

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

HEARING QUESTIONS

JUSTICE AND POLICE

1. BORDER FORCE:

- (a) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: What was the date of the last joint operation with Border Force?

Mr SCIPIONE: From an operational perspective we work constantly with Border Force. Border Force is an amalgam of a range of Commonwealth agencies, including Customs and Immigration. I have not got the strict details, and we can get that for you, but I suggest that we would operate every day with Border Force. Like every other police agency in Australia, the NSW Police Force is reliant on Border Force when it comes to protecting this State.

- (b) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Have you engaged the new Federal Border Force in a joint operation? ... For example, have you been undertaking raids of brothels with Border Force?

Mr SCIPIONE: I can take that on notice.

- (c) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Take on notice also how many joint operations took place in August, June and July.

Mr SCIPIONE: Certainly.

- (d) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: So you have not been approached to undertake any joint operations with regard to random visa checks.

Mr SCIPIONE: If your question relates to what was reported in the media last week concerning an operation in the streets of Melbourne, the answer from my perspective is that I have not been approached. That has never been raised with me as an operational consideration. ... Having said that ... I will take that on notice ... I will get the information and clarify that to make sure that if there has been a request made of us, we will find out and advise you.

- (e) The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Could you take on notice for me whether you have previously had memorandums of understanding with Immigration and Customs. You have already stated that you do not have one with Border Force, but please take on notice to check on the other two agencies.

Mr SCIPIONE: I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

Refer to supplementary response on this issue.

2: SINGLE UNIT POLICING

- (a) The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: How many single unit police patrols are scheduled to take place between now and the end of the year?

Mr KALDAS: We are happy to take that question on notice and try to come back to you with a more definitive statistical answer. In short, there are probably two areas where single unit policing operates mostly. There are a lot of one-man stations, or two- or three-man stations in the bush, where, on a daily basis, a police officer operates alone ... There are obviously practices in the Highway Patrol that Ms Burn may want to discuss.

- (b) The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I wish to follow up on the response given by Nick Kaldas. How many have taken place in the month of August, for example?

Mr KALDAS: It is impossible for me to guess, but I am certainly happy to have a look at it and try to get back to you. I will take it on notice.

- (c) The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Okay, if you can take that on notice, as well as how many single unit patrols have taken place since the beginning of 2015?

Mr KALDAS: Certainly. But if I could just clarify: you are only interested in the country policing areas or the Highway Patrol as well?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: I am interested in single unit policing, in general.

Mr KALDAS: Across the board?

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE: Yes.

ANSWER:

Refer to supplementary response on this issue.

3: TINK REPORT ON POLICE OVERSIGHT

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Will you release the report at any stage? I know you are considering it, but when will you actually release the Tink report?

Mr TROY GRANT: Until I have an opportunity to properly look at it, it is clearly not appropriate for me to comment on any of the specifics or the submissions and/or the report itself, but I am happy to address that and take that part of your question on notice.

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Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: But there is no issue: You will be publishing the Tink report when you publish the Government's response?

Mr TROY GRANT: That will be a decision for Cabinet.

ANSWER:

Refer to supplementary response on this issue.

4: LEVER-ACTION FIREARMS

Mr BORSAK (Chair): Have you received any advice as to how many lever-action firearms are already legally owned, including those with a magazine capacity of over five rounds?

Mr TROY GRANT: I have not received any formal advice. I believe that that advice is not in my office, but I can take that on notice.

CHAIR: Could you do that?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will. I have heard anecdotally that it was in the vicinity of 70,000, but I will take that on notice and confirm it.

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me as of 5 September 2015, the total number of legally owned lever-action firearms was 79,336.

5: ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN POLICING ONLINE APPLICATIONS

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ: Minister, have many students undertaking the Charles Sturt University associate degree in policing course lodged online applications over the past few years.

Mr SCIPIONE: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER:

Applicants vary year to year and therefore a defined period is needed to obtain statistical data.

6: IMPLICATIONS OF BIOSECURITY BILL 2015

The Hon. MARK PEARSON: Has the Minister consulted recently with the Commissioner of Police, Mr Scipione, seeking advice in regard to the implications and possible consequences of the current Biosecurity Bill 2015, whereby Government-appointed prescribed officers would have more powers than police officers to enter and search commercial premises, remove and destroy items, install surveillance devices, and demand and examine records kept on those premises without obtaining a warrant or having formed reasonable suspicion?

Mr TROY GRANT: No, we have not had that meeting as yet.

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The Hon. MARK PEARSON: Would you take that question on notice and look into that?

Mr TROY GRANT: I will take that question on notice—you would like us to have a meeting about that subject.

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me comment was sought on the Bill.

7: PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT (AND OTHER ACTS ENFORCED BY POLICE)

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Minister, would you consider the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act moving to the portfolio where the police would be the primary administrator? The police have powers at the moment under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, but two charitable organisations at the moment are administering the Act and serious concerns have arisen as a consequence of charitable organisations not being transparent and accountable, such as the police service. Would you consider moving the portfolio and the administration of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to have the police as the primary executor of that administration?

Mr TROY GRANT: That is not a decision I, as a Minister, can or should make. The allocation of Acts is a decision for the Premier. I point out that the NSW Police Force has delegated authority under a large amount of legislative Acts, including that one, including National Parks and Wildlife Service, across many emergency services Acts. I am happy to take it on notice and give you a list of all of the Acts under which police can enforce the laws and administer.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: In answering that question could you take on notice that this is the only criminal legislation where the primary administration is a charitable organisation as opposed to the police?

Mr TROY GRANT: I am happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*, authorised officers of the NSWPF, the Animal Welfare League and the RSPCA have powers and functions, and may commence proceedings for an offence against the Act. I am advised that officers from the NSW Police Force can also enforce laws relating to animal cruelty under other legislation, including the *Crimes Act 1900* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* is administered by the Minister for Primary Industries.

8: DRUG SEIZURES

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Minister, you gave evidence earlier that 800 kilograms of drugs had been seized from 2012-14 as a result of drug operations. What proportion of that came as a result of general drug operations and what proportion came as a result of

targeted operations where drug dogs were used with other police evidence, warrants and the like?

Mr TROY GRANT: For the sake of accuracy I will take that question on notice and provide that to you.

ANSWER:

I am advised the broad range of information requested would require a manual process for every report relating to the scope outlined and cannot be provided without extensive time and diversion of resources.

9: CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OF POLICE VEHICLES

(a) Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Commissioner, what guidelines are there in place for the corporate sponsorship of police vehicles?

Mr SCIPIONE: We have sponsorship guidelines that are published. Every command adheres to them. I am happy to make a copy of those available. I will take that on notice and make them available to you.

(b) Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Would they allow, for example, the Lake Illawarra Local Area Command, which got itself an Audi RS4 Avant performance vehicle for six months to put on its Facebook page, "The RS4 Advance has a powerful 4.2 litre FSI high-revving V8 engine generating a fearsome 331 kilowatts of power, 430 Nm of torque combined with a fast-shifting seven-speed S tronic dual-clutch transmission. The RS4 Avant sprints from rest to 100 kilometres per hour in an incredible 4.7 seconds. The transmission responds incredibly quickly to the driver's commands for even more dynamic driving." Is that kind of corporate spin, which has been found on a local area command Facebook page, compliant with the guidelines?

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Mr SCIPIONE: ... I would like to take some advice. As I said, we will have a look at this. I will take it on notice and come back to you.

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised the NSW Police Force *Sponsorship, Donation and Fundraising Policy* provides guidance in relation to sponsorship management.

10: NEW FIREARMS TECHNOLOGY

Mr BORSACK (CHAIR): Minister, I will return to the previous questions that I was asking. Can you provide a complete list of the types of new technology that your department and/or the Police Working Group are looking at, as referred to by the NFA review. I am very intrigued about the new lever-action technology supposedly of the Adler A100. In reality, I am informed that the technology actually goes back to 1876.

Mr TROY GRANT: To provide you with a proper list I will take that on notice.

ANSWER:

The NSW Police Force has advised me the Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group discussed a range of technical elements to the National Firearms Agreement which have been identified to stakeholders for consideration. Emerging issues are part of this consideration.
