

**1. What representations have you made regarding the impact of coal mining operations on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in NSW?**

The impact of coal mines on Aboriginal cultural heritage is primarily assessed and managed under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Office of Environment and Heritage actively engages with the Department of Planning and Environment in relation to the impact of coal mining operations on Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in NSW

2. **What analysis has been undertaken of the heritage impacts of the sale of Housing NSW properties at Millers Point?**
3. **What measures have been put in place to mitigate the impacts of this sale on the heritage values of the sites?**

These questions are matters for the Minister for Family and Community Services.

- 4. What analysis has been undertaken of the heritage impacts of the sale of historical government owned buildings in the Sydney CBD, in particular the Lands building on Macquarie Street?**
- 5. What measures have been put in place to mitigate the impacts of this sale on the heritage values of the sites?**

These questions are matters for the Minister for Finance and Services.

**6. What changes, if any, have been made to the issuing of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits in the last 12 months?**

There has been no change to the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or regulations that have changed the requirements for issuing Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits in this period.

7. **How many incidents of alleged unauthorised harm to Aboriginal heritage were there in the last 12 months?**

62.

8. **How many incidents of alleged unauthorised harm to Aboriginal heritage were actively investigated in the last 12 months?**  
**(a) What proportion of reported incidents are actively investigated?**

In 2013/14 all reports were actively examined to determine the appropriate response, which may include further investigation or other action.

- a) In 2013/14 OEH actively examined 100 percent of reports.

**9. How many AHIPs have been issued in the last 12 months, by month?**

82 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) were issued across NSW in 2013/14.

Month	Number of AHIPs issued
July 2013	3
August 2013	7
September 2013	6
October 2013	10
November 2013	5
December 2013	5
January 2014	6
February 2014	2
March 2014	11
April 2014	9
May 2014	10
June 2014	8

**10. How many AHIPs have been refused in the last 12 months, by month?**

No Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP) were refused in 2013/14.

The AHIP application process comes at the end of a period of negotiation and consultation with the Registered Aboriginal parties and the Office of Environment and Heritage. The process is designed so that those that do reach the application stage include only what is legal, appropriate and acceptable following consultation with the Aboriginal community.

11. **What is the current budget for the Office of Environment and Heritage for responding to threats to or examples of possible unlawful destruction of Aboriginal heritage?**

See response to question 18.

**12. How many officers within the Office of Environment and Heritage have the particular skills to deal with Aboriginal heritage from a regulatory and compliance perspective?**

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has 44.5 full time equivalent (FTE) staff who have the relevant training and skills to deal with Aboriginal heritage from a regulatory and compliance perspective.

There are also 64 FTE staff in the Heritage Division whose roles include regulation and compliance of Aboriginal heritage.

OEH has a range of other staff across the agency whose roles include ensuring the implementation of effective Aboriginal heritage compliance and regulation, for example Park Rangers.

13. How many prosecutions has your department brought in the court for the destruction of Aboriginal heritage as a result of forestry practices in the last 12 months?

Nil

**14. What is the OEH's total budget for joint management (activities specifically related to national parks and reserves that are/will be jointly managed under Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974) in 2014/15?**

- (a) Of this, how much is spent on the following:**
- (b) Staff?**
- (c) Rents?**
- (d) Proposals to develop new jointly managed parks?**

\$2.439 million has been allocated for national parks jointly managed under Part 4A of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

- b) Staff for Part 4A parks are not employed through the Aboriginal joint management budget.
- c) \$2.015 million
- d) \$260,000

**15. What is the number of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) that have been issued in the last financial year? And since the commencement of National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010?**

82 Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) were issued in the 2013/14 financial year. 292 AHIPs have been issued since the commencement of the *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010*.

- 16. Has the number of Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) issued by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage increased or decreased since the Aboriginal heritage amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act commenced in October 2010? Can the OEH provide reasons for any increases or decreases?**

Between 1 July 2009 and 31 September 2010 the average number of AHIPs issued was 32.6 per quarter. Between 1 October 2010 and 30 June 2014 the average number of AHIPs issued was 19.4 per quarter.

**17. How many breaches related to Aboriginal heritage were reported to the OEH in 2013/14? How many of these were investigated? If suspected harm to Aboriginal heritage was not investigated, why not?**

OEH received 62 breach reports relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage during 2013/14, all reports were actively examined to determine the appropriate response, which included investigation or commencement of investigation into 50 matters.

**18. What is the OEH's budget for specifically enforcing the laws relating to Aboriginal 'objects' and 'places'?**

OEH compliance and enforcement for Aboriginal 'objects' and 'places' is incorporated into the broader compliance and enforcement program.

**19. How many incidents/reports related to harming Aboriginal heritage has the Office of Environment and Heritage received in the 2013/14 financial year in relation to the forestry sector?**

Nil

**20. What examples of unauthorised destruction of Aboriginal heritage by the forestry industry is the Minister or the Department aware of?**

OEH is not aware of any examples of unauthorised destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage in 2013/14 by Forests NSW, or by activities undertaken under Private Native Forestry approvals.

**21. How many alleged breaches have OEH, and its predecessor investigated in relation to Forests NSW in 2013 and 2014 to date in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage?**

OEH received one report in February 2013 alleging unauthorised destruction of Aboriginal artefact scatter sites by Forests NSW during road drainage works in the Bago State Forest, Tumbarumba. This matter is currently being investigated by OEH.

- 22. How much money has been allocated to specifically increase the number of Aboriginal culture and heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register in 2014/15? Is this more or less than previous years?**

Approximately six full time equivalent (FTE) positions across the Office of Environment and Heritage's listings teams will be employed during 2014/15 to work on State Heritage Register listings for items with Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. This is more than the previous year.

- 23. How many items listed on the State Heritage Register for their Aboriginal Heritage significance does the OEH expect to be listed in 2014/15? Is this more or less than last year?**

Five. This is more than the previous year.

- 24. How many staff does the OEH employ to promote the inclusion of Aboriginal heritage items on the State Heritage Register? What is the forecast budget for this role/these roles in the future?**

Approximately six full time equivalent (FTE) positions across the Office of Environment and Heritage's listings teams will be employed during 2014/15 to work on State Heritage Register listings for items with Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

**25. How much money has been allocated in 2014/15 to improve the information contained in AHIMS? What specifically is this money intended to be spent on?**

In 2014/15 \$2.5 million has been allocated for improvements to heritage databases including the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). These improvements include providing additional online tools and tracking of Aboriginal site registration and reports, improving automation of applicable Aboriginal information, improvements to searchable spatial interfaces and textual information delivery for Aboriginal Places and enhancing AHIMS modules and features.

**26. What was the actual budget for managing and operating AHIMS in 2013/14?**

\$662,500.

**27. What is the forecast expenditure for operating the AHIMS database in 2014/15?**

\$663,000.

- 28. How much revenue did the OEH receive from operating the AHIMS (eg. Conducting searches for external clients) in 2013/14? What is the forecast revenue for operating AHIMS in 2014/15?**

OEH received \$185,396 revenue from AHIMS operations in 2013/14. Forecast revenue for 2014/15 is \$175,000.

- 29. How much money is allocated in the 2014/15 budget for delivering AHIMS services and related Aboriginal heritage information to Aboriginal communities?**

Delivering AHIMS services and related Aboriginal heritage information to Aboriginal communities is funded in from the operating budget (see answer 27) and from the improvements budget (see answer 25).

**30. What is the OEH's total budget for co-management activities related to increasing Aboriginal peoples participation and management in national parks and reserves?**

\$6.85 million has been allocated in 2014-15 for Aboriginal joint management.

31. **Of the \$6.23 million allocated for national park or protect area acquisition in the 2013-14 NSW Budget, how many properties and hectares were purchased to protect places of Aboriginal significance and heritage?**

\$5.41 million was spent on land acquisition for properties that contain Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

32. Of the \$461.5 million allocated to the National Parks and Wildlife Service Group in the 2014-15 budget, how much is allocated to be spent on the following:
- (a) Protecting Aboriginal heritage sites?
  - (b) Delivering programs to Aboriginal communities?
  - (c) Delivering Aboriginal culture and heritage /sites training courses?
  - (d) Staffing costs?
  - (e) Promoting Aboriginal heritage?
  - (f) Increasing the number of Aboriginal sites and areas protected?
  - (g) 'Providing Aboriginal people with opportunities to protect their culture and heritage and access traditional lands by increasing the number of Aboriginal co-management arrangement over national parks and other conservation areas'(Goal 26, NSW 2021)?

Service group statements provide high-level aggregate expenses for a service group, with significant items of particular public interest listed and do not reflect NSW Government funding on a program basis.

33. Of the \$492.3 million allocated to the Regional Operations and Heritage Service Group in the 2014-15 budget, how much is allocated to be spent on the following:
- a) Developing new legislation to protect Aboriginal Culture and Heritage?
  - b) Protecting Aboriginal heritage sites?
  - c) Listing Aboriginal heritage sites on the State Heritage Register?
  - d) Listing Aboriginal heritage sites on the Aboriginal Place register?
  - e) Delivering programs to Aboriginal communities?
  - f) Delivering Aboriginal culture and heritage/sites training courses?
  - g) Staffing costs?
  - h) Promoting Aboriginal heritage?
  - i) Increasing the number of Aboriginal sites and areas protected?
  - j) Providing Aboriginal people with opportunities to protect their culture and heritage and access traditional lands by increasing the number of Aboriginal co-management arrangement over national parks and other conservation areas (Goal 26, NSW 2021)?
  - k) Investigating incidents of alleged unauthorised harm to Aboriginal heritage?

Service group statements provide high-level aggregate expenses for a service group, with significant items of particular public interest listed and do not reflect NSW Government funding on a program basis.

- 34. How many staff will be employed by the Office of Environment and Heritage in 2014/15 to specifically undertake work in relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage?**

See response to question 12. There are also 64 FTE staff in the Heritage Division whose roles include regulation and compliance of Aboriginal heritage and OEHL has a range of other staff across the agency whose roles relate to Aboriginal culture and heritage (for example Park Rangers).

- 35. How many Aboriginal staff will be employed by the Office of Environment and Heritage in 2014/15 to specifically undertake work in relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage?**

As at 30 June 2014, 10.8 per cent of the Office of Environment and Heritage staff identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

- 36. What was the budget for litigation associated with Aboriginal sites and objects in 2013/14?**
- 37. What is the budget for litigation associated with Aboriginal sites and objects in 2014/15?**

OEH Legal Services Division prosecutes offences under the legislation administered by OEH, including for Aboriginal sites and objects. Prosecutions are undertaken as appropriate and are not budgeted for by offence type.

- 38. Given that consultations on the NSW Governments' proposed model for Aboriginal culture and heritage laws occurred in late 2013 and early 2014:**
- a) When will submissions be made public?**
  - b) Has the Minister considered the submissions or a summary of submissions?**
  - c) Can the Minister provide an overview of key issues raised in submissions made?**
  - d) Has the Minister developed a response to the submissions made?**
  - e) Are there plans to make changes to the proposed model?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform. Submissions not marked confidential will be publicly released when the government has finished its consideration.

**39. When will detailed proposals for new Aboriginal heritage laws in NSW be publicly released by the NSW Government?**

**40. Has the NSW Government endorsed draft legislation on new Aboriginal heritage laws?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**41. What consultation will take place with the Aboriginal community in relation to proposed new laws, and over what time period?**

The NSW Government has an ongoing commitment to broad and extensive consultation on the reform to Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation.

**42. What is the forecast budget expenditure allocated to transferring to a new system/laws?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**43. Can the Minister provide a timeline for implementing new laws to protect Aboriginal heritage?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**44. Will the OEH be responsible for implementing the new system?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**45. What financial/economic modelling has the OEH undertaken on how much the NSW Government's proposed model will cost to implement and operate?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**46. Has OEH consulted with any community or industry groups about economic modelling?  
If so, which groups**

The Office of Environment and Heritage has consulted with NSWALC/NTS Corp and industry sectors including mining, housing and infrastructure.

**47. What was the OEH's forecast and actual expenditure on developing proposals for the new Aboriginal heritage legislation in 2013/14?**

In 2013/14 the actual expenditure was \$576,035 against a budget forecast of \$427,447. The additional expenditure was approved to provide additional public consultation sessions and analysing public submissions.

**48. How much did OEH spend on the following in 2013/14 on the following:**

- a) Workshops/consultations on new Aboriginal heritage laws?**
- b) Research on best practice Aboriginal heritage legislation?**
- c) Economic modelling for new Aboriginal heritage laws?**

The cost for phase three consultation (excluding Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) staff salaries) was \$107,425. OEH salaries in 2013/14 for staff working on the development of the new Aboriginal heritage legislation was \$468,610.

**49. What is the OEH's forecast for expenditure on new Aboriginal heritage legislation in 2014/15? How is this funding intended to be distributed?**

An estimated \$670,000 has been allocated for 2014/15. The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**50. Has the OEH undertaken or commissioned any research or reports to be written in undertaken in relation to a cost benefit analysis on any new proposed Aboriginal heritage laws? If so, will the Minister publicly release this information?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**51. Has the OEH undertaken or commissioned any research into whether or not current NSW laws would meet proposed Commonwealth accreditation standards in relation to the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage? If so, can this research be made available to the public?**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

**52. Have you considered any advice relating to whether or not current NSW laws would meet proposed Commonwealth accreditation standards in relation to the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage? If so, can this information be made available to the public**

The NSW Government is currently considering the consultation feedback to inform a final proposed model for reform.

53. **Has a proposal for the revocation of land from the Royal National Park, being playing fields at Loftus, Gray's Point and Heathcote located within the gazetted boundaries of the Royal National Park, for transfer into the tenure of the Sutherland Shire Council gone before the Minister for Environment and has the minister made a determination on the matter?**

An in-principle proposal to revoke the sporting ovals from Royal National Park is currently being considered by the Minister for the Environment. Revocation of any land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* requires an Act of Parliament, not a determination.

- 54. Does the proposal include transfer of the land offered by Sutherland Shire Council's comprising 8.5 hectares of bushland at Spring Gully, Bundeena?**

No.

**55. Have the consultations required by the NPWS revocation policy been carried out?**

Advice is being sought in accordance with the policy.

56. What response was received by each relevant party including:
- (a) Federal Department of Environment
  - (b) The National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Council
  - (c) The relevant NPWS Regional Advisory Committee.

- a) The Federal Department of Environment will be consulted after consideration by the NSW Minister for the Environment.
- b) The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council has not yet been consulted.
- c) The relevant Regional Advisory Committee has not yet expressed a view.

**57. What was the advice received from each of these bodies in (56)?**

See answer to Question 56.

- 58. Has the Federal Minister of the Environment agreed to change the boundaries of the gazetted listing of the Royal National Park on the national heritage list?**

The Federal Minister for the Environment has not yet been consulted.

- 59. Why hasn't the offer by Sutherland Shire Council of its 8.5 hectares of high ecological value bushland at Bundeena been accepted as compensatory land as part of the revocation of the playing fields, consistent with the NPWS revocation policy?**

NPWS has not received a formal offer from Sutherland Shire Council. NPWS will give consideration to any offer received. The proposed revocation and compensatory land are not related.

**60. Does the NSW government have any plans to increase their renewable energy generation target beyond 20% by 2020?**

**(a) If so, please provide details**

**(b) If not why not**

The NSW Government supports the national target of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020.

**61. Is the government working to a timetable to achieve its goal of 20% renewable energy generation by 2020?**

**(a) If so, please provide details including interim targets and budget allocation**

**(b) If not, why not**

Yes. The Renewable Energy Action Plan positions NSW to increase the use of energy from renewable sources at least cost to the energy customer and with maximum benefits to NSW. It details the opportunities and actions underway for each of the renewable technologies in NSW as well as new proposals to most efficiently grow renewable energy.

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

The Office of Environment and Heritage and NSW Trade and Investment collaborate on the development of a coherent energy policy approach in NSW. Two examples of this collaboration in practice are the:

- Renewable Energy Action Plan Working Group
- Energy Savings Scheme Coordination Group.

63. Does the Minister agree with the following statement made by the Minister for Energy and Resources Anthony Roberts during the GPSC5 Budget Estimates Hearing on 20 August 2014 *“the coal industry is the backbone supporting our energy needs”*?

Coal fired power stations in NSW generate more than 80 percent of the state's electricity. In 2012-13 around 33 percent of the primary energy consumed in NSW is from coal. Therefore, the coal industry currently provides the majority of our energy supply.

**64. What budget allocations have been made to support the implementation of this policy?**

The Energy Efficiency Action Plan, released in August 2013, provided a finance facility for government energy efficiency projects with a \$95 million net lending limit; and an allocation of \$3.3 million for energy efficiency specialists to assist agencies identify and implement energy efficiency projects.

- 65. Will the annual statement required to be published by government agencies to demonstrate compliance with the policy be made publically available?**  
**(a) If so when are the first compliance reports expected to be published?**

Yes. The first reports are expected after July 2015.

**66. Will any government agencies receive additional funding to install solar panels to assist in the implementation of part E3?**

The measure E3 refers to the minimum standards for new electrical appliances and equipment.

With respect to measure E5, which requires agencies to identify solar leasing opportunities, the intent is that privately owned and financed solar panels would be installed on government agency buildings. The owner would sell the electricity generated to the NSW Government at a lower price than conventional energy. There is no need for government funding.

**67. Why have NSW Local Health Districts been exempted from the target to purchase 6% GreenPower under section E7?**

Area Health Services are exempt from the requirement so it does not impact on the costs of frontline services. NSW Health may however voluntarily choose to purchase GreenPower.

- 68. Have any expressions of interest or applications been received following the ratification of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation 2013 earlier this year?**  
**(a) If so please provide details.**

The EPA has not received any expressions of interest or applications following commencement of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation 2013 on 7 March 2014.

- 69. Please detail the process undertaken, including government agencies involved, to approve developments relating to the burning of native forest vegetation for electricity generation in NSW.**

Developments proposing to burn native forest biomaterials for electricity generation follow the same development approval process as other electricity generation proposals.

Accordingly, the relevant Government agencies are the Department of Planning and Environment, and the Environment Protection Authority.

70. **Have any studies been commissioned or conducted into the greenhouse gas emissions produced as a result of harvesting and burning native forest vegetation for electricity generation?**  
(a) **If not why not?**

Greenhouse gas management is a Commonwealth Government responsibility. Accordingly, neither the Environment Protection Authority nor the Office of Environment and Heritage has commissioned or conducted studies into the greenhouse gas emissions produced as a result of harvesting and burning native forest vegetation.

- 71. Have any studies been commissioned or conducted into the air pollution including particulate matter produced as a result of harvesting and burning native forest vegetation for electricity generation?**  
**(a) If not why not?**

No such studies have been commissioned. All EPA-licensed Electricity Generators are required to comply with environment protection licence conditions, the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010 and the provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. These instruments aim to prevent or minimise air pollution, regardless of the activity or the fuel being used. The annual returns for licence holders contain the results of pollutant monitoring required under the licence conditions, as well as any non-compliances with licence conditions.

## CENTRAL COAST

72. Given the drinking water supply of the over 300,000 residents in the Central Coast is at risk from the changes to the Kulnura/Mangrove Mountain Water Sharing Plan which will prioritise water trading over water conservation, the potential for CSG drilling in the catchment, Rocla's Calga sandstone quarry extension which will damage the aquifer, the Wallarah2 coal mine and its potential impacts on the Wyong River and the identification of large sections of the Mangrove Mountain district as suitable for other extractive industries such as sandstone quarries which will further damage the aquifers, why haven't similar protection measures like that adopted for Sydney, such as the ban on CSG mining, been promoted by this government and adopted on the Central Coast?

The NSW Government is committed to the protection of land and water resources in NSW. NSW has in place the most comprehensive and transparent regulatory controls for the coal and coal seam gas industries in the country in order to protect our vital land and water resources, the environment and the health of our communities.

All water taken for either petroleum or mineral production must be fully licensed and accounted for by the NSW Office of Water.

Water Sharing Plans, created under the provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000*, establish rules for the equitable sharing of water between the environmental needs of the river or aquifer and water users, and also between different types of water use such as town supply, rural domestic supply, stock watering, industry and irrigation.

Proposed changes to the water sharing plan are still under consideration, and a draft plan will be publicly exhibited prior to the finalisation of any changes. No additional groundwater will be made available for extraction as a result of any changes.

The NSW Aquifer Interference Policy, released in September 2012, ensures the impacts of petroleum and mining developments on groundwater resources are now subject to greater scrutiny and control. This policy outlines the process through which the Office of Water assesses projects to determine any potential impacts on aquifers, and requires that operators properly address any risks to groundwater resources and undertake adequate monitoring.

Groundwater level and quality is regularly monitored across the State by the Office of Water using a network of 3,500 State-owned monitoring bores, with real-time data made available on the internet. The Office of Water is also currently enhancing its deep monitoring sites and constructing new bores in groundwater sources that are being actively explored for Coal Seam Gas and mining opportunities in NSW.

**73. When will the incident report prepared by the EPA into the Chester Hill recycling and waste fire that burnt for two weeks in March this year be made available publicly?**

The EPA has commenced a confidential criminal investigation into this incident, including the circumstances that caused the smoulder in the stockpile of building and demolition waste at Chester Hill. As this investigation is ongoing, the EPA is not in a position to release any internal documents relating to that matter at this time.

**74. Can you confirm the management of the smouldering actually caused the fire to spread throughout the facility?**

Smouldering waste stockpiles are notoriously difficult to extinguish. The EPA obtained expert advice and assistance from Fire and Rescue NSW to extinguish the smouldering stockpile, including the use of thermal imagery. The advice from Fire and Rescue NSW was to systematically dismantle and extinguish the smouldering waste. This advice was followed.

**75. Are there any plans to introduce laws to overcome the liquidation loophole that companies use in the courts and that prevents the EPA from revoking their licence?  
a) If yes, what is the timeline for introducing these laws?**

In response to this incident, the NSW Government has introduced legislation to Parliament bringing forward a number of changes to the law to allow the EPA to take swifter action to suspend or revoke an operator's licence.

The *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* provides that:

- the EPA will no longer need to give notice of its intention to suspend or revoke a licence; and
- if the licensee appeals the EPA's decision to suspend or revoke its licence, the suspension or revocation must remain in force while the appeal is being heard.

These changes are important because the requirement to issue a notice of intent to suspend or revoke a licence means the actual suspension or revocation is delayed. In the meantime, the licence holder can continue to operate and/or change its corporate structure. Similarly, where a suspension or revocation of a licence is stayed by a Court pending the outcome of an appeal by the licensee against the suspension or revocation decision by the EPA, the licensee can continue to operate.

As with the case of the fire that smouldered for weeks at the Chester Hill waste facility, the changes being brought forward by the EPA would reduce the risk of environmental damage during the period of the notice or appeal, and reduce the unacceptable risk to the community.

It is also important to understand that the EPA's decision to revoke or suspend a licence is only taken in the most serious of cases, such as when a company goes into liquidation or shows continual disregard for its environmental obligations.

The NSW Government has also significantly increase the penalty notice amounts for:

- the 10 most serious environmental offences under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* to \$15,000 for a corporation and \$7,500 for an individual where these are issued by the EPA or other government agencies and to \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively when issued by local government; and
- 19 other serious environmental offences to \$8,000 and \$4,000 when issued by the EPA or other government agencies and \$4,000 and \$2,000 when issued by local government.

**76. How much has been spent on the Supplementary Pest Control Program in the 2013-2014 financial year?**

\$1.416 million.

**77. How much has been budgeted for the 2014-2015 financial year?**

\$2.302 million.

78. For the amount spent last financial year, how many animals were removed under the program?

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- 79. Regarding the Supplementary Pest Control Program on the Cocoparra Nature Reserve on the weekend of 15 to 16 February 2014. How much was spent on this weekend and how many animals were removed?**

Approximately \$3,600 was spent on the Cocoparra Nature Reserve operation during the weekend of 15 to 16 February.

Two feral goats were shot before the operation was suspended due to a significant wet weather event on the day of the operation.

**80. Did the government provide any funds to the Sporting Shooters Association in the 2013-2014 financial year?**

**(a) If yes, what was the total amount of funding?**

No.

**81. Is any money budgeted for the Sporting Shooters Association in the 2014-2015 budget year?**

**(a) If yes, what is the amount?**

No.

82. Does the government have any plans to protect the Gardens of Stone which is under threat from Coalpac's coal mine?  
(a) If yes, what are these plans?
83. Are the National Parks and Wildlife Services investigating the proposal known as "Gardens of Stone Stage 2"?  
(a) If yes, when will these investigations be completed?

The Office of Environment and Heritage is investigating options with other NSW Government agencies regarding Gardens of Stone Stage 2.

**84. Does the Government have any plans to protect 'The Drip' from Yancoal's exploration and mining?**

**1) If yes, what are these?**

Yes, negotiations are progressing with Yancoal in regard to reservation of The Drip under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

**85. Can the State Government compulsorily acquire land for conservation purposes?**

Yes. Section 146 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* provides for the acquisition of lands, by agreement or compulsory process, including an interest in the land, for certain purposes such as improving access to or for the management, maintenance or improvement of a reserve.

86. **What progress has been made in re-establishing a NSW Coastal Council?**
87. **If a NSW Coastal Council is re-established, is the government prepared to consider a broader role and membership for a reconstituted Coastal Council, including community membership?**

The NSW Government is committed to delivering a more strategic, sustainable and integrated approach to managing our coastal environment. The Government's Stage Two Coastal Reform agenda is focused on three key areas: establishing a simpler and more integrated legal and policy framework, improving support to councils and communities, and identifying cost effective options for financing coastal management.

The Office of Environment and Heritage is currently working with relevant government agencies and the NSW Coastal Expert Panel on developing the coastal reforms. The Expert Panel is made up of Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom, Professor Darryl Low Choy, Mr Angus Gordon, Associate Professor Ron Cox, Councillor Kevin Schreiber and Ms Kristin Stubbins. The Panel has considerable expertise in engineering, coastal geomorphology, land use planning and local government.

As part of the reforms, options for an independent coastal advisory body are being considered. This involves examining the roles and functions of existing bodies such as the NSW Coastal Panel, which provides advice to the Minister for the Environment on coastal matters. Membership will be considered once the roles and functions are established.

**88. What provisions are in place to protect wildlife from injury or death during logging operations when those creatures are not listed as threatened species?**

The Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals under which the Forestry Corporation of NSW operate include specific conditions to protect threatened species and their habitat. The Approvals also include general conditions which cover landscape-based exclusions zones such as riparian protection zone, high conservation old growth exclusion zones and rainforest exclusions. These protect a range of habitats for wildlife.

**89. Are any animal welfare protocols in place to protect wildlife injured or displaced during logging operations?**

**(a) If no, are any animal welfare protocols under consideration to protect wildlife injured or displaced during logging operations?**

The Forestry Corporation of NSW has an informal protocol for reporting and caring for injured wildlife, including reporting injured wildlife to the local WIRES or to an internal Forestry Corporation ecology team who then access a network of wildlife carers. The Forestry Corporation of NSW also includes specific wildlife rescue and carer details in their harvest plans on some occasions. Further questions about these matters should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

90. **Are logging contractors required to take any precautions to protect active wombat burrows from bulldozers or other logging machinery during logging operations.**  
(a) **In the event that a wombat is buried alive by a bulldozer or other logging machinery, is the contractor required to take any action to rescue the wombat?**

Logging contractors are required to protect threatened species in line with the conditions set out in the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals.

The Forestry Corporation of NSW has an informal protocol for reporting and caring for injured wildlife, and can issue logging contractors site specific requirements. Further questions about these matters should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

91. The NSW's kangaroo meat industry, especially export markets, are dependent on strict hygiene controls due to high risks toxoplasmosis amongst other things. Does NSW have a strict regime with a sufficiently resourced inspection team?
- (a) How many inspectors are there in the Western Kangaroo Management Zones, for example the Bourke Kangaroo Management Zone?
  - (b) Are Kangaroo inspectors required to be qualified? If not, why not?
  - (c) Please provide a list of the number of the qualified kangaroo inspectors in each Kangaroo Management Zone.

This question is a matter for the Minister for Primary Industries.

- 92. The aspirational harvest rates of kangaroos, approximately 15-17% per annum, have surpassed reproductive rates (up to maximum 10% - 14% per annum) for the species involved in commercial harvest for the last 30-40 years. Is this a sustainable industry?**

Commercial kangaroo harvesting in NSW is managed in accordance with the NSW Commercial Kangaroo Harvest: Management Plan 2012-2016. The primary goal of the management plan is to ensure that the commercial harvest of kangaroos is ecologically sustainable.

93. **Do kangaroo monitoring surveys over-fly national parks and other non-harvest areas in the Central Tablelands and Far-Western Kangaroo Management Zones, with animals counted therein being used to calculate populations in harvested areas?**  
**(a) Is it appropriate to use data from national parks to calculate harvesting data?**

Due to the ability of kangaroos to move through the landscape, populations are estimated on a regional basis as estimates are less reliable over small areas. National Parks are not included in the Central Tablelands surveys.

- 94. Is the government considering stricter wood heater standards, ones that exceed the Standards Australia Technical Committee recommendations alongside targeted financial assistance for low income households**
- (a) If yes, what is the timeline for the decision and its implementation**

The EPA is reviewing the management of wood smoke in NSW generally. All options for managing wood smoke are under consideration.

**95. Is the EPA considering The NSW Auditor General's report and its findings to improve processes for prioritising contaminated sites?**

The EPA is supportive of the Auditor General's recommendations for the EPA in his report 'Managing contaminated sites'. The EPA is committed to implementing those recommendations.

**96. How and what information does the EPA communicate to the public living in close proximity to contaminated sites?**

NSW has the most robust contaminated land reporting requirements in Australia.

Two public registers are maintained by the EPA on its website in relation to contaminated land. The EPA maintains a public record of all sites regulated under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* and a separate list of sites notified to the EPA.

**97. Is the Government considering a container deposit scheme to be implemented in NSW?**

**(a) If yes, when will a fully-fledged container deposit scheme be implemented?**

The NSW Government recognises that packaging waste is a major issue for our environment and local communities. Australian Environment Ministers are reviewing existing container deposit schemes and better ways to manage Australia's packaging waste. As part of this review, the environmental and economic costs and benefits of many different options to increase recycling and reduce litter are being assessed. Prior to the end of the year, the NSW Government will make an informed decision based on the available evidence to arrive at a solution that is both environmentally effective and economically responsible.

**98. Has any future additional development in the Jenolan Caves Karst Conservation Reserve been proposed?**

**(a) If yes, how will the spread of development ensure the integrity and conservational value of the reserve?**

No.

99. **What ecologically-based limits, if any, on bed and visitor numbers will be established under the new plan of management for the Jenolan Caves Karst Conservation Reserve?**

The plan of management does not set bed or visitor capacity limits.

100. Has Lend Lease illegally cleared or suspected of having illegally cleared any parts of the ADI Site zoned Regional Park?
- (a) What was the extent of the clearing and what action did OEH take in response?
  - (b) Is the regional park area zoned as an offset to the development of the rest of the ADI site development?
    - i. If yes, has Lend Lease cleared an offset to date? and
    - ii. What are the extra penalties for this clearing? .

Please be advised that Lend Lease has not illegally, nor is it suspected of having illegally cleared any parts of the ADI site zoned Regional Park.

101. **Prior to the commencement of the implementation of Lend Lease Macrofauna Management Plan (MFMP) how many emus were on the ADI Site?**
- (a) **How many emus remain on site currently?**
  - (b) **How does this number compare before and after the implementation?**

In 2002 a population census was conducted and it was estimated there were approximately 40 – 50 animals. 27 emus remain on site. There has been a small decline in the population in the last few years.

**102. What are the names of the companies employed by Lend Lease to implement the MFMP?**

SCEC Pty Ltd implements the program on behalf of Lend Lease. Cumberland Ecology conducts the scientific study regarding the impacts of macrofauna grazing on the endangered vegetation within the future regional park. Dr Tony English AM, veterinary consultant in wildlife health and population management, provides independent oversight of the Macrofauna Management Plan as well as the work done by Lend Lease and SCEC Pty Ltd.

**103. Is a SCEC Veterinary Research, Consulting and Management Services, Sydney currently employed by Lend Lease to implement the MFMP?**

Yes.

**104. Are all aspects of the implementation of the MFMP documented such as deaths, injuries, escapes, removals, fence breaches, egg removal?**

All aspects of the implementation of the MFMP document, except egg removal, are documented as part of the annual review program. It is not a requirement of the MFMP to determine how many eggs are laid each year.

**105. Are traditional owners allowed onto the ADI Site to remove emu eggs for cultural purposes? When has this occurred?**

No.

- 106. How many emus does OEH intend retaining on the ADI Site?**  
**(a) Where will they be located within the 900 ha protected area?**

A permanent population of emus and kangaroos will be retained in the park. The Office of Environment and Heritage is currently obtaining expert advice on the long-term carrying capacity of emus within the regional park.

**107. What is the projected total cost of administering the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15?**

The estimated cost for the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Protection Authority is \$14,090,000.

108. What was the cost of administering the Native Vegetation Act in the following years?

- (a) 2013-2014 Financial Year
- (b) 2012-2013 Financial Year
- (c) 2011-2012 Financial Year
- (d) 2010-2011 Financial Year
- (e) 2009-2010 Financial Year

The estimated costs for the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Protection Authority are:

Financial year	Estimated total costs
(a) 2013/14	\$11,450,000
(b) 2012/13	\$9,000,000
(c) 2011/12	\$10,900,000
(d) 2010/11	\$11,440,000
(e) 2009/10	\$13,790,000

**109. What is the breakdown of costs projected for administering the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15?**

The estimated costs for the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environment Protection Authority are:

2014/15 Branch or function	Total Projected Costs
Compliance and enforcement	\$3,570,000
Legal	\$725,000
Operations	\$2,740,000
Policy advice	\$1,100,000
Private Native Forestry (EPA)	\$1,500,000
Public Affairs	\$25,000
Science	\$4,430,000

- 110. What is the total allocated funding for the creation of new self-assessable codes under the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15 and how does that compare with the 2013-2014 financial year?**

The estimated costs for the Office of Environment and Heritage are:

Financial year	Estimated total costs
2014/15	\$1,070,000
2013/14	\$1,330,000

- 111. What is the breakdown of funding for the creation of new self-assessable codes under the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15 and how does that compare with the 2013-2014 financial year?**

The estimated costs for the Office of Environmental and Heritage are:

Financial year	Estimated salary and on-costs	Estimated operating costs	Estimated capital costs
2014/15	\$880,000	\$120,000	\$70,000
2013/14	\$770,000	\$210,000	\$350,000

**112. What is the total number of staff FTEs dedicated to the creation of new self-assessable codes under the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15?**

The estimated number of staff FTEs for the Office of Environmental and Heritage is 8.

- 113. What is the total budget dedicated to enforcement of provisions in the Native Vegetation Act on land clearing for 2014/15, and how does that compare to the 2013-2014 Financial Year, the 2012-2013 Financial Year, the 2011-2012 Financial Year, the 2010-2011 Financial Year and the 2009-2010 Financial Year?**  
**(a) Please also provide a detailed breakdown by staff and type.**

The estimated costs for the Office of Environmental and Heritage are:

Financial year	Estimated total costs
2014/15	\$8,000,000
2013/14	\$6,150,000
2012/13	\$4,860,000
2011/12	\$6,760,000
2010/11	\$6,290,000
2009/10	\$8,320,000

- 114. What is the total number of staff FTEs working on enforcement of Native Vegetation Act provisions for 2014/15 and how does that compare to the 2013-2014 Financial Year, the 2012-2013 Financial Year, the 2011-2012 Financial Year, the 2010-2011 Financial Year and the 2009-2010 Financial Year?**

The estimated number of staff FTEs for the Office of Environment and Heritage and Environment Protection Authority are:

Financial year	Estimated total staff FTEs
2014/15	30
2013/14	24
2012/13	19
2011/12	19
2010/11	21
2009/10	21

**115. Please list all planned self-assessable codes to be developed under the Native Vegetation Act for 2014/15 and the projected cost of each one?**

1. Clearing of invasive species;
2. Clearing of paddock trees in cultivation areas;
3. Thinning of native vegetation;
4. Clearing mulga in the Western Division for stock fodder;
5. Clearing for environmental works: native revegetation involving minor clearing;
6. Clearing for environmental works: minor clearing to rehabilitate native groundcover in western NSW;
7. Clearing of feral species: white cedar in inland NSW;
8. Clearing of low conservation value native grasslands in the Monaro region; and
9. Clearing for environmental works: ecological burning of native vegetation.

Projected costs for each one cannot be estimated separately. Please see total costs estimated in Question 110.

- 116. What is the projected budget for policy and advice on land clearing issues for 2014/15 and how does that compare to the previous financial year? Please provide the title and date of each report, or other written advice, provided to the Minister for the Environment on land clearing for the 2013/14 financial year.**

The estimated costs for the Office of Environment are:

Financial year	Projected Budget for Policy and Advice
2014/15	\$1,100,000
2013/14	\$1,070,000

The NSW Report on Native Vegetation 2011-13 was provided to the Minister in June 2014.

**117. What was the projected cost for satellite imagery to assist in land clearing data gathering for 2014/15, and how does that compare to the 2013-2014 Financial Year, the 2012-2013 Financial Year, the 2011-2012 Financial Year, the 2010-2011 Financial Year and the 2009-2010 Financial Year?**

**a) Please also provide breakdown by source.**

The estimated capital expenditures for satellite imagery, including data storage, for the Office of Environmental and Heritage are:

Financial year	Estimated capital costs
2014/15	\$2,460,000
2013/14	\$1,700,000
2012/13	\$1,040,000
2011/12	\$2,730,000
2010/11	\$2,010,000
2009/10	\$4,750,000

(a) The funding source is entirely from the NSW Government.

**118. What resources have been allocated to assess the environmental impacts of trial thinning in the River Red Gum National Parks in the Riverina for 2014/15?**

Approximately 90 person days have been allocated for the implementation of the monitoring plan in 2014-15.

- 119. How much firewood was harvested from River Red Gum National Parks in 2013/14 under the arrangement where every household in the Riverina can collect up to 6 tonnes/year?**

2,909 tonnes.

**120. What is the estimated yield of firewood from the thinning trial for 2014/15?**

Approximately 4,000 tonnes.

**121. What resources have been allocated to assess the environmental impacts of trial grazing in the River Red Gum National Parks and how much has been allocated to assessing the social and economic impacts for 2014/15?**

To study the impacts and benefits of grazing in national parks and reserves in the state's south-west during 2014-15;

- \$600,000 has been allocated to assessing environmental impacts, and
- \$20,000 has been allocated to assess social and economic impacts.

**122. How much has been spent to date and what are the expected future costs for the dispersal of grey headed flying foxes from Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney?**

Expenditure between financial year 2006/07 and 2012/13 was \$2,485,140.

The budget for 2014/15 is \$180,000.

The estimated budget for 2015/16 and beyond is \$40,000 per annum.

**123. What expenditure has been set aside for the maintenance of the grey-headed flying-fox camp in Centennial Parklands?**

\$2,100 for financial year 2014/15 and \$2,100 for 2015/16.

- 124. How many staff has the Office of Environment and Heritage lost in the 2013-2014 financial year due to budget cuts?**  
**(a) How many staff cuts are planned for the 2014-2015 financial year?**

The number of full time equivalent staff in OEH decreased by 103 from 30 June 2013 compared with 30 June 2014. It is forecast that in the coming year full time equivalent staff in OEH will be decreased by 63.

- 125. How many staff cuts were there at the National Parks and Wildlife Service this year?**  
**(a) Please provide a breakdown by location and office.**

19 staff in the National Parks and Wildlife Service took a voluntary redundancy in 2013/14.

Metro & Mountains Branch/Queanbeyan - 1  
Metro & Mountains Branch/Parramatta - 2  
Park Assets Branch/Parramatta - 2  
Park Assets Branch/Dubbo - 1  
Park Assets Branch/Hurstville - 3  
Park Assets Branch/Armidale - 1  
Park Assets Branch/Jindabyne - 2  
Park Services & Strategy Branch/Jindabyne - 1  
Park Services & Strategy Branch/Hurstville - 1  
Western Branch/Griffith - 1  
Western Branch/Cobar - 1  
Coastal Branch/Illawarra - 1  
Park Conservation & Heritage Branch/Tumut - 1  
Customer Experience Division/Sydney -1

**126. Taking into account inflation, has there been a reduction in funding to manage pest animals and weeds in national parks and reserves from the 2013-2014 financial year to the 2014-2015 financial year?**

**(a) If no, please specify the amount of the increase and how it compares to the 2013-2014 financial year.**

Office of Environment and Heritage funding in 2014/15 for pest and weed management programs is approximately \$38 million. This is the same level of funding as 2013/14.

**127. Will the Government continue to fund the Orange Hawkweed Eradication program?**

The program has been funded for 2014-15.

**128. Has OEH done any modelling regarding the environmental impact of the proposed Needles Gap dam, near Bathurst?**

**(a) If yes, when will the results of the modelling be made publicly available?**

The Office of Environment and Heritage has not been asked for formal advice. Any environmental considerations will be followed as part of due process.

**129. Does the White Bay Cruise Terminal comply with noise standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency?**

**(a) If not, what actions will be taken to ensure that the Terminal is compliant?**

The EPA does not set noise standards for the White Bay Cruise Terminal. The requirements were set by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in the Project Approval. Advice was provided by the EPA to DPE.

Further questions regarding the requirements of the Project Approval for the White Bay Cruise Terminal and actions relating to non-compliances should be directed to the Minister for Planning.

- 130. What was the final expenditure for national park acquisition and expansion in the 2013-2014 financial year and how much is budgeted for the 2014-2015 financial year?**
- (a) Is the government committed to expanding National Parks in NSW to the IUCN target of 17% by 2020?**
- i. Will the government commit to expanding the budget for such acquisitions?**

The NSW Government will continue to work to acquire lands of strategic conservation value to progressively build the national park estate. Final expenditure in 2013/14 on land acquisition was \$5.41 million. In 2014/15, \$5.28 million has been allocated to purchase land for national parks and reserves.

**131. The Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy has encouraged the development of a number of tracks suitable for mountain biking within national parks which use volunteers to maintain the built features to a certain standard to encourage use. What monitoring and enforcement strategies are employed to prevent illegal track creation and thus additional degradation of the parks?**

NPWS rangers and field officers regularly monitor activities in national parks and address track creation through education of user groups and issuing of cautions and infringement notices where appropriate.

- 132. Regarding the Strategic Directions for Horse Riding in NSW National Parks trials in Wilderness areas which began in April 2014:**
- a) Please outline what processes have been incorporated into the trial to assess and evaluate the economic benefit of horse riding in national parks for communities local to each park.**
  - b) What funds have been set aside to provide for the cost of this process?**
  - c) What evidence exists to demonstrate the impact of horse manure in national parks? Who conducted the evidence gathering procedures? What time period did the investigation cover? Is the report publicly available? If so where, if not why not?**
  - d) Has the government undertaken risk analysis of the impact of horse riding on the national reserve assets or the experience of other users of the parks? If so, is this report publicly available and, if so, where?**
  - e) Will the reports written about the progress of the trials be available for public scrutiny, and if so, where will they be available?**
  - f) Will there be an opportunity for other park stakeholders to comment on the success or otherwise of the trials?**
  - g) What guarantees can be made that horses being ridden in national parks have been fed a weed free diet as per the code of conduct?**

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been completed for each pilot location. This included peer-reviewed evidence on the potential for weed species to germinate and spread from horse manure.

The framework for the monitoring program is publicly available, based on the REF produced. Economic benefit is not one of the outcomes monitored for this trial. Compliance with the voluntary code of practice for horse riding in parks is part of the monitoring framework. \$58,000 has been provided in 2014-15 for implementation of the monitoring framework.

Results from on-ground monitoring will be released on the OEH website. Park stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the success of the trials.

**133. Regarding new accommodation in National Parks:**

- (a) What are the plans for the provision of new accommodation in national parks?**
- (b) How many parks are affected?**
- (c) How many tourists will be accommodated?**
- (d) How much is being spent to provide this accommodation?**
- (e) What plans are there to provide baseline data on the condition of the natural environment in the area proposed for the accommodation?**
- (f) What monitoring and evaluation procedures will be put in place to ensure no damage to the natural environment?**

Six existing properties, accommodating 28 people, are proposed to be upgraded in 2014-15. The accommodation is located in Royal National Park and Sydney Harbour National Park.

Approximately \$725 000 will be spent on the properties in Royal National Park. The properties in Sydney Harbour National Park are currently being assessed.

The condition of the natural and cultural environments and the likely impact of the proposals are assessed through an environmental impact assessment and detailed Review of Environmental Factors.

Monitoring and evaluation are incorporated into the lease conditions as determined by the Review of Environmental Factors and Sustainability Assessment.

- 134. Minister, can you provide the details of any cost-benefit or similar analyses that have been done to compare the return on investment by the NSW Government from the cost of erecting, maintaining and marketing accommodation additional to the heritage accommodation within our national parks provides with the returns from allowing private accommodation providers to operate on properties close to National Parks?**

No new accommodation buildings are being erected in national parks. All projects currently underway or being considered for NSW Government investment are for the adaptation of existing, primarily heritage, accommodation.

**135. The NSW River Red Gum Nature Tourism Action Plan (May 2012) has been prepared for the parks in the Riverina and along the Murray River. It contains some Projects with Objectives that suggest that the personal safety of visitors may be at risk; these Objectives include “Address negative perception”; “Modify undesirable visitor behaviour and support transition to achieve the River Red Gum visitation strategy” and “Boost the presence of NPWS in campgrounds and improve the visitor experience, confidence and safety”.**

- (a) What expenditure has been allocated to ensure that visitor safety is improved?**
- (b) What economic benefits to the local communities have accrued as a result of increased tourist activity due to this action plan being implemented?**

Investment to improve River Red Gum park and reserve visitor opportunities (including visitor safety) have totalled in excess of \$2 million since gazettal. Visitation to River Red Gum parks and reserves increased by 23 per cent between 2011-12 and 2012-13 and 37 per cent between 2012-13 and 2012-14 resulting in increased visitor expenditure in local and regional communities.

136. The four partners in the NSW Government's "Revitalising Newcastle" project are Transport NSW, Planning and Environment, Hunter Development Corporation and The City of Newcastle. In light of recent Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) findings, have you or your agency/Department investigated any possible links between the City of Newcastle Councillors and the development sites and/or developers involved in the Newcastle Urban Renewal?
137. Are you or your agency/department aware of any submissions or representations orally or in writing by email or letter made by Mr McCloy in his private capacity as a developer or as lord mayor, regarding developments in the Newcastle CBD? What is the date and content of such communications?
138. Are you or your agency aware of any submissions or representations orally or in writing via email or letter made by Councillor David Compton in his private capacity as a director of Compton Projects, which forms part of the winning consortium to develop the old Empire Hotel site? What is the date of such communications and what is the substance of such communications?
139. What role did the former Lord Mayor, Jeff McCloy, and former local MPs Tim Owen and Andrew Cornwell, play in advocating for these developments to Government including your agency/department and did they act in accordance with their legal and ethical obligations under current planning processes and transparency requirements?

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

- 140. Can you advise of the implications to heritage sites, particularly in the East End precinct of Newcastle City, due to the amendments to the Newcastle Urban Renewal State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)?**

Under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*, works to items listed on the State Heritage Register in Newcastle require the approval of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Works to items of local heritage significance, listed in the heritage schedule of the Newcastle City Council Local Environmental Plan 2012, require the approval of the Newcastle City Council.

- 141. Did the government undertake fair and genuine consultation with the community in respect to the DA2014/323 (Newcastle East End Project), and all amendments to planning policies to allow for three towers in the historic centre of Newcastle? What role did your agency/ department play in conducting its own consultations? What were the dates and locations of such consultation with the community?**
- 142. Can you provide details of the specific heritage sites located in the precinct where building heights have been increased from 20m to 65m?**

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

**143. What advice has your agency/Department given to the Department of Planning regarding recent changes to the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan and the Development Control Plan?**

Neither the Heritage Council of NSW, nor the Office of Environment and Heritage, gave advice on recent changes to the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan. However, in April 2013, the Heritage Council of NSW reviewed the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy and formally provided comments to the (former) Department of Planning & Infrastructure.

- 144. Is the Minister aware that Newcastle is the second oldest site of European settlement on mainland Australia? How is that status recognized by the NSW Government, you, your agency/department in terms of heritage values?**

Newcastle is among the earliest sites of European settlement after Sydney, Parramatta and Windsor.

Heritage values are recognised by the NSW Government through the State Heritage Register, Local Environmental Plans and historic shipwrecks. In addition heritage values are recognised under the Commonwealth National Heritage List and other non-statutory lists such as those compiled by the National Trust, Australian Institute of Architects and Engineers Australia.

There are 38 items in Newcastle which are listed on the State Heritage Register.

- 145. Does the Minister accept that best practice urban planning involves precinct planning, not just site planning, that also takes into consideration the sensitivity of Newcastle's unique built and environmental heritage?**
- 146. How does the intrusion of high-rise apartment towers in Newcastle's old CBD enhance its heritage value and how does it not damage its iconic skyline?**
- 147. Can the Minister confirm if the new height limit is on the same level as the roof of the nave, or main body of the Cathedral, compared with a draft proposal that was three-quarters of the way to the top of the cathedral's central parapet or tower?**

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

- 148. Were you/your agency/the former Minister for Heritage, through the Minister for Planning, aware of a late amendment pushed through to the Newcastle Urban Revitalisation Strategy to relocate apartment towers from the West End to the heritage precinct? What advice did you/your agency/former Heritage Minister give?**

In April 2013, the Heritage Council of NSW reviewed the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy and formally provided comments to the former Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

149. Why was the amended Strategy released and showcased to the Property Council before it was released to the people of Newcastle? What involvement did your agency/department have in this?
150. Why did the promotional video shown to the Property Council show high rise buildings from Newcastle West all the way through to Newcastle East without any heritage component whatsoever? Did your agency/department seek to remedy this omission and with whom and how?
151. When did UrbanGrowth become a joint-venture with GPT in the Newcastle Mall project? How much did it pay for its stake?
152. Does the Minister agree that UrbanGrowth is a property developer?
153. Given that the longstanding height code was factored into the price that GPT and UrbanGrowth paid for ownership of the site, will the Minister agree that the big increase in allowable height by recent amendment to the SEPP for this heritage zone will generate a substantial windfall gain for UrbanGrowth?
154. If not, why not? If so, doesn't the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure have a massive conflict of interest in signing off on windfall gains for both private and public developers in the face of strong public objections?
155. What parties were the proponents for this amendment and, in the interest of transparency, will the Minister table in the House all correspondence and records of meetings relating to those representations including those records which involve you, the former Minister for Heritage and your agency/department.
156. If the Minister will not table that correspondence and the records, how can the people of Newcastle have any confidence that the planning process has not once again been subverted, that heritage values have once again been trashed, and that the process of public consultation was a complete sham?
157. Can your agency / Department confirm that setbacks have been increased to a minimum of 10 to 12 metres?
158. Have building height controls been reviewed so that they respond appropriately to the heritage significance of heritage items, conservation areas and the local topography?

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

- 159. What guidelines were produced by the NSW Government or your agency/department to protect heritage in the area marked for development within the Newcastle East End Project?**

The Heritage Council did not produce specific guidelines for the Newcastle East End Project. However in April 2013, the Heritage Council of NSW reviewed the Newcastle Urban Renewal Strategy and formally provided comments to the former Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

**160. Minister, what role have you played in relation to the Government's sale of heritage listed properties at Millers Point?**

The Office of Environment and Heritage and the Heritage Council have been working with the Land and Housing Corporation to provide them with advice about the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The owner of any heritage listed property being sold in Millers Point is required to meet statutory obligations for State Heritage Register items under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

**161. Have you or your agency provided advice to the Land and Housing Corporation or Government Property NSW regarding these transactions?**

Yes

**162. If so, what was the nature of that advice?**

The Office of Environment and Heritage has asked the Land and Housing Corporation to produce Conservation Management Plans for the properties and to review the 2007 Millers Point Conservation Management Guidelines to support and guide appropriate change in the precinct.

**163. Minister, will the purchasers of properties at Millers Point be required to undertake heritage restoration works as a condition of their purchase?**

The owner of any heritage listed property in Millers Point is required to meet statutory obligations for State Heritage Register items under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

- 164. If they are, how is that consistent with the draft 'Heritage Handbook' prepared by the Land and Housing Corporation, which states that no repairs or work are required as a condition of sale?**

Under section 118 of the *Heritage Act 1977* owners are required to maintain minimum standards of maintenance and repair of their properties to ensure protection from weather, to prevent the possibility of fire, for security and essential maintenance and repair.

- 165. If they are not required to do heritage restoration work given that the whole sale has been justified by a commitment to restore the heritage of these properties, aren't you saying there is no justification for the sell-off of these properties?**

The NSW Government is committed to maintaining and enhancing the heritage value of the State's significant places and items. The owners of any State Heritage Register listed item must meet their statutory obligations under the *Heritage Act 1977*. This includes the owner of any heritage listed property sold in Millers Point.

**166. Are you aware of concerns raised by the National Trust regarding the impact of the Millers Point sales on our state's heritage? If so, do you agree with those concerns?**

The Heritage Council of NSW will continue to have an important role in ensuring the heritage values of Millers Point precinct are maintained as required under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Sale of the properties does not change the requirements for future owners to meet their obligations under the Heritage Act. Additionally, Conservation Management Plans are being developed to guide future development and any alterations or additions in order to protect the significance of each property. As well as being listed on the State Heritage Register, all Millers Point properties are part of the Local Conservation Area under the Sydney Local Environment Plan (LEP), administered by the City of Sydney Council. Therefore, any proposed modifications to the properties need approval from the Heritage Council of NSW and the City of Sydney Council.

- 167. Do you think the social heritage connection that the community of people currently living in Millers Point has to the past, particularly their links to Sydney's days as a working port, is of heritage significance?**

The Millers Point Conservation Area is listed on the State Heritage Register for its historical, aesthetic and social heritage significance.

- 168. How does the Government propose to meet the proposed objective 'to preserve cultural heritage (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) on Crown land'?**
- 169. How will the Government specifically support this objective in relation to the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage?**
- 170. What is the Government's definition of co-management in the context of the proposed new Crown lands object - 'to encourage Aboriginal use and where appropriate co-management of Crown land'?**
- 171. Why has the Government not prioritised the transfer of Crown land to Aboriginal Land Councils instead of co-management?**

These questions should be referred to the Deputy Premier.

**172. Will the Minister and Department work to include the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct on the Australian heritage listing?**

Relevant NSW Government information is available to the Australian Heritage Council to inform the assessment of the Parramatta Female Factory for the National Heritage List.

**173. Is the Minister or the Department aware that this is the plan?**

I am advised that there is community interest in submitting a nomination to the Australian Heritage Council for the Parramatta Female Factory.

**174. Is this something the Minister supports?**

The National Heritage List is a matter for the Australian Government.

175. The Member for Parramatta has said that a plan being devised by Urban Growth NSW could include up to \$2 billion for the North Parramatta heritage precinct to preserve, refurbish and open up its sites – including the factory – to the public.

Pursuant to Standing Orders, no response required.

**176. Does the Minister agree that the only way to preserve heritage on this site is to raise revenue from the development of high rise buildings?**

No.

## **Cumberland Hospital**

**The Western Sydney Local Health District's Asset Strategic Plan 2012-2022 identifies that over the next 10 years there will be consolidation on the Cumberland site to increase capacity in the intensive care and assessment area, consolidate community health services and reduce the use of inappropriate heritage buildings.**

- 177. Can the Minister explain what the implications of the Western Sydney Local Health District's Asset Strategic Plan 2012-2022 will be on heritage buildings on The Cumberland Hospital West Campus?**

This is a matter for the Minister for Planning, as the Minister responsible for UrbanGrowth NSW.

178. **Is the Minister aware that Glengarriff House — originally built in 1906 for Dr Williamson, the superintendent of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum currently houses the Cumberland Hospital Museum and patient coffee shop?**

The Cumberland Hospital currently occupies this site.

- 179. Can the Minister or his Department provide advice on the impact of the Western Sydney Local Health District's Asset Strategic Plan 2012-2022 on Glengarriff House?**
- 180. Has a heritage impact statement been commissioned in conjunction with the Western Sydney Local Health District's Asset Strategic Plan 2012-2022?**
- 181. If yes, are copies publicly available and what are the recommendations for the management of heritage buildings and sites on the Cumberland Hospital West campus?**

These questions are for the Minister for Planning, as the Minister responsible for UrbanGrowth NSW.

- 182. Does the Minister support the sale of the Lands and Education buildings located in Bridge St, Sydney? What is the current status of the proposed sale of these iconic buildings?**
- 183. What other publicly owned NSW sandstone or other heritage listed buildings does the Baird government intend to sell-off?**
- 184. What provision, if any, will be made for the possibility of continued public access to such buildings if they are privately owned?**

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Finance and Services.

**185. Will you guarantee that the heritage values of these buildings will not be compromised if/when they pass from public ownership?**

The Lands Department Building and the Education Building are listed on the State Heritage Register. The Minister for Finance and Services has instructed the Department of Finance and Services to seek the concurrence of the Heritage Council of NSW for the Conservation Management Plans proposed for the properties that the NSW Government intends to take to market.

**The NSW Government has announced its intentions to sell Brislington, the oldest colonial building in Parramatta and home to the Medical and Nursing Museum in Parramatta. This Museum has been an important part of NSW medical history for over 90 years and is located on the corner of Marsden and George Streets, Parramatta and Jeffery House.**

**186. Is the Minister aware of the historical significance of Brislington?**

Brislington is protected by a listing on the NSW State heritage register.

- 187. As the Minister responsible for heritage in NSW, do you recognise your role as the custodian of historical sites, such as Brislington, for all Australians?**

The statutory responsibilities of the Minister for Heritage are set out in the *Heritage Act 1977*, the *Historic Houses Act 1980*, and the *National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) Act 1990*.

**188. Does the Minister believe that every historical landmark should generate money for the NSW government coffers?**

Statutory responsibilities for heritage protection are contained under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

**189. Has any consideration been given to transferring responsibility of Brislington to Historic Houses Trust?**

This is a matter for the Minister for Health.

## **Kogarah**

- 190. Is the Minister aware that Kogarah Council, in its recently released Draft Housing Strategy is proposing to remove a substantial part of Kogarah's heritage?**
- 191. Will the Minister intervene to stop the destruction of single storey homes and cottages which date back to the 1880s? If not, why not? .**
- 192. Will the Minister intervene to protect heritage areas located in the North ward of Kogarah Council as set out in Kogarah Council's draft Housing Strategy from being overrun by development which will have a devastating impact on heritage? If not why not?**
- 193. Is Kogarah Council applying the policies of your Department or Agency in its draft Housing Strategy with respect to heritage and heritage conservation?**

These questions are a matter for the Minister for Planning.

- 194. Can the Minister give an undertaking that in respect of the Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays Maritime Precincts that the heritage items identified in the current Master Plan including the former Jones Brothers Coal Bins and associated structures will be conserved and/or adapted for re-use as a maritime related and/or commercial facility in a manner consistent with the 'Heritage Guidelines Blackwattle and Rozelle Bay Masterplan' prepared by Brian McDonald and Associates dated September 1998. If not, why not?**

This question is a matter for the Minister for Planning, as the Minister responsible for UrbanGrowth NSW.

**195. 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 have not accepted an illegal donation.

196. 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.

197. Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?
198. 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?
199. Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?
200. 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.

- 201. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?**
- 202. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?**
- 203. 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.

- 204. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:**  
(a) In the last twelve months  
(b) Since the creation of the position.
- 205. 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**

**206. 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**

The agencies hire in accordance with the state government contract for contingent labour.

207. 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?
208. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
209. 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?
210. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
211. 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?
212. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

These are a matter for the Minister for Primary Industries.

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

204 phones have been issued to NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**214. 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 percent) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2008-09 of \$578,691 total expenditure.

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

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**216. 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.

**217. 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.

**218. 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.

**219. 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.

**220. 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.

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

9 phones were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

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

0 iPads were lost from the NSW Government Ministerial staff.

**223. 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.

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

- Historic Houses Trust = 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
- Western Sydney Parklands Trust and Parramatta Parklands Trust = 0.24 FTE
- Gardens and Parklands = 3.7 FTE
- Office of Environment and Heritage = 7.2 FTE
- Environment Protection Authority = 3.4 FTE
- Taronga and Western Plains Zoo = 5.8 FTE

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

The Office of Environment and Heritage is currently undergoing a strategic realignment. It is not appropriate to comment on staffing forecasts at this time.

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

**228. 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".

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

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

**231. 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)

**232. 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 percent) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$48,834,000.

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

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

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)

**235. 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.

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

**237. 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).

**238. 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.

**239. 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.

**240. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?**

**241. If so, in what capacities?**

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

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

**243. 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 percent) less than under the NSW Labor Government in 2009-10 of \$175,776.

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

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

**246. 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.

- 247. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?**
- 248. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?**
- 249. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?**
- 250. 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.

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

In 2013/14 the Environment and Heritage portfolio agencies spent approximately \$1.598 million. This includes catering provided to support staff involved in essential operational activities such as fire management and wildfire fire-fighting.

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

In 2013/14 the Environment and Heritage portfolio agencies spent approximately \$1.572 million.

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

In 2014/15 the Environment and Heritage portfolio agencies have budgeted approximately \$0.274 million for catering expenditure. This does not include catering provided to support staff involved in essential operational activities such as fire management and wildfire fire-fighting.

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

The budget is anticipated to be the same as 2013/14 expenditure, see question 252.

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

Yes.

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

\$143,767.

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

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

The timeframe for completing responses to correspondence is 20 working days from the agency's receipt of the correspondence.

However it is not always possible to comply with this timeframe for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; the need for third party consultation; or further information required from other agencies and sources.

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

The Office of Environment and Heritage paid 97,826 invoices in 2013/14, 1956 were over 30 days for a number of reasons including:

- invoices raised for large capital works are only paid on satisfactory review of work
- invoices raised for large capital purchases may include items not yet received but are expected to be received in the near future.
- some short payment terms are not necessarily appropriate in more remote locations where the documentation may take time to be collected and matched for payment.

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

The Office of Environment and Heritage paid 64 penalty interest payments totalling \$4,251.

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

The Office of Environment and Heritage paid 97,826 invoices in 2013/14, 181 were over 60 days for a number of reasons including:

- invoices raised for large capital works are only paid on satisfactory review of work
- invoices raised for large capital purchases may include items not yet received but are expected to be received in the near future.
- some short payment terms are not necessarily appropriate in more remote locations where the documentation may take time to be collected and matched for payment.

**262. 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?**

a-d A list of grants to community group is provided in the Annual Report of each agency.  
e No  
f Not applicable  
g Nil  
h See question 267.

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

This information is not held centrally for the agency. The number of contractors fluctuates.

**264. 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.

**265. 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%.

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

The majority of aircraft charter costs are associated with the operational aspects of the business managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Since 2011/12 financial year NPWS spent \$40.5 million on external aircraft hire. Flight operations are a key mechanism to deliver on core functions such as fire management and pest control.

**267. 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?**

The Government undertakes feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews to inform government decision making. A number of feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews are currently being undertaken across the NSW Government.

- 268. 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

269. Minister, how do you explain to the victims of domestic violence and homelessness on the Central Coast that –
- (a) Long standing women's and youth refuges will be closing? What is the government doing to address this unacceptable situation?
  - (b) Do you know how many new units of social housing have been completed in the last 12 months?
  - (c) Do you know how many new units of socials housing have been planned for the next 12 months?
  - (d) What is your message to groups like Coast Shelter about what you're doing as Minister for the Central Coast to address these matters?

I am advised that:

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>.

**270. Does it concern you as Minister for the Central Coast that –**

- (a) Actual Police numbers have dropped from 229 officers in the Brisbane Waters command in June 2011 to 202 in May 2014?**
- (b) Actual Police numbers have dropped from 207 officers in the Tuggerah Lakes Command in June 2011 to 186 in May 2014?**
- (c) Are you lobbying for more Police resources given the increasing population of the Central Coast?**

I am advised that:

There have been a number of restructures within the NSW Police Force since 2011. Highway Patrol and Commuter Crime officer numbers that were previously reported in Local Area Commands are now part of standalone Commands created under this Government. This Government has made a commitment to deliver both record police numbers and provide an open and transparent report on our progress in achieving that commitment.

The Commissioner for the NSW Police Force determines the allocation of officers based on operational requirements. Police numbers are at record highs in NSW, with authorised strength sitting at 16,396. As at 2 May, Brisbane Water and Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Commands were at 96 and 98 per cent operational capacity respectively.

**271. I refer to the Government's announcement that it proposes to sell electricity poles and wires –**

- (a) How many Ausgrid workers are currently based on the Central Coast?**
- (b) How many of these workers would be made redundant if the poles and wires are sold off?**
- (c) What will happen to the Ausgrid office located in Tuggerah Business Park?**

I am advised that:

- (a) 451 Ausgrid employees are currently based on the Central Coast.
- (b) The Government has set out a number of strict conditions to protect the public interest in the electricity networks for the partial lease of these assets, including:
  - all net proceeds will be invested in new productive infrastructure;
  - electricity network prices will be discounted by 1% off regulated prices until 2019;
  - the transaction will have no adverse impact on electricity reliability, with tight regulation by Government remaining;
  - the jobs of employees will be protected, and treated consistently with previous transactions;
  - the regional presence of the network businesses will be maintained; and
  - Essential Energy will remain in full public ownership.
- (c) In addition to answer B, Ausgrid has recently completed construction of a new depot at Ourimbah that includes an administration building, logistics satellite store and warehouse, a garage and workshop facility and pole storage yard. Staff from Ausgrid's Gosford and Noraville Depots will be based at this new facility. Ausgrid's offices at the Tuggerah Business Park are used by both Ausgrid staff and external tenants. A small number of staff from Ausgrid's offices at the Tuggerah Business Park have also relocated to Ourimbah. Ausgrid has no other plans to change the use of its Tuggerah Business Park Offices.

**272. What will happen to the numerous community based neighbourhood centres across the Central Coast if their funding is discontinued after October?**

I am advised that:

In May 2014, the Neighbourhood and Community Centres across the Central Coast receiving funding under the Community Builders Renewable funding program were advised that their funding has been extended to 30 June 2016.

**273. What is the current status of the Central Coast Water Corporation?**

I am advised that:

The *Central Coast Water Corporation Act 2006* enables the formation of a Central Coast Water Corporation, with Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council as shareholders. Work on the formation of a Central Coast Water Corporation has been deferred indefinitely, as the two councils have been unable to agree on an implementation model.

**274. In relation to an airport on the Central Coast –**

- (a) What is the State Government's position on any potential airport?**
- (b) Have you had talks with Wyong Shire Council on an airport for the Central Coast?**
- (c) When did these talks occur?**

I am advised that:

There is no proposal currently being considered by the Government for an airport on the Central Coast. The Mayor of Wyong Shire Council has stated his support for a regional airport on the Central Coast to me on a number of occasions. Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals will be published in accordance with Memorandum 2014-07 - Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

**275. What is the current status of the Landing Project on the waterfront at Gosford?**

I am advised that:

There is no landing project on the Gosford Waterfront.

**276. Can you advise what is the current situation with sandmining licences at Calga?**

I am advised that:

All environment protection licences issued by the Environment Protection Authority are able to be viewed online at: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeoapp/).

- 277. In regard to the sale of land of the old Peat Island site and land at Mooney Mooney –**
- (a) What is the current situation with the sale?**
  - (b) How and when will the community be updated on the situation?**

I am advised that:

- (a) Government Property NSW will manage the sale of the site through a public tender process once rezoning is completed. It is estimated that the rezoning will be finalised within 12 to 18 months.

GPNSW lodged the rezoning proposal with Gosford City Council on 11 August 2014. This is the first step in the process and further community consultation and detailed investigations will be undertaken in the coming months.

- (b) The community has been kept updated on progress via the distribution of two newsletters in March and August 2014 which have been mailed to approximately 1500 residents in the surrounding communities. The newsletters informed the community of Government's intention to rezone and sell the Peat Island and Mooney Mooney lands, detailed the rezoning concept plan and outlined the rezoning process.

Regular updates will continue to be provided throughout key stages of the rezoning process by way of newsletters, newspaper notices and the Peat Island feedback portal.

**278. What is the current position of the sale of the Munmorah Power Station site and the surrounding land?**

I am advised that:

The decommissioned Munmorah power station is co-sited with the new Colongra gas fired power station. The Colongra power station and adjacent land is being sold as part of the Delta Coast transaction process, which is currently underway.

The Munmorah power station site itself, along with some associated land, will be transferred to Government Property NSW. A development application for the demolition of the Munmorah power station is currently before Wyong Council.

As part of the sale process, the Government has ensured that public access and community facilities around Delta Electricity's sites will not be impacted by the sale.

- 279. Minister, why are changes being made to the Mangrove Mountain Kulnura Ground Water Plan?**
- (a) Can you explain then if these changes will result in zones that are already fully allocated being granted additional capacity?**
  - (b) Will this have the potential for over allocation in any particular zone?**
  - (c) Will such a decision mean the abolition of the maximum 200 M/L per square km rule?**
  - (d) What assurances can you give that no person or group will be allowed to totally dominate an area?**

I am advised that:

Proposed changes to the water sharing plan are still under consideration, and a draft plan will be publicly exhibited prior to the finalisation of any changes. No additional groundwater will be made available for extraction as a result of any changes.

**280. What initiatives or programs has the government developed to specifically address the homelessness issue on the Central Coast?**

I am advised that:

Details of the Going Home Staying Home reform are available on the Housing NSW website at:

<http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au/Help+with+Housing/Homelessness/Going+Home+Staying+Home/Going+Home+Staying+Home.htm>.

**281. In regard to state public service jobs on the Central Coast –**

- (a) What number of these jobs have been created in the region since 1 July 2013?**
- (b) How many state public service jobs have been abolished since 1 July 2013?**

I am advised that:

The Public Service Commission does not collect data that would indicate the number of public service jobs that have been created or abolished by region or in total.

**282. How much of the 2014/2015 State Budget has been allocated for infrastructure spending on the Central Coast?**

I am advised that:

\$197.7 million of the 2014-15 State Budget has been allocated for the infrastructure spending in Gosford, Terrigal, The Entrance and Wyong.

An additional \$46.4 million of the infrastructure related recurrent expenditure (such as roads and transport maintenance) has been allocated to the Central Coast, bringing the 2014-15 infrastructure spending on the Central Coast up to \$244.1 million.

Allocations for the projects that provide a benefit to a number of electorates and state-wide programs are not included in the estimates above.

**284. How many staff in your Ministerial office are dedicated to the Central Coast?**

I am advised that:

Ministerial staff numbers 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).

**285. How many staff in the Government are assigned to your portfolio responsibilities of Minister for the Central Coast?**

I am advised that:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has seven regional offices to provide non-political support to Regional Ministers.

These offices are located in the North Coast, Central Coast, Hunter, Greater Western Sydney, Sydney East, Illawarra, South East and Western NSW. Across all regions as at 30 June 2014, there were 45.4 full time equivalent employees in the branch.

**286. How many times have you visited the Central Coast since becoming Minister and on what dates and with whom did you meet?**

I am advised that:

I regularly visit the Central Coast in my capacity as Minister for Central Coast.

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