

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2010

BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

1. Can you please provide a list of Ministerial visits?

A non-exhaustive list is attached at Tab A.

2. How much did the investigation conducted by Jan McClelland cost?

In 2008, a total of \$18 552.80 (incl. GST) was paid to Jan McClelland for the provision of consultancy services.

3. Has bullying and intimidation within the agency lead to an abundance of sick leave being taken?

All Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff are entitled to take various forms of leave under the Crown Employees Award.

All leave taken by staff has been taken in accordance with Award entitlements. Due to privacy and confidentiality, individual leave details are not able to be released.

4. Minister, are you aware of a letter last year from the Public Service Association that accuses the department of openly misleading it and which stated, "The Association wishes to discuss the obvious difficulties in establishing a trust environment in circumstances where we have openly been misled"?

Yes.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW values its relationship with the Public Sector Association and enjoys a positive and professional working relationship with the Association and does not engage in activities to damage this.

5. How much money has been budgeted for repayments under the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme until June 2011?

In the 2009-10 the total budget across the three participating agencies (Aboriginal Affairs NSW State Records NSW and the Department of Premier and Cabinet) is \$6,799,000.

6. i) How many staff members are currently budgeted for the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme?

15.5 full time equivalents

ii) How many of those staff members are budgeted until June 2011 and what are the roles of the staff members?

A Senior Indexing Officer and an Indexing Officer are employed by Aboriginal Affairs NSW under the Scheme. AANSW is the custodian of the relevant historical records and the key function undertaken is to check the indexes of Aborigines Protection Board, the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Chief Secretary's Department records for references to the Trust Fund account holder. A list of entries is then prepared and forwarded to State Records for searching.

A Senior Research Officer and three Research Officers are employed by the Scheme at State Records. These positions search the historical records by page and portfolio for relevant documents pertaining to the claimant. Where appropriate, records are copied and a report prepared for the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the search.

The Scheme funds nine fulltime and one half time positions in the ATFRS Unit within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. A Project Director, a Project Manager, 6.5 Senior Project Officers and an Assistant Project Officer are the administrative core for the Scheme; the Unit has the tasks of registering, assessing and advising on claims, community liaison and supporting the ATFRS Panel.

7. Is there provision in the budget for expanding this hotline to include answers about the progress of individual claims, particularly for the frail and elderly who have been waiting many years for this process to be concluded?

The Scheme provides a free call number for claimants seeking assistance in regard to their claim. The Department of Premier and Cabinet provides responses to all telephones messages within two working days. All correspondence to claimants contains information about how to seek assistance.

8. How much funding has been provided to Link Up, the New South Wales Aboriginal Corporation, in 2010-11?

From my portfolios, no funds have yet been provided to Link Up NSW Aboriginal Corporation in 2010/11.

In relation to the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS), it should be noted that, during the 2009-2010 financial year, the Department of Premier and Cabinet provided Link-Up NSW with \$100,000 in funding to supply support, counselling and/or practical assistance to Aboriginal people in connection with their contact with the ATFRS. Funding was also provided in 2009/10 with Aboriginal Affairs NSW providing \$50,000 to Link Up NSW to support the Cootamundra Girls Home Project.

- 9. Do local Aboriginal land councils now have access to Crown lands databases, or are they still required to use the parish maps? I think I referred to this issue last year.**

Local Aboriginal Land Councils do not have access to the Crown Lands databases.

- 10. What are the time and resource implications for requiring land councils to use parish maps rather than the Crown land database?**

Parish maps have not been updated by the LPMA for several years rendering them outdated.

- 11. Could you give the total value and size in hectares of landholdings of all New South Wales Aboriginal land councils, or will you take that question on notice?**

As at 29 January 2010, according to the LPMA, the total area granted pursuant to Land Claims was 81,505 hectares and the value of the land granted was \$2,157,195.938.00 (calculated by LPMA)

- 12. Are you able also to provide the Committee with the balance in the land council Community Development Fund.**

As at 31 August 2010 the balance of the NSWALC Account was \$599,594,000.00.

- 13. Is additional funding available for local Aboriginal land councils to comply with the new requirements of the 2009 amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act?**

Local Aboriginal Land Councils did not receive any additional funding to comply with the new land dealings amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. However, the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council has provided extra assistance and guidance by way of regional forums with Local Aboriginal Land Councils in the early part of 2010 in relation to the new provisions as well as developing a new policy and applications forms, which have been made available to all Local Aboriginal Land Councils. Furthermore, the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council provides information and guidance on an ongoing basis to Local Aboriginal Land Councils in relation to land dealings amendments.

MINISTERIAL VISITS May 2007 – August 2010

Year	Location	AA NSW Region
2007	Bourke	Western
2007	Nowra	Illawarra / South East
2007	Parramatta – NSWALC Board	Sydney - Western
2007	Queanbeyan / Bungendore	Illawarra / South East
2007	Wagga Wagga	Riverina
2007	Parramatta	Sydney - Western
2007	Penrith	Sydney - Western
2007	Parramatta	Sydney - Western
2007	Randwick – AHMRC Graduation	Sydney - Eastern
2007	Central Coast - Wyong	Hunter / Central Coast
2007	La Perouse	Sydney - Eastern
2007	Tamworth	North West
2007	Bathurst	Riverina
2007	Moree / Collarenebri / Walgett	North West / Western
2007	Coffs Harbour	North Coast
2007	Toomelah and Boggabilla	North West
2007	Redfern	Sydney – Eastern
2007	Sydney (Deadlys)	Sydney – Eastern
2007	Mount Annan Botanic Garden	Sydney - South Western
2007	Orange	Riverina
2007	Campbelltown-Camden	Sydney - South Western
2007	Coffs Harbour - Bowraville	North Coast
2007	Armidale	North West
2007	Campbelltown – Tharawal AMS	Sydney - South Western
2007	Redfern	Sydney - Eastern
2007	St Marys – Language Centre	Sydney - Western
2007	Mungindi & Toomelah-Boggabilla	North West
2008	Camperdown, Yabun Festival	Sydney - Eastern
2008	Little Bay	Sydney - Eastern
2008	Tweed	North Coast
2008	Canberra – National Apology	Illawarra / South East
2008	Bellingen	North Coast
2008	Mount Druitt	Sydney - Western
2008	Newcastle - Morisset	Hunter / Central Coast
2008	Wagga Wagga	Riverina
2008	Walgett	Western
2008	Griffith - Leeton	Riverina
2008	Cowra	Riverina
2008	Merimbula / Moruya	Illawarra / South East
2008	Port Macquarie	North Coast
2008	Penrith	Sydney – Western
2008	Dubbo	Riverina
2008	Nowra	Illawarra / South East
2008	Lismore	North Coast
2008	Myall Creek / Tamworth	North West
2008	Casino	North Coast
2008	Villawood (NAIDOC Celebration)	Sydney – South Western

MINISTERIAL VISITS May 2007 – August 2010

Year	Location	AA NSW Region
2008	Tregear	Sydney - Western
2008	Glebe	Sydney – Eastern
2008	Sydney – NAIDOC	Sydney – Eastern
2008	Emerton	Sydney – Western
2008	Wollongong	Illawarra / South East
2008	Liverpool	Sydney – South Western
2008	Cobar, Wilcannia, Menindee	Western
2008	Gunnedah / Tamworth	North West
2008	Redfern	Sydney – Eastern
2008	Tweed Heads	North Coast
2008	Little Bay	Sydney – Eastern
2008	Liverpool (NSWALC Forum)	Sydney – South Western
2008	La Perouse	Sydney – Eastern
2009	Liverpool	Sydney – South Western
2009	Camperdown, Yabun Festival	Sydney – Eastern
2009	Dubbo (Murdi Paaki RPA signing)	Riverina
2009	Marrickville – Warringa Baiya	Sydney - Eastern
2009	Lawson – Link Up	Riverina
2009	Little Bay	Sydney – Eastern
2009	Taree / Purfleet	North Coast
2009	Appin	Sydney – South Western
2009	La Perouse	Sydney – Eastern
2009	Broken Hill / Mutawinji	Western
2009	Parramatta - NSWALC Board	Sydney – Western
2009	Miller – Aboriginal Men's Group	Sydney – South Western
2009	Blue Mountains	Riverina
2009	Tumut / Brungle / Gundagai	Riverina
2009	Tamworth - Myall Creek	North West
2009	Hamilton	Hunter / Central Coast
2009	Liverpool – NAIDOC	Sydney – South Western
2009	Kempsey	North Coast
2009	Campbelltown	Sydney – South Western
2009	Kurri Kurri / Wallsend	Hunter / Central Coast
2009	Bathurst	Riverina
2009	Dareton - Buronga / Lake Victoria and Coomealla	Western
2009	Tamworth / Gunnedah	North West
2009	Redfern	Sydney – Eastern
2009	Taree / Tuncurry	North Coast
2009	Walgett / Lightning Ridge	Western
2009	Port Stephens	Hunter / Central Coast
2009	Albury / Cumeragunja	Riverina
2009	Dubbo / Wellington	Riverina
2009	Wee Waa / Narrabri	North West
2010	Orange / Bathurst / Lithgow	Riverina
2010	Wagga Wagga / Murrin Bridge	Riverina
2010	Lake Mungo	Riverina
2010	Ballina, Tabulam, Cabbage Tree Island	North Coast
2010	Armidale	North West

MINISTERIAL VISITS May 2007 – August 2010

Year	Location	AA NSW Region
2010	Collarenebri, Angledool, Goodooga	Western
2010	Mt Druitt	Sydney - Western
2010	Moruya, Mogo, Bega, Biamanga National Park, Wallaga Lake	Illawarra / South East
2010	Gulargambone, Coonamble, Walgett and Goodooga	Western