



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
The Central Coast

Friday 12 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Wednesday 7 November 2012

Budget Estimates Secretariat
Telephone 9230 2412
Fax 9230 2981
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Questions from Dr. J. Kaye MLC

Energy

1. a) Why is the NSW Govt forcing electricity retailers to include misleading information on its post-1 July bills in the form of the new 'red text'?
- b) Why has the Minister not included the infrastructure component of bill increases?
2. What is the Minister doing to address climate change and the local health and economic impacts of coal mining and the use of coal to generate electricity in NSW?
3. What is the Minister doing to phase out coal mining and the use of coal to generate electricity?
4. a) Please provide a breakdown of the Solar Bonus Scheme costs to date and the sources used to pay them.
- b) What is the expected total cost at the completion of the scheme and how does this cost compare to reduced infrastructure costs (ie. peak load demand) negated with the uptake of solar throughout the State?
5. Please provide the electricity network dividends and income tax equivalent payments to the NSW government for each of the past five financial years?
6. Has any agency of the NSW government undertaken any research into the level of subsidy required to ensure that electricity generated by native forest wood biomass would be economic? Please provide details. If not, what steps have you as Energy Minister taken to have such research undertaken?
7. Has any agency of the NSW government undertaken any research into the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted per unit of electricity generated from native forest wood biomass (including GHG emissions from the logging itself)? Please provide details. If not, what steps have you as Energy Minister taken to have such research undertaken?
8. a) What is the current status of the NSW government's review into Transgrid's proposed Stroud to Lansdowne transmission line?
- b) If the review has been completed, what were the review's findings?
- c) If the review has not been completed, when will it be released?
- d) Does the NSW government share the view of Transgrid itself that
 - i) The Lismore to Dumaresq transmission line is not required until at least 2016 and maybe not until the 2020s?
 - ii) The Stroud to Taree transmission line is not required until the early 2020s?

iii) If so, what steps has the Minister taken to have these two projects taken off the table and to work with the local communities affected to drive investment in strategic demand management and local renewable energy supply alternatives?

End of questions from Dr. J. Kaye MLC

Questions from the Hon. S. Whan MLC

Land Use Strategic Planning

1. Do you think the Minerals Council has got it wrong when it says "This added layer of assessment has the potential to cause delays in project development, making it more difficult for NSW to attract investment. The flow-on effect could impact the state economy including through lost jobs and royalties,"?

CSG Investment

2. At the APPEA conference in Brisbane this week you recommended that companies should be looking at undertaking initiatives to invest in CSG in NSW, what do you believe that should be looking at doing?

Wallarrah 2 Coal Project

3. Have you or any members of your office met with the proponents of Wallarah 2 Since September last year?
4. Are you aware if the proponents have re-submitted a Development Application for this project?
5. Do you believe that this is a State Significant Development?

Revenue

6. What impact has the downturn in international markets for minerals had on employment in the NSW mining sector? Has your office or the Department done any analysis on impact in regional NSW?

Resources for Regions

7. Have your office or the department identified any projects that it wishes to be delivered through the royalties for regions program?
8. Do you believe that Resources for Regions is an adequate funding model for regional projects?
9. Do you believe that enough is currently being spent on regional projects in Mining affected towns?
10. Have regional councils raised their concerns with your office about the level of funding currently being allocated to royalties for regions?

The Central Coast

11. As Minister for The Central Coast do you have:
 - a. An office (apart from your electorate office) in The Central Coast?
If so where the office is located, which person or business owns the premises, what is the floor space, what is the annual rent, what is the staffing of the office and how frequently, if ever, do you work out of that office?
 - b. Dedicated staff to deal with this portfolio responsibility? If so, how many staff are there and what is their annual remuneration and in which office are they located?
12. How many times in the last twelve months have you visited The Central Coast in your capacity as Minister for The Central Coast
13. With whom did you meet and what was the purpose of the meetings?
14. Were you accompanied by any family members, staff or friends during those visits? If so who accompanied you on each trip and what was the cost to the taxpayer of this?
15. How many representations have you made to other Ministers in your capacity as the Minister for The Central Coast and what was the nature of those representations?

Miscellaneous

16. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
17. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
18. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
19. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
20. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
21. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
22. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
23. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
24. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
25. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
26. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

27. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
28. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
29. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money? If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
30. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
31. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
32. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
33. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
34. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011? If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
35. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
36. How many political advisors are in your office?
37. How many administration staff?
38. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
39. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
40. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?
41. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
42. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?
43. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
44. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
45. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
46. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
47. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

48. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?
49. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
50. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
51. What is your Department's catering budget?
52. What is your Department's stationary budget?
53. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
54. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
55. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
56. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
57. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
58. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?
59. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
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?
vi. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
vii. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
viii. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
60. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?
61. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
62. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?
63. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

64. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:
Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews?
If so, then
- a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
65. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
66. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?
67. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?
68. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
69. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?
70. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?
71. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?
72. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?
73. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?
74. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;
- a) Who conducted the training?
 - b) When was it conducted?
 - c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - d) Who paid for the training?
75. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
- a) kilometres travelled
 - b) accommodation,
 - c) air fares
 - d) meals/entertaining?

76. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;
- a) meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - b) functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
77. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
- a) Are these meetings documented?
 - b) Who attends these meetings?
78. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
79. Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;
- a) Who conducted the training?
 - b) When was it conducted?
 - c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - d) Who paid for the training?

End of questions from the Hon. S. Whan MLC