have been used for media or speech training.

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

175. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament? a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

176. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

177. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

178. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

179. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

180. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

181. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

182. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?
a) Who attended those meetings?
b) What was the nature of those meetings?
c) What was discussed?

d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

183. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

ANSWER 175 -183

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

184. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

185. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

186. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?

- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

187. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:

- a) Social media
 - i. And the cost of these services
- b) Photography
 - ii. And the cost of these services
- c) Acting training
 - iii. And the cost of these services
- d) Ergonomics
 - iv. And the cost of these services

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

188. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?

- a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Forced
- b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

189. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

- a) What was the nature of these works/services?
- b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

190. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

ANSWER

No.

191. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

- a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

192. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

193. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

194. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?

a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

195. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

196. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?

c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

197. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

198. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

a) What is their remuneration band?

b) For each SES employee, how many have:

i. 0 staff reporting to them;

ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them;

iii. less than 5 staff?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

199. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- a) workplace bullying;
- b) stress leave;
- c) sick leave?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

200. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

- a) If so, what is:
 - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
 - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
 - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

Department/Agency Travel

201. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine/private car hire
- c) Hire car rental

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

202. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

ANSWER

No.

203. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?

- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

204. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

205. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?

a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

206. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?

i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

207. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?

i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

208. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?

a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

Q209. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

a) If so, how many times did this occur?

iii) What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is part of the Department of Industry, Skills & Regional Development (DISRD). This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

210. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

ANSWER

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

211. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 210.

212. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 210.

213. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 210.

214. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 210.

215. For the 2015/16 financial year:

- a) What savings measures will the Department save?
- b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
- c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
- d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

ANSWER

See answer to Question 210.

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Farm Trespass Policy

216. What is the Government doing to prevent illegal pig hunters under this policy and their biosecurity impacts, whom Associate Professor Elaine Barclay University of New England has shown are significant perpetrators of rural crime towards the everyday farmer?

ANSWER

The NSW Farm Incursions Policy is being considered by government and industry through the national Agricultural Ministers Forum. Implementation of the policy is still being considered.

217. What is the criteria for determining what constitutes a 'high risk farm'? a) Please provide a list of all farms that are considered high risk.

ANSWER

The standard methodology for determining biosecurity risk profile for a particular farming enterprise is the development of a risk/likelihood consequence matrix for that enterprise, based on the specific biosecurity agent of concern and available mitigation measures. This analysis is used to develop that enterprise's Biosecurity Management Plan. This Plan is an important management instrument developed for and specific to that enterprise. The Government does not maintain a list of high biosecurity risk farming enterprises.

218. How much has the Department of Primary Industries expended in implementing the Farm Trespass Policy?

ANSWER

The NSW Farm Incursions Policy is being considered by government and industry through the national Agricultural Ministers Forum. Implementation of the policy is still being considered.

219. Has the NSW Government provided any equipment to any farms as part of the Farm Trespass Policy?

a) If yes, please provide a list of such equipment, the recipient and the financial value?

ANSWER

No

220. Who did the NSW Government consult with in developing the Farm Trespass Policy?

a) Please provide a list of all consultations made in relation to the development of the Farm Trespass Policy.

ANSWER

The Farm Incursions Policy is predominantly an internal policy statement for the Government to commence consultation with industry and other jurisdictions on a serious issue facing farm communities. Consultation on the Policy commenced in April this year

with other governments through AgMin. Consultation continued with an industry/government/animal welfare organisation Roundtable hosted jointly by the Federal Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Primary Industries in August 2015.

Biosecurity

221. Is the Minister or the Department of Primary Industries aware of any biosecurity issues that have been caused by animal welfare investigators in NSW? a) Please provide a list of these biosecurity issues and their locations?

ANSWER

No. The only “animal welfare investigators” in NSW are RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and the NSW Police, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979. I am advised they take all take appropriate biosecurity precautions before entering a property.

Wonga Piggery

222. Did the Department of Primary Industries conduct an investigation into the outbreak of Golden Staph amongst workers at the Wonga Piggery near Young this year?

- a) If yes, what was the result of that investigation?
- b) If no, why not?

ANSWER

This question should be referred to the NSW Minister for Health.

Antibiotics in Farming

223. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics is of extreme concern, especially in light of the current campaign to raise awareness about increasing resistance in Australia. What is the NSW Government doing in relation to the high usage of and reliance on antibiotics in factory farming?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth Government is pursuing measures to proactively address the threat of antimicrobial resistance to humans and animals and released Australia’s first National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy in June this year. The NSW Government strongly supports the intent and measures within the Strategy.

Voluntary Standards

224. The Memorandum of Understanding that Troy Grant MP signed with NSW Farmers Federation on March 26 2015, states that the NSW Liberals and Nationals “reaffirm our commitment to non-mandatory standards and guidelines for animal welfare”.

ANSWER

This is a statement, not a question.

225. Why does the Government think animal welfare standards and guidelines should be non-mandatory?

ANSWER

In NSW we already have a robust system in place to address animal cruelty that reflects and is responsive to changing community attitudes and farming practices. Animal welfare is supported in NSW by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 which provides protection for all animals in NSW.

Model Codes of Practice

226. When will each of the Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals be converted into Standards and Guidelines?

- a) What is the reason for the delay in this process thus far?
- b) When and to what extent will the NSW Government adopt the provisions of each of these Standards and Guidelines into relevant legislation?

ANSWER

The timetable and priorities for review of the Model Codes of Practice and their conversion to standards and guidelines are not set by the NSW Government. They are set by the national Animal Welfare Task Group.

- a) The process is time-consuming and requires extensive consultation with all stakeholders.**
- b) The provisions of future standards, including the poultry standards which are currently being drafted, will be adopted under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation*.**

Animal Cruelty

227. What amendments have been made to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 since 1979?

ANSWER

Amendments listed at:

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+200+1979+cd+0+N>

228. How many animal cruelty matters is the Department of Primary Industries aware of that have been prosecuted by enforcement agencies under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 since March 2011?

- a) What were the charges and what were the outcomes of the prosecution?
- b) How many involved intensive farming practices?

ANSWER

This information is held by the enforcement agencies – RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW and the NSW Police.

229. Would the Government support an expansion of organisations able to have the same powers as Animal Welfare League and RSPCA?

ANSWER

No.

230. How will the NSW Government ensure that RSPCA NSW can independently and objectively enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, including against the stated interests of the current NSW Government, such as intensive farming, when the NSW Government itself grants RSPCA NSW power of enforcement of the Act?

ANSWER

The RSPCA is an independent organisation and investigates all cruelty complaints under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* including those involving intensive farming.

231. Will the NSW Government consider establishing a specialised police task force for animal welfare?

ANSWER

NSW Police is already an enforcement agency under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, along with RSPCA NSW and the Animal Welfare League NSW. Training has been carried out with the Rural Crime Investigation officers, who are the officers most likely to be involved with animal welfare cases.

RSPCA

232. Since March 2011, how many complaints has the Department of Primary Industries received against the NSW RSPCA and what was the nature of these complaints?

ANSWER

This information is not collated.

233. What role does the Department of Primary Industries have in ensuring complaints against the RSPCA NSW are properly, thoroughly and transparently investigated?

ANSWER

The RSPCA is an independent charitable organisation. If a complaint against an enforcement agency is received by the Department of Primary Industries this is brought to the attention of the enforcement agency. The Minister may request a full report from the relevant agency.

234. What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that RSPCA NSW avoids conflicts of interest in investigating RSPCA NSW affiliated entities, such as contracted pounds, in line with its responsibilities under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979

ANSWER

A Memorandum of Understanding is being finalised with both of the charitable agencies which are enforcement agencies under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) which sets out the expectations regarding appropriate policies and procedures relating to the exercise of their functions under POCTA.

Animal Welfare Grants

235. The current animal welfare grant program to assist organisations to detect animal cruelty and to provide services including shelters is around half a million dollars. Currently almost 80% of funding goes to just one organisation, the RSPCA NSW.

ANSWER

This is a statement, not a question.

236. Will the NSW Government follow the Victorian model and have an expanded and competitive grants process?

a) If not, why not?

ANSWER

No – the bulk of the grants are provided to the charitable organisations to provide enforcement functions under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

Independent Office of Animal Welfare

237. Will the NSW Government support the establishment of an Independent Office of Animal Welfare? a) If not, why not?

ANSWER

No. The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) is administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), which also administers and enforces the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the *Animal Research Act 1985*.

POCTA is enforced by the independent approved charitable organisations RSPCA NSW and Animal Welfare League (AWL) NSW, as well as the NSW Police. RSPCA NSW investigates all animal cruelty complaints, including complaints relating to livestock. RSPCA NSW and AWL NSW are required to provide an annual report to the Minister on their enforcement activities, including any complaints made about those activities.

Labelling

238. To what extent will the Department of Primary Industries work with NSW Fair Trading in the development of the National Standard on egg-labelling?

- a) What is the current status and expected deadline for the draft National Standard?
- b) The National Standard will depend on the Model Code for Welfare of Animals: Poultry, which is intended to be replaced by Standards and Guidelines. Considering the lack of consensus on definitions and that the regulations are in transition, what provisions will the National Standard use to develop a definition of free range, barn laid, aviary and cage egg production?
- c) Will the National Standard be open to public consultation, including consultation from consumer and animal protection groups?
- d) Will there eventually be an expansion of consumer labelling to other areas concerning animal welfare?

ANSWER

Officials from the Biosecurity and Food Safety Branch within the Department of Primary Industries have held meetings with NSW Fair Trading and will be available as required to assist NSW Fair Trading to develop the National Standard.

- a) This question should be referred to the Minister for Fair Trading.
- b) The review of the Model Code of Practice for Poultry in respect of animal welfare and its conversion to standards and guidelines has commenced and is expected to be completed by November 2017. The scope of definitions within the National Standard, including definitions for production systems, is still being actively considered.
- c) A Regulation Impact Statement on free-range egg labelling, which will include options for a national information standard, will be released for public consultation soon. All feedback or comments from consumer and animal protection groups will be taken into consideration.
- d) The Animal Welfare Task Group considers consumer labelling to be beyond the scope of animal welfare standards. Free Range is not a proxy for animal welfare. The Free range labelling standard is to inform consumers about the egg production system. There are a number of commercial accreditation programs in some food areas which look at animal welfare standards eg RSPCA Approved. Consumer values labelling was considered as part

of the Blewett Labelling Logic Review in 2011 and recommended that labelling laws were not appropriate for consumer values labelling and are best dealt with as commercial programs as a point of difference.

Game Reserves

239. Does the NSW Government have any plans or intentions to support the introduction of private game reserves that are currently illegal in NSW?

ANSWER

No.

Factory Farming

240. Will the NSW Government enact a legislative prohibition on the use of sow stalls in pig production, in light of the peak industry body's voluntary phase out?

ANSWER

70 per cent of pregnant sows in Australia are now spending at least 90 per cent of their pregnancy in loose housing. There is confidence that, by 2017, the vision of a gestation stall free industry will be substantially realised. Given that many of the smaller producers not covered by the peak industry phase-out already keep their sows in loose housing, there is no need to legislate a prohibition on the use of sow stalls.

241. What will the NSW Government do to increase consumer confidence and transparency in factory farming establishments?

ANSWER

Animal welfare is taken very seriously by the NSW Government. We already have a robust system in place to address animal cruelty that reflects and is responsive to changing community attitudes and farming practices.

Puppy Factories

242. How much money has been spent on the Companion Animal Breeding Practice Inquiry?

ANSWER

This question should be referred to the clerk of the Parliament.

243. In the Budget Estimates transcript (page 34), the Minister stated that "It has been highlighted through that process that the New South Wales Government has given in-principle support to the establishment of a breeder licensing scheme". What actions is the NSW Government taking to implement a breeder licensing system?

ANSWER

The Office of Local Government has already commenced development of a redesigned Register of Companion Animals, which is intended to include functionality to better enable the capturing of breeder details at point of microchipping.

Pounds

244. Are the RSPCA NSW, Animal Welfare League NSW or the Police compelled to notify the Department of Primary Industries when there is any incident or instance involving breaches of Acts or complaints concerning a council pound?

- a) If not, why not?
- b) If yes, which council pounds have enforcement agencies investigated or worked with following complaints?
- c) How many complaints regarding animal cruelty have been received and which council pounds are involved?

ANSWER

This is not required under legislation.

245. What reporting measures are in place when a complaint, is lodged with the Department of Primary Industries in respect to how a council operates and manages its impounding facility?

ANSWER

Any complaint of animal welfare are passed to the relevant enforcement agency (RSPCA, Animal Welfare League or NSW Police).

Abattoirs

246. Which abattoirs in NSW have CCTV monitoring their internal operations?

- a) Who monitors such CCTV?
- b) Does the Department of Primary Industries have access to CCTV footage for monitoring and auditing purposes? i. If no, why are regulatory agencies not provided access to such monitoring?

ANSWER

CCTV cameras have now been voluntarily installed in all domestic red meat abattoirs throughout NSW as well as major poultry abattoirs, covering more than 95 per cent of poultry production.

Export registered red meat abattoirs are supervised under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture who have a qualified government veterinary officer on site at all times of production which includes monitoring animal welfare

a) It is the licensees' responsibility to implement a comprehensive animal welfare control program, of which CCTV monitoring is only one aspect. The licensee is required to monitor the CCTV footage and report any adverse findings, along with their immediate documented corrective actions, to the NSW Food Authority. NSW Food Authority officers also review this footage when conducting un-announced audits and inspections of all abattoirs in NSW.

b) Yes

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Data Deficient Shark Species

247. Recently the smooth hammerhead shark, nominated for listing as a threatened species, was knocked back by the Fisheries Scientific Committee due to a lack of data. What measures does the Department propose to gather further data on marine species which are likely to be threatened and yet are data deficient?

ANSWER

The Department will continue to work collaboratively with universities and funding agencies to increase the Department's knowledge on marine species which are likely to be threatened. The Department has an ongoing collaborative research project on Smooth Hammerhead shark with the University of Newcastle.

Non-Lethal Shark Deterrent Trials

248. How will the \$100 000, promised by the Premier prior to the 2015 election to be used on a trial of non-lethal alternatives to the Shark Control Program, be allocated and used?

ANSWER

The first step of the funding commitment has been to commission an independent review of the scientific literature and promotional material on the commercially available and any advanced prototypes of shark-detecting and shark-detering technologies. The review will identify technologies that could potentially be trialled at NSW beaches and that may warrant further consultation with stakeholders.

The second step has been the convening of a Shark Summit to discuss the outcomes of this independent review. The summit included scientists working in relevant fields, representatives from government agencies and non-governmental organisations, key stakeholder groups and surf life savers. Attendees deliberated and ranked the outcomes of the independent review. The overall aim of the summit is to make a recommendation to DPI regarding which technologies to trial and the most appropriate ways of evaluating them (including which popular beaches might be used if field trials were recommended).

The third step is to undertake a preliminary trial of those technologies that show greatest promise for NSW conditions. It is anticipated that more advanced or longer term trials may also be required and planning for these will also be done during this third step of the project

Shark Control (Bather Protection) Program (SCP)

249. When will the next five-year review of the Shark Control (Bather Protection) Program report be completed and released?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries and the Office of Environment and Heritage have completed their five-year review of the two Joint Management Agreements (JMA) that authorise and manage the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program. The review report contains some recommendations that have informed development of a new draft Joint Management Agreement and a draft Management Plan for the Shark Meshing Program and all three documents will be on public exhibition prior to the end of 2015.

250. What does the Department of Primary Industries rely on when setting trigger points for the entanglement of threatened species in the SCP, considering 6 critically endangered Grey Nurse Sharks were killed in the 2012/2013 season and no review was triggered yet one humpback whale was killed in 2014 and a review was triggered? a) Has the trigger point been reviewed in light of new listings of hammerhead sharks in NSW?

ANSWER

The trigger points are an adaptive management tool implemented in 2009 through the Joint Management Agreements and the Management Plan for the Shark Management Program. They are used to monitor changes in the catch of threatened and protected species (TEPs), and other non-target species in the Shark Meshing Program. They are triggered when the catch over two consecutive years exceeds twice the annual average catch of the preceding 10 years. The animals only need to have been entangled so animals released alive still count as a 'catch', reflecting the precautionary nature of the trigger points.

Grey Nurse Sharks did not trip the trigger in 2012-13 as only a few of those sharks are caught, and they are often released alive, every year in the SMP. The trigger point for Humpback whales was tripped in 2013-14 because two were caught (and released alive) in the 2012-13 meshing season. That is in contrast to the preceding 10 years where none were caught in the SMP.

The trigger points worked exactly as they were designed, and that was to draw the Department's attention to consistently higher than average catches of a threatened, endangered or protected species and to investigate those catches

a) The Joint Management Agreement for the Shark Meshing Program requires that the Agreement be reviewed following the listing of a new species as protected or threatened.

The 2011-12 Annual Performance Report reviewed the Joint Management Agreement following the May 2012 listing of Scalloped and Great Hammerheads and determined that no changes were required to the Agreement.

The 5-year review process has reviewed the threatened, endangered and protected species trigger points set in 2009 and proposes some changes. The review proposes an increase to three trigger points: the trigger points for endangered species; vulnerable species; and non-threatened species.

This will make the triggers more reflective of the population status of threatened, endangered and protected species, an issue previously identified by the NSW Scientific Committee and the Fisheries Scientific Committee.

251. Has there been any research conducted by the Department into how the Shark Control Program may affect recently listed threatened species in NSW?

ANSWER

Other than the two species of Hammerhead Sharks listed in 2012, which were reviewed under the Agreement, there have not been any recently listed threatened species that might be affected by the Shark Meshing Program.

252. What is the scientific evidence that placement of shark nets off beaches break up the swimming patterns of sharks?

ANSWER

The peaks in catches in shark nets at both ends of the region protected by the nets suggests that the longshore swimming patterns of sharks migrating into the region from either southern or northern waters are broken. These data have been published for both NSW and South African shark meshing operations.

Tracking studies of some sharks using modern telemetry technologies, indicate that most species exhibit 'philopatric behaviour', that is, despite wherever else they travel to, many species tend to return to the same reefs, islands or sandy shorelines at frequent intervals. The exact factors driving these behaviours are currently uncertain, but the list includes: refuge from predation, feeding, mating or pupping at those locations

Three study examples include:

- 1) Current research by the CSIRO indicates that juvenile white sharks on Australia's east coast spend substantial periods in two particular areas, namely the region between Seal Rocks and north Stockton Bight in NSW (from the shoreline to over 100m depth), and the Corner Inlet-Ninety Mile Beach area in Victoria.
- 2) Recent DPI collaborative research on the highly migratory shortfin mako shark suggests that they spend up to their first three years in South Australian waters.
- 3) DPI research in Sydney Harbour indicates that individual mature bull sharks conduct annual return movements in spring-summer between Sydney Harbour and the northern Great Barrier Reef, spending as long as six weeks in Sydney Harbour.

These, and other studies all indicate that sharks can display preferences for particular areas, and the placement of the shark nets off beaches may disrupt this behaviour.

253. What scientific evidence is there that sharks targeted in the SCP, for example large migratory sharks such as great whites, tiger sharks and bull sharks set up and aggressively defend their territories?

ANSWER

There is no scientific evidence that sharks aggressively defend small, localised territories in the same sort of way that most people envisage a dog aggressively defending the backyard it lives in. However, tracking studies of some sharks using modern telemetry technologies, indicate that most species exhibit 'philopatric behaviour', that is, despite wherever else they travel to, many species tend to return to the same reefs, islands or sandy shorelines at frequent intervals. The exact factors driving these behaviours are currently uncertain, but the list includes: refuge from predation, feeding, mating or pupping at those locations.

The word 'territory' means different things to different people, and this is the case for sharks as well as many other animals. Many sharks that inhabit NSW waters are highly migratory, including those targeted in the SMP, but they appear to spend time in, and often regularly return to, particular areas, generally referred to as 'territories'. These 'territories' can be anywhere between a few km² to over 50 km², depending on the species.

Three examples include:

1. Current research by the CSIRO indicates that juvenile white sharks on Australia's east coast spend substantial periods in two particular areas, namely the region between Seal

Rocks and north Stockton Bight in NSW (from the shoreline to over 100m depth), and the Corner Inlet-Ninety Mile Beach area in Victoria.

2. Recent DPI collaborative research on the highly migratory shortfin mako shark suggests that they spend up to their first three years in South Australian waters.

3. DPI research in Sydney Harbour indicates that individual mature bull sharks conduct annual return movements in spring-summer between Sydney Harbour and the northern Great Barrier Reef, spending as long as six weeks in Sydney Harbour.

These, and other studies all indicate that sharks can display preferences for particular areas, commonly known and referred to as 'territories'.

254. Has there been any research conducted by the Department into how the SCP may affect recently listed threatened species in NSW?

ANSWER

No – There has not been any recently listed threatened species that may be affected by the Shark Meshing (bather protection) program (SMP). Under the Joint Management Agreement through which the Shark Meshing Program is administered, all threatened species are assessed using an agreed trigger process. These captures and any reviews prepared following activation of a trigger point are included in the Annual Performance Reports of the Shark Meshing Program. Please see website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/info/sharks/meshing> for reports. Please note: Shark Control Program (SCP) is the Qld program.

Grey Nurse Sharks

255. What is the NSW Government doing to protect grey nurse sharks and their habitat in NSW? Will the Government reinstate protections on the state's mid north coast for the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark?

ANSWER

A major review of Greynurse Shark protection in NSW was conducted during 2011-12. The review concluded in September 2012 with the introduction of new management arrangements for fishing and diving at several Greynurse Shark critical habitat and aggregation sites.

Ongoing activities to protect Greynurse Sharks include:

- Further research to investigate the movements, habitat use and genetics of Greynurse Sharks.
- Regulation of fishing and diving activities to reduce impacts, especially within critical habitat and key aggregation sites.
- Education of fishers on how to identify Greynurse Sharks and to explain the need to reduce the impacts of fishing. For example an updated version of the publication 'Protecting the Greynurse Shark – A guide for recreational fishers and divers' was recently published on the DPI Fisheries NSW website and distributed to key stakeholders. The guide is available at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation/what-current/critically/grey-nurse-shark>
- Encourage community reporting of Greynurse Shark sightings.

It is intended to maintain the current protective arrangements for this species which are aimed at ensuring the conservation needs of Greynurse Sharks are met well into the future,

while also finding the right balance to provide for diving and recreational fishing opportunities.

Shark surveillance flights

256. For the 2013/14 and 2014/15 years and in regards to aircraft surveillance undertaken in regards to shark monitoring (scientific or beach safety) activities, for each flight undertaken, please provide:
- a) Date of air charter and type of aircraft
 - b) Primary purpose of the charter (data gathering for scientific purposes or bather safety)
 - c) Total cost and length (hours) of charter
 - d) Location of departure/return and furthest distance flown both north and south of the airfield
 - e) Beach overflown and number of times each beach overflown
 - f) List the number of sharks seen, species and location
 - g) Actions taken in responses to sharks sighted (eg. Data recorded, bathers warned, calls made to local authorities / lifeguards.)

ANSWER

a-g) Please refer to the Annual Performance Report 2013/14 for the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) program report and the Annual Performance Report 2013/14 for the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) program report found on the Department's website.

Australian National Baboon Colony

257. How many primates is the New South Wales Government aware of being held in the Australian National Baboon Colony (ANBC), in Wallacia, New South Wales?
- a) For the ANBC, please provide current information for each species (baboons, and others), including: numbers; ages; sexes; state of health.
 - b) What are the costs to the State of New South Wales relating to the ANBC?
 - c) Please provide the history of births and deaths in the ANBC in New South Wales including, but not restricted to (please date all information) number of births per species and by sex.
 - d) Number of deaths per species and by sex; For each death please provide: species, date, age, sex, attributed cause of death and please provide the documentation associated with the death
 - e) What is the range of causes of death of primates in the colony?
 - f) How many of the primates in the colony are used for research or any related purposes?
 - g) What is the number of research protocols each animal has been subjected to?
 - h) Please provide an outline of the current housing, operations and management of the ANBC.
 - i) How many of the deaths are as a result (direct or indirectly) of research procedures? For each death please state:
 - i. the history of procedures that the animal underwent
 - ii. species; age; sex; date of death; attributed cause of death

ANSWER

a) b) c) d) e) g) This information is not held by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

An upper limit of 175 animals may be held under the Accreditation of the establishment.

f) All animals in the colony may potentially be used for research purposes, subject to the approval of the Animal Ethics Committee of the Accredited Animal Research Establishment

h) Under the Accreditation of the establishment the housing, operations and management are required to comply with NHMRC Policy on the Care and Use of Non-Human Primates for Scientific Purposes -

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ea14.pdf>

258. Are any primates being used under licence (or any other method) for research (or any other purpose) by bodies other than New South Wales Government agencies, authorities, companies, or departments?

- a) What are the names of those bodies and their locations?
- b) How many primates are held by each body and at which location?
- c) Please provide the history of births and deaths while at these facilities including, but not restricted to (please date all information): number of births per species and by sex; number of deaths per species and by sex; for each death please provide: species, date, age, sex, attributed cause of death.
- d) How often is the breeding stock of the colony replenished for each of these bodies?
- e) Have primates been imported from overseas to replenish the stock and if so, from what countries did they originate from and when?
- f) What is the name (or names) of the body, agency, authority, company, and/or department responsible for overseeing the management, operations, and housing of the ANBC?

ANSWER

DPI is not aware of any primates being used for research outside of NSW Government agencies, authorities, companies or departments.

a)-e) N/A

f) The Accredited Animal Research Establishment under the Animal Research Act 1985 is responsible for overseeing the management, operations and housing of the ANBC in consultation with its Animal Ethics Committee.

Dolphin Marine Magic

259. Is the Minister satisfied that Dolphin Marine Magic complies with Clause 29 of the General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW, specifically "Visitors who are in contact with animals must be encouraged not to kiss the animals"?

- a) If so, is the ability for Dolphin Marine Magic to offer 'dolphin kisses' as a result of a special variation or exception from those standards?
- b) Is the Minister satisfied that Dolphin Marine Magic complies with Clause 55 of the General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW, which calls for training regimes to be modified to take into account for older animals, such as 'Bucky', the 45 year old male dolphin? If yes, how?
- c) Is the Department of Primary Industries satisfied that Dolphin Marine Magic complies with NSW Dolphin Standards Section 2.1.3, specifically that the dolphins have access to a shaded area in the primary pool?
- d) How many animals has Pet Porpoise Pool rehabilitated under its license for fauna rehabilitation each year over the last ten years?
- e) Please provide a list of rehabilitated animals under this license over the last five financial years?

ANSWER

a-c)

the Department of Primary Industries advises that Dolphin Marine Magic complies with all relevant clauses of the General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW.

d-e) Wildlife rehabilitation licenses are issued under the National Parks and Wildlife Act which is within the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment.

Marine Protection

260. What is the Government's plan to restore protection to the remaining 10 marine sanctuaries in keeping with best-practice scientific opinion?

ANSWER

The draft regulations are currently on public exhibition that outline the Government's proposal and can be found at: <http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/ocean-beachesand-headlands-assessment>.

261. If public submissions to the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregional Assessment call for increased protection in the form of a marine park, will the Government commit to introducing a comprehensive, adequate and representative marine park for the region?

ANSWER

The Marine Estate Management Authority is currently overseeing an assessment of the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion to provide advice on options to enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity. The assessment is using an evidence-based approach that includes an assessment of threats and risks to environmental, social and economic benefits.

Lord Howe Island

262. Is the Department of Primary Industries involved with the proposed plan for aerial baiting at Lord Howe Island? a) If yes, what is the nature of this involvement?

ANSWER

No.

263. Is the Department of Primary Industries concerned about the proposed aerial baiting of Brodifacoum at Lord Howe Island?

a) If yes, how?

b) If no, why not?

ANSWER

No.

Aboriginal Cultural Rights to Fishing

Aboriginal Cultural Rights to Fishing

264. Will the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council (AFAC) continue to be convened in 2015?

ANSWER

Yes

265. What is the role of the Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council in the development of Aboriginal cultural fishing regulations?

ANSWER

The Ministerial Fishing Advisory Council will be consulted during the development of these regulations. It is the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council which has the main consultancy role, as per the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

266. Given that legislation in relation to Aboriginal cultural fishing was passed by Parliament in 2009 but has not yet been commenced what is the timeframe for commencing section 21AA of the Fisheries Management Act 1994?

ANSWER

Section 21AA will be commenced in concert with cultural fishing regulation. Commencement is dependent on the next round of community consultation which is imminent and the process of drafting of a final regulation.

267. What is the timeframe for the development of regulations that recognise Aboriginal cultural fishing rights? When will regulations be in effect?

ANSWER

Commencement is dependent on the next round of community consultation which is imminent and the process of drafting of a final regulation.

268. How many Aboriginal people have been fined, cautioned or prosecuted for fishing in:

- a) 2013-14?
- b) 2014-15
- c) In what areas were penalties issued?

ANSWER

Please see answer to Question 142.

Offences investigated go across a range such as: taking or possessing prohibited size fish; being above allowable take or possession limits; fishing in closed waters; using unlawful equipment; using in excess of the amount of equipment allowed. Offences relate to various species of fish and are in various locations across the state both inland and coastal.

Questions from The Hon Mark Pearson MLC

RSPCA NSW's withdrawal of charges against Walley's Piggery

269.

(a) Will the Minister table a copy of the legal advice received from Legal Counsel to the RSPCA NSW that led to RSPCA NSW withdrawing all animal cruelty and related charges against Valent and Stephanie Perenc and WLS Investments Ltd, trading as Wally's Piggery?

(b) If the Minister is unable to table a copy of the legal advice received from Legal Counsel to the RSPCA NSW that led to RSPCA NSW withdrawing all animal cruelty and related charges against Valent and Stephanie Perenc and WLS Investments Ltd, trading as Wally's Piggery, will the Minister

provide a summary of the legal advice and detail the facts that were relied upon in the provision of the advice?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries is not privy to the legal advice provided to the RSPCA by their Legal Counsel.

Questions from Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC

Coal and CSG projects visited

270. Given your Ministerial diaries are only available up until 30 June 2015 and only set out meetings with external persons who seek to influence government policy or decisions but do not specifically list where you have been, have you visited the site of the proposed Shenhua Watermark coal mine on an occasion not recorded in your publically available ministerial diaries?

ANSWER

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

271. Given your Ministerial diaries are only available up until 30 June 2015 and only set out meetings with external persons who seek to influence government policy or decisions but do not specifically list where you have been, have you visited a coal seam gas field since becoming Minister on an occasion not recorded in your publically available ministerial diaries?

ANSWER

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

272. Given your Ministerial diaries are only available up until 30 June 2015 and only set out meetings with external persons who seek to influence government policy or decisions but do not specifically list where you have been, have you visited the site of the proposed Bylong coal project since becoming Minister on an occasion not recorded in your publically available ministerial diaries?

ANSWER

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

Hume Coal Project

273. Given your conflict of interest, who will represent the interests of agriculture at a Ministerial level in meetings and discussions in regards to the proposed Hume coal project?

ANSWER

Please refer to the answer that was provided on this matter during Questions Without Notice on 13 August 2015.

Landcare

274. Why has the \$15 million you have announced for Landcare been backended so that only \$4.1 million, or less than one third of the money, is available before 2017?

ANSWER:

The NSW Government is providing \$15 million over four years for the NSW Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative.

Questions from Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC

High risk incursion fund

275. Has any money been allocated for the establishment of a high risk incursion fund for biosecurity outbreaks as recommended by the Natural Resources Commission?

ANSWER

No

276. If not, why not? Is the barrier the availability of the funding or some specific concern with the model?

ANSWER

There are already arrangements in place at the national and state level to respond to emergency situations. The *Local Land Services Act 2013* also provides the statutory mechanisms to collect funds for priority biosecurity risks

Deer

277. When was the last state-wide census of deer numbers conducted?

ANSWER

There has been a series of mapping processes to estimate pest animal densities at the regional level across NSW to track trends over time. The last such map for wild deer (of which there are six species in NSW) was compiled in 2009.

278. How many feral deer are there currently in NSW?

ANSWER

DPI has not attempted to estimate the total number of wild deer in NSW as a more relevant indicator of impact is local and regional density.

279. What are the main impacts of deer on agricultural production in NSW?

ANSWER

Wild deer can compete with livestock for pasture and can damage crops. They may damage infrastructure (e.g. fences) and pose a road safety threat in some rural and peri-urban areas.

280. Why are feral deer not declared a pest species in NSW?

ANSWER

Management of wild deer is largely through ground shooting. This control effort is maintained by individual landholders, recreational hunters and in some cases by contracted shooters. Where additional control effort is required, one regulatory option is to suspend relevant parts of the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*, including the removal of hunting seasons and bag limits and allowing the use of attractants and hunting at night with spotlights.

Impact of El Nino on farm productivity

281. In the Treasury's 2015-16 Budget Economic Update prepared as part of the budget, they state that the onset of the El Nino cycle may lead to further downward revisions of agricultural output forecasts.

- a) Have there been any further downward revisions by your department since the budget was released?
- b) What do you expect the impact to be as a percentage of agricultural output if we do face an El Nino?

ANSWER

a) Updated forecasts will be developed in conjunction with the release of the Half-Yearly Review.

b) The impacts of an El Nino event on agricultural production are not consistent, and depend on the timing, strength and duration of the event and consequent effect on temperature and rainfall and potential changes in crop planting and yields. There can be wide variations in these factors and their impact for any El Nino event, and the impacts on agricultural production cannot be accurately estimated at this stage. Treasury noted the potential risk to agricultural production from an El Nino event in the 2015-16 Budget, and continues to monitor forecasts of agricultural production as part of its regular forecasting processes.

Climate change research

282. Are droughts expected to be more frequent and intense in NSW in the future due to climate change?

ANSWER

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 5th Assessment Report (2013-14) projects that there will be more hot extremes and fewer cold days as increasing greenhouse gas concentrations contribute to rising average temperatures. This may lead to an increase and/or an intensity of extreme climatic events including drought. Rainfall projections under climate change are far less certain than temperature projections, but they do point towards a drying trend and change in rainfall patterns, particularly in Southern and Eastern NSW.

283. What research is the DPI currently conducting into the impacts and responses to climate change for agriculture?

ANSWER

NSW DPI's Climate Unit assesses the effects of climate change on agriculture by incorporating climate information into biophysical models of crop and livestock production in certain sites across NSW. The impacts of climate change are assessed to gauge the extent of effects, and adaptation options that farmers may be able to implement to offset the impacts of climate change.

NSW DPI and Local Land Services also undertake monitoring of state wide seasonal conditions to help producers make better decisions around the preparation and management of drought.

A new research project has recently commenced to create an Enhanced Drought Information System to provide clearer advice on drought predictions. It will be based on the latest geo-spatial modelling and meteorological data. The system will be similar to fire risk indicators and has the capacity to make assessments down to parish level detail. It will support government and farmers in managing climate related risks. DPI is developing an experimental prototype which will be followed by consultation with the sector in early 2016.

Additionally DPI undertakes a broad range of R&D in the agricultural sector such as plant breeding, animal genetics and improving water use efficiency, which are primarily targeted towards improving agricultural productivity but in effect enhance the ability of agriculture to cope with climate change.

284. How much money is the DPI currently spending on research into the impacts and responses to climate change for agriculture?

ANSWER

Currently DPI invests \$3.9million across 15 projects in targeted climate adaptation and mitigation research (2015-2016). DPI has also recently invested \$500,000 in the Enhanced Drought Information System Project.

Also there are a broad range of R&D projects across the Department which are primarily targeted towards improving agricultural productivity but in effect enhance the ability of agriculture to cope with climate change. For example, DPI has a significant co-investment with the grains industry in a number of programs to develop crop germplasm with traits such as drought tolerance and heat tolerance. DPI currently leads the National Brassica Germplasm Improvement project which has a total project budget of \$9 million over 5 years (2015-2020) and is also a partner in the University of Adelaide led Genetic Variation for Heat tolerance in Wheat Germplasm

which has a \$2 million dollar budget over 3 years (2015-2018). In the livestock area, three research projects valued at \$1.2 million in 2015-2016 are being undertaken on methane emission reduction.

285. Is the LLS the main agency responsible for assisting farmers in adapting to climate change?

ANSWER

Local Land Services is assisted by DPI's research and development activities which are aimed at researching options to mitigate the impacts of climate change and evaluation of adaptation options.

Agriculture Industry Action Plan

286. How much did it cost to produce and distribute NSW Agriculture Industry Action Plan?

ANSWER

The costs for the DPI's involvement in the process were met from within existing funds.

Young farmer loans

287. Will the Minister commit to establishing a finance scheme for young farmers similar to those that exist in Queensland and Victoria, and as promised by the former Minister for Primary Industries in 2012?

a) If so, what timeline will you commit to?

ANSWER

The NSW Government, as part of its Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Farmers, will host a Young Farmers Finance Roundtable before the end of 2015.

Hemp

288. How much would a hemp food industry be worth to farmers in NSW?

ANSWER

This would depend on the production area and commodity prices at the time the estimate was made.

289. Are people purchasing and consuming hemp food products in NSW?

ANSWER

Hemp products cannot be sold as food in NSW.

290. Are you aware of any cases of someone recording a positive test for cannabis from a breathalyser that has been attributable to the consumption of hemp food products?

ANSWER

This question should be referred to the Minister for Police.

Hemp Industry Act

291. Under Section 50 of the Hemp Industry Act 2008, a review of the Act was to have been conducted as soon as possible after the 1 July 2013 and tabled in Parliament. Has such a review commenced and will the Minister commit to such a review before the end of 2015?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries is working towards the release of a review paper for the *Hemp Industry Act 2008*.

292. Will the Minister commit to making the review open for public submissions and stakeholder input?

ANSWER

Refer to the answer provided to question 291.

Property Identification Codes

293. Is the Government considering the expansion of the requirement to obtain a property identification code [PIC] to include nurseries and orchards? Are you actively considering that?

ANSWER

Discussion between NSW DPI and industry have been taking place in relation to possible future implementation of PICs.

Questions from Hon Robert Brown MLC

294. What flood mitigation and irrigation schemes are currently under consideration by the NSW government regarding water security and its long-term sustainability in this State?

ANSWER

The NSW Government has committed \$1.25 billion for a water infrastructure fund. About \$1 billion of this will come from the upcoming lease of electricity assets, with the remaining from existing funds. The focus will be on boosting town water supply, drought security, dam safety and wastewater treatment. A number of backlog water and sewage projects in regional towns are under construction and initial feasibility work on an additional major storage in the Belubula Valley is underway. To assist with determining other high priority works, catchment assessments are to be undertaken to identify future water needs and the best mix of infrastructure or other options to meet these needs. Aspects such as irrigation demands and flood mitigation opportunities will be considered as a part of this work.

Questions from Hon Paul Green MLC

Minister for Water

295. Minister, The Murray system presently has nearly 7,000,000 megalitres of water I storage and is experiencing very good inflows. Why are general security irrigators in the Murray Valley being denied any allocation of water?

ANSWER

NSW Murray general security irrigators are not being denied allocation of water. Murray system water is shared by NSW and Victoria and between them they supply South Australia with its entitlement flow. It has been over 12 months since Murray system active storage was 7,000,000 megalitres or more.

In the lead up to the last NSW Murray allocation announcements on 15 September, NSW had 1,732,000 megalitres in storage. After deducting the NSW contribution to South Australia's entitlement and system operational requirements (river losses and reserves), NSW had 1,040,000 megalitres to allocate. This water is allocated in accordance with the statutory *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources*.

A 4 percent allocation was made to general security entitlement holders on 15 September. Over half of the available water is currently held by general security entitlement holders; some 567,000 megalitres out of the 1,040,000 megalitres available (55%).

296. Minister, When are you going to halt the blight on this States credibility and stop the immoral, unjust and usurious practise of charging farmers for water the State cannot or will not deliver?

ANSWER

Water charges are determined by independent pricing regulators and are intended to cover a proportion of the costs of delivering and managing water in NSW.

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Former Crowdy Head Primary School Site

297. Is the former Crowdy Head Primary School Site now classified as Crown Lands? a) If yes
- What is the future plan for the site and how can the community have input into this plan?
 - Have any buildings been removed since it was declared Crown Lands? If yes, what are the details of the removal and the reason?
 - How is the site being maintained?
- b) If no:
- When is it anticipated to becoming Crown Land?

ANSWER

(a) Yes.

- Future use of the site is dependent upon the outcome of an Aboriginal Land Claim which was lodged over the site in December 2014
- No.
- Until the Aboriginal land claim has been determined, works on the site will be limited to routine maintenance, including options to mitigate the risk of vandalism.

Port Macquarie Plaza Car Park

QUESTION

298. Is the Minister satisfied that the sale of the Port Macquarie Plaza Car Park would be in the public interest? a) If yes, how?

ANSWER

Negotiations on the Plaza Car Park have concluded. There is no sale.

QUESTION

299. Did the Minister determine that the land assessment should not apply because he was satisfied that it was in the public interest to not have a land assessment?

- a) If yes, how did the Minister determine that that a land assessment was not required?
- b) How was it in the public interest to not have a land assessment?

ANSWER

Please refer to answer provided on this matter during Questions Without Notice and other relevant debates in the Legislative Council.

Questions from Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

Biodiversity Legislation Review

300. What is the total allocated cost for the review of the Biodiversity legislation review for 2015-16?

ANSWER

See 90 above.

301. What resources have been allocated to Local Land Services to assist in the implementation of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act?

ANSWER

See 91 above.

302. What resources have been allocated to local councils to assist in the implementation of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act?

ANSWER

See 92 above.

303. What resources have been allocated to protecting native vegetation and fauna on private land in light of commitments to dissolve the Native Vegetation Act 2003?

ANSWER:

See 93 above.

Efficiency Dividend and Department of Primary Industries, Lands and Water

304. For each of the past three financial years what was the efficiency dividend in dollar value to be met by each of the agencies within your administration?

ANSWER:

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government has committed to deliver savings by implementing further efficiency and savings measures as well as policies to eliminate duplication in Government operations and reduce procurement costs. Savings measures are detailed in the Budget Papers.

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

305. What savings and revenue generating strategies did each agency implement to achieve the efficiency dividend and what was the amount of the savings or revenue actually achieved?

ANSWER:

See answer to Question 304.

306. What is the efficiency dividend in dollar value required to be achieved by each agency within your administration for this financial year?

ANSWER:

See answer to Question 304.

307. What savings and revenue generating strategies are you implementing this financial year and what do you expect to achieve for each strategy?

ANSWER:

See answer to Question 304.

NSW Marine Sanctuaries

308. Can the Department provide a list of the 10 beaches revoked from NSW Marine Sanctuaries?

ANSWER

This information is available on the Marine Estate Management Authority's website.

309. Can the Department provide a list of the Marine Parks affected by this action?

ANSWER

This information is available on the Marine Estate Management Authority's website.

310. Can the Department outline the rationale for revoking these areas from the NSW Marine Park Sanctuaries?

ANSWER

The NSW Government believes the proposal strikes a balance between ensuring appropriate environmental protection and enabling low-impact recreational fishing.

311. Can the Department outline any work that it has undertaken to assess the impact of revoking Marine Sanctuary status from these areas?

ANSWER

The reports can be found on the Marine Estate Management Authority's website. They include the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel Ocean Beaches and Headlands Assessment Report, Marine Estate Management Authority Advice, Social values technical report, Economic technical report and the Beaches and Headlands ecological report.

312. Can the Department outline the rationale for going against the recommendations of the Government's scientific audit of marine parks?

ANSWER

The proposal is consistent with the recommendations of the audit.

Questions from Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

Crown Lands Review and Management

313. Will there be an exposure draft of the new Crown lands legislation?

- (a) Will it be made public?
- (b) If so, when?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

- (a) See above.**
- (b) See above.**

314. What is the status of proposals relating to local land divestment to local councils?

ANSWER

The Local Land Pilot is working through a "proof of concept" on what land of local value could potentially transfer to local councils.

315. Will the Government primarily be pursuing the transfer of title to local councils as a part of local land divestment processes?

ANSWER

Refer to the answer provided to question 314.

316. How will Aboriginal peoples interests in Crown land be included in any criteria regarding 'state' and 'local' land?

ANSWER

Aboriginal land councils will be included in discussions following the Government's consideration of the results of the Local Land Pilot Project.

317. Has a working group, or another form of group, been set up to determine or discuss proposals for the divestment of local land? If so what organisations/government departments are represented on this working group?

ANSWER

A Pilot Reference Group was established by DPI – Lands as part of the Local Land Pilot.

318. Will the divestment of local land be only to local councils or will other local bodies be divested land? If so, what bodies?

ANSWER

Results of the Local Land Pilot will be considered by Government during 2015.

319. How will the Government support the transfer of Crown land (that meets the criteria set out in s.36 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*) to Aboriginal Land Councils in the future as Crown land is proposed to be divested to local government, disposed of, or divested to other Government Departments, agencies or Ministers?

ANSWER

No changes have been made to the process of divesting land to other Government departments and s 36 criteria have not been affected.

320. Will the powers to lease and dispose of land be retained in the Crown Lands Act, or will these powers be under Local Government legislation?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

321. How does the Government plan to meet the objectives of proposed new Crown lands legislation, when it is proposed that the majority of Crown land will be managed under the *Local Government Act*?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

322. Will the Government be pursuing retrospective authorizing of Crown land where landowners have not applied for licences? When will this process commence?

ANSWER

No.

323. Will the Government maintain ownership of Crown land and asset portfolio, or will the proposed Public Trading Enterprise? Will Crown land be vested in the Public Trading Enterprise?

ANSWER

Until a decision is made on this review recommendation, the Government will continue to maintain ownership of Crown land and asset portfolio.

324. How will the commercial focus of the proposed Public Trading Enterprise (which will have revenue targets and will need to raise the majority of income from user charges) support the remedial and compensatory objects of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

325. How does the Government propose to meet the proposed objective 'to preserve cultural heritage (Aboriginal and non Aboriginal) on Crown land'? How will the Government specifically support this objective in relation to the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

326. What is the Government's definition of co-management in the context of the proposed new Crown lands object - 'to encourage Aboriginal use and where appropriate co-management of Crown land'? Why has the Government not prioritized the transfer of Crown land to Aboriginal Land Councils instead of co-management?

ANSWER

The Government is considering the timing and process for the development of Crown Lands legislation.

QUESTION

327. What was the total revenue derived from Crown Land asset disposal in 2014-15?

ANSWER

Information is in the annual report.

328. Has the strategic plan for coastal and inland water holiday parks be completed?

(a) If so, when was it completed and when will it be released publically?

ANSWER

(a) Yes.

(b) The Trust's Corporate Strategic Plan (2015-2025) was completed in May 2015.

The Trust advises that this is an internal document and is not intended to be released publically.

329. What were the dates and venues of meetings of the NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust in the 2014-15 financial year and from 1 July 2015 to date?

ANSWER

See website for all details.

330. At the current date, what funds are currently available in the Public Reserves Management Fund [PRMF]?

ANSWER

As at 13 September 2015, there is \$6.546m in the Public Reserves Management Fund.

331. What is the total value of outstanding loans provided under the Public Reserves Management Fund (PRMF)?

(a) How many loans were extended in 2014-15?

(b) Are any loans outstanding beyond the original terms? i. If yes, please list.

ANSWER

The total value of outstanding loans provided under the Public Reserves Management Fund is \$32.445m

(a) 3

(b) Yes

Barellan Showground Trust

Bingara Racecourse and Showground Reserve Trust

Bonalbo Showground Trust

Bondi Baths Reserve Trust Office

Bungendore Racecourse & Showground Trust

Burrinjuck Waters State Park Trust

Dorrigo Showground & Public Recreation Trust

Eramboo Reserve Trust

Eurimbla Public Hall Trust

Griffith Showground Trust

Hartley Vale Mount Blaxland Reserve Trust

Illabo Showground Trust

Kempsey Showground Trust

Kiama Showground Reserve Trust

Marchmont Racecourse Trust

Moss Vale & District A H & I Society Inc

**Mullumbimby Showground Trust
Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust
NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust
Rawson Park Reserve Trust
Walgett Racecourse & Showground Reserve Trust
Wellington Council**

332. What was the total revenue raised through waterfront rents in NSW for the financial year 2014-15?

ANSWER

Gross rental received for the financial year 2014/15 was \$5,470,690.

333. How much did the Department of Lands expend on beach rehabilitation projects in 2014-15?

ANSWER

-\$630K

334. What was the cost of managing invasive native species on Crown Land in:

- (a) 2011-12?
- (b) 2012-13?
- (c) 2013-14?
- (d) 2014-15?

ANSWER

Tenure holders incur the cost of managing invasive native species where undertaken on tenured Crown land.

335. What was the value each year of unpaid Crown land lease fees for the years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

**a: \$3.790M
b: \$4.86M
c: \$5.47M**

336. What is the value of unpaid Crown land lease fees that are:

- (a) More than 6 months overdue?
- (b) More than 12 months overdue?

ANSWER

**a: \$4.17M
b: \$3.44M**

337. What was the total value of Crown land lease fees in NSW in 2014-15?

ANSWER

\$24M

Crown lands legal cases

338. What is the status of the legal action regarding Talus Street Reserve? (a) What is the total cost of legal fees to date to the Government for that particular action?

ANSWER

The total cost of legal fees to date to the Government for Talus Street Reserve is \$94,287.02 excl GST.

339. What is the total cost of legal fees to date to the Government for legal action in relation to the Kind Edward headland?

ANSWER

\$208,952.13 excl GST.

340. How many legal cases have been commenced, finalised, or were active in any way against the NSW Government in relation to crown reserves and their related plans of management in the last financial year?

ANSWER

None.

341. How many legal cases have been commenced, finalised, or were active in any way and initiated by the NSW Government in relation to crown reserves and their related plans of management in the last financial year?

ANSWER

None.

Crown roads

342. How many times have complaints been received or concerns raised in the last financial year about Crown roads and public roads after they have been closed to the public or sold? (a) If so, in relation to which crown roads and public roads?

ANSWER

On average there are 70 complaints per annum received about various aspects of the road closure process, including time taken to process, statutory fees and charges and the value of the road. These complaints are geographically dispersed.

343. What was the quantum of Crown road and public road disposal in 2014-15? (a) What was the total revenue from these disposals?

ANSWER

This information is available in relevant Budget papers and annual reports.

344. What is the forecast revenue from Crown road and public road disposal in 2015-16?

ANSWER

This information is available in relevant Budget papers and annual reports.

Hastings Regional Crown Reserve

345. Regarding the Hastings Regional Crown Reserve – Precinct A Plan of Management in Port Macquarie, why was a section titled ‘Communication and Community Involvement’ removed from previous versions of the Draft Plan of Management?

ANSWER

It is understood and agreed that implementation will involve communication and community involvement, for example by Port Macquarie Hastings Council as Reserve Trust Manager or as part of any development approval processes under the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

346. Who was engaged to revise the Draft Plan of Management that was then adopted by the NSW Government?

ANSWER

Cre8ing Growth, was engaged by DPI – Lands to review and revise the PoM.

347. What was the cost of the consultants engaged to revise the Draft Plan of Management that was then adopted by the NSW Government?

ANSWER

\$27,690 .

348. What was the full cost of the entire process of developing the Hastings Regional Crown Reserve – Precinct A Plan of Management?

ANSWER

\$121,340

Aboriginal Land Claims and Land Agreements

349. What resources have been expended on the survey of Aboriginal Land Claims in the 2014-15 financial year (including amounts expended and/or staff resources used)?

ANSWER

\$1,150,000 was expended on external survey providers and associated costs, plus salary costs for three full time equivalent internal staff surveyors.

350. How many Aboriginal Land Claims were surveyed in the 2014-15 financial year?

ANSWER

57

351. How many parcels of land previously reserved for travelling stock purposes have been disposed of or reserved for other purposes in the 2014-15 financial year?

ANSWER

There have been a total of 14 revocations of parts of reserves for travelling stock in relation to 26 lots or part-lots.

352. How much money has been budgeted to process Aboriginal land claims in 2015-16?

ANSWER

\$1,840,000.

353. How many outstanding Land Claims that the Department of Crown Lands is currently dealing with?

ANSWER

As at 17 September 2015, there were 28,235 outstanding Aboriginal Land Claims

354. How many claims were approved in the following months?

ANSWER

21

355. How many claims were rejected in the following months?

ANSWER

65

356. As of 1 July 2015, how many Aboriginal Land Agreements have been established with Local Aboriginal Land Councils in NSW?

ANSWER

Nil.

357. Do these Aboriginal Land Agreements currently have Land Claims over the parcels of land considered?

ANSWER

Not applicable. See answer to Question 356.

Water

358. What was Sydney Water's net debt for the year 2014-15?

ANSWER

\$6,154 million

359. Please provide a table of the Summary Balance Sheet for the year 2014-15.

ANSWER

Sydney Water's balance sheet will be published in its Annual Report.

360. On page 91 of the Auditor General's Report Volume Five 2014 focusing on Electricity and Water, the report finds that for Sydney Water, the water main breaks and leaks per 100 kilometres, and the sewer main breaks and chokes per 100 km both increased from 2012-13 to 2013-14. It also found that the average frequency of unplanned water interruptions per 1,000 properties increased.

(a) What were the reasons for these increases?

ANSWER

Climatic variations and dry weather conditions were the main reasons for the increases.

For water main breaks, the dry weather conditions made the visibility and detection of leaks easier as leaks are more easily detected in dry conditions than wet conditions.

For sewer chokes, unusually warm temperatures resulted in drier ground conditions which led to tree roots seeking moisture in the sewer pipes and therefore increasing the number of sewer chokes and breaks in the system.

For unplanned water interruptions, the climatic conditions resulted in the ground to shift around pipes and fittings, which cause water main breaks and pressure fluctuations in the system.

(b) What are the figures for these measures for 2014-15?

ANSWER

Water main breaks - 26

Sewer chokes and breaks - 69

Average unplanned water interruptions - 179

361. On page 91 of the Auditor General's Report Volume Five 2014 focusing on Electricity and Water, the report finds that for Hunter Water, the sewer main breaks and chokes per 100 km and the average frequency of unplanned water interruptions per 1,000 properties both increased from 2012-13 to 2013-14. (a) What were the reasons for these increases?

(b) What are the figures for these measures for 2014-15?

ANSWER:

a) Unseasonably warm and dry temperatures were considered to be the main reason behind increases in sewermain chokes, with drier ground conditions and tree roots seeking moisture in the sewer mains. The increase in water interruptions was attributed to several trunk main failures, with highest two events impacting 3,248 and 1,625 customers (representing 7% of the total customers impacted in the year).

b) 2014-15:

- **53.6 Sewermain chokes and breaks per 100km (NWI A14);**
- **266.6 Average frequency of unplanned water interruptions per 1000 properties (NWI C17);**

362. On page 91 of the Auditor General's Report Volume Five 2014 focusing on Electricity and Water, the report finds that 'water quality complaints increased for Hunter Water Corporation in 2013-14 due to operational issues which resulted in dirty water, 'white' water and taste and odour issues.' (a) What are the specific operational issues referred to in this statement?

ANSWER:

A spike in dirty water complaints occurred due to transfers of water between Wyong Council and Hunter Water. A change in the management of the transfer scheme has subsequently minimised the potential for dirty water complaints due to its operation. The Tomago Sandbeds was also operated for a period increasing the number of dirty water complaints due to the higher level of manganese ion in this water source.

363. How many complaints were received by Sydney Water in 2014-15?

(a) How many of these related to billing and account complaints related to meter reading issues?

ANSWER

5334

a) 2005

364. How many complaints were received by Hunter Water in 2014-15? (a) How many of these related to billing and account complaints related to meter reading issues?

ANSWER:

Hunter Water: 1,506 (26.9% decrease since 2010/11)

(a) 541 (42.2% decrease since 2010/11)

365. How many properties serviced by Sydney Water experienced low water pressure of less than 15 metres head in 2014-15?

ANSWER

133

366. How many properties serviced by Hunter Water experienced low water pressure of less than 15 metres head in 2014-15?

ANSWER:

Hunter Water's Operating Licence requires that no more than 4,800 properties experience less than 20 metres pressure at their point of connection for a continuous period of 30 minutes or more during normal operation of the water network. As there is no reference in Hunter Water's Operating Licence to water pressure less than 15 metres head this information is not readily available or recorded.

367. On average, how many litres of water does Sydney Water lose through leakages each day?
(a) What was Sydney Water's Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) for 2014-15?

ANSWER

**For 2014-15, around 99 megalitres (million litres) a day.
a) 1.3**

368. On average, how many litres of water does Hunter Water lose through leakages each day? (a)
What was Hunter Water's Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) for 2014-15?

ANSWER:

**(a) 16.62 ML
(b) 1.31 (Values less than 1.5 are considered 'excellent')**

369. In response to supplementary question 16 in last year's Budget Estimates inquiry, the then-Minister advised that: "Sydney Water is undertaking planning studies to investigate options for addressing the directed overflow on the North Georges River Submain that discharges to Lime Kiln Bay Wetland and overflows across the natural stormwater drainage catchment of Prospect Creek. The planning studies are scheduled to be finished by September 2014 for Lime Kiln Bay Wetland and December 2015 for Prospect Creek. These studies will identify the scope, cost and timing of any necessary improvement works."

(a) What is the status of these planning studies?

ANSWER

The planning study for Lime Kiln Bay Wetland was completed in June 2014. The planning study for Prospect Creek is on schedule to be finished by December 2015.

370. What projects under Sydney Water, Hunter Water, Water NSW and including the Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme currently have funding allocated to them, how much is allocated and what are the key commencement and completion dates for each?

ANSWER

This information is available in the Budget Papers for Sydney Water, Hunter Water, and Water NSW.

Country Town Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme

PROJECT NAME	2015-16	2016-17	Anticipated Completion
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			Dates
Boggabilla water supply emergency drought works	\$195,000	\$0	June 2016
Walgett water supply emergency drought works	\$1,000,000	\$1,121,900	June 2017
Yamba sewerage construction	\$1,463,769	\$0	June 2016
Dorrigo sewerage construction	\$851,302	\$0	June 2016
Nambucca district water supply construction	\$31,840	\$0	June 2016
North shore sewerage, Port Macquarie construction	\$1,100,000	\$90,000	June 2017
Cockle Bay area sewerage (Gosford), construction	\$2,680,000	\$2,000,000	June 2017
Condobolin water supply emergency drought relief	\$279,000	\$0	June 2016
Cumnock sewerage construction	\$291,288	\$0	June 2016
Lake Cargelligo water supply emergency pipeline - Merri-Abba bore	\$47,897	\$0	June 2016
Lake Endeavour - dam safety - construction	\$1,000,000	\$0	June 2016
Suma Park dam safety - construction	\$774,533	\$520,000	June 2017
Yeoval sewerage - construction	\$288,823	\$0	June 2016
Bega valley water supply - Bega pipeline construction	\$177,183	\$0	June 2016
Lithgow sewerage scheme – construction	\$214,000	\$0	June 2016
Lithgow water supply emergency drought works	\$20,000	\$0	June 2016
Murrumbateman sewerage - construction	\$1,400,000	\$445,000	June 2017
Rosedale/Guerilla Bay sewerage - construction	\$2,400,000	\$2,600,000	June 2017
Taralga water supply augmentation - construction	\$164,001	\$0	June 2016
Tumbarumba sewerage - construction	\$2,350,000	\$0	June 2016
Wallerawang sewerage augmentation - construction	\$567,000	\$0	June 2016
Young sewerage augmentation - construction	\$200,000	\$1,000,000	June 2017
Mudgee sewerage - construction	\$286,925	\$0	June 2016
Wyangala sewerage construction	\$4,362,110	\$6,537,600	June 2017
Ivanhoe, White Cliffs and Wilcannia water supply pre construction	\$600,000	\$600,000	June 2016
Pooncarrie water supply - construction of bore	\$250,000	\$0	June 2016
Total	22,994,671	14,914,500	

371. What revenue was raised each year for the previous three financial years from transferring disused water races to adjoining landholders?

ANSWER

2012/13 - \$0

2013/14 - \$4,070 (representing one contract sale for Lots 1 & 2 DP1190218)

2014/15 - \$0

372. In answer to supplementary questions 136 and 137 at last year's Budget Estimates, the then-Minister stated that:

“Sydney Water has been consulting with the EPA over the past year about a change to the licence conditions in regard to sewage overflow targets. Sydney Water is looking to propose to the EPA an alternative regulatory measure that supports an effects-based assessment (EBA) approach to overflows”; and

“Sydney Water is undertaking a planning study to investigate options for managing the wet weather flows that originate from private property across the natural stormwater catchment of Wolli Creek. Subject to the successful completion of this project, work could be expanded to other areas.”

- (a) What is the status of the discussions between Sydney Water and the EPA?
- (b) When will the EBA approach be implemented?
- (c) What is the status of the planning study?
- (d) What was the total cost of the planning study?
- (e) Was the study completed by an external or contracted consultant? i. If so, who was engaged to undertake the planning study?

a) Sydney Water has actively engaged with the EPA over the last 18 months to develop a risk based approach to manage and regulate wet weather overflows for four major coastal wastewater systems including:

- Northern and western suburbs (North Head)
- Eastern suburbs (Bondi)
- Southern and western suburbs (Malabar)
- Southern suburbs (Cronulla)

In December 2015, Sydney Water will submit a proposal to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to change the Environment Protection Licences (EPLs) to use the risk based approach for the four major coastal wastewater systems.

b) It will be implemented after it is approved by the EPA.

c) The planning study is 85% complete.

d) \$0.890 million.

e) The study is using contracted consultants.

The consultants are from two joint ventures:

EnsureJV consisting of Jacobs Engineering Group and GHD, and AAJV consisting of Aecom and Aurecon.

373. What funding has been allocated in 2015-16 to the: (a) Belubula Dam? (b) Wilcannia weir? (c) Walgett weir? (d) Bourke weir?

ANSWER

(a) Belubula Dam investigations = \$2 million.

(b) \$110,000

(c) \$3,587,000 (from Restart NSW)

(d) None

374. Where in the 2015-16 Budget is expenditure on the sewage pump out subsidy for Blue Mountains residents represented?

- (a) What is the specific allocation for the pump out subsidy?
- (b) What is the amount of money per household?
- (c) What is the volume/frequency of pump out this covers?

ANSWER

a) \$513,000

b) Subsidy amount per household varies according to the volume of wastewater.

c) The volume and frequency of pump out varies for each property.

375. Has the overall Budget for Sydney Water grown by the amount for the allocation for the pump out subsidy or has this money been recovered from savings elsewhere in operations?

(a) If new funding, will it recur each year?

(b) If savings, what has been cut to fund it?

ANSWER

Additional costs to Sydney Water from providing the subsidy is offset by social program reimbursement from the State Budget and are budgeted to recur each year.

376. How much funding did the NSW Government contribute to the Water for Rivers project for each financial year that a contribution was made?

ANSWER

Water for Rivers was the entity tasked with delivering the Snowy Water Savings Initiative. It was a joint program with funding contributions as follows: NSW \$150M, Victoria \$150M and the Commonwealth \$75M.

It was established in 2002 and ran for 10 years. On average NSW contributed \$15 million each year for ten years.

377. How much was spent by the NSW Government on the 'Capping and Piping the Bores' program in 2014-15? (a) How much has been budgeted for this program in 2015-16?

ANSWER

\$2.667m was paid as grants to landholders under the program in 2014/15

\$2m in State funds has been budgeted in 2015/16.

378. How much funding was expended exploring the feasibility of the Needles Gap dam? (a) Which consultants, if any, were engaged?

(b) What was the cost of engaging the consultants?

ANSWER

Please refer to the "*Water Security for Regions Belubula and Lachlan River Dam Investigations*" report, released in 2014/15.

(a) The consultants engaged for Phase 1 were MHW Australia and OD Hydrology Pty Ltd.

Preliminary investigations included consultants URS Australia. The consultants engaged for the Phase 1 report were MHW Australia and OD Hydrology Pty Ltd.

(b) \$383,893.01

379. How much funding was expended exploring the feasibility of the Cranky Rock dam?

(a) Which consultants, if any, were engaged?

(b) What was the cost of engaging the consultants?

ANSWER

See response to Question 378. It is not possible to split out the costs for the Cranky Rock site.

380. How many recreational facilities or publicly accessible parks are located at or next to dam sites in NSW?

(a) Please list them.

ANSWER:

Sydney Water – nil

Hunter Water – 2

- Chichester Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area
- Grahamstown Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area

Water NSW - 32

- Avon Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area
- Bendeela Recreation Area – camping and recreation area
- Blowering Dam – camping and recreation area
- Brogo Dam - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Burrendong Dam - camping and recreation area
- Burrinjuck Dam – camping and recreation area
- Carcoar Dam - camping and recreation area
- Cataract Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area
- Chaffey Dam – camping and recreation area
- Copeton Dam - camping and recreation area
- Cordeaux Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area
- Fitzroy Falls Reservoir - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Glenbawn Dam - camping and recreation area
- Glennies Creek Dam - camping and recreation area
- Hume Dam – camping and recreation area
- Keepit Dam - camping and recreation area
- Lake Brewster - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Lostock Dam - camping and recreation area
- Menindee Lakes – camping, lakes foreshore and Kinchega National Park
- Nepean Dam - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Oberon Dam - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Pindari Dam - camping and recreation area
- Prospect Reservoir – picnic grounds and recreation area, Western Sydney Parklands
- Split Rock Dam - camping and recreation area
- Tallowa Dam – picnic grounds and recreation area (Bendeela Recreation Area also nearby)
- Toonumbar Dam - camping and recreation area

- Warragamba Dam - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Windamere Dam - camping and recreation area
- Wingecaribee Reservoir - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Woodford Dam – walking and cycling tracks
- Woronora Dam - picnic grounds and recreation area
- Wyangala Dam - camping and recreation area

381. What are the details of each Sydney Water main break, listing the date and site of each incident, including the estimated cost of repairing each breakage, including all repair works and customer rebates for outages as a result of the breakages, in:

- (a) 2014-15;
- (b) from 1 July 2015 to date.

ANSWER:

From 1 July 2014 to 31 August 2015 there were 5529 water main breaks and leaks.

These breaks and leaks occurred across Sydney Water's area of operations and the cost of repairs ranged from \$200 to \$100,000. The value of rebates provided averaged \$42.

382. Has the Minister taken any action to require Sydney Water to report on the adaptive capacity of the network to cope with climate impacts including sea level rise, population growth and changes in industry over a 50 year planning horizon?

ANSWER

No.

383. Has Sydney Water detected any illegal or unauthorised rainwater tanks connected to the water system over the past three financial years? (a) If yes, please provide the amount per financial year.

This is a plumbing regulation matter. The NSW Department of Fair Trading is responsible for administering plumbing regulation in NSW.

384. Has Hunter Water detected any illegal or unauthorised rainwater tanks connected to the water system over the past three financial years? (a) If yes, please provide the amount per financial year.

ANSWER:

No

a) N/A

385. What does Sydney Water do to assist people wishing to install a rainwater tank?

ANSWER

Sydney Water publishes information on its website to assist those wishing to install a rainwater tank.

386. How many illegal or unauthorised services were detected by Sydney Water in each of the financial years:

(a) 2012-13?
1432

(b) 2013-14?
850

(c) 2014-15?
1737

387. How many illegal or unauthorised services were detected by Hunter Water in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- (a) No data**
- (b) No data**
- (c) 8**

Hunter Water has also identified the following number of illegal stormwater connections to the sewer system:

ANSWER

- (a) 40**
- (b) 19**
- (c) 60**

388. How much did Sydney Water spend on detecting illegal or unauthorised services in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- (a) \$239,000**
- (b) \$156,000**
- (c) \$279,000**

389. How much did Hunter Water spend on detecting illegal or unauthorised services in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- (a) No data**
- (b) No data**
- (c) \$27,000**

Hunter Water has also spent the following on investigating illegal stormwater connections to the sewer system:

ANSWER

- (a) \$195,000**
- (b) \$90,000**
- (c) \$16,000**

390. What is the estimated total cost impact to Sydney Water of illegal or unauthorised services in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

Sydney Water carries out investigations into water theft and undertakes necessary action to resolve the issue as required. The cost of investigating these matters is provided in response to question 388. Sydney Water does not estimate any other costs associated with water theft.

391. What is the estimated total cost impact to Hunter Water of illegal or unauthorised services in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER:

- (a) No data**
- (b) No data**
- (c) \$1,200**

392. What is the total cost to Sydney Water of blockages caused by wet wipe products in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER:

Blockages from wet wipe products cost Sydney Water around \$8 million each year to manage.

393. Are there any areas in particular that are most affected by wet wipe products in terms of water blockages?

ANSWER

The western and southern networks are the most affected across Sydney Water's areas of operations.

394. Will the Minister consider legislation to prevent the use of non-biodegradable wet wipe products at some time in the future?

(a) Has the Minister already sought or received advice about such a move?

ANSWER

Sydney Water continues to consider all options on how best to address these issues for its customers.

To date, Sydney Water has been working with its peak national body, Water Services Association of Australia on how to manage this issue in regards to the make and packaging of wet wipes. Currently there is an absence of an Australian, or International, standard on flushable products and their associated packaging. This is something the water industry is working on with the responsible agencies.

Sydney Water has been proactive on this issue by raising awareness through its 'Keep wipes out of the pipes' customer education program.

395. Regarding Sydney Water, how many instances of illegal or unauthorised trade wastewater discharges occurred in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- a) 0**
- b) 2**
- c) 5**

396. How much did Sydney Water spend on detecting illegal or unauthorised trade wastewater discharges in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- a) \$16,320**
- b) \$29,920**
- c) \$25,840**

397. What were the dates and locations of each instance of raw or diluted sewage overflow or any external flows from Sydney Water wastewater pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

a)

Dry weather sewage overflow – 2

Non-compliant wastewater treatment plant discharges - 28

b)

Dry weather sewage overflow – 5

Wastewater treatment plant discharges –17

c)

Dry weather sewage overflow – 3

Wastewater treatment plant discharges - 41

398. Regarding Sydney Water, how many properties had their water service restricted in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

a) 8,169

b) 8,743

c) 6,369

399. Regarding Hunter Water, how many properties had their water service restricted in each of the financial years: (a) 2012-13?

(b) 2013-14?

(c) 2014-15?

ANSWER:

a) 1,192

b) 1,787

c) 1,736

400. Regarding Sydney Water, how many properties had their water service disconnected in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

a) Nil

b) Nil

c) Nil

401. Regarding Hunter Water, how many properties had their water service disconnected in each of the financial years:

- (a) 2012-13?
- (b) 2013-14?
- (c) 2014-15?

ANSWER

- a) Nil
- b) Nil
- c) Nil

Ministerial Office Administration

402. How many staff are in your ministerial office? (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?

(b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

ANSWER

See response to question 149.

403. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff? (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?

(b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office? i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

ANSWER

See response to question 150.

404. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued? (a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?

(b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage? i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

ANSWER

See response to question 151.

405. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period? (a) If so, how many times did this occur? i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

ANSWER

See response to question 152.

406. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office? (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER

See response to question 153.

407. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office? (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

ANSWER

See response to question 154.

408. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals? (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals? i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

ANSWER

See response to question 155.

409. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office? (a) What were the gifts purchased? i. Who were they gifted to?

ANSWER

See response to question 156.

410. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office? (a) What is the cost of this?

ANSWER

See response to question 157.

411. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15? (a) Do they have ABN's? i. If so, please provide details?

(b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?

(c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

ANSWER

See response to question 158.

412. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

ANSWER

See response to question 159.

Ministerial And Office Travel

413. 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

See response to question 160.

414. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded? (a) What were the nature of these trips?
(b) Who paid for these trips?

ANSWER

See response to question 161.

415. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for: (a) Taxi hire
(b) Limousine hire
(c) Private hire care
(d) Hire car rental

ANSWER

See response to question 162.

416. Have you ever used Uber? (a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

ANSWER

See response to question 163.

417. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions? (a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

ANSWER

See response to question 164.

418. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions? (a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

ANSWER

See response to question 165.

419. Have you used Airbnb?

ANSWER

See response to question 166.

420. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

ANSWER

See response to question 167.

421. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money? (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

ANSWER

See response to question 168.

422. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle? (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

ANSWER

See response to question 169.

Labour Hire Firms

423. 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
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

ANSWER

See response to question 170.

Media And Public Relations

424. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
425. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
426. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

ANSWER

See responses to question 171-173.

Media And Public Relations

427. Have you had media training or speech training? a) If yes, who paid for it?
b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

ANSWER

See response to question 174

Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians

428. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

429. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

430. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

431. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

432. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

433. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

434. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

435. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

436. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

ANSWER

See responses to questions 175-183.

437. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?

438. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

ANSWER

See responses to questions 184-185.

439. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?

a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

ANSWER

See response to question 186.

440. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:

a) Social media

i. And the cost of these services

b) Photography

ii. And the cost of these services

c) Acting training

iii. And the cost of these services

d) Ergonomics

iv. And the cost of these services

ANSWER

See response to question 187.

433. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?

a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary

ii. Forced

b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

ANSWER

See response to question 188.

434. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

a) What was the nature of these works/services?

b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

ANSWER

See response to question 189.

435. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

ANSWER

See response to question 190.

436. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

ANSWER

See response to question 191.

437. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

ANSWER

See response to question 192.

438. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

ANSWER

See response to question 193.

439. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?

a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

ANSWER

See response to question 194.

440. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

ANSWER

See response to question 195.

441. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?

c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

ANSWER

See response to question 196.

442. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

ANSWER

See response to question 197.

443. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

a) What is their remuneration band?

b) For each SES employee, how many have:

i. 0 staff reporting to them;

- ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them;
- iii. less than 5 staff?

ANSWER

See response to question 198.

444. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- a) workplace bullying;
- b) stress leave;
- c) sick leave?

ANSWER

See response to question 199.

445. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

- a) If so, what is:
 - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
 - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
 - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

ANSWER

See response to question 200.

Department/Agency Travel

446. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine/private car hire
- c) Hire car rental

ANSWER

See response to question 201.

447. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

ANSWER

See response to question 202.

448. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?

- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

ANSWER

See response to question 203.

449. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

ANSWER

See response to question 204.

450. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?

a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

ANSWER

See response to question 205.

451. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?

i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

ANSWER

See response to question 206.

452. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?

i) What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

ANSWER

See response to question 207.

453. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?

a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

ANSWER

See response to question 208.

454. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

a) If so, how many times did this occur?

iii) What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

ANSWER

See response to question 209.

Wilcannia Weir

455. In early November last year the government announced a \$200,000 feasibility study for Wilcannia weir. How is this study progressing?

ANSWER

The feasibility study is progressing well.

456. How long is the feasibility study expected to take?

ANSWER

Expected completion by the end of 2015

457. What is the estimated cost of building the Wilcannia weir?

ANSWER

Estimates will be developed once an option is agreed upon.

458. When will the Wilcannia Weir be built?

ANSWER

To be determined once an option has been agreed upon.

Darling River

459. Are upstream irrigators, particularly in Queensland are taking too much water out of the Darling River?

ANSWER

Water diversions are capped. The primary cause for the current water shortage generally in rural NSW and the Darling River, in particular, is drought.

460. Should Cubbie Station have been bought up by the government when it was available to ensure the massive amount of water it can take from the Darling system does not kill the river?

ANSWER

Cubbie Station is in Queensland.

Broken Hill Water Supply

461. Where has the \$400 million in funding for the Menindee Lakes upgrade gone that was allocated by the Federal Government back from 2007 and after?

ANSWER

The only Commonwealth funding that has been allocated to NSW is up to \$800,000 for the NSW Government to undertake project planning, stakeholder consultation and detailed design work for a Menindee Lakes water savings project.

462. Why is the NSW Government spending \$122.8 million on Bore Water infrastructure for Broken Hill/Menindee water supply, when an alternate new emergency surface water pipeline could have been constructed along the Pooncarie Road or the current Anabranche Easement, which could have possibly been operational by now, giving good clean water as an emergency alternative to Bore Water?

ANSWER

When a critical water shortage looked imminent for Broken Hill, a sure and timely emergency supply was the immediate priority. From earlier investigations, groundwater was known to be present – there was therefore a high level of confidence that an emergency supply could be secured before surface water supplies ran out.

Importantly however, groundwater provides an alternative water source and therefore added security. It is not exposed to the extreme variability of surface water supplies. Supplementing surface water supplies with other surface water supplies poses a risk during a widespread drought.

Most rural NSW towns have access to groundwater, and use it particularly during droughts.

Aquifer interference policy

463. Can you detail the compliance and monitoring work, if any, that is undertaken by DPI Water to uphold the provisions of the Aquifer Interference Policy?

ANSWER

DPI Water protects the State's groundwater resources through a range of activities that include a robust compliance program including public education, investigation of alleged breaches, monitoring and a risk based audit inspection program.

DPI Water also works collaboratively with the Department of Planning & Environment throughout the life of a major project to ensure appropriate ongoing management and monitoring.

464. I refer to the advice of the previous Minister as part of the aquifer interference policy on the Caroonna Coal Project where he said: "There is not sufficient information to allow for a proper assessment of the impacts of the proposal on water resources." Are you satisfied with the Aquifer Interference Policy when this is the complete extent of its application for this project?

ANSWER

The Aquifer Interference Policy applies throughout the life of a project and is not limited to the gateway stage. The Policy ensures the necessary level of protection and ensures the impacts of petroleum and mining developments on groundwater resources are subjected to greater scrutiny and control.

465. Why has the Caroonna Coal Project been allowed to pass to the next stage in the planning process following the gateway without a proper assessment of the impact on water resources?

ANSWER

The project was issued a conditional gateway certification requiring further detailed assessment to address issues raised by the Mining & Petroleum Gateway Panel. A thorough assessment of the impacts on water resources will be included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Questions from Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC

Western Lands Commission

466. Do you support the Western Lands Commission remaining and being well-resourced to ensure that there is effective oversight of leases over the fragile western half of our state?

ANSWER

The Western Lands Commissioner and Department of Primary Industries - Lands continue to oversee leases in the Western Division of the state. The Crown Lands Legislation White Paper proposes new consolidated legislation to replace the Western Lands Act.

Flood plain rules change

467. Under the definition of flood plains under the Water Act, does the proposed Shenhua Watermark mine cover any areas that would be considered a flood plain?

ANSWER

A small percentage of the area of the project, if considered under Part 8 of the *Water Act 1912*, would fall within scope of the definition of a floodplain which was gazetted for the purpose of administration of Part 8 of that Act. Shenhua will be required to build a levee to protect the pits from flooding up to the Probable Maximum Flood. The levee will be assessed by DPI Water, and should not have any significant impacts on flood flows or flood impacts.

468. Did the Department of Resources and Energy consult with the Office of Water, or the Department of Primary Industries before make a decision about the definition of a floodplain in relation to Shenhua's Watermark coal mine?

ANSWER

The Division of Resources and Energy did not consult with the Department of Primary Industries, but considered a number of sources, including the definitions used for the purpose of the *Water Act 1912*, to develop a comprehensive definition that was fit for purpose for the exploration licence.

469. If not, are you concerned that the Department of Resources and Energy chose to make up their own definition of a floodplain to benefit Shenhua instead of consulting with your department?

ANSWER

Questions about the administration of the Mining Act 1992 should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy.