



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

# **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-2010**

## **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreation

Friday 18 September 2009

Answers to be lodged by: Wednesday 14 October 2009

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<b>Hearing date</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
15 September 2009	Local Government	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Mental Health	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Attorney General, Industrial Relations	9 October 2009 [21 days]
15 September 2009	Corrective Services, Public Sector Reform, Special Minister of State	9 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Lands, Rural Affairs	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Police	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreations	14 October 2009 [21 days]
18 September 2009	Juvenile Justice, Volunteering, Youth, Veterans' Affairs	14 October 2009 [21 days]

**Questions relating to the portfolios of Gaming and Racing  
and Sport and Recreation**

**18 September 2009, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

**Questions from Mr Ajaka**

1. Small Bars
  - a. What is your view about the prospect, despite a 12-month freeze on the granting of licences, of a proliferation of small bars in the laneways and alleyways of Sydney's CBD and entertainment areas?
    - i. Would, say, 1,300 additional small bars cause any problems in the regulation of liquor in the City and Regions?
  - b. What has been the experience in Melbourne?
  - c. [Depending on the answer] Are you aware that the small bars proposal, which saw over 1,000 new bars and coffee shop conversions in Melbourne, has been abandoned and the legislation closed down?
  - d. When the freeze on licences in certain entertainment precincts ends, how will it be possible to supervise and police the responsible service of alcohol at these establishments, particularly when there may be only one staff member on duty late at night?
  - e. As many of these small bars will not have toilets for the public, how will you be able to ensure the hygiene of Sydney's streets, especially late at night?
  - f. Do you share the same Parisian streetscape vision as the current Lord Mayor, with alcohol being served, outdoor and indoor, at small bars in the laneways and alleyways of Sydney?
2. Smoking
  - a. Do you believe that the current smoking provisions at licensed venues in NSW are appropriate, given the investment of some \$800m a year ago by hotels and clubs to comply with your Government's laws?
  - b. How long will these current smoking laws apply at licensed venues in NSW?
3. Internet Betting Exchanges & Interstate Corporate Bookmakers
  - a. What do you think are the impacts of internet betting exchanges in NSW?
  - b. What do you think are the impacts of interstate corporate bookmakers in NSW?
  - c. What is the Government doing about the decline in revenues attributable to corporate interstate bookmakers and betting exchanges?
4. Declining Prize Money
  - a. Do you think that interstate corporate bookmakers and internet betting exchanges are contributing to the decline of prize money available for racing events in NSW?
  - b. Is it fair that such interstate operators are allowed to operate in NSW, considering they give next to nothing to racing in NSW?
  - c. Does the Government have any plans to address this issue?
  - d. Do you share your predecessor's enthusiasm for licensing a betting exchange in NSW?
  - e. How much leakage is there from the NSW racing industry as a result of the diversion of wagering business to interstate-based bookmakers and betting exchanges?
  - f. What is intended to halt and reverse this loss?
5. Liquor + Gaming Magazine
  - a. What is the total cost of the quarterly Liquor + Gaming magazine?

- b. How many subscribers does the magazine have?
  - c. With the constant and often complicated changes your department has made to liquor laws, wouldn't it be more beneficial if this publication were made available online and free for people within the hospitality industry, to minimise the number of breaches to the laws?
6. Social Profile Report Series
  - a. How much did it cost to develop the Social Profile Report Series?
  - b. Can you tell me the total number of times these reports have been downloaded?
  - c. Which LGA report has been downloaded the most?
7. Cameron Review
  - a. What is the intention regarding the Cameron Review recommendation to legislate an amendment to the inter-code shares of distribution?
    - i. Why did you not include this matter in your response to the Cameron Review, a matter at the centre of a campaign running within the greyhound industry for the scheme to be changed?
  - b. What is your vision for the future of the racing industry?
8. AJC/STC Race club merger
  - a. What is your view of the merits or otherwise of a merger between the AJC and the STC?
  - b. As the Minister who commissioned the Review that recommended the merger, do you believe that the industry has shelved the Report?
  - c. What do you intend to do should the AJC & STC decide not to merge? Will you apply Ministerial force or encouragement to the question?
9. A letter on the NSW Sports Federation website from the CEO, Debbie Kemp, addressed to yourself, Minister, states that Government funding for the Sports Development Program is currently at an unacceptably low level in comparison to other states, namely Qld, WA and Vic. Ms Kemp states that in monetary terms, funding from your department has not increased for the past 20 years and in real terms, has actually decreased. Why has funding not increased, Minister, in line with other states over such a long period?
10. The NSW Government Sports and Recreation website, under the 'Grants' tab, states: "Information on the grants provided by NSW Sport and Recreation is currently being updated. Detailed information on grant programs will be available shortly." As the only 'Grants' available on the website are links to the Australian Federal Government's - Volunteer Grants 2009, how long has this been the case?
11. The website states that "Financial assistance and grants are available to sport and recreation groups and individuals through a number of sources, including the NSW Sport and Recreation's grant programs." Are 'Grants' currently available and has there been a pull-back of funds on this front?
12. The latest departmental annual report on the website 2007-2008, states: "Through the departments sports and recreation division, we invested \$22 million in sporting organisations and local councils."
  - a. How much was invested in 2008-2009?

13. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, under the Capital Assistance Program, 300 projects received \$4 million in funding.
  - a. Does the program still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the program in 2008-2009?
14. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, under the Regional Sports Facility Development Program, 300 projects received \$4 million in funding.
  - a. Does the program still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the program in 2008-2009?
15. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, the Country Athletes Scheme received a total of \$251,600.
  - a. Does the program still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the scheme in 2008-2009?
16. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, the Far West travel Scheme was awarded \$120,000.
  - a. Does the program still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the scheme in 2008-2009?
17. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, the Scheme for Coaches and Officials in regional areas was awarded a total of \$55,000.
  - a. Does the program still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the scheme in 2008-2009?
18. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, the Elite Athletes and Disability Program was funded to the tune of \$70,000, and \$35,000 was allocated for pre-elite development programs.
  - a. Do the programs still exist?
  - b. How much, if any, was allocated to the programs in 2008-2009?
19. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, the Disability Sport Assistance Program funded 36 projects to the tune of \$350,000.
  - a. Given this is an annual program that runs over four years, how much, if any, was allocated to the scheme in 2008-2009 and does the scheme still exist?
  - b. Has it been superseded by another scheme of a similar nature?
  - c. Why isn't this reflected on your website?
  - d. What happened to the money for this scheme?
20. According to your 2007-2008 annual report, \$25,000 was provided to support athletes' travel to international sporting competitions. How much was allocated in 2008-2009 for the same purpose?
21. Given the growing obesity epidemic amongst children, what is the NSW Government doing to better engage children in sporting and recreational activities and what are the results of any such programs in this regard?
22. In your department's 2006-2007 annual report, page 48 states that "in October 2006, over 70 staff from state sporting organisations attended the first in a series of sports industry forums" on the topic of developing 'healthy and active children'. How many forums were in the series and how many have been presented on this topic?

23. As you are aware, children and adults alike look up to sporting individuals as role models. Given this and the number of scandals throughout a number of sports, most notably Rugby League this year, what is the State Government doing to prevent incidents of unacceptable and anti-social behaviour of players away from the sporting arena?
  - a. Hence, has the Government designed a series of workshops / conferences / forums with the relative Rugby league or sporting bodies to encourage better player behaviour outside the sporting arena?
24. What is the NSW Government doing in regards to gender parity in sport?
25. Do you think NSW could ever compete toe to toe if Victoria is bidding for a major event, theatrical event or sporting fixture with the meagre budget, less than half of Victoria's, that you have given Events NSW?
26. Do you think a lack of funding in the major events portfolio hinders NSW's chances of attracting world-class major events to the state?
27. Considering that Victoria's major events budget is approximately \$67.5m per annum compared to NSW's budget of \$28.3m over three years, would you agree that major events is under funded in this state?
28. What is your vision and plan for Sydney and the burgeoning national and international conference and convention market?
29. Have you seen Melbourne's new Convention centre?
30. In what way can Sydney compete given its greatly inferior Entertainment Centre and Darling Harbour Exhibition Halls?
31. Will you grasp the opportunity, whilst it is in receivership, to redevelop the Entertainment centre site so that Sydney has a chance of competing with Melbourne and other cities around the world?
32. What is your vision to rival Melbourne's current superiority in both major events and in terms of a world-class conference facility?
33. Why is it that Melbourne hosts the premiere run of almost every blockbuster musical in Australia?
34. How is that when Sydney actually had the premiere run of 'Mary Poppins', it was snaffled by Melbourne as soon as events Victoria heard about it?
35. Did you hear Victoria has recently signed a deal with the AFL that will ensure the flagship AFL grand final is staged at the MCG until 2037?
36. Are you aware the NRL has indicated its Sydney grand final is up for grabs?
  - a. What are you going to do about the potential loss of NSW's heartland premier marquee sporting event?
37. Are you aware that the agreements to major sporting events in this state such as the NRL Grand Final, State of Origin, Bledisloe Cup and Socceroos matches will be coming to an end by 2011?

38. Are you aware that two English football clubs, Fulham FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers have all played pre-season matches in Queensland, Victoria and Perth, this year?
  - a. Did the Government try and get any of these sides to play games in NSW?
39. Did Sydney bid to host the Socceroos' farewell match before the FIFA World Cup Finals in South Africa?
40. Do you feel there is substance to the often heard statement that NSW has not taken an interest in major sporting events since the 2000 Olympic Games?
41. Do you think NSW has Australia's premier major events calendar? Why?
42. Following an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on August 27 that stated that Green Lantern movie production is considering moving overseas due to rising expenditure, can you inform us of recent negotiations you have had with Warner Brothers Studios?
43. Can you inform us what incentives you are providing to Warner Brothers Studios to shoot the film in Sydney?
44. Why was Eastern Creek Raceway deemed 'unsuitable' for Sydney's V8 Supercars event?
45. Don't you think \$30 million could have been spent upgrading Eastern Creek Raceway, a recognised motor sport venue, rather than erecting a temporary track at Sydney Olympic Park?
46. After spending years attracting businesses to Sydney Olympic Park after the games in 2000, did you even consult them despite this event causing them distractions for up to 10 weeks?
47. Do you have any plans for Eastern Creek Raceway?
48. Why did your Government push ahead with the Sydney 500 event, despite the opposition from the Chief of Events NSW, John O'Neill, and head of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Michael Knight?
49. Considering that media reports have dubbed you 'Minister for V8s' what bearing did your own personal liking of the sport have on your decision to ignore the views of those experts mentioned previously and commit \$30 million of taxpayers money to the event?
50. What was your role in bringing the Sydney 500 to New South Wales?
51. What influence did the Chairman of News Limited, John Hartigan, and Commercial Director of Channel 7, Bruce McWilliam, have in the lobbying of this event to your government?
52. Were you present, at any stage of discussions, in any meeting with Mr Hartigan and / or Mr McWilliam?
53. Repco Rally Australia
  - a. What consultations were there with the local communities prior to this event?
  - b. World Rally Champion Sebastian Loeb stated that "...if it is a lot of people that are not happy to see us then I think we have to move somewhere else because we can understand

- that they don't like the rally." In light of this would you consider moving the event to another location in the state?
- c. Keeping in mind that two stages of the event were cancelled due to protest action, do you consider the event a success?
  - d. Due to the community backlash surrounding this event, what future do you think this event has in the Tweed-Kyogle Shires?
  - e. Would you consider moving this event elsewhere due to this backlash?