



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016  
Supplementary Questions**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6**

Regional Development, Skills, Small Business

Friday 4 September 2015

**Answers due by: Wednesday 30 September 2015**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**  
Phone 9230 3081  
[budget.estimated@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:budget.estimated@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Questions from Shaoquett Moselmane [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]**

**GPSC No 6**

**Regional Development**

**4 September**

**Regional Development Misc.**

1. Do you endorse the abolition of Regional Minister portfolios?
  - a) How many times have Regional Parliamentary Secretaries addressed the full Cabinet since the March election?
  - b) What working groups or initiatives have been set up by a Regional Parliamentary Secretary?
  - c) How many representations have you received as Minister for Regional Development from Regional Parliamentary Secretaries?
    - i. If any, which Regions and what did they pertain to?

**ANSWER:**

Cabinet represents all communities across the State, and benefits from strong regional representation.

- a) Matters raised in Cabinet are confidential.
  - b) Regional Parliamentary Secretaries report to the Premier, as such this is a matter for the Premier.
  - c) I have received a numerous representation from the Regional Parliamentary Secretaries in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary as well as a local member.
2. Where you consulted directly on the new Jobs for NSW package?
    - a) Were Regional Parliamentary Secretaries consulted?
    - b) Did you raise any concerns about the amount of funding quarantined specifically for Regional NSW?
    - c) Which Regional bodies were consulted before this, Jobs for NSW Package, was released?
      - i. RDAs
      - ii. Regional Development Foundation
      - iii. Rural Councils
      - iv. NSW Farmers

**ANSWER:**

I was consulted directly on the new Jobs for NSW package.

- a) Regional Parliamentary Secretaries report to the Premier, as such this is a matter for the Premier.
- b) A minimum of 30 per cent of the job creation incentive payments made from the Jobs for NSW fund will be allocated to regional and rural projects.
- c) The Minister for Industry is the lead Minister on Jobs for NSW, and as such this is a matter for the Minister.

3. What remuneration does the Deputy Secretary, Industry Development receive?

**ANSWER:**

There is no Deputy Secretary, Industry Development within the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development.

4. What remuneration does the Executive Director, Industry Policy, Economics and Regional Development receive?

**ANSWER:**

\$259,083 per annum.

5. What's the total FTE staff employed in Regional Development?

**ANSWER:**

The Business & Regional Development branch had approximately 80 FTE in July 2015.

6. Currently, what size grant applications can be approved directly by Regional Directors?

**ANSWER:**

Currently there are no grant applications that can be approved directly by Regional Directors.

7. Do Business Development Managers in each Region have access to a government vehicle to assist them in their role?

**ANSWER:**

Yes - regional Business Development Managers can access Departmental pool vehicles to assist them in their role.

8. Can you list programs Regional Directors have direct discretionary control of?

**ANSWER:**

Currently there are no programs that Regional Directors have direct discretionary control of.

9. How many new businesses were assisted in relocating to Regional Areas in 2014/15 and at what cost?

**ANSWER:**

In 2014/15 the Department of Industry through the Regional Industries Investment Fund made offers of assistance (\$6.775 million) to 18 businesses to establish or expand operations in regional NSW.

Small Biz Connect assisted 96 small businesses to relocate to regional NSW in 2014-15 through the Skilled Regional Relocation Incentive (SRRI). The SRRI provides a \$10,000 grant for an eligible employment or self-employment relocation. The grant is paid in two equal instalments, with the second instalment being paid at least 12 months after the first.

10. Does the Minister support the closing of the Country Embassy here in Sydney?
- a) When was he made aware that the embassy was being closed?

**ANSWER:**

Country Embassy is a term that describes the collection of meeting spaces at the MLC Centre, also referred to as the 'Trade & Investment Centre'. As of 1 July 2015, the Trade functions of the former department of NSW Trade & Investment were transferred to the Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC).

As a result, retaining the Trade & Investment Centre beyond the current lease term is no longer a sensible or financially viable option for the Department of Industry. I am advised the average annual direct facility cost is \$1.1 million, with revenue from room hire in 2014/15 only \$123,029.

While the lease for those spaces will not be renewed post March 2016, the Department will continue to support regional development and provide coordination of meetings through other CBD venues.

Leasing arrangements for the Department of Industry is an operational matter and therefore decision rests with the Secretary.

11. Is the government conducting any formal studies regarding moving any departments or government services to regional locations?
- a) If yes, which departments and which locations are being considered?

**ANSWER:**

Each NSW Government Department is responsible for developing its own business case proposal/s for relocation of government positions to regional NSW.

12. How many RDAs has the Minister met with this year?
- a) Does the State government support retaining and funding RDAs?

**ANSWER:**

All meetings with the Minister are publically disclosed at:

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/ministers\\_diary\\_disclosures](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/ministers_diary_disclosures)

The NSW Government has funding agreements in place with NSW Regional Development Australia committees until 30 June 2016. This aligns with current Commonwealth funding for Regional Development Australia committees.

The NSW Government continues to work closely with NSW Regional Development Australia committees on the delivery of regional priorities that achieve regional job and investment outcomes.

13. What were the total funds expended under the Regional Industries Investment Fund in 2014/15?

a) What companies received funding and what were the projects?

**ANSWER:**

Total expenditure as recorded in the Department's financial system for the Regional Industries Investment Fund in 2014/15 was \$13.4 million. These contractual arrangements between the NSW Government and the recipients are commercial-in-confidence.

14. What percentage of the State Investment Attraction Scheme was allocated to regional NSW in 2014/15?

**ANSWER:**

Projects that receive assistance in regional NSW are generally funded through the Regional Industries and Investment Fund rather than the State Investment Attraction Scheme (SIAS). In 2014/15, 18 per cent of all payments under SIAS were made to projects in regional NSW.

**Ministerial Office Administration**

15. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?
- b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

**ANSWER:**

Ministers' staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website.

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

- a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
- b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
  - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**ANSWER:**

There were 227 phones in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices was \$354,992, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

17. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
  - b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

There were 130 iPads in use across all Ministers' offices in 2014/15. There were 10 lost devices (phones and iPads) across the Ministry in 2014/15. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

18. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

The total usage cost of mobile devices such as smart phones and iPads across all Ministers' offices including data charges was \$354,992 in 2014/15, a 37 per cent reduction on 2008/09 expenditure of \$578,691.

19. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
- a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

No. Artwork belongs to the Minister.

20. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?
- a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**ANSWER:**

No.

21. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?
- a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
    - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**ANSWER:**

The Minister's office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the cost of which is managed within the office's budget.

22. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?
- a) What were the gifts purchased?
    - i. Who were they gifted to?

**ANSWER:**

No gifts were purchased in FY2014-2015.

23. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

The cost of any bottled water is managed within the office's budget.

24. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?
- a) Do they have ABN's?
    - i. If so, please provide details?
  - b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
  - c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

**ANSWER:**

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

25. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

**ANSWER:**

The Ministry did not engage any consultants during 2014/15. Information regarding the use of contractors was recently disclosed in response to a GIPA application and was published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's disclosure log.

**Ministerial And Office Travel**

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

**ANSWER:**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website

27. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

- a. What were the nature of these trips?
- b. Who paid for these trips?

**ANSWER:**

Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

28. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:
- a. Taxi hire
  - b. Limousine hire
  - c. Private hire care
  - d. Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

Expenditure on taxis across the Ministry in 2014/15 was \$84,257. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$175,776.

29. Have you ever used Uber?
- a. If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

No.

30. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- a. Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

No.

31. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- a. What is the value of those reimbursements?

**ANSWER:**

No.

32. Have you used Airbnb?

**ANSWER:**

No.

33. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

**ANSWER:**

No.

34. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?



- a. If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

No. Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$33,270 in 2014/15. This compares with 2009/10 expenditure of \$282,000.

35. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?  
a. What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

None.

**Labour Hire Firms**

36. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:
- The names of the firms utilised
  - The total amount paid to each firm engaged
  - The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

For skills, small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Given the number of colleges and delivery sites within TAFE NSW, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

Information for TAFE NSW is not held centrally.

**Media And Public Relations**

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

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

2.

38. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

There are no changes forecast at this time.

39. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement. The total cost of the whole of government service in 2014/15 was \$1,775,042 compared to \$2,394,973 in 2009/10.

40. Have you had media training or speech training?
- If yes, who paid for it?
  - If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

**ANSWER:**

No.

**Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

41. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

42. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

43. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

44. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

45. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

46. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- Who attended those meetings?
  - What was the nature of those meetings?
  - What was discussed?
  - Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

47. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a. Who attended those meetings?
  - b. What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c. What was discussed?
  - d. Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

48. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a. Who attended those meetings?
  - b. What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c. What was discussed?
  - d. Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

49. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a. Who attended those meetings?
  - b. What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c. What was discussed?
  - d. Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations and individuals are published in accordance with Memorandum 2015-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries.

The Government has disclosed 3,934 meetings since the policy commenced in July 2014.

50. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?

**ANSWER:**

No.

51. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
- a. If yes, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER:**

No.

**Consulting**

52. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**ANSWER:**

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

53. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:
- a) Social media
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - b) Photography
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - c) Acting training
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - d) Ergonomics
    - i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

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

**Department/Agency Administration**

54. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
- a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - ii. Voluntary
    - iii. Forced

b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**ANSWER:**

Voluntary redundancies are a component for agencies to achieve their efficiency dividends. The number of voluntary redundancies achieved by May 2015 was almost double the Government's original target of 5,000 positions by June 2015, as announced in the 2011/12 Budget. The Labour Expense Cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget also continues to give Secretaries as much flexibility as possible to achieve these savings in the most appropriate ways to meet the service requirements of their agencies.

55. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- What was the nature of these works/services?
  - What was the total cost of these works or services?

**ANSWER:**

In accordance with Public Service Commission Directive D2011\_023, staff who accept a voluntary redundancy cannot be re-employed or re-engaged in any capacity in any NSW public sector agency within the period covered by their severance payment, without first repaying the relevant proportion of their payment.

56. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**ANSWER:**

No.

57. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
- What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Two TAFE NSW staff members were dismissed from the agency in the period 2014-15.

Reasons for dismissal were in accordance with legislative, award and legal guidelines and requirements.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

Nil.

58. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements are available in agency annual reports.

59. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding maintenance expenditure is available in Agency Annual Reports.

60. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?  
a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements are available in agency annual reports.

61. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?  
a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Yes. Allegations of internal fraud against nine employees were reported during 2014 – 2015.

- a) One matter is currently being investigated by the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Two matters had allegations sustained and misconduct found. There was insufficient evidence to sustain six matters.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

No.

62. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?  
a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?  
b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?  
c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

63. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

Financial statements are available in agency annual reports.

64. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?
- b) What is their remuneration band?
  - c) For each SES employee, how many have:
    - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
    - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
    - iii. less than 5 staff?

**ANSWER:**

Information regarding SES employees is available in agency annual reports.

65. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:
- a) workplace bullying;
  - b) stress leave; and
  - c) sick leave?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

The fund manager, Allianz Australia Ltd, processes all workers compensation claims and associated leave related to psychological injuries.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

- a) workplace bullying; 0
- b) stress leave; 0, and
- c) sick leave: 258 days

66. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?
- a) If so, what is:
    - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

**ANSWER:**

For skills, small business and regional development portfolio:



This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Given the number of colleges and delivery sites within TAFE NSW, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

This information is not held centrally.

**Department/Agency Travel**

67. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine/private car hire
- c) c) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Given the number of colleges and delivery sites within TAFE NSW, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

This information is not held centrally.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

- a) Taxi hire. \$34,479
- b) Limousine/private car hire. Nil
- c) Hire car rental. Nil

68. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

**ANSWER:**

For skills, small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

No.

69. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?

- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

**ANSWER:**

For skills, small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

TAFE NSW does not have an account with Uber

70. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

**ANSWER:**

For skills, small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

TAFE NSW does not have an account with Airbnb

71. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?

- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

**ANSWER:**

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

<http://arp.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Tab%20A%20Policy%20on%20Official%20Travel.pdf>

**Departmental/Agency IT**

72. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?  
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Some TAFE NSW Institutes have Apple App store accounts to access free and purchased software. Software obtained by Institutes is used to support course delivery. I am advised that \$6,299.60 was expended in 2014-15.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

No.

73. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Some TAFE NSW Institutes have Google Play store accounts to access free and purchased software. Software obtained by Institutes is used to support course delivery. I am advised that \$5,000 was expended in 2014-15.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

No.

74. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?
- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

Given the number of colleges and delivery sites within TAFE NSW, this request would require an unreasonable and substantial diversion of resources in the time specified.

This information is not held centrally for TAFE NSW.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

2 Tablets and 3 Mobile Phones.

- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?  
\$5,000

75. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?

- i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

For small business and regional development portfolio:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

For TAFE NSW:

No.

For Skills and Industry Policy (State Training Services prior to 1 July 2015):

No.

**Efficiency Dividend**

76. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

77. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

78. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

79. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

80. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

81. For the 2015/16 financial year:

- a) What savings measures will the Department save?
- b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
- c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
- d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

## Questions from Shaoquett Moselmane [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]

### GPSC No 6

### Skills

4 September

#### **FEE HIKES/ VET HELP**

82. In total, how much extra is TAFE NSW charging in fees in 2015, when compared to 2014?

#### **ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW charges fees as per the approved Smart and Skilled fees which are informed by IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) and based on the efficient cost of delivering quality training to a standard student. The new fee structure introduced under Smart and Skilled sets fees for the entire qualification, rather than year-by-year as they were in 2014.

83. How many TAFE students are paying more than \$500 more in 2015 than they would have in 2014 for the same course?

#### **ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW charges fees as per the approved Smart and Skilled fees which are informed by IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) and based on the efficient cost of delivering quality training to a standard student. The new fee structure introduced under Smart and Skilled sets fees for the entire qualification, rather than year-by-year as they were in 2014.

84. How many individual VET Fee-Help Loans have been allocated since Smart and Skilled?

- a) What is the dollar value of the loans?
- b) What percentage of the total loans were for TAFE students?

#### **ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. The most recent published data is for 2013 and can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>.

85. In 2013/14 Western Institute offered 8695 students free enrolment because of disadvantage and unemployment, this year there are just 137 scholarships surely you can't believe this is a good outcome for Regional residents?

#### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Government made an election commitment to deliver \$48 million in fee-free scholarships over four years. This program commenced on 1 July 2015 and by 29 September 2015, over 7,000 had been granted to students across the State. These fee-free scholarships are in addition to the existing generous concessions and fee exemptions provided by TAFE NSW to disadvantaged students.

## **TAFE CLOSURES/LEASING**

86. Given that the Crows Nest TAFE site has already been sold can the Minister guarantee that there will be no further sales of TAFE campuses around the State?

### **ANSWER:**

The TAFE NSW Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed as part of the NSW's Government's Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014, a key election commitment.

No decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets.

While no decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets, any proceeds from the divestment of assets will be reinvested back into TAFE to improve student service quality and support a more flexible and demand driven VET sector, with TAFE NSW as the public provider.

87. Has the Department or is the Department in the process of identifying TAFE campuses to be closed?
- Can you guarantee that Belmont TAFE will remain open?
  - Dapto?
  - Moss Vale?

### **ANSWER:**

The TAFE NSW Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed as part of the NSW's Government's Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014, a key election commitment.

No decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets.

While no decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets, any proceeds from the divestment of assets will be reinvested back into TAFE to improve student service quality and support a more flexible and demand driven VET sector, with TAFE NSW as the public provider.

88. Dapto TAFE will have no classes after September, is that correct?
- How do you explain to that community with high youth unemployment that this is a good outcome?
  - Are you then planning to close/sell Dapto TAFE? If not, what are your plans for the campus?

### **ANSWER:**

The Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training (Intermediate Computers) was offered for Term 4 at the Dapto Campus of Illawarra TAFE.

Dapto campus is:

- five kilometres from Yallah,
- ten kilometres or four train stops from Wollongong West,

- fourteen kilometres or five train stops from Wollongong, and
- fifteen kilometres from Shellharbour campuses.

Young people are choosing to enrol at these campuses where there is an extensive range of vocational courses offered.

Facilities at Dapto Campus will be retained as a TAFE NSW asset while ever they are required for the delivery of approved educational training programs.

89. Can the Minister tell the Committee of any TAFE Campuses where private providers are leasing space?

**ANSWER:**

Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Granville, Lidcombe, Liverpool, Nirimba St George and Singleton TAFE Campuses.

90. Can the Minister guarantee that no TAFE run courses have been cut to allow private providers to lease spaces?

**ANSWER:**

No TAFE-run courses have been cut to allow private providers to lease spaces.

**TAFE ACT**

91. Is TAFE NSW currently continuing to meet its charter under the Technical and Further Education Commission Act?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

92. Given the cuts to the support staff for people with a disability, the axing of literacy and Numeracy teachers across campuses and the abolition of HSC equivalent courses around the state is your department in breach of the TAFE Act.? ( In reference to issues around equality and accessibility)

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW continues to provide support for people with a disability, continues to offer literacy and numeracy support for students and continues to offer HSC equivalent courses around the State, based on demand.

**PRIVATE PROVIDERS**

93. What is the current percentage of the total vocational and training budget going to private RTOs

**ANSWER:**

The 2015-2016 budget for vocational education and training is \$2.3 billion (*Budget Paper No. 3, 2015-16, page 6-5*).



The actual funding that goes to private providers will be based on student choice and provider performance in the market.

No allocations have been made for calendar year 2016.

94. Have you seen the issues with Private RTOs in other Australian jurisdictions?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

95. Does it concern you that they have significantly lower completion rates than the public TAFE system?

**ANSWER:**

Private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) contracted under Smart and Skilled underwent a rigorous assessment of their application to be a Smart and Skilled provider and are subject to ongoing performance monitoring to ensure that training provided is of the highest quality.

96. Careers Australia which operates campuses in Newcastle, Parramatta and Sydney have graduated only 300 of 2762 students enrolled in 2012 by 2014 was accused of employing door-to-door salespeople and enrolling poor students with fake entrance exams. Should public money be going to such organisations which have profit as their focus instead of education outcomes?

**ANSWER:**

All contracted Registered Training Organisations are subject to ongoing monitoring and quality assessment to ensure that training provided is of the highest quality.

97. Evocca college had a completion rate of just 22.4% in 2012 should they be a company allowed to operate in NSW receiving public money

**ANSWER:**

Evocca College does not receive NSW Government funding to deliver training.

98. Evocca received \$400million in VET FEE-Help payments is this acceptable with such low completion rates?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE Help is a Commonwealth Government program.

99. Many regional RTOs have told us that 12 month contracts don't allow them to build feasible business models. How does the Minister think these long established RTOs in regional NSW can continue to operate on such short contracts?

**ANSWER:**

Smart and Skilled providers are aware that they have a 12 month rolling contract that may be extended subject to satisfactory performance.

100. Will the Minister concede that increasing fees have provided these poor operators to make millions of dollars at the expense of students and the public TAFE system?

**ANSWER:**

Smart and Skilled providers must meet strict eligibility and assessment criteria in the NSW Quality Framework. Under Smart and Skilled all providers (private RTOs, TAFE NSW and Adult and Community Education) are paid the same qualification price (comprising the student fee and government subsidy) for the same qualification. Students are charged the same fee regardless of where they choose to study.

**Cooma TAFE**

101. Have enrolments at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

102. Has the numbers of teachers at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide staffing data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

103. Given the cost of a Cert IV in Wool Classing at Cooma TAFE has more than doubled in a year, are you concerned about the impact this is having on young people in that area?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW charges fees as per the approved Smart and Skilled fees which are informed by IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) and based on the efficient cost of delivering quality training to a standard student. The new fee structure introduced under Smart and Skilled sets fees for the entire qualification, rather than year-by-year as they were in 2014.

Students at TAFE NSW are able to pay their fees in instalments.

Smart and Skilled fees include significant support for students with special needs including generous fee exemptions and concessions.

**Swansea**

104. Does the Government have any plans to sell any buildings currently used by TAFE NSW in the electorate of Swansea?

**ANSWER:**

The TAFE NSW Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed as part of the NSW's Government's Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014, a key election commitment.

No decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets.

105. If so, can the Government guarantee that these buildings will remain in public hands?

**ANSWER:**

The disposal of any TAFE NSW facilities is conducted in accordance with NSW Government Property Principles and Framework (M2012-20).

106. Does the Government have any plans to sell any property currently owned by TAFE NSW in the electorate of Swansea?

**ANSWER:**

The TAFE NSW Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed as part of the NSW's Government's Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014, a key election commitment.

No decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets.

107. If so, can the Government guarantee that this land will remain in public hands?

**ANSWER:**

The disposal of any TAFE NSW facilities is conducted in accordance with NSW Government Property Principles and Framework (M2012-20).

108. What is the total number of students enrolled at Belmont TAFE for each of the years from 2011 to 2015?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

109. What is the total number of staff employed at Belmont TAFE for each of the years from 2011 to 2015?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide staffing data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

110. Does the Government have plans to remove courses from Belmont TAFE in the next 12 months?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their delivery and course offerings to ensure that they meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

111. How many people completed apprentice Certificate III level programs at Belmont TAFE in each of the years from 2006 to 2008, as well as in 2012 and 2014?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

**CUTS TO WESTERN SYDNEY INSTITUTE**

112. A discussion paper from Western Sydney Institute into possible cuts to Counsellor Positions quotes that enrolments at Blacktown 60%, Blue Mts 53%, Richmond 49% and the Hills 23% have dropped. Minister what is your response to these figures given the youth unemployment rates in Western Sydney.

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

I am advised that the figures quoted in the discussion paper are based on preliminary year-to-date data.

TAFE NSW publishes enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

113. You have explained there is a looming skills shortage, particularly in areas such as construction. Do you think it is acceptable that Western Sydney Institute is considering cutting Building and Construction staff from 20FTE positions to just 8FTE?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

114. Previously there were no restrictions on students, if they qualified, gaining free or subsidised access to courses, you now restrict that to 5 000 students per year. Is this policy in line with the principles of TAFE?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government does not restrict the number of students that can gain access to free or subsidised courses to 5,000 per year.

**REGIONAL**

115. RDA Orana Chairman has expressed concern that a decline in TAFE numbers, staff cuts will impact on his region's skill shortfall; Feedback from across NSW points to a

failing system – Smart and Skilled – after only 6 months of operation. Will the Minister accept responsibility and seek to fix the system for the benefit of students not profit makers?

**ANSWER:**

It would not be appropriate to interpret comments made by Regional Development Australia.

116. As the Minister for Regional Development how do you reconcile that TAFE Western enrolments have dropped by 4000 or 20% since the introduction of Smart and Skilled?

**ANSWER:**

Comparing 2015 enrolments with 2014 enrolments is not an accurate reflection of the change in actual student numbers.

From 2015, TAFE NSW has changed its enrolment practice where it no longer co-enrols students requiring learner or tutorial support in an additional course alongside their primary qualification. Students who were previously enrolled in more than one such course are now treated as one enrolment

Other factors influencing changes in enrolments is the trend towards more students enrolling in higher level qualifications which lead to a job, and less students enrolling in multiple short courses.

117. Commonwealth Data shows that in 2012/13 8695 students received fee subsidies in Western Institute of TAFE and this year the number has fallen to 137 according to your own figures. Can you honestly maintain that the current system is working?

The NSW Government made an election commitment to deliver \$48 million in fee-free scholarships over four years. This program commenced on 1 July 2015 and by September 29, 2015, over 7,000 had been granted to students across the State. These fee-free scholarships are in addition to the existing generous concessions and fee exemptions provided by TAFE NSW to disadvantaged students.

**MISC. TAFE**

118. What is the total cost to date of the IT upgrade in TAFE?

- a) What percentage of that has been spent on actual hardware?
- b) What percentage has been spent on training staff?

**ANSWER:**

Information on TAFE NSW capital and staff expenditure is contained within its Annual Report.

119. Is the LMBR system fully operational in all NSW TAFEs?

- a) If it is fully operational, on what date did it become fully operational?

**ANSWER:**

The Learning Management and Business Reform project was initiated in 2006/07 by the Department of Education to transform service delivery in the areas of finance, human resources and student administration and learning management.

The Student Administration and Learning Management system went live to all TAFE NSW campuses on 28 October 2014.

120. How many students had problems enrolling because of problems with the LMBR system?

**ANSWER:**

The LMBR Program is not an IT system. It is a project that was initiated in 2006/07 by the Department of Education to transform service delivery in the areas of finance, human resources and student administration and learning management.

121. How many students tried to enrol but were unable, and never went on to enrol?

**ANSWER:**

This data is not collected or held by TAFE NSW.

122. Have all eligible students eligible been able to graduate?

**ANSWER:**

Yes.

123. How many TAFE teachers complained to the department about the problems with the computer system?

**ANSWER:**

Data on complaints is not disaggregated by subject or demographic.

124. How many teachers took stress leave as a result of the LMBR system?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW does not record a diagnosis when employees' access approved sick leave entitlements.

125. How many students who finished their study in 2014 had their employment and further studies delayed because they were unable to access their transcript or graduate?

**ANSWER:**

All eligible students who finished their studies in 2014 have received their transcripts.

126. How many classes were cancelled due to the issues with the enrolment system?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that no classes were cancelled due to systems issues.

127. Was the LMBR enrolment system tested before it was rolled out?

**ANSWER:**

The Student Administration and Learning Management system was tested prior to it going live.

128. How many TAFE courses which were offered in 2014, are no longer available in 2015?

**ANSWER:**

With the frequent changes to Training Package qualifications, it is not possible to provide an accurate list of courses that were offered in 2014 that are no longer available in 2015.

Information on the number and name of qualifications offered by TAFE NSW is available on their website at <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/courses>.

129. How many full-time equivalent staff have been cut from NSW TAFE since 2011?

**ANSWER:**

Information on changes to TAFE NSW staff is contained within current and past Budget Papers

130. How many full-time equivalent staff have been cut from NSW TAFE since 2014?

**ANSWER:**

Information on changes to TAFE NSW staff is contained within current and past Budget Papers

131. In total, how much extra is TAFE NSW charging in fees in 2015, when compared to 2014?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 82.

132. How many TAFE students are paying more than \$500 more in 2015 than they would have in 2014 for the same course?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 83.

133. How many individual VET Fee-Help Loans have been allocated since Smart and Skilled?

- a) What is the dollar value of the loans?
- b) What percentage of the total loans were for TAFE students?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 84.

134. Could you please list any TAFE Campuses where private providers are leasing space?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 89.

135. What is the current percentage of the total vocational and training budget going to private RTOs?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 93.

136. Have enrolments at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?  
a) By how much?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 101.

137. Has the numbers of teachers at Cooma TAFE increased or decreased compared to last year?  
a) By how much?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 102.

138. What is the total number of staff employed at Belmont TAFE for each of the years from 2011 to 2015? Please list each year individually.

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 109.

139. How many people completed apprentice Certificate III level programs at Belmont TAFE in each of the years from 2006 to 2008, as well as in 2012 and 2014? Please list each year individually.

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW operates in a competitive environment. Data is not provided by location. TAFE NSW does provide enrolment data as part of its annual reporting, which can be found at <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/annual-reports>.

**Ministerial Office Administration**

140. How many staff are in your ministerial office?  
a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?  
b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 15.



141. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
  - b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
    - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 16.

142. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
  - b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 17.

143. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 18.

144. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
- a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 19.

145. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?
- a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 20.

146. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?
- a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
    - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 21.

147. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?
- a) What were the gifts purchased?
    - i. Who were they gifted to?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 22.

148. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 23.

149. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?
- a) Do they have ABN's?
    - i. If so, please provide details?
  - b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
  - c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 24.

150. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 25.

**Ministerial And Office Travel**

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

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 26.

152. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
- a) What were the nature of these trips?
  - b) Who paid for these trips?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 27.

153. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:
- a) Taxi hire

- b) Limousine hire
- c) Private hire care
- d) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 28.

154. Have you ever used Uber?

- a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 29.

155. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 30.

156. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 31.

157. Have you used Airbnb?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 32.

158. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 33.

159. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?

- a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 34

160. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 35.

**Labour Hire Firms**

161. 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
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 36.

**Media And Public Relations**

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

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 37.

163. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 38.

164. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 39.

165. Have you had media training or speech training?

- a) If yes, who paid for it?
- b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 40.

**Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

166. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 41.

167. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 42.

168. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 43.

169. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 44.

170. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 45.

171. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 46.

172. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 47.

173. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 48.

174. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 49.

175. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 50.

176. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 51.

**Consulting**

177. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?

- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 52.

178. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:

- a) Social media
  - i. And the cost of these services
- b) Photography
  - i. And the cost of these services
- c) Acting training
  - i. And the cost of these services
- d) Ergonomics
  - i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 53.

**Department/Agency Administration**

179. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?

- a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
  - i. Voluntary
  - ii. Forced
- b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 54.

180. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

- a) What was the nature of these works/services?
- b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 55.

181. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 56.

182. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

- a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 57.

183. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 58.

184. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 59.

185. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?

- a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 60.

186. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

- a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

**ANSWER:**



See response to question 61.

187. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

- a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?
- b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?
- c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 62.

188. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 63.

189. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

- a) What is their remuneration band?
- b) For each SES employee, how many have:
  - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
  - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
  - iii. less than 5 staff?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 64.

190. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- a) workplace bullying;
- b) stress leave; and
- c) sick leave?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 65.

191. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

- a) If so, what is:
  - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
  - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
  - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 66.

**Department/Agency Travel**

192. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:

- a) Taxi hire
- b) Limousine/private car hire
- c) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 67.

193. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 68.

194. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?

- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 69.

195. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 70.

196. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?

- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 71.

**Departmental/Agency IT**

197. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
  - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 72.

198. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 73.

199. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?
- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 74.

200. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 75.

**Efficiency Dividend**

201. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 76.

202. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 77.

203. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:
- a) 2014/15 financial year
  - b) 2013/14 financial year
  - c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 78.

204. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:
- a) 2014/15 financial year
  - b) 2013/14 financial year

- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 79.

205. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 80.

206. For the 2015/16 financial year:

- a) What savings measures will the Department save?
- b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
- c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
- d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 81.

## Questions from Dr Kaye

GPSC No: 6

Skills

4 September 2015

### Operational Base Funding for TAFE

207. Are there any plans to change the amount of operational base funding allocated to TAFE in 2015/16?

**ANSWER:**

As noted in the NSW Government's 'Statement of Owner Expectations, TAFE NSW' , page 7, *'operational base funding for TAFE NSW will be reviewed over time and adjusted to changes in circumstances'*.

208. Are there any plans to gradually reduce TAFE's operational base funding to zero in the next 10 years?

**ANSWER:**

As noted in the NSW Government's 'Statement of Owner Expectations, TAFE NSW' , page 7, *'operational base funding for TAFE NSW will be reviewed over time and adjusted to changes in circumstances'*.

209. Can the Minister guarantee no reductions to TAFE's operational base funding for the next 10 years?

**ANSWER:**

As noted in the NSW Government's 'Statement of Owner Expectations, TAFE NSW' , page 7, *'operational base funding for TAFE NSW will be reviewed over time and adjusted to changes in circumstances'*.

### TAFE Institute amalgamations

210. Are there any plans to amalgamate any of the Institutes within TAFE NSW?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW continually reviews how it delivers vocational education and training to ensure that it meets the expectations of students, employers and the community.

211. If so, please outline the proposals and what has been agreed to by the government.

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW continually reviews how it delivers vocational education and training to ensure that it meets the expectations of students, employers and the community.

212. If no, can the Minister rule out any amalgamations of Institutes within TAFE NSW in the next 10 years?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW continually reviews how it delivers vocational education and training to ensure that it meets the expectations of students, employers and the community.

**North Coast Institute of TAFE**

213. In response to media reports that nearly 200 administrative positions are being spilt at the North Coast Institute of TAFE, can the Minister provide the number of permanent full-time equivalent positions that will be re-filled?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

It is the responsibility of Institute Directors to develop organisation structures and share these with staff.

214. Will any current personnel be re-appointed at a lower pay or responsibility grade and will the distribution of pay and responsibility grades across the Institute's campuses remain the same?

**ANSWER:**

TAFE NSW Institutes regularly review and adjust their services and delivery to meet the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve.

Where Institutes implement new organisation structures, all staff have the opportunity to apply for new roles.

215. How many positions will be there be in the new restructure?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that recruitment to positions in the new organisation structure for the North Coast Institute is underway, and there are plans to create more full time, long term positions than currently exist.

216. How many are there currently?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that there were 197 FTE positions in the previous organisation structure.

217. What number of positions are currently filled on a contract basis (ie not permanent) and how many will there be in the new restructure?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that 129 positions in the previous organisation structure were filled on a contract basis.

I am advised that there are likely to be 100 FTE new long term contract positions, plus additional short term contract positions as required in the new structure.

218. Have staff been provided with a copy of the Change Management Plan outlining the new restructure?  
a) If not, why not?

**ANSWER:**

It is the responsibility of Institute Directors to develop organisation structures which address the needs of the students, industries and the communities they serve, and share these with staff.

219. How many “consultants” are currently being employed by North Coast Institute of TAFE? Please provide a full time equivalent number and the pay scale for these positions.

**ANSWER:**

None.

220. How many positions at North Coast Institute of TAFE are currently being filled by job agency staff? Please provide a full time equivalent number and the pay scale, including if the positions are filled casually at a higher upfront cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised there are 12 full time positions currently filled by job agency staff.

- 9 staff at General Scale Clerk
- 3 staff at Clerk Grade 1/2

Agency staff are paid at the same hourly rate that a North Coast Institute employee would be paid. North Coast Institute complies with the *Contingent Workforce Management Guidelines (Public Service Commission)*.

**Revenue from fees and charges**

221. In the 2015/16 budget what is the forecast revenue from student VET fee HELP debt?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. 2013 data can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>

222. Is this figure included in the figure quoted in the financial statement under revenue “sale of goods and services” listed in the budget papers?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. 2013 data can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>

223. What was the level of NSW student VET fee help Debt in 2013?  
a) What proportion of this debt was incurred by TAFE students in 2013?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. 2013 data can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>

224. What was the level of NSW student VET fee help Debt in 2014?

a) What proportion of this debt was incurred by TAFE students in 2014?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. 2013 data can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>

225. What is the expected level of NSW student VET fee help in 2015?

a) What proportion of this debt is expected to be incurred by TAFE students in 2015?

**ANSWER:**

VET FEE-HELP loans are administered by the Commonwealth and it publishes data by state and territory for a full calendar year. 2013 data can be accessed at the following link: <https://education.gov.au/vet-fee-help-statistics>

**Tendering arrangements for EBS/SALMS/LMBR**

226. Please list all the bidders for the tender for the implementation of the above.

**ANSWER:**

The Learning Management and Business Reform program is administered by the Department of Education. This question should be referred to the Minister for Education.

227. What is the total cost to date and forecast in the 2015/16 budget for the implementation of the above?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be referred to the Minister for Education.

**Boggabilla & Quirindi TAFE campuses**

228. Can the Minister confirm that neither of these two campuses in the New England TAFE Institute will be closing this year or in 2016?

**ANSWER:**

The TAFE NSW Strategic Asset Management Plan is being developed as part of the NSW's Government's Rebuilding NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2014, a key election commitment.

No decisions have been made on specific TAFE assets.

**Level of contestability under Smart and Skilled**



229. In the Australian article “Support wanes for open training markets” dated 22 April 2015, the Minister is quoted as saying that he “had not made up his mind about what level of contestability was appropriate” but the “30 per cent level advocated by the NSW opposition could see TAFEs worse off, with the public providers presently attracting 81 per cent of the training funds”.

- a) Given that in 2015/16 that proportion has risen to 33% of the VET budget, above the NSW opposition’s proposed 30 per cent cap, does the Minister support the level of funding allocated to TAFE in the 2015/16 budget or does he believe that TAFE is worse off, as he called it in April this year?
- b) Has the Minister made up his mind of the appropriate level of contestability and if so, what is that level and how will he implement this policy position?

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government is investing \$2.3 billion into vocational education and training in 2015/16, a \$122 million increase on last year, with TAFE NSW receiving \$1.99 billion of the total VET budget. The NSW Government’s investment in VET is 11 per cent higher than 2010-11 under Labor.

Under Smart and Skilled, the NSW Government is creating over 510,000 subsidised training places this calendar year in qualifications demanded by employers so more people can gain skills to get a job. This includes funding support for 37,700 Aboriginal students and 47,800 students with a disability, comparable to previous years.

**Questions from Shaoquett Moselmane** [on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition]

**GPSC No 6**

**Small Business**

**4 September**

**Small Business Misc.**

230. How many staff are currently employed in the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner?

**ANSWER:**

The Small Business Commissioner Act 2013 provides for staff to be employed under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013. These staff are disclosed as part of the Industry Development Service Group within the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development. (*Budget Paper No. 3, 2015-16, page 6-7*).

231. How many newsagents received funding under the Newsagent Assistance Fund?

**ANSWER:**

30 as at 30 June, 2015.

232. What is the current Budget for the Regional Activation program?

**ANSWER:**

The budget for activities carried out by the NSW Small Business Commissioner is disclosed as part of the Industry Development Service Group within the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development. (*Budget Paper No. 3, 2015-16, page 6-7*)

233. How many businesses has the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner assisted directly in 2014/15 to resolve systemic issues?

**ANSWER:**

In 2014/15, the OSBC received over 18,000 enquiries and directly assisted those businesses. Some of the issues raised may be considered systemic, but data is not recorded against that characteristic.

234. How many direct mediation cases have been conducted by Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in 2014/15.

**ANSWER:**

4,924.

235. How many complaints from Small Business has the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner received in regards to disputes or complaints about a government agency not paying within 30 days in 2014/15?

**ANSWER:**

All NSW government agencies will report their payment progress and performance on a quarterly basis to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation.

<https://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/doing-business-dfsi/30days>

236. Which Departments were involved?

**ANSWER:**

All NSW government agencies will report their payment progress and performance on a quarterly basis to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation.

<https://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/doing-business-dfsi/30days>

237. How many small businesses have taken up the \$2000 employment grant up to and including August 2015?

**ANSWER:**

The Small Business Employment Incentive is administered by the Office of State Revenue. This question is best directed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Innovation.

238. When will the government complete its review into licenses given it accepted all of the recommendations in the “Reforming Licensing in NSW” IPART Report

**ANSWER:**

This review the responsibility of the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation.

**Ministerial Office Administration**

239. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?
- b) What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 15.

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

- a) For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
- b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
  - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 16.

241. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

- a) What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
- b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
  - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 17.

242. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

a) If so, how many times did this occur?

i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 18.

243. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?

a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 19.

244. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?

a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 20.

245. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?

a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 21.

246. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?

a) What were the gifts purchased?

i. Who were they gifted to?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 22.

247. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?

a) What is the cost of this?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 23.

248. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?

a) Do they have ABN's?

i. If so, please provide details?

b) Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?

- c) Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 24.

249. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 25.

**Ministerial And Office Travel**

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

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 26.

251. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?  
a) What were the nature of these trips?  
b) Who paid for these trips?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 27.

252. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:  
a) Taxi hire  
b) Limousine hire  
c) Private hire care  
d) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 28.

253. Have you ever used Uber?  
a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 29.

254. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 30.

255. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?

- a) What is the value of those reimbursements?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 31.

256. Have you used Airbnb?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 32.

257. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 33.

258. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?

- a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 34.

259. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?

- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 35.

**Labour Hire Firms**

260. 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
- g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

**Media And Public Relations**

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

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

262. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

263. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

264. Have you had media training or speech training?  
a) If yes, who paid for it?  
b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 40.

**Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

265. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?  
a) Who attended those meetings?  
b) What was the nature of those meetings?  
c) What was discussed?  
d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 41.

266. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 42.

267. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 43.

268. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 44.

269. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 45.

270. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?



- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 46.

271. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 47.

272. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 48.

273. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?

- a) Who attended those meetings?
- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
- c) What was discussed?
- d) Were any records of those meetings kept?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 49.

274. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? 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?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 50.

275. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 51.

**Consulting**

276. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 52.

277. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:
- a) Social media
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - b) Photography
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - c) Acting training
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - d) Ergonomics
    - i. And the cost of these services

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 53.

**Department/Agency Administration**

278. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
- a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - i. Voluntary
    - ii. Forced
  - b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

279. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- a) What was the nature of these works/services?

b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

280. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 56.

281. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?

a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

282. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 58.

283. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 59.

284. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?

a) How much of these bills were alcohol?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 60.

285. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?

a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

286. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

287. What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?

- a) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?
- b) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

288. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 63.

289. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?

- a) What is their remuneration band?
- b) For each SES employee, how many have:
  - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
  - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
  - iii. less than 5 staff?

**ANSWER:**

See response to question 64.

290. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:

- a) workplace bullying;
- b) stress leave; and
- c) sick leave?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

291. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?

- a) If so, what is:
  - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?

- ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
- iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

**Department/Agency Travel**

292. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
- a) Taxi hire
  - b) Limousine/private car hire
  - c) Hire car rental

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

293. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

294. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?
- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

295. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

296. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?
- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

### **Departmental/Agency IT**

297. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
  - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

### **ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

298. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
  - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

### **ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

299. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?

- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?

### **ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

300. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?

- a) If so, how many times did this occur?
  - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

### **ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

### **Efficiency Dividend**

301. What was the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2014/15 financial year?

### **ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

302. What is the efficiency dividend required of the department in the 2015/16 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

303. What savings measures were implemented by the Department for:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

304. What actual savings were achieved by each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

305. What reduction of staff occurred and at what cost as a result of each strategy in:

- a) 2014/15 financial year
- b) 2013/14 financial year
- c) 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.

306. For the 2015/16 financial year:

- a) What savings measures will the Department save?
- b) What is the expected saving to be achieved for each measure?
- c) Will they require a reduction in staffing?
- d) How many positions within the Department remain unfilled due to the imposition of savings measures?

**ANSWER:**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy as the Cluster Minister of this Department.