



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

Special Minister of State, the Central Coast

Tuesday 25 October 2011

Answers to be lodged by: 18 November 2011

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

**Telephone 9230 3509**

**Fax 9230 2981**

**[budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

Hearing date	Portfolio	Answer to be lodged by
25 October 2011	Special Minister of State, the Central Coast	18 November 2011 [21 days]

**Questions relating to the portfolio of Special Minister of State, and the Central Coast**

**25 OCTOBER 2011, 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm**

**Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC**

1. In regard to Wallarah 2 Coal Project, at a rally held on the 28 of January 2009 the then Opposition Leader (now Premier) stated "The next Liberal National Government will ensure that mining cannot occur here, will ensure that mining cannot occur in any water catchment area and will ensure that any mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that common sense... no ifs, no buts, a guarantee! Do you acknowledge that you and the Premier have broken your promises to the people of the Central Coast?"
2. Yesterday in Estimates the Deputy Premier stated "proponents of a mining development, which has not yet been decided, would have some sort of expectation... that some sort of development would ensue and that some sort of return on their investment would follow."
  - a. Considering that Kores is now submitting a new application for the project site, how can you rule out a coal mine application?
  - b. Was the Deputy Premier misleading the Estimates committee?
  - c. Have you or staff of your ministerial office been approached by proponents of or Lobbyists of the Korean Government agency Kores?
3. What type of special legislation will be used to assess Mining Projects on the central coast in future?
4. Why is the Central Coast different from other parts of the state?
  - a. How will this "special legislation" fit in with the review of planning act and the Strategic Land Use Policy and the Minister for Planning's review of the Planning Act?
5. Opposition you told local ABC 92.5 FM program presenter Scott Levi, that the Central Coast has 5% of the State's population, so it should receive 5% of the State's Budget. What percentage of the Budget did the Central Coast receive, given the massive cut in road funding and not one new school, fire station, police station or ambulance station in the recent Budget?
6. When will the Maternity Ward at Wyong Hospital return to full service as promised by the Member for Wyong and the Member for The Entrance?
  - a. What steps are being taken to recruit the necessary staff?
  - b. Will this be a 24hr service 7 days a week?
7. Can you advise where the Central Coast Conservation Plan and North Wyong Structure plan is up to?
  - a. When will the public get the opportunity to comment on the Conservation Plan?
  - b. When will the final version of the structure plan be released to give greater planning certainty to the Northern Central Coast?
8. The previous Government invested \$309M in Roads funding for the Central Coast over the 2007 - 2011 period. According to the Minister for the Central Coast's Budget Press Release the O'Farrell Government is committing \$200M over the next four years, that's a \$100M cut. Can you outline the new timelines for the upgrade of the Pacific Hwy through Wyong, the West Gosford Intersection, the Ourimbah to Lisarow Pacific Hwy upgrade, the Kariong F3 Interchange and the Lisarow to Manns Rd Upgrade all identified in the Central Coast Transport Plan given that you've cut the Central Coast Roads budget by more than one third?
9. Is the O'Farrell Government committing to implement the Central Coast Transport Strategy?
  - a. If not, can you tell us which projects from the document the Government will support and which are being shelved?

- b. There was no money, for example, allocated for the North Warnervale Railway Station - has this been scrapped or pushed out into the future?
- 10. Is the O'Farrell Government committed to supporting the Central Coast Regional Development and Employment Strategy. (REDES)?
  - a. Have you held an update meeting?
  - b. What progress has been made on achieving the targets in the REDES Strategy?
- 11. The previous Government created the \$5M Central Coast Advantage Fund to assist in attracting investment and strengthening business opportunities for the Central Coast. Can you give us a breakdown on how that money is being expended and how many new jobs have been created since March 2011?
- 12. The 2011/12 O'Farrell Budget allocated \$2M to upgrade the intersection of Wyong Rd and Pacific Hwy at Tuggerah. Given that the Members for Wyong and The Entrance appeared in the Central Coast Express Advocate 7th June, asking the public to comment on the RTAs plan for that intersection which will cost an estimated \$50 - 60M, what is the Government actually committing to do?
- 13. If it is not the full upgrade, can the Minister explain how the Tuggerah Town Centre Plan can proceed, including the Westfield Development without creating traffic chaos?
- 14. Tuggerah Railway Station was scheduled for a \$5M upgrade including the installation of new lifts under the Easy Access Program. Can you explain why work suddenly stopped after the March election even though one new canopy had been installed and architects had visited the site to do designs for the lifts?
  - a. Also can you explain why after more than a year since completion why CityRail still has not taken possession of the \$5M commuter car park from the Dept of Commerce?
- 15. Will the O'Farrell Government commit to the Member for Gosford, Chris Holstein's call to fully fund the dredging of the Channel into Brisbane Waters?
- 16. When will the biocertification process be completed on the Warnervale Town Centre site?
  - a. Given there was no money in the 2011/12 Budget for construction of the intersection with Sparks Rd what is the current timeline for beginning construction of the main access road and will the O'Farrell Government guarantee the \$2M secured by the previous Government for that project?
- 17. Can you guarantee funding for the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation?
  - a. Why hasn't the Government supplemented their funding this financial year?
  - b. How can the CCRDC be expected to deliver on The Landing and City Link projects without a substantial funding boost?
- 18. Can the Government explain why central coast unemployment remains well above the State average of 5.5% at 8.5% as at September 2011?
- 19. In the latest September Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force data the central coast unemployment rate jumped from 7.3% to 8.5%;
  - a. What is the Government doing to address this unsustainable level of unemployment?
  - b. What policies are in place to improve job creation on the Central Coast?
- 20. What is being done to assist the youth of the central coast find work given the very high level of unemployment of 29.2% recorded in September?
- 21. Minister, How many submissions and representations have you made to Cabinet as the Minister for Central Coast?
- 22. How many staff are employed in your office to support you in your role as Minister for Central Coast?

23. Phones

- a. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?
- b. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- c. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- d. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- e. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- f. For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?
- g. How many phones or devices have been lost in your office?
- h. What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

24. Media and Public Relations

- a. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- b. What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- c. How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

25. Overseas Trips

- a. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
- b. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

26. Office Costs

- a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
- b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
- c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?
- e. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?
- f. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
- g. What is your office budget?
- h. How many political advisors are in your office?
- i. How many administration staff?
- j. How many Department Liaison officers are assigned to your office?
- k. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

27. Cabcharge

- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge since April?

28. Restructure

- a. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
- b. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
- c. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
- d. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

29. Agency Costs

- a. What is your agency's catering budget?
- b. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
- c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
- d. How much has been spent on stationary?

30. Correspondence

- a. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?
- b. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

31. Paying bills on time
  - a. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
  - b. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?
32. Grants to non-government organisations
  - a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
  - b. If yes,
    - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
    - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation, including goods and services tax?
    - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
    - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
    - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
    - vii. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
    - viii. What is the indexation rate applied to non recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
33. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews
  - a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews,
  - b. If so;
    - i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
    - ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
    - iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
    - iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
    - v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
    - vi. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

.....

**There were no additional questions on notice lodged by members relating to the portfolio of  
Special Minister of State, and the Central Coast.**