

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

**Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**

**Tuesday 25 October 2011**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 1. - Very Fast Trains**

- a. Has the NSW Government met with the Federal Government regarding any Very Fast Train projects?
- b. Does the NSW Government have a preferred corridor for a Very Fast Train between Brisbane and Melbourne?
- c. If yes, please provide the Committee with details of the preferred corridor?
- d. Has the NSW Government set aside any funds in the 2011/2012 budget for investigations or assistance for a Very Fast Train corridor through NSW?
- e. Is the NSW Government working with Local Government bodies to develop or amend Local Environment Plans for any Very Fast Train corridors?
- f. How is the NSW Government assisting communities who may be impacted by any proposed Very Fast Train corridor?
- g. Has the NSW Government made financial assistance available for any Very Fast Train projects?
- h. If yes, how much and which projects?

**ANSWER**

a-h. Regarding transport infrastructure projects more broadly, the NSW Government has established Infrastructure NSW and tasked it with developing a 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy and five-year State Infrastructure Plans. It is anticipated that Infrastructure NSW will submit both to the Premier mid-2012 as is required pursuant to sections 18 and 19 of the Infrastructure NSW Act 2011.

The NSW Government meets with the Federal Government regularly to discuss infrastructure priorities. In relation to the Very Fast Train, the Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services is responsible for the Very Fast Train (Route Investigation) Act 1989. The Act has not been statutorily reviewed in the past five years, nor have any of its provisions been activated. The Government has therefore commenced a review of the Act and make recommendations on how it can be improved to better fulfil its objectives.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 2. - Bells Line of Road**

- a. What are you doing as Minister for Regional Infra-Structure and Services to progress the Nationals long-stated support for the Bells Line of Road?
- b. What is the NSW Governments timeframe for securing a suitable corridor for the proposed Bells Line of Road Expressway?
- c. Has there been funds allocated for securing a suitable corridor for the proposed Bells Line of Road Expressway

**ANSWER**

- a. \$1 million funding has been allocated in 2011-2012 to start developing a long term strategic plan for the Bells Line of Road Corridor. The Plan will help guide the development and reservation of a road corridor for future upgrade works along Bells Line of Road. The Plan will also identify short, medium and long term activities for the development of the road corridor and recommend a timeframe for the implementation of these activities.
- b. Terms of Reference for the Plan were developed and an independent consultancy firm engaged to assist in developing the Plan. The plan is anticipated to be finished in mid-2012.
- c. Yes.



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**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 3. - Visits to Regional Infrastructure Projects**

a. What is the Department's involvement in developing, supporting and advancing regional infrastructure projects such as the Bomen Intermodal?

**ANSWER**

a. The Government has placed a new emphasis on infrastructure provision to support economic growth, which can be seen in the involvement in and support of infrastructure projects by NSW Trade & Investment. The Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) can provide support for infrastructure projects that result in new business investment and employment creation. In addition to financial assistance, NSW Trade & Investment officers provide facilitation services to overcome potential hurdles. For example, assistance was provided to Wagga Council to assist the development of the Bomen industrial precinct and intermodal terminal. Similarly Albury Council was assisted in the expansion of the Ettamogah industrial precinct.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 4. - Country Living**

- a. In policy documents before the election the National Party discussed the creation of a marketing fund to promote Country living. When is that marketing programme going to be rolled out?
- b. Will the Marketing Fund support programs such as Evocities and the work of the Foundation for Regional Development and its Country Living Expo?

**ANSWER**

- a. A promotional campaign to promote the benefits of country living will be released in early 2012.
- b. This promotional campaign is to support the Regional Relocations Grant program. The NSW Government currently provides financial support for initiatives such as Evocities and the Country and Regional Living Expo, which promote regional NSW lifestyles and work opportunities to Sydneysiders as part of efforts to build the regions.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**QUESTION 5. - Glendale Interchange**

- a. Does the Department have a role in advancing the Glendale Interchange Project?
- b. What is that role?
- c. There has been money set aside for the Glendale Interchange (\$1million), can the Minister please advise which departmental budget these funds are being advanced from and which Minister is responsible for administering the funds?

**ANSWER**

a-b. The Government has placed a new emphasis on infrastructure provision to support economic growth, which can be seen in the involvement in and support of infrastructure projects by NSW Trade & Investment. The Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) can provide support for infrastructure that results in new business investment and employment creation. In addition to financial assistance, NSW Trade & Investment officers provide facilitation services to overcome potential hurdles. Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees, which are partly funded by the Department, also play a role in prioritising infrastructure needs. RDA Hunter assisted applicants who applied for Federal infrastructure funding, including the proponents of the Pennant Street Bridge (Glendale Interchange). I am advised that RDA Hunter will be assisting unsuccessful applicants to re-submit their proposals.

- c. The question should be directed to the Minister for Roads.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 6. - Hunter Infrastructure**

- a. Do you consider funds going into Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund to be funding for 'Regional' infrastructure?
- b. Will the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund include investments into Newcastle?
- c. Is Newcastle considered by the Coalition Government to be 'Regional'?
- d. Will all future claims by the Coalition Government of 'Regional Investment' include funding to Newcastle?

**ANSWER**

a-d. The NSW Government is committed to policies that assist and encourage whole-of-state growth. These plans are articulated and funded in the 2011-12 Budget and NSW 2021. Actions to support job growth in NSW include:

- Delivering the Jobs Action Plan to assist business investment and growth to target 100,000 new jobs - 40,000 in regional NSW.
- Investing in new infrastructure through Infrastructure NSW and the Restart NSW fund – at least 30% of which has been earmarked for regional NSW and to tackle the backlog in infrastructure projects there.
- Implementing Resources for Regions policy, with up to \$160 million allocated to infrastructure programs such as road repairs for mining-affected communities.
- The Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund for projects in and around the Hunter.
- Developing Regional Action Plans which harness business opportunities and address impediments to growth in each region.

The Government has also amalgamated 12 assistance funds into two new programs – the State Investment Attraction Scheme (SIAS) and the Regional Industries Investment Fund - to ensure better alignment with the Government's priorities, as outlined in the NSW 2021 Plan. \$130 million funding has been set aside for these new funds which will capture emerging businesses, productivity, innovation, export and industry development opportunities, regional or industry restructuring needs and will be able to offset costs related to infrastructure or other establishment or expansion costs which would otherwise prevent a project from proceeding in NSW.

Applicants in the Newcastle City Council Local Government area can apply for the Regional Relocation Grants program in the event they relocate to eligible local government areas. Projects in the Newcastle region will continue to be eligible for assistance through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, the State Investment Attraction Scheme (SIAS), the Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) and the Jobs Action Plan. The

NSW Government will also work with the Hunter community to develop a regional action plan and will support applications from the area for Federal infrastructure funding made by Regional Development Australia – Hunter.

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**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 7. - Infrastructure NSW**

- a. Are there written guidelines on how the Department of Regional Infrastructure and Services will interact with Infrastructure NSW?
- b. If yes, can you please provide the guidelines?

**ANSWER**

- a. Mr Mark Paterson, Director General, NSW Trade & Investment, is a member of the board of Infrastructure NSW.
- b. Not applicable.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 8. - Regional Relocation Grants**

a. Why is Newcastle not included, in fact it is explicitly excluded, in the Regional Relocation Grants?

**ANSWER**

a. The NSW Government is committed to policies that assist and encourage whole-of-state growth. These plans are articulated and funded in the 2011-12 Budget and NSW 2021. Actions to support job growth in NSW include:

- Delivering the Jobs Action Plan to assist business investment and growth to target 100,000 new jobs - 40,000 in regional NSW.
- Investing in new infrastructure through Infrastructure NSW and the Restart NSW fund – at least 30% of which has been earmarked for regional NSW and to tackle the backlog in infrastructure projects there.
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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 9. - Previous Commitments**

- a. Can you confirm that most of the \$63m for regional development programs to be spent in 2011/12 are actually carry over programs and commitments from the previous Government?
- b. Please list all new funding for Regional Development in the budget? Please exclude carry over programmes from the previous Government and Commonwealth funding?

**ANSWER**

a-b. Upon coming into Government the NSW Liberals & Nationals were advised that the piecemeal approach to business assistance as developed under the previous government was sub-optimal and that a number of business assistance programs were over-subscribed over the forward estimates.

The advice to the incoming government was to establish two new programs – the State Investment Attraction Scheme (SIAS) and the Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) – to ensure the best projects in the State were being progressed. This also provides for better alignment of these programs with the Government's priorities as outlined in the NSW 2021 Plan. The Government's view is that removing rigid eligibility criteria, especially based on geographic location, will allow greater flexibility in attracting investment and jobs to Illawarra and other parts of the state.

The Government has therefore amalgamated eleven investment attraction programs into two investment programs - the Regional Industries Investment Fund (RIIF) and the State Investment Attraction Scheme (SIAS). These two new programs will complement the Jobs Action Plan, which is targeting 100,000 new jobs, with 40,000 of those in regional NSW. In all program arrangements, expenditure reflects both past commitments and new commitments made during the current year. The timing of payments made to companies and organisations is dependent upon agreed milestones being met.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 24 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 10. - Regional Infrastructure Projects**

a. What regional infrastructure projects has the Department of Regional Infrastructure and Services been responsible for funding in the 2011/2012 Budget? Please provide a list and the funding allocations?

**ANSWER**

a. The following regional infrastructure projects have received funding from NSW Trade & Investment through the in the 2011-2012 budget:

- Wingecarribee Shire Council – Douglas Road Upgrade (\$1,325,000)
- Clarence Valley Council – Palmers Channel Dredging (\$30,000)
- Blayney Shire Council – Blayney Sealink Site (\$183,750)

A further 14 projects have been approved for funding assistance and will be paid once agreed milestones have been met.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 11. - Regional Development Offices**

- a. How many Regional Development Offices are there in NSW?
- b. Where are they located?
- c. How many staff (FTE) are employed at each office?
- d. Which Regional Development Offices will be closed in your term in Government?

**ANSWER**

- a. NSW Trade & Investment has 16 regional offices, located outside the Sydney Metropolitan area. The Department also has an office in Western Sydney in Parramatta, in addition to its main office in Sydney CBD.
- b. Offices are located at Nowra, Wollongong, Goulburn, Newcastle, Ourimbah, Orange, Dubbo, Broken Hill, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Tamworth, Lismore and Tweed Heads.
- c. Staff figures for the agency are reported in the Department's Annual Report
- d. The Government has no plans to close NSW Trade & Investment regional offices.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 12. - Regional Policy**

a. There have been very few statements or policy announcements with regard to Regional Development by the O'Farrell Government. When will there be policy initiatives in the important area of Regional Development announced for regions west of the dividing range?

**ANSWER**

- a. The NSW Liberals & Nationals plan to kick start regional NSW was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of regional NSW at the election on March 26. These plans have been further articulated and developed in the 2011-12 Budget and NSW 2021. A priority of NSW 2021 is to drive growth in regional NSW. Actions to support job growth in regional NSW include:
- Delivering the Jobs Action Plan to assist business investment and growth to target 40,000 new jobs in regional NSW.
  - Developing Regional Action Plans which harness business opportunities and address impediments to growth in each region.
  - Investing in regional infrastructure with 30% of the Restart NSW fund earmarked for regional NSW to tackle the backlog in infrastructure projects.
  - Implementing Resources for Regions policy, with up to \$160 million allocated to infrastructure programs such as road repairs for affected mining communities.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals have a target to increase the population in regional NSW by 470,000 by 2036. Actions to deliver this target include:

- Implementing the \$7,000 Regional Relocation Grants to encourage population and economic growth in regional NSW.
- Maximising opportunities to decentralise government services.



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**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

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**QUESTION 13. - Regional Relocation Grant**

- a. How many people have been successful in receiving the Regional Relocation Grant as of today's date?
- b. How many people have applied?
- c. Where in Sydney were they located before the move?
- d. Where did they move to?
- e. How many west of the dividing range?
- f. What were the ages of the successful recipients?
- g. With regard to the marketing of the programme. How much has been spent so far in advertising the scheme out of the 1 million?
- i. Is there a budget for the campaign?
- ii. Who was engaged to prepare the marketing?
- iii. Was the ad campaign an open tender or a selective/exclusive process?
- iv. Contract for the work?
- h. How many people are responsible for administering the Grant program?
- i. How many Staff are paid to check compliance with the Grant Program?
- j. How do you intend to recoup the money if recipients do not adhere to the conditions of the Grant Program?
- k. Can you guarantee that unspent funds will not be considered "windfall gains"?
- l. Can you guarantee that any unspent funds will in fact be spent in Country NSW – West of the dividing range?

**ANSWER**

a – f. The Minister for Finance and Services and his agency, the Office of State Revenue, has responsibility for administering the grants

g. NSW Trade & Investment advises that, to date, \$46,000 has been committed in developing the campaign.

i. Yes, the budget for the campaign is \$750,000.

ii. The marketing is being managed in-house, with external assistance provided on production.

iii. Yes, the proposal was put to a competitive selection process.

iv. Yes.

h-l. The Minister for Finance and Services and his agency, the Office of State Revenue, has responsibility for administering the grants.



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**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**QUESTION 14. - Resources for Regions**

- a. Before the election the Nationals had a policy – Resources for Regions. That has now been relegated to one line in the Restart NSW Legislation. Will there be a separate Resources for Regions fund?
- b. Is the current Resources for Regions arrangement a part of the 30% allocation for NSW?
- c. The Government has promised to create \$160m resources for the regions program for mining affected areas, how much funding will be available from Restart NSW in each of the next four financial years for this program?
- d. How will you determine which communities are eligible for the funding?
- e. What mechanisms have you put in place to ensure that projects receiving funding under the Resources for Regions component of Restart NSW would not have received funding under other programs – in other words how are you guaranteeing this is not replacement funding?
- f. Will the unspent funds from this programme each year be considered "windfall gains"?
- g. Will unspent funds from this programme each year be quarantined and only spent in communities impacted upon by mining?

**ANSWER**

a-e) In recognition of the need to return a fair share to the regions the NSW Government is committed to delivering our 'Regional Kickstart' program. Under this program the Government will allocate 30% of our new capital fund – 'Restart NSW' - into regional NSW in our first term. A portion of this – up to \$160M over four years - will be directed to 'Resources for the Regions' to deliver infrastructure for mining-affected communities.

The first step – the assessment of the economic impact on mining-affected regions and on the contribution they make to the State in economic activity and production of revenue – is progressing on schedule.

This process has involved the Department of Trade and Investment; Office of Resources and Energy; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Department of Planning and Infrastructure; NSW Treasury; Department of Finance and Services; and Transport for NSW.

Restart NSW is being funded from appropriations by Parliament and the budget process, including any such money certified as 'windfall tax revenue'; realisation of the capital invested in assets, such as from the Sydney Desalination Plant and Port Botany; and potentially borrowings, including the issue of special bonds to the people of New South Wales such as Waratah bonds.



The economic assessment of mining affected communities is progressing on schedule, after which the Government will move to begin addressing some of the impacts of the current mining boom on communities in the Hunter, Upper Hunter and elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stoner', with a stylized, flowing script.

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**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

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**QUESTION 15. – Restart NSW**

- a. The Government suggested that its Restart NSW fund would have nearly \$5 billion, being \$1.5 billion from the arrangement with the desal plant and \$3.5 billion from 'windfall gains'. What is Treasury's prediction for how much will be in the fund and in which years will it be available?
- b. What arrangements does the Government have in place to ensure that Restart NSW funds are not replacing other Government capital funds?
- c. Can you guarantee that all infra-structure funded by the Restart NSW programme will not be for projects already funded? It is for new infra-structure projects?
- d. When will projects commence to be funded from Restart NSW?
- e. Why is the rural component capped at 30%?
- f. Will spending from Restart NSW for Country NSW exceed the 30% limit?
- g. Please provide the Local Government Area's that are defined as "Country" for the purposes of Restart NSW funding?
- h. When can we expect this programme to actually start?

**ANSWER**

a. The Treasurer administers Restart NSW.

b and c. Infrastructure NSW will assess all projects for merit and to ensure that there is no duplication of funding.

d. Projects will commence once recommended by Infrastructure NSW. Infrastructure NSW is currently developing a 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) and detailed five year Infrastructure Plans, which will be funded in Budget forward estimates.

e. The Government has quarantined at least 30% of Restart NSW for projects in regional NSW.

f. See (e).

g. The Local Government Areas defined as "Country" are all those located outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area, which includes the following Local Government Areas (LGAs): Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, City of Botany Bay, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, City of Canada Bay Council, Canterbury, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, The Hills, Holroyd, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Liverpool, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, Newcastle, North Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland, City of Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollongong, Woollahra, Wollondilly.

- a. The program will start once the 20 year State Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) and detailed five year Infrastructure Plans are finalised.

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**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 16. - Road Maintenance Contract Contestability**

- a. How will regional jobs be affected by the road maintenance contestability policy being implemented by the Government given that it will likely lead to a number of country Councils no longer providing these services?
- b. Has the Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services had any involvement in developing the proposals for road contestability or implementation of the road maintenance contestability policy?
- c. If yes, what was the nature of this involvement?

**ANSWER**

- a.- c. The Minister for Roads has responsibility for road maintenance.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 17. – 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?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

a. to e. For all Ministerial Offices, there is a total of:

- i. Blackberries – 151
- ii. iPads – 19
- iii iPhones - 3

f. Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

g. to h. For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 18. - 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?

**ANSWER**

- a. In total, there are 4.5 staff in media and public affairs positions in my portfolios of Trade and Investment and Regional Infrastructure and Services.
- b. Employee costs are pursuant to standard provisions contained within the legislative and regulative framework for the NSW Public Sector and are contained within the Annual Report.
- c. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website. Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set out to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
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**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**QUESTION 19. – 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?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

- a. Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the relevant Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 'Release of Overseas Travel Information'.
- b. No.



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**QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**QUESTION 20. – 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?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

a. to c. and h. to i. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

d. and g. Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are set to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

e. and f. No.

j. refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0681—Premier—DEPARTMENTAL LIAISON OFFICERS, that details this information as at 7 August 2011.

k. The Minister for Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services is provided one Ministerial driver. Three (3) FTE staff of the Ministerial Liaison Unit of the Department are assigned to support duties for the Minister for Trade and Investment and Regional Infrastructure and Services.



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**Deputy Premier**



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 21. – Cabcharge**

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

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

a. For all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**QUESTION 22. - 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?

**ANSWER**

- a. NSW Trade & Investment constantly reviews its organisation to ensure that it is responsive to the changing social and economic climate in which it operates.
- b. No decisions have been taken regarding changes in employee numbers or roles at this time.
- c. See above. It is not envisaged any wages will be cut, indeed the NSW Government has ensured a base 2.5% annual increase to wages with the potential for further increases if matched with productivity increases.
- d. See b.



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
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**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 23. - 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 stationery?

**ANSWER**

a - d. Expenditures are fully detailed in the Department's Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stoner', is positioned above the printed name.

**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 24. - 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?

**ANSWER**

I am advised:

a. and b. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 25. 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?

**ANSWER**

a and b. In accordance with its election commitment the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has instituted a policy of paying bills on time. This policy came into effect on 11 July 2011. Payments for outstanding accounts are to be made by Government agencies within 30 calendar days or they will face paying penalty interest on the outstanding debt. State Owned Corporations will be encouraged to adopt the payment regime. Agencies have been directed to report their payment performance to the Department of Finance and Services who will post the Government's payment performance report every quarter on their website. The Auditor-General will conduct a compliance review in 2013 to ensure the on-time payment policy is adhered to.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 26. - 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?

**ANSWER**

a – b. NSW Government agencies provide grants to local government councils and a range of non-government, non-profit organisations for the purpose of providing a service to the community or undertaking a project of benefit to the community.

Grants administration in NSW occurs within the legal and regulatory framework in which the NSW Government operates.

All Government Departments and authorities are required to publish details of grants made to non-government organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier's Memorandum 91-34.

The policy has not changed since Labor was in Government.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Budget Estimates – Regional Infrastructure & Services Portfolio**  
**(Asked 25 October 2011)**

**Question asked by the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.**

**QUESTION 27. - 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?

**ANSWER**

a. and b. As with previous NSW governments, the Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.



**Hon. Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier**

