



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Finance, Infrastructure and Regulatory Reform

Monday 13 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Thursday 6 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
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Questions relating to the portfolios of Finance, Infrastructure and Regulatory Reform

13 OCTOBER 2008, 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Questions from Dr Kaye

1. The following questions concern the \$500 Safety Solutions Rebate Program which is available to small business employers in NSW:
 - a. Please describe the eligibility requirements
 - b. How long has the program been operating?
 - c. How many small businesses have applied for the rebate?
 - d. How many rebate applications have been successful?
 - e. How much money in total has been spent on these rebates?
 - f. How much money was budgeted for the rebate program in each of the last five years (including 2008-09)?

Questions from Mr Mason-Cox

Finance

2. Can the Minister calculate the additional contribution the State Government would have made towards its unfunded superannuation in this budget if it had used a discount rate of 6 percent to calculate its obligations (instead of 7.3 percent) and continued to meet the fully funded fiscal goal by 2030?
3. Can the Minister provide an update on legal proceedings in its dispute with the owners of Governor Macquarie Tower and what rent do you expect to pay for this lease in 2008, 2009 and 2010?

Infrastructure

4. Can you clarify which of the proposals in your State Infrastructure Strategy's \$140 billion proposed investment will now be dumped as a result of the financial problems Premier Rees has indicated necessitates the November mini budget?
5. Under the heading 'Highlights' in the State Infrastructure Strategy it is stated that 'although funding will be principally come from the State's annual budgets and prudent borrowing, Public/Private Partnerships will be used where appropriate'. Can you advise what criteria you will apply to determine where PPPs will be appropriate?
6. Prior to release of the State Infrastructure Strategy, can you explain what processes took place to determine those items to be included in and the priority of the so-called proposed \$140 billion infrastructure capital expenditure?
7. As there is approximately 388,000 square metres of primarily office space contained in Stage 1 and as there is discussion about adding approximately 150,000 square metres of office space, can you advise whether you support the additional 150,000 square metres proposal? If so, what criteria are you applying?

8. Can you explain the current issues around the removal of the passenger ship terminal at Barangaroo and how you see that issue being addressed after the development of Stage 1 of the Barangaroo site?
9. The *Newcastle Herald* reported early this year that the Chairman of the Hunter Development Corporation, Paul Broad, had accused you of reneging on a Cabinet promise that the Hunter Development Corporation would control 470 hectares of Newcastle Port land. Do you agree that you reneged on that agreement and if so why?
10. Can you explain why the community should not believe that you made a grab for the land to remain with the Newcastle Port Corporation so that you could do a deal with some of your mates on future development of the land?
11. What was your involvement in the writing of the NSW Government's submission to Infrastructure Australia?
12. How many times have you visited the North West Growth Sector and the South West Growth Sector since the March 2007 election?
13. How much did your Government spend on infrastructure in the North West Growth Sector in 2006/2007/2008? List the projects and the money spent on each.
14. How much did your Government spend on infrastructure in the South West Growth Sector in 2006/2007/2008? List the projects and the money spent on each.
15. How many times have you met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Growth Centres Commission, Angus Dawson? Please provide dates of meetings, what issues were discussed and who else was in attendance.
16. How many times have you met with Treasury officials to discuss the Infrastructure portfolio? Please provide dates of meetings, issues discussed and who else was in attendance.
17. How many meetings have you had with the Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally? Please provide dates of meetings, issues discussed and names of other attendees.
18. What is the NSW Government doing to leverage likely Commonwealth infrastructure investments through the Building Australia Fund (BAF) and Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) programs?
19. What projects were applied for in the current round of HAF funding in the NSW Government's application?
20. Do you agree that planning policy and infrastructure must be coordinated to ensure appropriate new development of the State?