



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

Tuesday 9 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 2 November 2012

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**Questions relating to the portfolio of Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure
and Services**

Tuesday 9 October 2012, 9.00 am – 12.00 pm

Questions from Mr J. Buckingham MLC

1. How much is Newcrest Mining's contribution to the \$13.9m Orange Airport upgrade project compared to the NSW Government's \$1.27million and the Federal Government's of \$4.9million contribution.
2. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with representatives of Shenhua or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
3. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with representatives of Hume Coal, Cockatoo Coal or POSCO or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
4. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with the NSW Minerals Council in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
5. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
6. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with Santos or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
7. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with AGL or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?
8. How many times has the Minister for Trade and Investment met with METGASCO or their lobbyists in the last 12 months?
 - a) Where and when were these meetings held?

Questions from The Hon. S. Whan MLC

Royalties for Regions

1. Has the Government allocated any funds through the Royalties for Regions scheme in the Hunter Valley?
 - a) If so how much?
 - b) Is this scheme funded through Restart NSW?
2. Considering that the Government made an election promise to fund Resources for Regions with up to 160 million over a 4 year period, will the Government commit to the 150 million over the next 2.5 years?
3. What wind-fall gains have been identified to fund Resources for Regions?
4. When will the funding for Muswellbrook Hospital be available to be spent on upgrading the emergency department?
5. How much funding is required for the upgrade of the Hospital emergency department?

Departmental Savings

6. What are the overall savings in dollar terms Trade and Investment is being expected to find over each year for the next four years?
7. How many positions are being cut or made redundant?
8. In evidence to the recent Cronulla fisheries committee hearings DG indicated that he had some 32 change management processes underway in the Department. Can you list those plans, are they publicly available, can you make them available?
9. What areas of Trade and Investment currently based on the Sydney basin are you considering for decentralisation? How many employees does Trade and Investment have in the Sydney basin? Will you be moving the head office from rental accommodation in the CBD to a regional area?
10. What areas of the Department are affected by the 32 change management plans that your Department head has said are currently in operation?
11. As Nationals leader do you think that when a Government grant goes to an organisation it is coming from the Government or the National Party? (Government presumably) Why is it that when National Party members of Parliament announce funding for community groups they do it with cheques

that have the National Party logo prominently displayed and the MPs name? Isn't that inappropriate?

12. What analysis has your department undertaken to ascertain if any recipients of the regional relocation allowance have made a decision to move to a regional area as a result of the allowance?
13. What performance criteria do you have in place for the scheme?
14. Is the Government continuing the Country Halls Renewal Program? If not why not?
15. What was the total amount allocated to the community building partnership program in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Budget?
 - a) What was the reason for cutting this funding?
16. What criteria are you applying to consider what areas can be decentralised? What measure will you apply to determine success of the decade of decentralisation?
17. What process will you follow?
18. You were involved in the decision on Cronulla fisheries, what could you have done better? Will that be a model for future decentralisation?

Infrastructure NSW (INSW) Report:

19. The Government identified several projects for development as part of the 20 year Infrastructure Strategy including the upgrade of the Rail Line in Gunnedah – what role will Royalties for Regions play in the development of this project?
20. Do you agree with INSW report to sell the Governments stake in Snowy Hydro?
 - a) Has Trade and Investment consulted with INSW about any possible arrangements for this privatisation?
 - b) How much is expected to be gained through this sale?
21. INSW has identified that within the next 5 years 'coal communities' in the Hunter will their road and rail infrastructure upgraded. What are the projects identified?
 - a) What contribution will Resources for Regions provide to these programs?

Payroll Tax Incentives

22. How many businesses have relocated to regional NSW from Sydney over the past year?
23. How many businesses have received payroll tax concessions from your Government over the past year?
24. What is the value of those concessions and what areas of NSW have benefited from the new or expanded businesses?

National Broadband Network (NBN)

25. What work has your Department done to ensure that regional NSW businesses and residents are able to fully utilise the NBN?

Burrinjuck trust and other sacked trusts

26. Why did you decide to sack the trusts who had previously managed the crown reserve at Burrinjuck dam and other similar areas around the state?
27. Will you rule out leasing out the management of those areas?

Cronulla Fisheries

28. What involvement did you have in the decision to close the Cronulla Fisheries Research centre of excellence?

Extension Officers

29. As Minister for Regional Development do you approve of the plan to move DPI Extension Officers in with CMAs and LHPAs?

Transport NSW report

30. Are you concerned that out of the nearly \$137 billion worth of projects compiled by Transport NSW, the Bells Line road was not one of those projects listed?
 - a) What is the Governments agenda for the Bells Line road?
 - b) Did you make any attempt to guarantee that the Bells Line road would be added to Transport NSW report?

Crown Lands

31. When did you take responsibility for the portfolio of Crown Lands?
32. Through the appointment of new staff to the Grafton Lands office, what are the current skills requirements for the positions that will be advertised?
 - a) When will they be advertised?
 - b) Will staff that recently lost their job at the Grafton Gaol be suitable for these jobs?
33. As the Government has made the decision to relocate the Native Title office to Newcastle – where will all the native title mapping information be held?
 - a) Will it be easy for staff to access? Will they have to travel from the office in Newcastle?
34. Is the government seeking to make regional Job Plans available for the rest of the State, considering that Crown Land jobs in Nowra, Griffith, Hay and Parramatta are being relocated?
 - a) What will be the affect of these relocations to the communities?
 - b) Has the Government developed regional impact statements for these areas?
35. How many State Trusts does the Government look to privatise as part of its review of inland water parks, North Coast and South Coast holiday parks?
36. As Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services do you consider the allocation of funds in this year's budget for the Kings Highway to be adequate?
37. What are the employment periods contained in the employment contracts for staff appointed to the Grafton Crown Lands positions to expedite the crown road lease sale process?

Trade and Investment Account Payments

38. As at 30th September 2012 are there any accounts payable by Trade and Investment outside 30 days?
 - a) If so, how many?

- b) What are the amounts for each invoice outside the 30 days?
- c) What strategies are being put in place to bring the accounts within the 30 days?

Grafton Gaol Downsizing

- 39. When was the Deputy Premier first made aware of the decision to downsize the Grafton Gaol?
- 40. Was there a Rural Impact Statement was submitted to Cabinet regarding the downsizing of Grafton Gaol?
- 41. Did this decision go to the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet?

Northern Rivers Jobs Plan

- 42. Minister, in early September you announced the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan was delivering 79 new jobs.
 - a) How many of these 79 jobs will last more than 12 months?
 - b) How much of the announced funds have been expended to date in supporting the two companies?
 - c) Is there a review date on the success or otherwise of the Northern Rivers Jobs Plan?

Public Sector Job Relocations

- 43. After the decision to downsize Grafton Gaol was announced you were tasked with identifying possible public sector jobs for relocation to Grafton.
 - a) How many of the public sector jobs that are to be relocated to Grafton will be offered with employment contracts?
 - b) Will the employment contracts contain finite employment periods?
 - c) If so, what are the employment periods available for each position?
 - d) What was the cost associated in identifying the public sector jobs that are to be relocated to Grafton?
 - e) Was there a budget allocation created for this exercise?
 - f) How many staff (FTE's) were involved in the process?

Infrastructure NSW Report – Coal Communities Fund

- 44. Minister, do you support the recommendation of INSW to create a Coal Communities Fund worth \$500M? Do you envisage the Resources for Regions programme will be rolled into any such fund? Will the Resources for Regions programme operate as a separate scheme to the Coal Communities Fund?

45. INSW has identified that within 5years Coal Communities of the Hunter will need their road and rail infrastructure upgraded. Which projects has your department identified? Will the Resources for Regions programme be used to fund these projects? What will be the criteria to receive funding?

Miscellaneous Questions

Phones/iPads

46. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
47. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
48. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
49. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
50. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
51. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
52. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
53. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
54. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
55. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
56. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

Media/public relations

57. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
58. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Overseas trips

59. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
60. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Office costs

61. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
62. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
63. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
64. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
65. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
66. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
67. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
68. How many political advisors are in your office?
69. How many administration staff?
70. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
71. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
72. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
73. If so, in what capacities?
74. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Cabcharge

75. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

Restructure

76. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

77. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
78. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
79. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
80. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
81. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

Agency costs

82. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
83. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
84. What is your Department's catering budget?
85. What is your Department's stationary budget?
86. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
87. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Correspondence

88. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
89. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Paying bills on time

90. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
91. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
92. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Grants to non-government organisations

93. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
94. If yes,
95. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
96. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
97. On what date was the funding advanced?
98. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
99. Was any funding withheld or returned?
100. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
101. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
102. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Contractors

103. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

Aboriginal employment

104. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
105. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

Charter air flights

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

Reviews and studies

107. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:
108. 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?

Consultants

109. Have any agencies within your Department(s) engaged consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
110. If yes, which companies were engaged for consultancy services in the 2011/12 financial year?
111. For what purpose has your Department engaged consultants?
112. How much have your agencies spent on consultants in the 2011/12 financial year?
113. What is your Department(s) budget for consultants in the 2012/13 financial year?

Sponsorships

114. Have any agencies within your Departments sponsored any organisations or events in the 2011/12 financial year?
115. If yes, which organisations and events were sponsored in the 2011/12 financial year?
116. How much did your agencies within your Departments spend on sponsoring organisations and events in the 2011/12 financial year?

117. What is your Department(s) budget for sponsorship in the 2012/13 financial year?

Media training

118. 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?

Parliamentary Secretary

119. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011

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

120. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;

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

121. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

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

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

123. 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?

Questions from Dr. J. Kaye MLC

1. Can the Minister explain how removing \$3 million from TAFE on the North Coast for Fine Arts (including Visual Arts, Fine Arts, Sculpture, Furniture Design and Fashion), potentially removing employment for over 50 people and closing the doors on opportunity for students, can improve the regional infrastructure of the North Coast region?