



The Hon John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

CENTRAL COAST BUDGET ESTIMATES

Question:

On 21 September Matthew Mason-Cox MP asked:

- 1 Minister, the sinking of the ex-HMAS Adelaide was delayed because the Government failed to conduct adequate consultation and those who felt they had not been consulted moved for an injunction against the sinking. How much did the government spend organising the functions in relation to the sinking?
- 2 What did the cancellation cost NSW taxpayers?
- 3 What action have you taken as Central Coast Minister to ensure the same lack of consultation does not occur before a new sinking date is set?

ANSWER

I am advised:

1 – 2.

The NSW Government had fulfilled all of the requirements necessary for the issue of a dumping permit for the ex-HMAS Adelaide to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. This included extensive community consultation through advertisements, conferring with stakeholders, community forums and question and answer sessions. I am further advised that several community groups including radio stations and surf clubs organised and publicised activities of their own to commemorate the date.

A total of \$100,430.63 was spent organising an event to celebrate the sinking of the vessel.

3.

The NSW Government will continue to comply with all necessary requirements, including consultation, in the lead up to the planned sinking of the *Adelaide*.


John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast 12/10/10



The Hon John Robertson MLC

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

QUESTION: Budget Estimates

Question:

On 21 September, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC asked:

Central Coast fast train proposal

4. Did you raise the Central Coast fast train proposal with your Cabinet colleagues and seek Cabinet agreement for the proposal prior to the announcement?
5. What guarantee can you give that the NSW Government will deliver the project with the Federal Government, given that the last – and almost identical – proposal was cancelled?
6. The delivery date for the last fast train proposal was this year – 2010. What is the promised delivery date for the new proposal?

Answer

I am advised:

4. – 6.

The Federal Government has committed to a \$20 million feasibility study into high speed rail, initially addressing the Sydney-Newcastle link of a Brisbane-Sydney-Melbourne system. Transport NSW will work in partnership with the Commonwealth to undertake that study.


John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

12/10/10



The Hon John Robertson MLC

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

QUESTION: Budget Estimates

Question:

On 21 September, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC asked:

7. Minister, the people of Warnervale are still waiting for a new train station. When will it be completed?

Answer

I am advised:

7.

I am advised that RailCorp is working with Wyong Council and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, to finalise a Plan of Management for an identified threatened plant species found at the station location.

In addition RailCorp is preparing a response to address the other remaining issues which Wyong Council has previously cited as reasons for not approving the prior Development Application.

Once the Plan of Management is complete, RailCorp's response will be submitted for Council's approval of the Development Application. The station concept designs will be revised once the Development Application has been approved, to ensure compliance with Council's conditions of consent.



John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

12/10/10



The Hon John Robertson MLC

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

QUESTION: Budget Estimates

Question:

On 21 September, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC asked:

8. Minister, CityRail reduced the number of station staff at Central Coast stations to the point where some stations are barely manned at all. Will the Government be adopting union plans to reinstate station staff to provide service and security to Coast commuters?

Answer

I am advised:

8. RailCorp has completed a review of station staffing for stations across the entire CityRail Network, with the aim of improving customer service and operating efficiencies.

The review was about matching staff numbers to customer service, safety and efficiency requirements on our stations. The reviews for Sectors 1 to 5 have resulted in more than 140 additional staff on stations compared to the pre review staff numbers.

The review included detailed discussions with staff and Unions, site visits and analysis of key information for the 245 staffed stations throughout the CityRail Network.

A further benefit of the review has been an increase in RailCorp's Presentation Services Division staff numbers to ensure cleanliness standards at 43 larger stations within all the Sectors.

The results of the review have been implemented at all stations on the CityRail network.


John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

12/10/10



The Hon John Robertson MLC

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

QUESTION: Budget Estimates

Question:

On 21 September, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC asked:

9. A number of residents near Gosford station have complained to you and Local Labor MP Marie Andrews about train horn noise after new policies were implemented by CityRail at Gosford Station. How many times have you met with the residents in question either as Minister for Transport or Minister for the Central Coast?
10. What representations have you had from Marie Andrews asking you to act on residents' behalf?
11. What action have you taken to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome is found?

Answer

9. – 11.

Some residents close to Gosford Station have raised concerns about an increase in noise at Gosford stabling yard.


I have received representations from Ms Marie Andrews MP on behalf of her constituents on this matter, both in writing and in person.

The primary area of concern for residents is the sounding of the train horn. RailCorp aims to minimise noise levels, to the extent practicable, from railway operations.

I am advised by RailCorp that its Central Coast Customer Service Manager met with a local resident in early May to discuss the issue and has continued a dialogue with the resident since then.

To date RailCorp has undertaken a number of measures to reduce noise including:

- Reviewing staff movements
- Moving and relocating rolling stock
- Reducing train amalgamation and division
- Reviewing stabling of the various train types in the Gosford Stabling Yard.


John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

12/10/10



The Hon John Robertson MLC

Minister for Transport

Minister for the Central Coast

QUESTION: Budget Estimates

Question:

On 21 September, the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC asked:

12. Minister, the Government introduced its new fare system and included Central Coast buses, run by private companies, but not the Ettalong to Palm Beach ferry, also run by a private company. Why was the ferry service not included?
13. Since becoming aware of the error, what action have you taken to amend the new fare system to include the ferry?

Answer

I am advised:

12. – 13.

The NSW Government understands that some private operators may be interested in offering the MyZone fare structure to passengers.

The Ettalong to Palm Beach ferry service is not a government owned ferry service. It is a commercially owned and operated service whose operations are not funded by the Government. Some government funding is provided to them to offset the cost of providing free travel to some pensioners/seniors and school student travelling under the School Student Transport Scheme (which was not affected by the introduction of MyZone).

While private bus operators who are part of the MyZone network – including Central Coast buses – are not government owned operators, the government's contractual requirements and conditions are significantly more onerous than those placed by the Government on the Ettalong to Palm Beach ferry owner.

Inclusion in the MyZone system will depend on an assessment of the overall benefit to the travelling public and the financial implications and risks for the taxpayers of NSW.



John Robertson MLC
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Central Coast

12/10/10