



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Transport, Illawarra

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Monday 10 November 2008

Budget Estimates Secretariat
Telephone 9230 3528
Fax 9230 2981
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Questions relating to the portfolios of Transport and Illawarra

15 OCTOBER 2008, 9.15 am – 1.00 pm

Questions from Miss Gardiner

In relation to the Mobility Summit:

1. What is the new date of the Summit?

In relation to community transport:

2. Will the Ministry of Transport increase funding for community transport above CPI?
3. If so, when?
4. How do you respond to claims the MOT is unsympathetic to concerns raised by Community Transport workers and volunteers about lack of resources and too much red tape?
5. Do you think these concerns are justified? What will you do in response to them?

Car Parking Levy

6. Does the money earned from the Parking Space Levy contribute to transport infrastructure?
7. How much money from the Parking Space Levy is used for public transport infrastructure?
8. What specific transport projects has it paid for in the past 12 months?

2006 Urban Transport Statement

9. What is the status of the Urban Transport Statement?
10. How much has been spent on the Statement so far?

In relation to graffiti and crime on the CityRail network:

11. Why were the number of incidents involving graffiti on the CityRail network recently removed from the CityRail website?
12. As the former Minister for Police do you believe it to be in the public interest to make the community aware of crime statistics on and around public transport?
13. Will you commit to updating crime statistics on the website, which have not been updated since December last year?

In relation to the 626 train carriages:

14. Is 2010 still the date for the first carriages to be in operation?
15. What is the date all 626 carriages will be on the track?
16. How much has been spent on the project to date?
17. Are these new carriages environmentally friendly? What Environmental Impact statements have been made in relation to these carriages?

18. Are you confident there will not be power shortages across the network due to the make of these carriages, which requires higher than average energy consumption?
19. What is your response to suggestions that due to the high energy consumption air-conditioning may not be operable during peak times?

In relation to the CountryLink Booking Tax:

20. How much money did the Government collect from the CountryLink pensioner-booking fee in the last financial year?
21. Will you abolish the booking fee? If not, why not?
22. Why did your Government gag debate in the Lower House on the Coalition's Bill to abolish the tax – on the 15 November 2007, 10 April 2008 and 15 May 2008?

In relation to the Commuter Charter and Ombudsman:

23. When do you intend to introduce the "Commuter Charter" which was supposed to be in place by the end of 2007?
24. When will you be appointing a Transport Ombudsman, which was promised at the same time?

In relation to commuter car parking:

25. Do you think it is acceptable to charge commuters for parking?
26. How many commuter car parks are currently available?
27. How many do you think there should be?
28. When will you deliver these additional spots?

In relation to disability access at train stations:

29. How many stations have easy access?
30. When do you expect all Railway Stations will have easy access?
31. How many stations have raised markings for the vision-impaired?
32. When will all stations have raised markings for the vision-impaired?
33. How long does it take on average to connect power once a new lift is installed in order to make the lift operable?

In relation to the Companion Card:

34. Has the companion card been issued?
35. When will it be issued?
36. How many carers will be issued with the companion card?

In relation to Transit Offices:

37. How many additional Transit Officers have been employed in the last 12 months?
38. How many complaints have you received in relation to transit officers?
39. What are your future plans in relation to Transit officers?

In relation to Train Drivers:

40. How many train drivers do you currently employ?
41. Do you intend to reinstate certain weekend services from 30 minutes to 15 minutes given the cut in services had been attributed to a driver shortage?

In relation to Metro Buses:

42. Why has the cost of the trial doubled? For example the period of the trial has halved while the total cost has remained the same?

In relation to bus maintenance:

43. How many buses are out of service on a daily basis due to maintenance problems?
44. How many buses are out of service due to driver shortage?

In relation to bus safety:

45. How many buses are without CCTV cameras?
46. OTSI recommended installing forward and backward looking cameras on buses – where is this up to?

In relation to Sydney Ferries data recorders:

47. Are all Sydney Ferries' vessels fitted with black boxes yet?
48. If not, when will they be, given they were all supposed to be fitted by May 2008?

In relation to the Chatswood to Epping rail line:

49. When will the rail line be open to the public?
50. What issues are causing the delay?
51. What is the cost of the project to date?
52. How many trains per hour will run on the line?
53. What will be the impact on the Northern Line? Will there be fewer services? If so how many?
54. What rolling stock will be used on the line?

In relation to Outer Suburban Carriages:

55. When will all 122 Outer Suburban Carriages be in operation?

In relation to the 14-day Pay Day Ticket:

56. How much has it cost to develop, market, advertise and implement the 14 Pay Day Ticket?

In relation to SmartSaver Tickets:

57. How many people have switched from peak hour travel to early hour travel using a SmartSaver ticket?

58. How much has the SmartSaver ticket cost to develop, market, advertise and implement?

In relation to Private Bus Tickets:

59. Why is the 20% discount not available on all private buses across Sydney as promised in June this year by the former Premier?

60. Which private bus services are not offering the 20% discount? Why?

61. When will all private bus services offer a 20% discount?

In relation to the Private Vehicle Conveyance Scheme:

62. What is the current budget allowance for the Private Vehicle Conveyance Scheme?

63. This Scheme was reviewed this year, with one of the recommendations being that payments be made by family instead of by student – has this recommendation been approved?

64. For a family of 5 school aged children who are currently paid per child, how much will payments to this family decrease given that they travel 500km a week to attend school?

In relation to the South Coast Rail Line and South Coast Train Stations:

65. Why does a train from Central to Thirroul now take nearly an extra 10 minutes than it did 30 years ago? What are you going to do to remedy this?

66. How many alleged sexual assaults have occurred on the South Coast Line in the past 12 months and how many 'other' alleged assaults have occurred on the line in the past 12 months?

67. How do those figures compare to when Chubb security personnel were employed to man the South Coast Line between Kiama and Nowra every night after 7pm?

68. Why do commuters using the South Coast Line suffer the highest level of crime across the network?

69. How many transit officers are deployed on the South Coast Line in the PM peak period from Monday to Friday?

70. How many transit officers are deployed on the South Coast Line across the weekend?

71. Why is disabled access not included in the upgrade of the Unanderra Railway Station? Will you be addressing this?

72. Are there plans to upgrade the Bomaderry Train Station and commuter car park?

In relation to the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program (MREP)

73. What is the status of the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program given the axing of the North West Heavy Rail Link, the CBD Rail Link and potentially the South West Rail Link?

In relation to Mercedes CNG Buses:

74. How many of the 255 Mercedes CNG buses have been delivered?

75. When will they all be delivered?

In relation to M2 Corridor Buses:

76. How many additional buses are you purchasing for the M2 corridor given increasing demand on services?

77. When will they be delivered?