

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**RESOURCES AND ENERGY, SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE**

**20 August 2014**

<b>Answers to be returned by:</b>	<b>Thursday 12 September 2014</b>
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**Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC**

**ENERGY**

- 1. Please detail how the Department of Resources and Energy and the Office of Environment and Heritage collaborate on the development of a coherent energy policy approach in NSW**

The Division of Resources and Energy works closely with the Office of Environment and Heritage to develop and implement energy policy in NSW to support the goals of the NSW Governments 10-year plan for growth, *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one*.

In relation to the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, the Minister for the Environment leads delivery while working with me to deliver actions that hold joint responsibility. The Office of Environment and Heritage and the Division of Resources and Energy therefore work together to jointly deliver, monitor and undertake projects to implement energy policy in NSW.

In relation to the Renewable Energy Action Plan, I am responsible for delivery, while the Office of Environment and Heritage has specific responsibility for a number of individual actions under the Plan, including those relating to the Regional Clean Energy Program. An interagency working group, which includes representatives from the Office of Environment and Heritage, has been established to ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach to the implementation of the Plan.

Both agencies also sit on a number of other interagency working groups that meet regularly to develop and implement energy policy. These include expert panel meetings for biofuels and working group meetings for the Energy Savings Scheme.

The Division of Resources and Energy will continue to work closely with the Office of Environment and Heritage and other Government agencies to ensure a coordinated whole-of-government approach to energy policy in NSW.

- 2. Considering that the Australian Energy Market Operator states that NSW will not require any new generation before 2022-23, will the Minister be advocating that the planning approval for additional capacity at the Bayswater B and Mt Piper coal-fired power stations be revoked?**

**(a) If not why not?**

These planning approvals were granted by the then Minister for Planning in January 2010 and remain valid for a period of 10 years until January 2020.

Development consent does not require the construction of additional capacity, and as such, the project owners will only pursue such expansion if economic conditions are favourable.

If, contrary to current forecasts by the Australian Energy Market Operator, these conditions do eventuate within the 10 year approval period, or if the outlook post 2022-23 flags a need for additional capacity, these projects are well positioned to ensure the continued reliability of electricity supply to NSW customers.

As I outlined in the Committee hearing, the market is empowered to determine when, how, and in what form new generation is brought online. We have sufficient generation capacity ready to be built should demand start to increase. The people and businesses of New South Wales can be assured of sufficient electricity supplies into the future.

**3. Please provide more information on the role and recent activities of the NSW Renewable Energy Advocate.**

Amy Kean is Australia's first Renewable Energy Advocate, a position established to support the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan (the Plan).

The Advocate has been appointed to work closely with NSW communities and industry to facilitate the development and generation of renewable energy.

Appointing an Advocate for the first time underlines the NSW Government's commitment to ensuring energy security through diversity.

In the first year of the Plan's implementation, the Advocate has:

- facilitated the development of 15 large-scale renewable energy projects;
- met with over 140 individuals and organisations in the renewable energy sector and provided targeted support for 15 large-scale projects totalling 3600 megawatts, including AGL's Solar Flagships projects in Nyngan and Broken Hill; and
- promoted NSW as open for business in renewables at a number of industry events and policy briefings.

**4. Please list all the current policies and projects that the NSW Department of Resources and Energy is involved in that are related to the expansion of the renewable energy sector in NSW. Please provide the expenditure against all policies and projects, broken down by grants, employee related and other.**

In September 2013, the Government released the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan (the Plan) to guide NSW's renewable energy development and to support the national target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020.

The first annual report of the Plan for 2014 will be released later this year and will outline the progress that has been made against it.

5. **Please list all the current policies and projects that the NSW Department of Resources and Energy is involved in that are related to the fossil fuel energy sector in NSW. Please provide the expenditure against all policies and projects, broken down by grants, employee related and other.**

The Division of Resources and Energy plays an important role in the sustainable development of the resources and energy sectors in NSW. Policy and projects across the coal and petroleum areas are a vital part of this role. A number of policies and projects are currently under-way in this area.

6. **Has the NSW Department of Resources and Energy conducted or commissioned any studies into the potential employment benefits of increasing renewable energy generation in NSW?**
- (a) If so, is the study publically available?**
  - (b) If not, why not?**

The Division of Resources and Energy (the Division) has not conducted or commissioned any studies into the potential employment benefits of increasing renewable energy generation in NSW. The former Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now the Office of Environment and Heritage) commissioned the Climate Institute and SKM-MMA to undertake an extensive NSW job study in 2011. The study found that 6,000 new jobs would be created in regional NSW over 20 years through construction, installation, manufacture and operation of renewable energy technologies and that the majority of these jobs would be in regional parts of NSW.

The Division has drawn on information and data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance and the Clean Energy Council to report on current direct and indirect NSW renewable energy jobs.

For information about future renewable energy jobs in NSW, the Division has referred to publicly available data on the Department of Planning & Environment's website (for large-scale renewable energy jobs) and the Australian Energy Market Operator's website (for small-scale solar PV jobs).

7. **Please provide an update on the implementation of the September 2013 Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP), specifically**
- (a) Goal 9 on page iii "engage with the Commonwealth Government to facilitate the construction of the Solar Flagships Project"**
  - (b) Goal 21 on page iii "support research into applications of geothermal assisted power generation"**

The first annual report on the Renewable Energy Action Plan for 2014 will be released later this year.

(a) The NSW Government has played a key role in supporting and facilitating the development of AGL's \$450 million, 155 megawatt Solar Flagships projects in Nyngan and Broken Hill, which have both commenced construction.

The NSW Government is providing \$64.9 million to the \$450 million Solar Flagships project.

The NSW Government has worked closely with the projects' proponent AGL to help resolve a number of barriers to facilitate construction of the projects.

(b) A geothermal project has been undertaken to apply modern statistical machine learning and data fusion methods to geothermal data to improve exploration, discovery and characterisation of geothermal targets.

The project team was made up of partners from four universities who worked with geothermal companies and research organisations.

The project was awarded \$1.9 million from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's (ARENA) Emerging Renewables Program and was completed on 30 June 2014.

Building upon the outputs of this project, the NSW Government has partnered with National Information Communication Technology Australia (NICTA) to develop more sophisticated groundwater models.

8. **Is the Minister aware that Energy Australia is no longer directly paying its solar panel customers credit for the excess electricity they produce, instead automatically crediting the amount due to their next power bill?**
- (a) **If so, has the Minister made any representations to Energy Australia regarding this issue?**
  - (b) **If so, what were the nature and outcome of those representations?**
  - (c) **Is this change permitted under the Solar Bonus Scheme contracts?**
  - (d) **What steps will the Minister take to ensure that Energy Australia pays what it owes to customers, rather than requiring them to notify the retailer each time they want to receive payments against credits?**

Under section 15A of the *Electricity Supply Act* distribution network service providers must record a credit of 60 or 20 cents per kilowatt hour, less the retailer benefit component determined by IPART, against charges payable for electricity supplied by Solar Bonus Scheme customers.

Electricity retailers may make their own commercial decisions about the treatment of accounts that are in credit.

I am advised that Energy Australia is in the process of migrating NSW accounts to their Victorian billing system. Clients on offers that correspond with the Victorian billing system may contact Energy Australia to make an arrangement for payment by cheque or direct deposit.

If a Solar Bonus Scheme customer is unhappy with their retailer's arrangement they may change to another retailer without losing access to Solar Bonus Scheme credits.

9. **Can the Minister outline any actions taken to provide for virtual net metering within the electricity distribution systems of NSW?**

Virtual private wire networks and net metering arrangements are at an early stage of development in the Australian market. As this market develops, the NSW Government will monitor the need for any changes to support innovative new arrangements and will work to develop proposals that do not create cross subsidies.

**10. How many households successfully applied for the Family Energy Rebate for the year 2013/14?**

As at 1 September 2014, 52,624 eligible NSW households had successfully applied for the 2013-2014 NSW Family Energy Rebate, a 20 percent increase in approved applications over the program's first year of operation.

As at the same date there were a further 1,052 applications still being processed by electricity retailers, in accordance with the program procedures.

**11. Please provide more information on the role and function of the Regional Clean Energy Program.**

The Regional Clean Energy Program is administered by the Office of Environment. Any questions relating to the Program are a matter for the Minister for the Environment.

**12. How many regional coordinators are currently employed under the Regional Clean Energy Program and on what basis?**

The Regional Clean Energy Program is administered by the Office of Environment. Any questions relating to the Program are a matter for the Minister for the Environment.

**13. Can the Minister please outline how the following statement relates to the objectives and policy goals of the Renewable Energy Action Plan?**

**(a) *"the coal industry is the backbone supporting our energy needs"* – Anthony Roberts, GPSC5 Budget Estimates Hearing, 20 August 2014.**

This Government is committed to delivering a clean and sustainable energy future for NSW.

NSW has historically benefited from a cheap and abundant energy supply. This has helped a large number of industries to grow and compete effectively, both domestically and internationally. Coal-fired electricity generation currently provides around 80 percent of NSW's electricity needs. It is expected that this energy source will continue to play an important role in securing affordable electricity generation for NSW in the future.

However, other forms of generation are increasingly becoming part of the State's energy mix and are helping to diversify our energy mix and promote energy security. The Renewable Energy Action Plan (the Plan) positions the Government to increase the supply of energy from renewable sources at least cost to the energy consumer and with maximum benefits to NSW.

While most renewable energy technologies are still more costly than traditional fossil fuel-based technologies, the rate of cost reduction in recent years has been significant. In order to get more renewable energy technologies and infrastructure incorporated into our energy system, the Plan positions NSW to attract and grow investment and expertise in renewable energy technologies.

This Government is committed to securing our energy future and finding an appropriate role for renewable energy in that future.

- 14. Can the Minister explain why he was unable to read out verbatim the opening sentence of the “NSW Policy” section of the NSW government’s submission to the federal government’s review of its Renewable Energy Target scheme when asked to do so in the Budget Estimates hearing this year?**

The intent of my wording was to illustrate the broader clean energy picture, of which renewable energy is an important component.

How energy is sourced, captured and used is evolving, along with advances in the technologies used for all of these processes. Whilst renewables are a key component of a sustainable energy future for NSW, they are not the only means of achieving that future. In the short-term, sector-wide measures such as support for clean coal innovation, natural gas and energy efficiency are other important strategies for ensuring energy security with minimal environmental impact. In the medium to long-term, there may be energy sources and technologies that we have not even considered as of yet.

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan is being implemented alongside the Renewable Energy Action Plan, and recognises this common goal of a broader clean energy future. The policy intent of these partner plans is to attract clean energy investment and expertise, build community support for clean energy and contain electricity costs.

To reiterate, the NSW Government is committed to a secure, affordable and clean energy future for NSW. Renewable energy is an important part of that future, but not the whole picture.

- 15. When the Minister substituted the term “clean energy” for “renewable energy” when asked to read out the opening sentence of the “NSW Policy” section of the NSW government’s submission to the federal government’s review of its Renewable Energy Target scheme in the Budget Estimates hearing this year, was he making a distinction between clean and renewable energy?**
- (a) If so, please explain what the distinction is.**

See response to question 14.

- 16. Can the Minister please outline the differences between the terms ‘clean’ and ‘renewable’ for the purposes of developing energy policy in NSW?**

See response to question 14.

**17. Was the Office of Environment and Heritage consulted during the drafting of the "Strategic Statement on NSW Coal"?**

The Strategic Statement on NSW Coal is a whole of government statement that was prepared following a consultation and approval process within Government. This process involved the Office of Environment and Heritage and the then Minister for Environment. The feedback from this consultation was used to support the development of the Statement.

**18. Was the Minister for the Environment Rob Stokes consulted during the drafting of the "Strategic Statement on NSW Coal"?**

**(a) If so what was the nature and outcomes of that consultation?**

See answer to question 17.

**Questions from Hon Amanda Fazio MLC**

**RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

**19. With respect to the removal of IPART's oversight of electricity prices, how many complaints has the Energy & Water Ombudsman received from consumers regarding the increased cost of electricity?**

The Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) provides public data on customer complaints each year in its annual report. As deregulation of electricity prices commenced on 1 July 2014 I am advised that EWON has no data to report at this time on complaints about prices changes since that date.

The Government has not ended the role of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) with respect to electricity prices. IPART has a new market monitoring role and will conduct annual reviews of the electricity market to make sure competition is still effective in NSW.

**20. Has the Minister, Minister's staff or the Department undertaken any consultation with industry in relation to deregulating the electricity market? If so –**

- (a) Who was met with?**
- (b) When were these meetings held?**
- (c) What was the nature of that consultation?**
- (d) What were the outcomes from that consultation?**

In considering retail price deregulation in the NSW electricity market, there was consultation with various stakeholders. This included discussion throughout 2013 and 2014 around stakeholders' views on:

- The findings of the Australian Energy Market Commission's (AEMC) NSW competition review;

- Retail price deregulation in the NSW electricity market;
- Assistance measures to support retail price deregulation in the NSW electricity market;
- Learnings from other jurisdictions with energy price deregulation;
- Options for a NSW electricity market monitoring role;
- The NSW draft regulations to remove retail electricity price regulation;
- Transitional tariff arrangements for NSW regulated electricity customers; and
- Consumer and industry communication needs.

Stakeholders that were consulted included CHOICE consumer advocacy group; the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON); the Energy Retailers' Association of Australia (ERAA); the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA); the NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS); the Office of the Small Business Commissioner; the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC); the South Australian Council of Social Services; St. Vincent de Paul; and various energy retailers.

This consultation was in addition to the AEMC's public consultation processes for its NSW competition report as well as the working groups the AEMC convened in development of its Supplementary Report/Communications Blueprint. The working groups included representatives of consumer advocacy organisations, retailers and industry peak bodies. Representatives of the NSW Government attended as observers.

**21. Given gas prices are set to rise by 17.6 per cent over the next two years, what action is the Government contemplating to alleviate pressure on the cost of living for families?**

On 15 August 2014, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced that the Federal Government's Carbon Tax will be removed from the regulated gas retail price paid by NSW customers. This will be backdated to 1 July 2014.

The removal of the Carbon Tax amounts to a \$50 to \$90 saving for customers depending on how much gas they use and where they are located. For the average NSW customer this amounts to a reduction from the initially flagged 17.8 percent in 2014-15, to 11.2 percent.

In addition, the main gas distributor in NSW, Jemena, has flagged a significant reduction in their proposed spending for the next 5 years. Jemena recently announced its intention to reduce network prices by up to 20 percent from 1 July 2015, which could save customers over \$270 over the period to June 2020.

The NSW Government recognises the burden energy bills place on households and businesses and will continue our work to place downward pressure on energy prices. Customers are able to use the Australian Energy Regulator's free electricity and gas price comparison website, 'Energy Made Easy', to shop around for a better deal.

We have a competitive market, and customers should take advantage of that to ensure they aren't paying more than they should be.

The NSW Government also provides a range of energy assistance measures including energy rebates and emergency relief vouchers. While the energy rebates are paid through electricity bills, they are provided to assist with both electricity and gas expenses.

**22. What action is the Government taking to constrain the increases of gas prices in the future?**

The major factor which appears to be driving gas price increases is changes to the wholesale cost of gas. Wholesale gas costs (associated with the extraction and production of gas) are largely being driven by greater demand for gas without a corresponding increase in the domestic supply of gas. Australia's domestic gas supply market is changing, with more gas being exported overseas. This may result in domestic gas prices aligning with the international market and prices over time.

At present NSW produces only five percent of the State's gas requirements and the remaining 95 percent is imported from interstate. This is not sustainable for securing gas supply for the 1.2 million existing NSW households and small businesses that use gas. Nor is it helpful for putting downward pressure on gas prices – a key priority for this Government.

The NSW Government is focused on the safe and sustainable development of local gas reserves. This will reduce our vulnerability to the price and supply sticks of interstate suppliers. The Government is continuing to work with industry, communities, and state and territory colleagues to establish a safe and sustainable gas supply for NSW residents, businesses and manufacturers.

**23. Does the Minister consider that domestic gas prices will in the future equal world gas prices?**

There are currently many uncertainties in the gas market which have impacted upon the ability of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and retailers to predict how retail gas prices will move in the future. However IPART estimates regulated gas prices in 2015-16 will increase on average by 4.2 percent, slightly above the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

IPART highlighted the rising costs faced by retailers to supply gas to customers, as retailers are likely to have to compete with offshore demand for gas and thus pay export prices for wholesale gas. IPART will review gas prices annually to account for these uncertainties.

The uncertainty in the gas market and the difficulty this uncertainty creates in forecasting gas prices increases was highlighted at the 2013 NSW Energy Security Summit. As demonstrated by Deloitte's presentation to the Summit, there is a wide range in credible gas price forecasts out to 2030.

**24. Does the NSW Government consider that domestic gas users should pay less for gas than the price of the world market?**

The NSW Government is supportive of cost-reflective pricing for gas.

In setting regulated gas retail prices, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is required under Terms of Reference to set prices that recover the efficient costs

of supply to small retail customers. This ensures retailers can appropriately recover their operational and gas costs and therefore remain viable businesses.

IPART undertakes an open and transparent public consultation process, in which it invites interested stakeholders to review draft proposals and submit comments and suggestions.

These processes are independent and the Government has no discretion to amend IPART's determination. This is the same process that has been followed by Government since IPART's creation in 1992.

During the public consultation period for IPART's latest gas pricing review, the Government made a strong submission to IPART that the potential impact on customers be taken into consideration when determining the price. Following this submission, IPART proposed a regulated gas price up to seven percent lower than that initially proposed by retailers.

**25. How many people are claiming the low income household rebate?**

The Low Income Household Rebate helps eligible NSW households to pay their energy bills. I am advised that around 770,000 customers are in receipt of this rebate.

**Transgrid**

**26. What is the total debt owing by Transgrid?**

This information will be available in TransGrid's Annual Report.

**27. What is the interest paid in 2013-24 financial year?**

Information on interest for the 2013-14 financial year will be available in TransGrid's Annual Report.

**28. By capping dividends in the Government's dividends policy for the energy sector for state owned corporations, how many dividends were retained by Transgrid that otherwise would have been paid to the NSW Government?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**29. What was the nature of the agreement entered into between Transgrid and NSW Treasury prior to 30/6/14 in accordance with TPPO9-6 financial distribution policy for Government businesses?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

## **Ausgrid**

**30. What is the total debt owing by Ausgrid?**

This information will be available in Ausgrid's Annual Report.

**31. What is the interest paid in 2013-24 financial year?**

Information on interest for the 2013-14 financial year will be available in Ausgrid's Annual Report.

**32. By capping dividends in the Government's dividends policy for the energy sector for state owned corporations, how many dividends were retained by Ausgrid that otherwise would have been paid to the NSW Government?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**33. What was the nature of the agreement entered into between Ausgrid and NSW Treasury prior to 30/6/14 in accordance with TPPO9-6 financial distribution policy for Government businesses?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

## **Endeavour Energy**

**34. What is the total debt owing by Endeavour Energy?**

This information will be available in Endeavour Energy's Annual Report.

**35. What is the interest paid in 2013-24 financial year?**

Information on interest for the 2013-14 financial year will be available in Endeavour Energy's Annual Report.

**36. By capping dividends in the Government's dividends policy for the energy sector for state owned corporations, how many dividends were retained by Endeavour Energy that otherwise would have been paid to the NSW Government?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

- 37. What was the nature of the agreement entered into between Endeavour Energy and NSW Treasury prior to 30/6/14 in accordance with TPPO9-6 financial distribution policy for Government businesses?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

#### **Essential Energy**

- 38. What is the total debt owing by Essential Energy?**

This information will be available in Essential Energy's Annual Report.

- 39. What is the interest paid in 2013-24 financial year?**

Information on interest for the 2013-14 financial year will be available in Essential Energy's Annual Report.

- 40. By capping dividends in the Government's dividends policy for the energy sector for state owned corporations, how many dividends were retained by Essential Energy that otherwise would have been paid to the NSW Government?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

- 41. What was the nature of the agreement entered into between Essential Energy and NSW Treasury prior to 30/6/14 in accordance with TPPO9-6 financial distribution policy for Government businesses?**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

- 42. If the Government goes ahead with leasing 49 per cent of energy poles and wires assets, is it envisaged that the loans will be discharged?**

The Government has made it clear that it will only proceed with its network lease proposal if it receives a mandate at the next election. I am pleased that the Honourable Member believes the Government will win the next election and receive this mandate.

#### **Derelict Mines Program**

- 43. How many derelict mines are there in NSW? Please list by name and location.**

There are around 600 mines known to be closed, abandoned or disused on the derelict mines database, however many of these do not require future rehabilitation. A full listing can be provided if required.

**44. Within the financial year 2013/14 how many of these mines were rehabilitated or had rehabilitation work conducted by the Derelict Mines Program?**

- (a) What was the cost of this rehabilitation work?**
- (b) What was the cost for each mines rehabilitation work?**

Derelict Mines Program engaged in 38 separate projects across derelict mine sites throughout NSW.

(a) A total of \$4.305m was spent on the Derelict Mine Program of Works.

Examples of environmental projects include:

- Investigation and preparation of remediation action plan for the Conrad Mine in northern NSW. A total of \$71,000 was spent. The plan will inform a program of works to minimise mine site impacts on the environment over the next few years
- Drainage works on Woodsreef Mine. Total expenditure in 2013-14 was \$422,000. Works will reduce asbestos laden sediment from moving off site.
- Examples of safety works include:
- Bimbimbie - \$12460 for blocking off entry to dangerous mine entries and excluding people/vehicles from parts of the mine site.
- Lightning Ridge – Total of \$37,723 spent on filling various derelict mine shafts in the area.
- True Blue Shaft – remediation works on a dangerous shaft that had failed and threatened public and private infrastructure (including services and the mid-Western Highway in West Wyalong). Total expenditure in 2013-14 is \$636,000.

(b) The cost for each mine's rehabilitation work is detailed below.

Project	Contract Amount	Spent in 2013-14 FY	Forecast 2014-15 FY
Statewide Risk Assessment	\$130,000	\$0	\$100,000
Woodsreef Drainage Works	\$464,120	\$421,927	\$42,193
Temora Dam Design Works	\$21,875	\$16,563	\$5,313
Database Contracts	\$14,100	\$5,700	\$10,000
Kangiarra Investigation/RAP/REF	\$78,828	\$9,417	\$69,411
Captains Flat Drainage and Maintenance Works	\$262,523	\$262,523	\$0
Ottery-Tent Hill Additional sampling	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
True Blue Works	\$636,175	\$636,175	\$380,000
True Blue Works Supervision	\$65,000	\$55,000	\$10,000
True Blue Works Tech Advice	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$15,000

Petroleum Well Rehabilitation	\$450,000	\$50,134	\$400,000
Urunga Contaminated Site - Major Rehabilitation Works	\$2,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,000,000
Wild Cattle Creek	\$98,068	\$60,379	\$0
Ross Ridge Safety Works (Mogo)	\$8,000		tbc
Kandos Coomber Investigation	\$160,501	\$160,501	\$0
Lightning Ridge	\$37,723	\$37,723	na
Browns Colliery	\$29,991	\$29,991	\$0
Captains Flat	\$28,102	\$28,102	\$0
Ophir	\$3,390	\$3,390	\$0
Ottery	\$8,353	\$8,353	\$0
Peelwood	\$21,710	\$21,710	\$0
Temora	\$12,955	\$12,955	\$0
Tottenham (various)	\$75,685	\$75,685	\$0
Tullabong & The Ponds	\$50,708	\$50,708	\$0
West Wyalong 26 Operator St	\$5,620	\$5,620	\$0
Ottery Investigation	\$114,211	\$114,211	\$0
Hill End Safety Works	\$222,771	\$222,771	\$0
Conrad	\$70,992	\$70,992	\$0
Leviathan	\$11,100	\$11,100	\$0
Sunny Corner	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Frogmore	\$8,362	\$8,362	
Tullabong Rehab Works	\$37,310	\$37,310	\$0
Harts and Spices Open Cut	\$22,100	\$22,100	\$0
Bimbimbie Mine Safety Works	\$12,460	\$0	\$12,460
Kandos Coomber Safety Works	\$120,000	\$101,045	\$0
Waratah Investigation	\$15,000	\$15,455	\$0
Waratah WORKS (coal seam seepage)	\$263,212	\$263,212	\$0
Bats in Mines (additional funding request)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Mt Topper SF	\$26,840	\$7,068	\$55,000
Program admin	\$340,693	\$340,693	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,076,478</b>	<b>\$4,304,874</b>	<b>\$2,549,377</b>

45. How many staff currently work on the Derelict Mines Program?

Four.

- 46. Within the last financial year, did any accidents occur during the rehabilitation of any of these derelict mines?**

No.

- 47. What is the total allocation of funds for the Derelict Mines Program in the current 2014/15 budget?**

\$4.071m.

- 48. Has the Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Council met?**

The Derelict Mines Program is overseen by the multi-agency Derelict Mines Program Steering Committee. This committee meets twice per year and sets the strategic direction of the derelict mines program and assists with prioritisation of the works program.

- 49. Has the Government completed its feasibility of the Mine Rehabilitation Advisory Council?**

As stated above, the Derelict Mines Program is overseen by the multi-agency Derelict Mines Program Steering Committee.

### **Exploration Licence Fees**

- 50. Are exploration licence fees under the Mining Act 1992 and the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991 indexed? If so, by what indexation system?**

No. However, on 26 March 2014 the NSW Government announced that the application fee for a Petroleum Exploration Licence would rise to \$50,000 (from \$1,000) effective immediately.

### **Royalties**

- 51. For the financial year 2013/14 what was the total royalties accumulated by mineral and gas operations in NSW?**

Mineral (non-coal) royalties totalled \$98.7 million for 2013-14 (including petroleum royalty of \$724,000).

- 52. What was the royalty contribution by each Local Government Area in NSW?**

Royalty is calculated according to mineral recovered and is not calculated or collected on an LGA basis.

**53. What is the expected royalties for the current 2014/15 financial period?**

The Budget Papers state expected royalty to be \$1.592 billion (Budget Statement 2014-2015).

**CSG**

**54. How many staff does the Office of Coal Seam Gas have? Where have those staff been drawn from, are staff from the office who work on exploration licence matters also working in other areas?**

As of 1 July 2014, the Office of Coal Seam Gas has **22** staff.

One Director

10 staff working exclusively on petroleum exploration licensing and approvals

One staff member dealing with correspondence and information

Four staff working on policy and regulatory reform

Two executive support staff

Four safety inspectors

This number may vary slightly as the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE) finalises its new structure in the first quarter of Financial year 2014-15 and the Office of Coal Seam Gas can leverage expertise from other DRE areas, such as strategic communication and compliance and enforcement.

Office of Coal Seam Gas staff is either existing DRE staff or have been hired through a competitive recruitment process for their specific expertise relevant to OCSG.

**Ethanol**

**55. For the 1 April – 30 June 14 period, was Neumann given an Ethanol Partial Exemption? – if not, why not?**

Neumann Petroleum is expected to submit an application for partial exemption for the period 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014 for the next quarterly Biofuels Expert Panel meeting, which is scheduled to occur in late September 2014. Applications in arrears are allowed to be made under the framework established by the *Biofuels Act 2007*, as companies are required to report the actual volume of sales and their ethanol percentage at the end of the quarter.

**56. For the 1 April – 30 June 14 period, was United given a Biodiesel Exemption? – if not why not.**

For the period 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014, United Petroleum was compliant with the Biodiesel mandate. If United continues to be compliant with the mandate for the 1 April 2014 to 30 June 2014 reporting period, the company will not need to seek an

exemption. If United is not compliant, the company may submit an application for exemption to the Biofuels Expert Panel for consideration and then recommendation to the Minister. Applications in arrears are allowed to be made under the framework established by the *Biofuels Act 2007*, as companies are required to report actual volume of sales and their biodiesel percentage at the end of the quarter.

**57. What is the average percentage of ethanol sold in NSW across all Volume Fuel Sellers?**

This information is publicly available at [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results).

**58. Since March 2011 how many ethanol mandate exemptions have the following companies been provided?**

- (a) BP
- (b) Caltex
- (c) Freedom
- (d) Lowes
- (e) Mobil
- (f) Neuman
- (g) Park
- (h) Shell
- (i) United
- (j) Wooworths
- (k) 7-Eleven

The question asks for four years of data, which is not an insignificant task to compile. However, it can be noted that all applications for exemption received since March 2011 have been able to demonstrate they meet at least one of the exemption criteria contained in the Act.

**59. For the April – June 2014 period, what was the average price of E10 fuel by litre for each of the following Volume Fuel Sellers:**

- (a) BP
- (b) Caltex
- (c) Mobil
- (d) Shell
- (e) United
- (f) Park
- (g) Freedom
- (h) Neumann
- (i) Lowes
- (j) Woolworths
- (k) 7-Eleven

This information is not held by the NSW Government or required to be reported under the *Biofuels Act 2007*.

**60. For the same period, what was the average cost of ethanol per litre Volume Fuel Seller?**

This information is not held by the NSW Government, and is likely to be subject to contractual commercial in confidence arrangements between the suppliers of ethanol and the respective volume sellers.

**61. For the same period, what was the total amount of ethanol E10 (in litres) sold in NSW?**

This information is publicly available at [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results)

**62. For the financial year 2013/14 what was the total amount of ethanol E10 (in litres) sold in NSW?**

This information is publicly available at [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/sustainable-energy/office-of-biofuels/biofuels-results)

**63. Between March 2011 and June 2014 how many fines have been applied to non-compliant Volume Fuel Sellers?**

No fines were issued between March 2011 and June 2014 to any Volume Fuel Sellers for non-compliance. A volume seller granted an exemption is compliant with the *Biofuels Act 2007*.

**Department**

**64. How many staff do you currently have based in Maitland? How have those numbers changed over the past two years? Will there be any staff reductions over the current financial year?**

There are 269 NSW Trade & Investment staff based at the Department's Maitland office. There are currently vacant roles that are in the process of being filled at this location. There are no plans to decrease the Department's presence in Maitland, however, the Department has an ongoing organisational review program. Where the organisational review program identifies that changes are required to organisational structure, a change plan is developed. The number and location of staff affected is identified at that stage.

## Donations

65. **Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors, can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?**

I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation.

66. **Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:**  
***"I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation."***

**Will you make that same statement?**

Yes.

67. **Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

68. **Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

69. **Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also

requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

70. **In the interest of transparency and accountability, will you commit to publicly release the source of donations for the 2015 election?**

The Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 requires the disclosure of political donations received and/or made, and electoral expenditure incurred, by or on behalf of parties, elected members, groups, candidates and third party campaigners. It also requires the disclosure of political donations of \$1000 or more made by major political donors.

### **Lobbyists**

71. **On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

72. **Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

73. **The Minister for Finance has banned lobbyists from meeting him and his office; will you make the same commitment? If not, why not?**

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

## Cross Border Commissioner

**74. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:**

- (a) In the last twelve months**
- (b) Since the creation of the position.**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**75. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:**

- (a) In the last twelve months**
- (b) Since the creation of the position.**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

## Labour Hire Firms

**76. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?**

If yes, please advise in table form:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised**
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged**
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company**
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company**
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company**

For the entire NSW Department of Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) cluster:

a) b)

<b>Supplier name</b>	<b>Sum of Total Invoice Amount ex GST \$</b>
Adecco	\$18,633.33
Alexander Appointments	\$2,097.60
Ashdown Consulting	\$49,680.00
Australia Personnel Global	\$851.15
Bluestone Recruitment	\$143,927.71
Challenge Recruitment	\$70,209.48
Challenge Recruitment Ltd	\$190,427.38

Chandler Macleod	\$984,365.19
Charterhouse Partnership	\$378,915.61
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd	\$17,086.17
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Click Recruitment	\$75,264.94
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Clicks IT Recruitment	\$13,467.80
Complete Staff Solutions	\$344,998.50
Cox Purtell Staffing Services	\$21,000.51
DOB Enterprises Pty Ltd T/as MBC Recruitment	\$14,579.34
Enterprise IT Resources	\$66,379.41
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd	\$1,045,355.70
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd Consortium	\$525,517.21
Finite Recruitment Pty Ltd	\$165,210.81
Forsythes Recruitment	\$122,842.12
Future Prospects	\$18,982.90
Genesis IT&T Pty Ltd	\$2,780.75
Greythorn Pty Ltd	\$738,313.59
Greythorn Smalls	\$80,861.09
Griffiths Skills Training Centre Inc	\$42,622.53
Hamilton James and Bruce	\$33,731.62
HAYS Specialist Recruitment	\$972,284.95
HOBAN Recruitment	\$42,114.00
IT Matters Recruitment Services	\$51,907.50
KellyServices Australia	\$748,296.67
Michael Page	\$1,132,440.23
National Workforce Pty Ltd	\$2,632.24
North Coast Recruitment	\$1,788.21
people2people recruitment pty ltd	\$87,835.64
Peoplebank	\$2,427,769.86
peoplefusion	\$19,096.00
Precision Sourcing Australia	\$61,837.88
Quay Appointments	\$547,837.28
Randstad	\$16,975.25
Randstad Pty Ltd	\$1,412,342.05
Record Information Management Solutions	\$36,455.57
Reed Specialist Recruitment	\$105,644.90
Robert Walters	\$135,183.34
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	\$39,223.68
S2M Recruitment	\$3,084.00
Skilled - T & P	\$56,552.64
SKILLED Group Limited	\$48,872.53
Small & Associates Pty Ltd	\$5,706,719.23
Talent International (NSW) Pty Ltd	\$5,361,494.08
Talent2 Pty Ltd	\$42,256.97
The Conduit Group Pty Ltd	\$52,955.86
The Next Step	\$13,624.50
The Next Step	\$20,119.00
The Next Step Recruitment Company (NSW) Pty Limited	\$10,385.00

Total Resource Solutions (TRS) P/L	\$538,318.86
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) Pty Ltd	\$132,753.29
TRC Group	\$597,266.99
Zenith Management Services	\$24,897.06
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$25,619,067.70</b>

c)

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Average of Tenure (calendar days entire assignment)</b>
Adecco	159
Alexander Appointments	168
Ashdown Consulting	176
Australia Personnel Global	269
Bluestone Recruitment	231
Challenge Recruitment	144
Challenge Recruitment Ltd	170
Chandler Macleod	336
Charterhouse Partnership	730
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd	303
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Click Recruitment	254
Clicks Recruit Pty Ltd T/A Clicks IT Recruitment	325
Complete Staff Solutions	138
Cox Purtell Staffing Services	83
DOB Enterprises Pty Ltd T/as MBC Recruitment	107
Enterprise IT Resources	188
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd	203
Finite IT Recruitment Pty Ltd Consortium	234
Finite Recruitment Pty Ltd	200
Forsythes Recruitment	203
Future Prospects	75
Genesis IT&T Pty Ltd	130
Greythorn Pty Ltd	633
Greythorn Smalls	211
Griffiths Skills Training Centre Inc	135
Hamilton James and Bruce	162
HAYS Specialist Recruitment	834
HOBAN Recruitment	61
IT Matters Recruitment Services	100
KellyServices Australia	271
Michael Page	144
National Workforce Pty Ltd	42
North Coast Recruitment	364
people2people recruitment pty ltd	100
Peoplebank	534

peoplefusion	80
Precision Sourcing Australia	74
Quay Appointments	641
Randstad	758
Randstad Pty Ltd	236
Record Information Management Solutions	260
Reed Specialist Recruitment	182
Robert Walters	202
Robert Walters Pty Ltd	241
S2M Recruitment	67
Skilled - T & P	202
SKILLED Group Limited	245
Small & Associates Pty Ltd	152
Talent International (NSW) Pty Ltd	230
Talent2 Pty Ltd	105
The Conduit Group Pty Ltd	170
The Next Step	102
The Next Step	121
The Next Step Recruitment Company (NSW) Pty Limited	121
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) P/L	156
Total Resource Solutions (TRS) Pty Ltd	137
TRC Group	247
Zenith Management Services	157

d)

	<b>Max of Tenure (calendar days entire assignment)</b>
<b>Supplier: Chandler Macleod</b>	
<b>Agency: Crown Lands</b>	
Worker: Toomby	1889

e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company include:

Accountant / Management Accountant / Senior accountant, Accounts Payable  
 Adiministration Assistant, Analyst Programmer / Applications Developer,  
 APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR, Applications Developer, Architect, Assess.  
 Officer, ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT, Business Analyst / Financial Analyst, Business  
 Analyst-IT/Systems, Business Continuity Manager, Business Support Officer, Call Centre  
 Customer Service Inbound, Change Management Specialist, Civil Engineer  
 Client Services Officer, Communication Consultant, Communications / Media /  
 Promotion / Public Relations, Communications Manager, Communications Officer,  
 Computer Network and Systems Engineer, Construction Manager, Consultant, Contract /  
 Procurement / Vendor (Officer or Manager), Corporate Communications Officer,

Correspondence Officer, Credit Officer / Manager, Customer Service Advisor, Customer Service Consultant, Customer Service Officer, Data And Applications Support, Data Centre Support Analyst, Data Entry Operator, Data Management, Data Modeller / Architect, Data Warehouse, Technologist / Specialist / Developer, Database Administrator, Database Administrator / Designer / Analyst, Database Operator, Database Specialist, Database Support, Desktop Support, Destination NSW, Director of Licensing ( SO3)

EA To Director, EA to Director of Energy, Engineer, Engineer / Technical Engineering Associate / Technician, Engineering Associate/Technician, Environmental Chemist, Environmental Officer, Environmental Officer / Scientist, Environmental Officer/Scientist, ERP/CRM Functional / Technical Consultant, Events Coordination, Executive Adminsitration, Executive Assistant, Facilitator, Field Officer, Finance Officer / Accounts Clerk / Bookkeeper, Finance Specialist, Financial Analyst, Financial Controller, Geographic Information Specialist, Geologist, GIS Operator, Graphic Designer, Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA Recruitment, Help Desk Support / Manager, Help Desk Support / Manager , HR Business Analyst, HR/ Executive, Human Resources / Training & Development / Trainers, Hydrologist, ICT Business Analyst, ICT Project Management, ICT Specialist/ICT Consultant, ICT Strategy Planner/Consultant, ICT Trainer, Infrastructure Project Manager, Integration Tech Lead, Internal Auditor, Interview Panel Member, IT Manager, IT Specialist / ICT Consultant, Java Developer, Labourer – Various, Library / Archives / Record Management, Licensing Support Officer, Maintenance Technician, Marketing / Advertising (Officer, Manager or Specialist), Marketing Assistant, Marketing Comms Manager, Media Relations, Multimedia Designer / Specialist, Network / Operations Manager, Network Administrator, NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing, Office Administration, Office Assist, Office of Water, Office Support, Accounts Officer, Planner, Plant Operator, Policy (Officer or Manager), Policy Officer, Program Officer, Project (Officer, Manager or Analyst), Project Accountant, Project Consultant, Project Coordinator, Project Coordinator / Project Manager / Program Manager, Project Manager, Project Manager / Officer, Project Manager, Digital Excellence Program, Project Officer, Project Planner / Cost Engineer, Quality Assurance Manager, Quality Assurance Officer, Receptionist / Switchboard Operator, Research Officer, Safety Specialist, Sales Assistant Retail, SAP FICO, Business Analyst, SAP Professionals, SAP Professionals, SAP Training Consultant, Security Consultant / Specialist, Senior Policy Officer, Senior Project Manager, Senior Project Officer, Server Engineer, Shared Service Officer, Social Media Co, Solaris / Unix Administrator, Solution Architects / Designers, Solution Lead, State Library, Support and Test Engineers, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR, System Tester, Systems Administrator, Systems Architect / Designer, Team Leader, Technical Consultant, Technical Manager, Technical Officer, Technical Superintendent, Technical Support, Test Manager, Test Manager / Leader / Analyst, War Memorials Officer, Water Management Specialist, Web Site Content Manager, Web Site Designer / Consultant / Developer

## Consultancy Work

- 77. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?**
- (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**
  - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

78. **Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

79. **Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?**  
(a) **What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**  
(b) **Was there a tender process for these projects?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

80. **Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

81. **Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?**  
(a) **What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?**  
(b) **Was there a tender process for these projects?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

82. **Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

### **Phones/iPads**

83. **How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?**

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

84. **For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?**

The 2013-14 total phone bill expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$363,877 (63%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2008-09 of \$578,691 total expenditure.

85. **How many have phones have been lost in your office?**

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

86. **What is the cost of replacing those phones?**

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

87. **How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?**

96 iPads have been issued for the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

88. **How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?**

iPads are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

89. **How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?**

204 phones have been issued to the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

90. **How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?**

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC and have not been purchased by NSW Government Ministerial staff.

91. **How many iPhones have been lost in your office?**

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

92. **How many iPads have been lost in your office?**

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**93. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?**

The cost is the normal contract price and this cost is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

**Media/public relations**

**94. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?**

For the Resources and Energy portfolio, two (2) Full Time Equivalent media and communications staff were employed by NSW Trade & Investment during 2013-14.

**95. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?**

There are no plans to expand or decrease existing numbers.

**Overseas trips**

**96. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?**

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

**97. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?**

Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

**Office costs**

**98. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers and ministers staff numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**99. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**100. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**101. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

**102. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?**

Information in relation to repairs, maintenance and relocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/165616/Disclosure\\_Log\\_Information\\_-\\_Ministerial\\_Renovations.docx.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/165616/Disclosure_Log_Information_-_Ministerial_Renovations.docx.pdf)

**103. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?**

Please see the above response.

**104. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?**

The 2014-15 budget for NSW Government Ministerial offices is \$4,886,770 (10%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

**105. How many political advisors are in your office?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**106. How many administration staff?**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at:  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers\\_and\\_ministers\\_staff\\_numbers](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers).

**107. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?**

Number of Department Liaison Officers for NSW Government Ministerial offices at 30 June 2014 was 56.

**108. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?**

NSW Government Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are provided with road transport services, with Ministerial Drivers assigned for this purpose.

**109. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**110. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

**Cabcharge**

**111. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2013/14 financial year?**

The 2013-14 taxi expenditure for NSW Government Ministerial offices was \$117,783 (67%) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$175,776.

**Restructure**

**112. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

**113. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

**114. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?**

Agencies and departments undertake internal reviews of its structure to ensure that its functions and priorities align with the changing needs of Government. This work has involved reviewing structures in various parts of the agency to achieve greater alignment with the Government's reform agenda and recommendations of the Commission of Audit.

**115. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**116. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**117. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by

a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**118. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?**

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track. The target of 5,000 positions by June 2015 (announced in the 2011/12 Budget) was already exceeded by a further 1,789 positions by December 2013. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget is also well on track with Secretaries given as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

**Agency costs**

**119. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?**

NSW Trade & Investment spent \$420,042.97 on catering in 2013/14.

**120. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2013/14?**

NSW Trade & Investment spent \$846,012.16 on stationery in 2013/14.

**121. What is your Department's catering budget?**

Based on nature and materiality, the Department does not allocate a specific budget for catering. Catering expenses are typically funded from a general business unit or specific project budgets.

**122. What is your Department's stationary budget?**

Based on nature and materiality, the Department does not allocate a specific budget for stationery. Stationery expenses are typically funded from a general business unit or specific project budgets.

**123. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?**

Yes.

**124. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?**

In total, since April 2011 NSW Trade & Investment has spent \$121,684 rebranding the agency.

**Correspondence**

**125. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?**

The department'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.

**126. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?**

The department'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.

**Paying bills on time**

**127. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at  
<http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

**128. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?**

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at  
<http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

**129. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?**

Information regarding “30 days to pay” policy is available at  
<http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>

**Grants to non-government organisations**

**130. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?**

If yes,

- (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
- (c) On what date was the funding advanced?
- (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
  
- (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?
- (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Yes.

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 community organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier’s Memorandum 91-34 and Annual Reports (Departments) Regulation 2010 - Schedule 1.

**Contractors**

**131. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2014 and at what cost?**

NSW Trade & Investment has contracted 47 contractors since 1 July 2014. As these contracts have just commenced, the total cost of these contractors will not be known until works have been completed.

## **Aboriginal employment**

### **132. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?**

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including information regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. The level of Aboriginal employment as at 30 June 2014 is estimated at 2.9%. This is still subject to final quality checks, prior to the November release of the Workforce Profile 2014.

### **133. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?**

The 30 June 2014 estimate of Aboriginal employment in the sector is 2.9%. This compares to the Workforce Profile 2013 report which estimated the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at 2.7%.

## **Charter air flights**

### **134. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?**

Since 1 July 2011, the Department has spent \$50,633.82 on charter air flights.

## **Reviews and studies**

### **135. 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?**

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 NSW Trade & Investment.

## **Parliamentary Secretary**

**136. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013**

- (a) kilometres travelled**
- (b) accommodation,**
- (c) air fares**
- (d) meals/entertaining?**

Information to the total cost for the NSW Government Parliamentary Secretaries in 2013/14 are:

- (a) Information not available.**
- (b) \$1, 338**
- (c) \$8, 773**
- (d) Information not available. Expenses are included under (b).**

**137. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2013;**

- (a) meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**
- (b) functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Minister of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister endorsement.

**138. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?**

- (a) Are these meetings documented?**
- (b) Who attends these meetings?**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Minister of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister endorsement.

**139. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Minister, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Minister of some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister endorsement.

## Media training

140. 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?

No.

141. 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?

No.