

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009 - 2010  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2**

**Questions relating to the Central Coast Portfolio**

**Questions from Ms Parker**

**1. Kincumber Fire Station**

**a. Kincumber Fire Station was first announced in 1999, then funding for staffing was announced in 2000 and then again in 2008; when will construction of the Fire Station begin?**

**i. How many fire fighters will be located at the Kincumber Fire Station?**

**ii. as of September 2009, what is the estimated cost of building Kincumber Fire Station?**

**b. How many fire fighters will be located at the Kincumber Fire Station?**

**i. How many fire fighters will be employed full-time?**

**ii. How many fire fighters will be employed part-time?**

**iii. How many fire fighting vehicles will be stationed at Kincumber Fire Station?**

**c. When is the Fire Station expected to be completed?**

**i. How many Fire Stations have closed on the Central Coast in the last 14 years, as of September 2009?**

**ii. How many operation Fire Stations are there on the Central Coast as of September 2009?**

**ANSWER**

a. i) Construction estimates are only confirmed once land is acquired, the design is finalised and Development Approval is granted prior to going to tender.

ii) The current estimate for the construction (exclusive of design and project management fees) of Kincumber Fire Station is \$1.85 M (excl GST) as at August 2009.

b. Twenty one full-time fire-fighters will be employed at Kincumber Fire Station. No part-time fire fighters will be employed. One firefighting vehicle will be stationed at Kincumber.

c. The NSWFB, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, is finalising an agreement with Gosford City Council for the management of an offset parcel of land to allow for the removal of Scribbly Gum trees from the Fire Station site during construction. Once this agreement is finalised and Department of Environment and Climate Change approval is received, construction is expected to take approximately 12 months.

- d. There are currently 14 operational NSW Fire Brigade stations on the Central Coast. No fire stations have closed in the last 14 years.

## **2. Central Coast Roads**

### **a. What plans does the Government have to fix traffic congestion on Central Coast Roads?**

#### **ANSWER**

- a. The State Government has committed more than \$300 million in the four years to 2011, to improve Central Coast roads. As part of this commitment \$111 million has been allocated for Central Coast road infrastructure in the 2009/10 Budget.

The high investment in Central Coast roads is a continuation from the 2008/09 record year, when funding was boosted by \$34.5 million, or 43 per cent over previous years.

Key initiatives and allocations in 2009/10 for the Central Coast include:

- \$25 million to start work on the Central Coast Highway upgrade from Carlton Road to Matcham Road;
- \$15.6 million to complete the widening of the Pacific Highway at Ourimbah;
- \$14.4 million to complete the F3 Incident response scheme;
- \$13 million to start widening work on the Avoca Drive from Sun Valley Road to Bayside Drive;
- \$7 million for planning to widen the Central Coast Highway from Matcham Road to Ocean View Drive;
- \$6 million to start the upgrade of the Central Coast Highway at Woy Woy Road;
- \$5.5 million to finish widening the Pacific Highway from Tuggerah to Wyong;
- \$5 million to start improvements to Terrigal Drive;
- \$2.5 million to plan the widening of Pacific Highway from Lisarow to Ourimbah;
- \$2 million for planning for the upgrade of the Central Coast Highway at Brisbane Waters Drive and Manns Road;
- \$2 million to plan for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway from Narara to Lisarow; and
- \$1 million to plan the Pacific Highway intersection upgrade at Wyong Road.

These projects will join a growing list of projects completed since 2007/08 including:

- The intersection of the Pacific Highway and Dog Trap Road at Ourimbah (\$14.4 million)
- Upgrading the Central Coast Highway between Terrigal Drive to Carlton Road (\$15.1 million)
- Upgrading Avoca Drive between the Central Coast Highway (The Entrance Road) and Sun Valley Road (\$8.6 million)

- Upgrading the Pacific Highway at Tuggerah (Stage 1) from Anzac Road to Mildon Road (Part of the \$42 million upgrade of the Pacific Highway, Tuggerah)
- Upgrading the Central Coast Highway between Ocean View Drive and Tumby Road at Wamberal (\$42 million)
- Upgrading Dane Drive & Masons Parade intersection (Central Coast Highway) at Gosford (\$6.6 million)
- Installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Manns Road and Merinee Road at West Gosford (approximately \$850,000)

\$5 million will also improve transport interchanges and provide additional commuter parking at Tuggerah railway station. This is in addition to planned upgrades for commuter car parks at Woy Woy and Wyong.

### **3. Police**

- a. How many operational Police are there on the Central Coast as of September 2009?**
- b. When will Terrigal Police Station be re-structured as a full-time 24hr, adequately staffed, operational police station as per the request of thousands of Terrigal and Central Coast residents in petitions presented to the Parliament in 2009?**

#### **ANSWER**

- a. As of September 2009 there are currently 394 operational full time Police on the Central Coast.
- b. The NSW Police Force advises that the current staff levels and hours of operation at Terrigal Police Station provide an effective police response appropriate to the evidence based needs of the Terrigal area.

### **4. Gosford CBD**

- a. What plans do you have to rejuvenate the Gosford CBD?**
- b. What representations have you made to the Minister for State and Regional Development about Gosford CBD?**

#### **ANSWER**

The NSW Government continues to work with Gosford City Council to coordinate the revitalisation of Gosford City. An integral part of the revitalisation is the partnership between the NSW Government and Gosford City Council.

The Department of Lands and the Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding committing both parties to make the revitalisation of Gosford City centre a reality.

The Cox Group Pty Ltd has recently been selected as the design partners to prepare a Masterplan for the Gosford City Centre. The Masterplan is due for completion by the end of 2009.

**5. Ministerial Staff**

**a. How many staff are supplied by Premier's Department for the Ministry of Central Coast?**

**b. Where are they located? What are their salaries?**

**ANSWER**

One ministerial officer will assist the Minister for the Central Coast at Gosford. There is a separate staffing arrangement for the Central Coast office of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Regional Coordination Branch). The office is located at Level 3, 131 Donnison Street, Gosford, NSW.

**6. Terrigal and Wamberal Lagoons**

**a. How much funding will be allocated to the preservation, rejuvenation and protection of Terrigal Lagoon in the 2009/2010 Budget?**

**b. How much money will be allocated to the preservation, rejuvenation and protection of Wamberal Lagoon in the 2009/2010 Budget?**

**c. How much has the State Government contributed financially in the last financial year and last ten years, towards the maintenance of both Terrigal and Wamberal Lagoons, both directly and indirectly to Gosford City Council?**

**d. How much has the State Government contributed financially in the last financial year and in the last ten years, towards the maintenance of the Terrigal Lagoon Ocean Channel, both directly and indirectly to Gosford City Council?**

**ANSWER**

The NSW Government has directly contributed \$102,500 to Gosford City Council (GCC) for the maintenance and rejuvenation program of lagoons on the Central Coast. These lagoons include Terrigal, Wamberal, Cockrone and Avoca.

Additional in-kind contributions have also been made by the NSW Government.

Over the last 2-3 years the Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water has undertaken hydrographic surveys of Wamberal and Terrigal Lagoons. The data has been provided to GCC free of

charge for the Estuary process studies for the lagoons. The combined cost of the two surveys is estimated at \$60,000.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water also maintains water level recorders within the lagoons. This data assists GCC with the management of the lagoon water levels.

The Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority has also provided \$54,672 in the 2009/2010 financial year to assist with regeneration projects associated with Terrigal and Wamberal Lagoons.

In addition, GCC applied for and was granted \$75,000 under the State Government's Estuary Management Program 2009/2010 for the formulation of the Gosford Coastal Lagoons Coastal Zone Management Study and Plan. GCC, however, declined funding for this year and have indicated that they will be applying under the Coastal and Estuary Management programs for the 2010/2011 financial year.