



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

### **Questions on Notice**

#### **General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3**

The Legislature

Tuesday 9 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 2 November 2012

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

**Telephone 9230 2412**

**Fax 9230 2981**

**[budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au)**

## Questions on Notice relating to the portfolio of The Legislature

Tuesday 9 October 2012, 12.15 pm – 1.00 pm

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**Question from The Hon. A. R. Fazio MLC**

### **QUESTION 1**

**The Hon. AMANDA FAZIO:** Mr President, can you advise why the security camera that was located in the car park on level 4, basically opposite the ramp that comes down from Hospital Road, was removed?

### **Answer:**

A security camera was installed on level 4 of the car park while the loading dock was temporary located on level 4, during the building work for the permanent loading dock on level 6. This security camera was installed so that procurement staff could see delivery vehicles approach down the car park ramp. As the loading dock has now been relocated on level 6, the camera is no longer required and has been removed.

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### Question from The Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

#### QUESTION 2

**The Hon. CATE FAEHRMANN:** What I am particularly interested in is accessible toilets for staff. In the Legislative council there is at least one member of staff who is in a wheelchair and has to go down to the public toilet every time he wants to go to the toilet, which is not the best situation for him to be in.

**Mr Stefanic:** We had an accessibility audit done some time ago and we are working towards implementing the recommendations. We are in the process of developing an accessibility policy. I guess the difficulty we have is that building was designed over 30 years ago when accessibility was not an important criteria. We are, however, dealing with the critical areas where we can. For example, in the last year we have acquired a ramp for use in the Strangers Dining Room for functions to assist in that regard. We continue to seek funds for areas such as the Chamber. In the past we have made a submission to Treasury seeking disability access for the Chambers, but that funding was not forthcoming in the last year. We are actively pursuing projects to assist with accessibility. I note that the member's concerns about ready staff access to toilets. Perhaps if I could take that on notice and prepare a fulsome response.

#### Answer:

A Disability Audit was produced in 2007 in relation to Parliament House and its compliance with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the intent of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)*. The Audit identified several areas where improvements in access for disabled people could be made. While the Audit identified that, as per the BCA a building owner does not have to upgrade an existing building to current BCA standards, the Parliament has, and continues to be keen to take reasonable steps towards becoming compliant with the current Code. The following works have been completed over the past 5 years:

- Two accessible toilets on level 7
- Hearing Loops in both Chambers, Jubilee Room, Theatrette and Macquarie Rooms
- Upgrade to the Theatrette lifts and free access into the building via level 6 ramp which prior to the Gate House required access only via a security pass

Designs for access for people with disabilities to both Public Galleries of the Chambers have been developed previously, however submissions to Treasury for funding but have not been successful.

The Parliament is currently developing a proposal for the provision of accessible toilets on floors where members are accommodated in Parliament House and will be seeking funding to support these initiatives.

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### Question from The Hon Cate Faehrmann MLC

#### QUESTION 3

**The Hon. CATE FAEHRMANN:** Mr President, the Parliament website currently states that the Parliament has been working with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – which is clearly now the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to develop the New South Wales Parliament sustainability strategic action plan road map, a comprehensive action plan that will help set the strategic direction for reaching the Parliament's sustainability goals. What is the current status of this road map?

**The PRESIDENT:** An immense amount of good work has been done on that. I will ask the Executive Manager to go into some detail.

**Mr Stefanic:** If I may, that deserves a more detailed response. Could I take that on notice?

#### Answer:

Since late 2008, Parliamentary Facilities has undertaken an extensive water and energy consumption program. This program comprised:

- Lighting upgrade to replace high-energy consuming light globes with energy efficient long-life globes throughout the building
- Installation of a 25.6-KW photovoltaic system on Parliament House roof (consisting of over 100 panels). For 2011-2012, the array exceeded design output once again with a total of 29,738 kilowatts of power generated
- Upgrade of car park ventilation fan controls to improve energy efficiency
- Building Management Control System Upgrade to improve air conditioning and building management control system throughout the building
- Air-conditioning chillers upgrade to replace three chillers which contain ozone-depleting refrigerants with new energy-efficient chillers
- Cooling towers replacement, resulting in an approximate 50% decrease in cooling tower water usage. Apart from the toilets, the old towers were the biggest consumers of water in the building before they were replaced. While accurate figures were not available for this reporting period, it is anticipated the savings will be in the region of 12,000 kL or, enough water to fill almost five Olympic sized swimming pools.
- Installation of four water tanks resulting in approximately 8% reduction in total water usage

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- Development and installation of a computer kiosk in the Fountain Court to provide an information on sustainability initiatives undertaken within Parliament House.

In 2009 through the then Department of Environment's Advantage Program, Parliament House had a sustainability audit conducted to assist with the development of new sustainability strategies aimed at reducing waste. In response to the Audit, Parliament House has undertaken a major project of works on moving the building and its occupants towards more sustainable infrastructure and practices. For example, the Parliament has installed sustainable toilets using recycled water and has introduced an active program to encourage members and staff to use recycled paper for everyday purposes.

According to latest reports from the Office of Environment and Heritage (for the 2010-11 reporting period), the Parliament's commercial/industrial waste reduction results remain well above the average results for the whole of government, with over 80% of waste able to be recycled. Additionally, the Parliament received an impressive above average result for purchasing copy paper with recycled content.

Over the next three months the Parliament will introducing a number of other programs aimed at meeting our sustainability goals, including a system for recycling aluminium cans, plastics bottles and so on.

The Parliament is currently developing a sustainability policy that will cover areas such as ethical purchasing, day to day office habits that reduce waste and promote sustainability and a commitment to environmentally-friendly practices.