

BUDGET ESTIMATES – SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

ENVIRONMENT

1. **Regarding alleged changes made to the Australian Rail Track Corporation's 'Pollution Reduction Program 4.2: Particulate Emissions from Coal Trains' report commissioned to fulfil the licencing conditions defined by the Office of Environment and Heritage, please provide**
 - a. **The exact changes from the draft version dated 24 May 2013 to the final version of 30 May;**
 - b. **The person or persons within the NSW government or government agencies who caused the alleged changes in the report to occur and the nature and detail of the instructions concerning revisions to the report;**
 - c. **The person or persons within the NSW government or government agencies who were aware that the alleged changes in the report had occurred and their responsibility to report the matter;**
 - d. **The impact of the changes on the final outcome and recommendations;**
 - e. **The process of review and consideration of the report between its substantive revision on 29 May and the public statements by Chair of the EPA on 31 May to the effect that the report's findings do not warrant policy changes or licencing requirements to minimise particle emissions from coal wagons.**
 - a. The final report dated 30 May 2013 and the draft dated 24 May 2013 are both available for comparison on the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) website www.artc.com.au/.
 - b. The EPA identified several reporting errors of a relatively minor nature in the draft dated 24 May 2013 and required ARTC to amend these in the final version. Further, ARTC and Katestone (the author of the report) have publicly stated that other differences between the draft report dated 24 May 2013 and final report were the result of an error in technical calculations which was identified and corrected by the author prior to finalising and publishing the report.
 - c. The EPA was aware of the changes made to the final report dated 30 May 2013 having reviewed it upon release.
 - d. The EPA advises that the impact of the changes were negligible as the key finding that coal trains were not contributing appreciably greater amounts of dust than other freight trains did not change between the draft and final reports.
 - e. The EPA reviewed the final report upon its release and prior to the public statements by the EPA Chair and CEO. This review identified that, like the draft report dated 24 May 2013, the final report indicates that significant dust was not being generated from uncovered coal trains compared to other types of freight trains during the study.
2. **Has the EPA provided any advice to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding the Terminal 4 proposal at Newcastle?**
 - a. **If yes, please provide this advice or a summary of advice given**

The EPA provided a detailed response to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure regarding Port Waratah Coal Services' Terminal 4 proposal (T4) at Newcastle during the public exhibition period in May 2012. A copy of the EPA's response is publicly available on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website.

At the time the submission was made, the EPA was part of the Office of Environment and Heritage, so the submission includes comments on threatened species, National Park Estate and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage which are now outside the EPA's portfolio.

3. Has there been any clearing of track in preparation for the unapproved horse riding in the Kosciuszko National Park at Bull-Oulla and/or Buckenbowra?

No track clearing has been carried out in the Buckenbowra wilderness as preparation for the proposed wilderness horse riding trials. In a recent joint inspection with local horse riders, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officers hand cleared a very small amount of vegetation around parts of the Georges Pack Track in the Burra-Oulla Wilderness in order to properly locate the trail. The area had seen significant vegetation regrowth since a major bushfire burnt through the area in 2001.

4. What is the Government's plan for reducing carbon emissions in the state of NSW

a. What resources if any, has your government allocated to reducing carbon emissions in NSW?

b. What policy measures, if any, does your government have or intend to introduce to reduce carbon emissions in NSW?

The NSW Government is committed to reducing carbon emissions through key initiatives on energy efficiency and supporting renewable energy.

Over the next few years the Government has committed to spending:

- \$35.1 million on energy efficiency measures over two years through the recently announced Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- \$708 million over the next four years to fund the Solar Bonus Scheme
- \$7.1 million over 4 years through an improved and extended program that follows on from the previous Renewable Energy Precincts Program
- \$65 million over 3 years to support two large solar farms under the Solar Flagships program.

In addition, the Government is investing over \$20 million on research and programs to ensure that communities are more resilient and able to adapt to climate change. This spending includes:

- \$2.96 million on climate projections modelling for NSW to provide fine-scale climate projections, and climate impact science information to local government and communities
- \$2.75 million on collaborative research projects, and
- \$2 million on a suite of other programs to build community capacity to respond to climate change
- \$12.5 million out of the Climate Change Fund to enhance bush fire hazard reduction programs.

Energy efficiency and Energy Efficiency Action Plan

Energy efficiency is a key measure to help reduce the State's carbon emissions from electricity use. Under *NSW 2021* the Government has a target to realise annual energy savings from businesses and households of 16,000 gigawatt hours by 2020.

To help achieve this on 16 August 2013 the Government released its *Energy Efficiency Action Plan*. The Plan incorporates the best parts of our existing energy efficiency programs and makes them more accessible, more targeted and less reliant on government funding. The Plan is a major step towards our energy savings targets and actions in *NSW 2021*.

Through the *Energy Efficiency Action Plan*, in this financial year the Government will invest:

- \$16.6 million on Energy Efficient Homes
- \$6.8 million on Energy Efficient Business
- \$3.2 million on Energy Efficient Government, and

- \$3.0 million to strengthen the energy efficiency market and a digital platform to provide online access to programs.

The Government will also make available up to \$95 million for investment in Government buildings through a government loan facility. Capital investments under this program are repaid from future bill savings, leading to savings in operating costs.

Under the Plan the Government will also strengthen the *NSW Energy Savings Scheme* to make energy efficiency services easier for consumers and businesses to access. The Plan commits us to develop new measures that will further reduce pressure on future price rises and reduce duplication with Federal Government schemes, in line with the recent review of NSW climate change programs.

Under *NSW 2021*, the NSW Government is committed to supporting 220,000 low income households to reduce their energy use by June 2014. At 30 June 2013, the *Home Power Savings Program* had reached 193,000 low income households and helped them to save an estimated \$32 million a year compared to their historic energy usage. The Government will deliver support to the remaining low income households to meet our *NSW 2021* target.

The NSW Government also utilises its Building Sustainability Index *BASIX* to achieve energy efficiency improvements as part of the design and construction of houses and apartments. *BASIX* is a planning requirement that applies to all new residential properties, and those undergoing major renovations. *BASIX* is supported by an on-line tool that assesses a house or unit design, and compares it against energy and water reduction targets set under planning objectives.

The *Energy Saver Program for Businesses* has assisted 353 medium to large businesses to conduct audits at 475 sites for energy saving opportunities. Energy audits have identified an average of 20 per cent in energy use savings with individual energy savings as high as 60 per cent, or a \$201,000 saving per year. These reduced costs will directly increase productivity and improve the competitiveness of the participant businesses in NSW.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) are an innovative finance solution to the land lord-tenant market failure the Government has legislated to offer business new ways to save energy and improve environmental performance of their buildings and operations. Five councils have now opted to offer EUAs within their local government areas – the City of Sydney, Parramatta, North Sydney, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

The Government is taking practical steps to reduce electricity costs and improve its environmental performance, and has established 59 projects that target the government's most energy intensive sites. From these projects the Government expects to make annual savings of more than \$6.4 million.

The Government has also upgraded more than 100 small regional front line service buildings in the Illawarra and Lower Hunter – such as police, fire and ambulance stations – with efficient lighting, air conditioning, hot water systems, dual flush toilets and other energy and water saving devices, saving more than \$697,000 a year in energy and water bills.

NSW 2021 Renewable Energy Goal

One of the key responses to climate change is developing renewable energy resources to increase the proportion of renewables in the State's energy supply mix. The Government has committed to the *NSW 2021* target to increase renewable energy generation to 20 per cent by 2020 and the Renewable Energy Action Plan will drive investment in renewable energy generation in NSW.

The Government has released a draft *NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan* which will be finalised soon. Delivery of the Plan will be led by Minister Hartcher's Department of Trade,

Investment and Regional Infrastructure Services, working with the Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy and the Renewable Energy Advocate.

The implementation of the *Renewable Energy Action Plan* will be achieved as a whole of Government initiative. For example, OEH will work with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to help communities understand how to use the Wind Farm Planning Guidelines, once finalised.

In addition, the *Renewable Energy Action Plan* provides for a dedicated NSW Government advocate for the renewable energy industry and includes a number of other actions to remove regulatory barriers to renewable energy and assist with planning processes and community consultation. Ms Amy Kean has recently been appointed as the *NSW Renewable Energy Advocate*.

Solar Bonus Scheme

The Solar Bonus Scheme provides households and small businesses with a premium rate for electricity they generate from small scale solar or wind systems. The scheme commenced on 1 January 2010 and ends on 31 December 2016, and closed to new applicants in April 2011. At 30 June 2013 there were over 146,000 small scale systems connected to the scheme and \$197.9 million was provided in reimbursements to participating households and businesses. The scheme is expected to cost \$208.5 million in 2013/14. In 2011-12 these small scale systems produced 440,000 megawatts of renewable electricity.

Solar Flagships

The *Renewable Energy Action Plan* restates the Government's commitment to provide \$65 million to fund the Solar Flagships project in Broken Hill and Nyngan to support large-scale solar in NSW. This funding will be matched by \$166.7 million from the Australian Government and \$210.8 million from AGL.

NSW signed the funding agreement with AGL in July 2013. The AGL project will see regional NSW host the largest solar farm in the southern hemisphere, with 100 megawatts in Nyngan and 50 megawatts in Broken Hill. When completed, this facility will have a capacity of over 150 megawatts, enough power for over 30,000 homes. During the construction phase, it is estimated that the project will create around 450 jobs across the two sites. Both projects are estimated to be completed by the end of 2015.

Coal Innovation Fund

The Government committed \$100 million over four years to Coal Innovation NSW Fund starting 2009/10 and made its last payment of \$31.5 million into the Fund in 2012/13 financial year. The purpose of the Fund is to research into and develop low emission coal technologies, demonstrate and commercialise low emissions coal technologies.

The Coal Innovation Fund has allocated over \$9 million to supporting the Delta Carbon Capture and Storage Project which aims to demonstrate carbon capture and geological storage of up to 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The Fund has also allocated \$18.1 million to the NSW Carbon Dioxide Storage Assessment Program and \$12.8 million has been awarded to nine other research and development projects through a contestable funding process.

5. How many parks or protected areas has the Government declared in the Darling Riverine, the Plains Cobar, the Peneplain Riverina or other bioregions that have less than 2% protection since 2011?

Since July 2011, the Government has reserved one new park and three additions to existing parks within the Darling Riverine Plain, Cobar Peneplain and Riverina bioregions. There have been no additions to the reserves within the Broken Hill Complex bioregion, which currently has less than two percent of its area protected.

Darling Riverine Plains Bioregion:

- Ginghet Nature Reserve addition of 2,673 ha reserved on 27/07/2012
- Warrambool State Conservation Area (new park) of 12,298 ha reserved on 16/8/2013

Riverina Bioregion:

- Murrumbidgee Valley National Park addition of 238.8 ha reserved on 10/08/2012
- Oolambeyan National Park addition of 320 ha reserved on 26/10/2012

Cobar Penneplain Bioregion:

- Nil to date

Broken Hill Complex Bioregion:

- Nil to date

6. What is the Government's expected per cent of protected areas by 2014?

The Government expects the reserve system to cover 8.9% of the total land area of NSW by July 2014.

7. Please provide a list of protected or reserve areas declared (or existing areas expanded) each year since 1995, including size, location and cost (if any)?

Land reserved since 1995

Attachment A sets out all lands reserved since 1995. This list shows the status of land at time of original gazettal. It does not show those parks that have had their reserve merged into an existing reserve, have had their reserve name changed, or have had their category changed to form a new reserve at a later date.

In summary:

- In 1995-96 there were 24 new reserves and 22 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 255,647 hectares.
- In 1996-97 there were 13 new reserves and 55 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 260,187 hectares.
- In 1997-98 there were 9 new reserves and 31 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 16,569 hectares.
- In 1998-99 there were 119 new reserves and 132 additions to reserves protecting a total area of 481,410 hectares.
- In 1999-2000 there were 12 new reserves and 34 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 62,810 hectares.
- In 2000-01 there were 80 new reserves and 22 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 284,127 hectares.
- In 2001-02 there were 5 new reserves and 38 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 32,410 hectares.
- In 2002-03 there were 69 new reserves and 73 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 481,264 hectares.
- In 2003-04 there were 11 new reserves and 41 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 49,393 hectares.
- In 2004-05 there were 11 new reserves and 36 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 118,896 hectares.
- In 2005-06 there were 82 new reserves and 67 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 420,402 hectares.
- In 2006-07 there were 23 new reserves and 58 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 155,284 hectares.
- In 2007-08 there were 16 new reserves and 48 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 41,417 hectares.
- In 2008-09 there were 5 new reserves and 48 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 42,856 hectares.

- In 2009-10 there were 8 new reserves and 51 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 39,123 hectares.
- In 2010-11 there were 68 new reserves and 73 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 314,367 hectares.
- In 2011-12 there were 3 new reserves and 20 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 5,857 hectares.
- In 2012-13 there were 1 new reserve and 24 additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 5,824 hectares.
- In 2013-14 at 16 August, there were 2 new reserves and no additions to existing reserves protecting a total area of 12,763 hectares.

Cost of land reserved

Funding acquisitions for the reserve system has been provided by a variety of sources over many years. These include the NSW Environmental Trust, the Australian Government National Reserve System Program, other State Government Programs, local government and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

There is no direct correlation between annual reservation expenditure and annual land area reserved. This is because the acquisition and subsequent reservation of land can occur over a longer period than 12 months, and can vary from reservation to reservation. Land acquisition transaction and administration costs also vary from case to case, depending on size and complexity.

8. What properties were purchased out of the 6.2 million dollar allocation in the 2012-2013 budget for land acquisition for National Parks?

a. Please provide the size, location and cost of each acquisition.

Reserve	Area (ha)	Purchase Price (\$)	Location (near township)
Wombat Creek SCA Addition	499	246,600	40km north west Grafton
Chambigne NR Addition	479	340,000	22km south west Grafton
Doodle Comer Swamp NR Addition	208.33	460,000	West of Henty township
Oxley Wild Rivers NP Addition	942.9	189,000	60km North East Walcha
Wollemi NP Addition	0.1	3,000	35km north Lithgow
Hartley HS Addition	0.29	15,000	South of Lithgow
Popran NP Addition	16	40,000	16km west of Gosford
South East Forest NP Addition	40.47	50,000	20km south east of Bombala
Crawney Pass NP Addition	61	80,000	16 km south east of Wallabadah
Culgoa NP Addition	2286	120,000	17km north Weilmoringle
Willi Willi NP Addition	468.1	700,000	40km north west Kempsey
Everlasting Swamp SCA	875	3,081,500	15km west of Maclean
Oxley Wild Rivers NP Addition	3545	709,000	45km east of Armidale
	9421.19	6,034,100	

The price listed is the agreed voluntary purchase acquisition cost. It excludes associated transaction and administration costs including valuations, conveyancing, and conditions specified within the contract of sale. However, these costs were met from the \$6.2 million allocation.

**9. How much is budgeted in 2013-2014 for national park or protected area acquisition?
a. What are the expected priorities?**

The 2013-14 NSW Budget allocates \$6.23 million to purchase land for national parks and reserves.

The 2013-14 budget focuses on enhancing the quality of the reserve system through rationalising and consolidating reserve boundaries, providing important wildlife corridors, and securing significant wildlife habitat - consistent with reserve establishment planning.

The 2013-14 Budget will deliver on the three project themes:

- *Critical Corridors and Landscapes* to protect poorly represented landscapes and ecosystems and critical parts of important landscape scale wildlife corridors. This forms part of the "Green Corridor Reserves" element of the Government's Green Corridors Program, part of *NSW 2021*
- *More Resilient and Effective Parks* targeting the addition of perimeter additions and in-holdings to improve park resilience and efficiency of management
- *Aboriginal Culture and Heritage* – to protect places of Aboriginal significance and heritage.

10. Please provide a breakdown of the \$38 million to manage pest animals and weeds in national parks in 2013/2014 by the amount going to each agency and the type of pest management activity for example poisoning or shooting:

It is not possible to break down pest management costs by individual technique as much of the expenditure is in the form of salaries of NPWS staff who employ multiple techniques to tackle a specific pest problem. A general expenditure breakdown by pest category is around 54% on weeds to 46% on pest animals. The most common pest animal control techniques NPWS uses are ground and aerial baiting, ground and aerial shooting, mustering and trapping.

11. How much money has the Government allocated for research into more humane and/or nonlethal methods of vertebrate invasive management over the last five years

This question should be referred to my colleague The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson. The Department of Primary Industries is the lead NSW agency for research into developing more humane methods for controlling pest animals.

12. Regarding the Supplementary Pest Control Program?

- a. What is the budget allocation for training and assessing of volunteer hunters participating in the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Supplementary Pest Control Program?**
- b. What is the expected cost (including staff hours) the NPWS will incur escorting volunteer hunters under supplementary pest control program Zone B in 2013/2014?**
 - i. What would these NPWS staff otherwise be doing if not supervising volunteer hunters**
- c. What costs will volunteer hunters have to pay in order to participate in the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Supplementary Pest Control Program?**

- d. **Will amateur hunters need to take out public liability insurance to cover them for causing injury to, wounding, or killing someone while they are shooting in a National Park?**
 - i. **If so, which agency will register such insurance to ensure that all amateur hunters are adequately covered, who will oversee such compliance 'in the field'?**
 - e. **Who will bear the responsibility for any injury, wounding, or death through shooting by an amateur hunter?**
 - f. **How will OH&S for National Parks and Wildlife staff change as a result of amateur hunters in National Parks.**
 - g. **In the event of injury, wounding, or death through shooting by an amateur hunter, whether in a National Park or elsewhere, what steps must an amateur hunter undertake to notify the occurrence, and to whom?**
 - h. **how does a member of the public seek treatment and compensation for such an event?**
 - i. **What advice is the Supplementary Pest Control Program based on?**
 - i. **Who provided this advice?**
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- a. The budget allocation for training and assessing volunteer hunters is anticipated to be a small operational cost but the final figure has not yet been determined.
 - b. Supervising volunteers directly in the field and through inductions and safety briefings will be a significant role for the regional NPWS staff that will be appointed and funded under the program. The exact proportion of staff time required to fulfil this role is not yet known.
 - i. The NPWS staff to be appointed under this program are new and will be funded by a specific Government allocation to NPWS to implement the program.
 - c. NPWS will not charge volunteers to participate in an individual pest control operation. Shooters will have to have previously paid for their firearms licence, restricted hunting licence, any pre-requisite training and necessary equipment.
 - d. No. All volunteers operating under NPWS supervision will be covered under NPWS insurance arrangements from the Treasury Managed Fund.
 - i. Not applicable
 - e. All individuals using firearms in NSW could be held criminally liable for any injury caused by them if they breach their legal requirements under the Firearms Act 1996. The NSW Police will investigate any firearm incident regardless of the circumstances in which the firearm was being used.

If legal proceedings are commenced a Court will ultimately determine liability on a case by case basis.
 - f. The volunteer shooters will be treated as "workers" under the Office of Environment and Heritage Work Health and Safety Policy and will be treated exactly the same as staff. The systems, procedures and reporting requirement to manage safety risks will

therefore not change for NPWS staff. As with existing NPWS shooting operations, any staff not directly involved in a shooting operation will not enter the shooting area.

- g. All shooting programs occurring on park will be closely supervised by NPWS staff, as such the usual protocols will apply:
 - A staff member will document the incident in their *Field Notebook First Report* page, advise their supervisor, the Manager Work Health and Safety section, and then WorkCover via telephone.
 - All safety incidents are reported using the online OEH Safety Incident Reporting System.
- h. In the event of a serious safety incident, a supervisor must ensure all reasonable action is taken to control the immediate hazard and commence emergency response relating to the incident. Any question of compensation is a matter for a Court to decide.
- i. OEH has undertaken a thorough risk assessment and peer review. This process is the usual procedure for the introduction of major new programs, and follows international risk management standards. Work health and safety advice has been sought. Similar programs currently in operation in Victorian and South Australian have been reviewed.

There has been an extensive risk assessment of each park where the program will occur, with mandatory controls and procedures carefully tailored for each park. The safety of park staff, visitors and neighbours will be paramount.

- i. A wide range of stakeholders, internal and external experts, including the RSPCA, Public Service Association and the Australian Workers Union, and members of the OEH Audit and Risk Committee and Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee (under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974) have been consulted in this matter.

13. How much money is in the Wood Smoke Reduction Program in this year and last and what it is being budgeted for?

- a. **How much of this is going towards retrofitting wood heaters in low income households?**

\$590,000 is allocated to the Wood Smoke Reduction Program in 2013-14. This is in addition to \$195,000 allocated last financial year.

- a. While there are no designated funds allocated towards retrofitting wood heaters in low income households, where a low income household replaces a solid fuel heater with a cleaner form of heating they are eligible to a higher rebate of \$700 as opposed to the standard rebate of \$500.

14. Regarding the biodiversity fund announced in July this year:

- a. **Will the rehabilitation of mined land be able to be offset against a mining company's contributions to the biodiversity fund?**
- b. **Have funds been allocated to model biodiversity offset fund policy scenarios that will achieve the recovery of threatened species?**
- c. **What proportion of the biodiversity offset fund will be allocated to rehabilitating degraded land?**
- d. **How will biodiversity offset funds be discounted against significant social and economic benefits that may accrue in relation to a development approval**

- a. Offsets will need to be additional to other legal requirements. Details of offsetting practices under the proposed new policy and fund are currently being developed. If a company proposes to improve biodiversity over and above any legal requirements

associated with their development (such as mandatory mine site rehabilitation), government may consider recognising those biodiversity benefits in determining the offset requirements.

- b. No. Rules for offsetting under the NSW Offsets Policy are currently being developed. Appropriate policy settings and the use of funds under the proposed Biodiversity Offsets Fund are being considered.
- c. The Government is currently exploring options for the operation of the Biodiversity Offsets Fund. OEH will consult with community and industry stakeholders on this.
- d. Some developments are of significant social and economic benefit to NSW. In recognition of this, there may be scope for some discounting of offset requirements in certain circumstances. This will be done transparently. The method for discounting offsets for projects that have significant social and economic benefits for NSW is under development and the government will consult with community and industry stakeholders as part of developing the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy.

15. What baseline studies are currently being carried out in north west NSW in relation to:

- a. Air Quality and particulate matter prior to large scale coal mining**
- b. Air Quality and Methane Levels in the Pilliga forest and surrounds prior to Santos Project in the Pilliga**
- c. Water Quality testing in the Pilliga and nearby towns prior to Santos Project in the Pilliga**
- d. Community and Environmental Health prior to large scale open cut coal mining and CSG extraction**

- a. The proponents of large mining developments undertake air quality modelling as part of the environmental assessments for their proposed developments. Large scale coal mines, as part of the conditions of approval from the consent authority and also in response to the conditions of their environment protection licences, are required to install air quality monitoring equipment at or near the mine sites. The monitoring data collected under the environment protection licences must be displayed on the company's website or made available on request.

The strategic regional land use plan for the North West and New England Tablelands committed to the establishment of a regional air quality monitoring network.

- b. the CSIRO and the University of Adelaide are undertaking studies to characterise fugitive methane emissions and the natural changes in methane levels across Australia, including parts of NSW.

The proponents of large scale coal seam gas projects are required to undertake detailed environmental assessments as part of lodging their development application. Santos will be required to undertake such studies should the company lodge a proposal to undertake coal seam gas production in the Pilliga.

It is understood that Santos is already required to monitor some air parameters as part of the approval to operate the Willga Park Power station when it is in operation. The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and the Minister for Resources and Energy have portfolio responsibilities for the assessment of Santos' proposed projects. The EPA has announced funding for a project in 2013/14 to investigate fugitive methane emission sources in NSW, including emissions from coal seam gas operations. The project is intended to establish baseline information which will assist the EPA in performing its regulatory responsibilities.

- c. The proponents of coal seam gas activities undertake groundwater modelling as part of their development assessments. In addition, all Coal Seam Gas operations now require an environment protection licence from the EPA.

As part of its assessment of any application for an environment protection licence, the EPA will be considering site specific groundwater monitoring requirements. Such requirements will be included as a condition of licence.

Ground water management is also the responsibility of the NSW Office of Water and further questions should be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

- d. Proponents of major open cut coal mines and major coal seam gas operations are required to assess the potential impacts to the environment of their proposed developments. The proponents are required to assess impacts to air quality, noise levels, water quality and quantity, waste and contaminated lands, as well as biodiversity, threatened species and Aboriginal heritage.

Proponents are required to avoid, mitigate or offset impacts to the greatest extent possible.

Questions relating to health impact assessments are the responsibility of NSW Health and should be referred to the Minister for Health.

16. How many prosecutions of illegal land clearing have taken place each year since 1995?

Statistics on alleged illegal land clearing prosecutions are available in the annual reports of the relevant government agency or department.

17. How many reports of illegal clearing were made to the OEH Environment Hotline or OEH directly for each NSW catchment management area in the last 5 years?

Incident locations are not recorded in the database by catchment management area.

18. Since the commencement of the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has any of the Priority Conservation Land outside of the Growth Centres been cleared or zoned for development?

- a. How much, when and where
- b. What is the breakdown for private and public land
- c. Detail any involvement of your department in the clearing or zoning of PCL for development

- a. The Office of Environment and Heritage does not collect this information.
- b. The Office of Environment and Heritage does not collect this information.
- c. The Office of Environment and Heritage has an advisory role to local government and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on planning proposals that involve the rezoning of land. It is the position of the Office of Environment and Heritage that priority conservation lands are adequately protected through zoning provisions.

19. What is the total area of land identified as Priority Conservation Land (PCL)?

- a. How much area is public and private
- b. How much is zoned for conservation. Please break down for each including the zoning types
- c. How much is zoned to allow development. Breakdown for each zone

- a. The priority conservation lands comprise 25,566 hectares (ha). Of this 14, 887 ha or 58% are freehold and the remaining 10, 679 ha or 42% is in public ownership.

- b. The priority conservation lands cover a wide range of land use zones. A breakdown of the land use zoning in Priority Conservation Lands is provided in the *Report on the methodology for identifying priority conservation lands on the Cumberland Plain* (DECCW, July 2010).
- c. The Office of Environment and Heritage does not collect this information.

20. Since the commencement of the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has any of the PCL outside the Growth Centres been protected?

a. If so how much, when and where

b. What is the breakdown for private and public land

- a. 359 hectares of the Priority Conservation Lands have been protected through the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program since the commencement of the Program. The details of the Priority Conservation Lands have been protected are:
 1. Wianamatta Nature Reserve at Cranebrook. The 181 hectare reserve was acquired in 2009.
 2. St Marys Towers Biobank Site at Douglas Park. The 80 hectare biobank site was established in 2010.
 3. Mater Dei Biobank Site at Cobbitty. The 26 hectare biobank site was established in 2012.
 4. Mt Hercules Biobank Site at Razorback. The 22 hectare biobank site was established in 2013.
 5. Mulgoa Biobank Site at Mulgoa. The 50 hectare biobank site was established in 2013.
- b. All of the five properties within the Priority Conservation Lands were private properties, however, Wianamatta Nature Reserve at Cranebrook has since been added to the Park and Reserve system.

21. Regarding the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program,

a. Please list how much land has been protected, including date of protection, location, size and details of how it has been conserved

b. Please list how many sites have been investigated for protection by the Department and reasons why they have or have not been protected, including details of location and size.

c. Please list the percentage of the Priority Conservation Lands that is made up of land under the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program

d. Please provide the reason why it rejected a proposal from Penrith Council and the Deerubbin Land Council to sell 1000ha of priority conservation land to the NSW government?

- a. The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has protected a total of 419 hectares of land at the following six sites:
 1. Wianamatta Nature Reserve at Cranebrook. The 181 hectare reserve was acquired in 2009.
 2. St Marys Towers Biobank Site at Douglas Park. The 80 hectare biobank site was established in 2010.
 3. Mater Dei Biobank Site at Cobbitty. The 26 hectare biobank site was established in 2012.
 4. Mt Hercules Biobank Site at Razorback. The 22 hectare biobank site was established in 2013.
 5. Mulgoa Biobank Site at Mulgoa. The 50 hectare biobank site was established in 2013.
 6. Beulah Biobank Site at Appin. The 60 hectare biobank site was established in 2011.

Note: the Beulah Biobank Site is within a Regional Biodiversity Corridor and not the Priority Conservation Lands.

- b. The Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has assessed 1,437 properties and prioritised these properties for further investigation by considering the criteria contained in the Growth Centres Biodiversity Certification.
- c. The Priority Conservation Lands comprise 25,566 hectares (including 3,474 hectares of National Park). To date the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program has protected 359 hectares of Priority Conservation Lands.
- d. There has been no formal offer from the Deerubbin Land Council to the Growth Centres Biodiversity Offset Program to purchase 1,000 ha of Priority Conservation Lands.

22. What does “\$103 million for public parklands and gardens throughout the State for community enjoyment, scientific research, education, and sport, recreation, leisure and cultural experiences” in section 7-1 of the Budget Estimates 2013-2014 refer to?
a. Please provide a full list of project or expected projects

- BGT \$46.6m
- CP&MPT \$25.5m
- WSPT \$8.4m
- PPT \$3.3m
- LHIB \$3.5m – (State Contribution)
- Zoo \$15.2m - (State Contribution)

Total \$102.5m (Round up \$103m in Budget Paper 3 Narrative). Further program level details are not available.

23. What is the cost to-date of the Royal Botanic Gardens dispersal project?
a. What is the estimated cost for 2013/2014?

2006/2007	\$600
2007/2008	\$98,045
2008/2009	\$172,849
2009/2010	\$434,407
2010/2011	\$520,768
2011/2012	\$690,892
2012/2013	\$315,443
Total cost:	\$2,233,004

- a. The estimated cost for 2013/2014 is \$300,000.

24. In relation to grey-headed flying-foxes, what funds were disbursed to wildlife care groups to assist the rehabilitation of the large numbers of these animals, listed as threatened under the Threatened Species Conservation Act that came into care as a result of the heat stress events in January 2013?

- a. **Does the Government have a program for compensating wildlife care groups who undertake ad hoc responses to natural disasters such as this?**
 - Funds are provided to individual wildlife care groups on an annual basis to assist with a range of activities.
 - No money was requested or supplied to assist with the rehabilitation of flying-foxes in response to the heat stress event of January 2013.
 - The Australian Wildlife Rescue Organisation (WIRES) and other groups were provided with non monetary support including free and immediate issue of licences to export/import flying-foxes that required urgent transport to other states (Queensland and Victoria) once NSW care facilities were at capacity.

- a. The Government has a program for compensating wildlife care groups for work undertaken in response to natural disasters, under the State Emergency Plan, however, heat stress is not an emergency event.

25. Where is the funding for the NSW Adaptation Research Hub coming from?

- a. **Is it funded by the waste levy?**
- b. **What role, if any, will the hubs play in the reforms recommended by the Report of the Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks in NSW?**
 - a. Yes, the hub is funded from the Waste and Environment Levy.
 - b. No formal role is envisaged.

26. In regard to the storage of radioactive waste at the OEH facility at the corner of Joseph and Weerenora Sts Lidcombe, the National Directory for Radiation Protection refers to minimising the potential number of people exposed when sitting radioactive materials. The Lidcombe storage site was first licensed on 27th July 2005 when there was little density around the site. It is now adjacent to medium density R3 Zoning and high density R4 Zoning that has recently been approved by Council. How does the storage of radioactive materials at the OEH site comply with the National Directory for Radiation Protection?

The storage of radioactive materials at the Lidcombe facility complies with the National Directory for Radiation Protection.

HERITAGE

1. Is NSW currently the only state without separate legislation for the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage?

The other Australian states and the Northern Territory have stand alone legislation for the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage. NSW and the ACT have provision for the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage in other legislation, within the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) and the *Heritage Act 2004* (ACT) respectively. The NSW Government is currently developing separate legislation.

2. What advice has your department provided the Department of Planning regarding the impact of the proposed planning laws on heritage in NSW?

The Office of Environment and Heritage worked closely with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure during development of the exposure planning laws, and is continuing to have discussions on a range of issues raised during public consultation, to ensure that heritage values continue to be protected in NSW.

3. What analysis has been undertaken of the funding allocated to National Parks to maintain heritage buildings and sites?

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) concentrates available funding towards the revitalisation and adaptive reuse of selected, high priority assets. Priority is given to sites of State heritage significance and historic heritage in the NSW parks system as living heritage.

The effectiveness of where funding is allocated is reviewed annually.

The Audit Office of NSW produced a report in May 2013 called Management of Historic Heritage in National Parks and Reserves that included some recommendations for improving the management of heritage buildings and sites. OEH has accepted those recommendations and is working to implement them.

4. Following the Auditor General's report which identified a large increase in sites considered to be in only fair or poor conditions, what steps has your department taken to preserve listed heritage items in National Parks?

Before the Audit Office report was completed, NPWS had already recognised the need to move to a more strategic and co-ordinated management of heritage assets. To achieve this, NPWS finalised an asset strategy that adopts a broad range of reforms including regular asset performance assessments, life cycle modelling, asset standards, measurement of maintenance backlogs, state-wide setting of priorities and allocation of resources, across all asset classes. These reforms come with a raft of system improvements, ranging from an asset register to maintenance processes and asset data collection.

NPWS manages a range of historic heritage assets of varying levels of significance and as such must take different approaches in their management.

5. Do you have an estimate of how much more funding would be needed to protect these sites properly?

See above.

6. What representations did your office make in regards to provisions in the metro strategy that will impact on heritage – particularly exemptions from planning controls like heritage protections to “encourage” development?

The Office of Environment and Heritage made representations relating to heritage and its inclusion into various aspects of the Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, including the vision, planning for outcomes, and other considerations.

7. Will you be granting approval to Hume Coal’s application to the NSW Heritage Council to drill four exploration boreholes in the grounds of Hillview historic home?

Approval for proposed works at Hillview is the responsibility of the Heritage Council under section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

8. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits were received in:

- a. 2013 to date?
- b. 2012?
- c. 2011?
- d. 2010?

Assuming the questions relates to applications received:

- a. 65
- b. 99
- c. 109
- d. 79

9. Of these how many were received from councils, corporations and other government agencies respectively?

- a. 2013 to date: 16 from councils, 26 from corporations, and 12 from government agencies
- b. 2012: 23 from councils, 45 from corporations, 26 from government agencies
- c. 2011: 27 from councils, 59 from corporations, 11 from government agencies
- d. 2010: 18 from councils, 39 from corporations and 8 from government agencies

Note: these figures do not include applications from all categories e.g. individuals.

10. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits were determined in:

- a. 2013 to date?
- b. 2012?
- c. 2011?
- d. 2010?

- a. 54
- b. 91
- c. 108
- d. 79

11. Of these how many were received from councils, corporations and other government agencies respectively?

- a. 2013 to date: 13 from councils, 22 from corporations, and 13 from government agencies
- b. 2012: 19 from councils, 43 from corporations, 23 from government agencies
- c. 2011: 28 from councils, 58 from corporations, 11 from government agencies
- d. 2010: 24 from councils, 37 from corporations and 10 from government agencies

Note: these figures do not include applications from all categories e.g. individuals.

12. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits were approved in:

- a. 2013 to date?
- b. 2012?
- c. 2011?
- d. 2010?

- a. 54
- b. 91
- c. 106
- d. 77

13. Of these how many were received from councils, corporations and other government agencies respectively?

- a. 2013 to date: 13 from councils, 22 from corporations, and 13 from government agencies
- b. 2012: 19 from councils, 43 from corporations, 22 from government agencies
- c. 2011: 27 from councils, 57 from corporations, 11 from government agencies
- d. 2010: 24 from councils, 35 from corporations and 10 from government agencies

Note: these figures do not include applications from all categories e.g. individuals.

14. How many Aboriginal heritage impact permits were refused in:

- a. 2013 to date?
- b. 2012?
- c. 2011?
- d. 2010?

- a. 0
- b. 0
- c. 2
- d. 2

15. Of these how many were received from councils, corporations and other government agencies respectively?

- a. 2013 to date: N/A
- b. 2012: N/A
- c. 2011: 1 from councils and 1 from corporations
- d. 2010: 2 from councils

16. Will the Minister reintroduce mandated annual reporting in relation to the destruction of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW? If not, why not?

The proposed model of the Aboriginal cultural heritage reform process includes mandatory reporting.

17. How much was allocated to improve the information contained in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System [AHIMS] in:

- a. 2013/14?
- b. 2012/13?
- a. \$25,000
- b. \$50,000

18. How much was allocated to manage and operate the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System [AHIMS] in:

- a. 2013/14?
- b. 2012/13?

- a. \$646,069
- b. \$604,746

19. How much revenue was received from searches conducted in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System [AHIMS] in 2012/13?

\$217,798

20. How many alleged breaches relating to Aboriginal heritage and the Aboriginal heritage protections in the National Parks and Wildlife Service were reported to the Office of Environment and Heritage in the past 12 months?

There have been 41 reports to the Office of Environment and Heritage's Environment Line in relation to Aboriginal Heritage and the Aboriginal heritage protections in the *National Parks and Wildlife Service Act 1974* for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

21. How many officers are currently employed to undertake investigations of alleged breaches of Aboriginal cultural heritage matters?

Under the new Regional Operations Group structure in the Office of Environment and Heritage there are 21 compliance officer positions which have responsibilities across a range of complex projects and programs including Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

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

There have been 41 reports to the Office of Environment and Heritage's Environment Line in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

23. How many incidents of alleged unauthorised harm to Aboriginal heritage were actively investigated in the last 12 months?

a. What proportion is actively investigated?

The Office of Environment and Heritage reviews all reports in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage that are made to the Environment Line. Records indicate that of the 41 reports to the Environment Line in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, 25 (or 61%) are currently being investigated or investigations have been completed. The remainder of the reported incidents will be investigated.

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

Regional Operations Group in the Office of Environment and Heritage has budgeted \$2.398 million to fund compliance officer positions that have responsibilities that include responding to threats to or examples of possible unlawful destruction of Aboriginal heritage.

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

Under the new Regional Operations Group structure in the Office of Environment and Heritage there are 21 compliance officer positions which have responsibilities across a range of complex projects and programs including Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

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

Nil.

27. Was a formal prosecution brought in the court for the destruction of Aboriginal heritage as a result of forestry practices in the past 12 months?

No.

28. How much money does heritage based developments and tourism bring into the State per annum?

The Office of Environment and Heritage does not collate data on heritage-based tourism. Destination NSW would be the appropriate body to provide this data.

In 2012/13, the Heritage Council issued development approvals to support projects generating a development value of over \$2 billion to the NSW economy.

29. How much funding (including for FTE) will the Heritage Council receive this year and how does this compare to the last four years?

The Heritage Council is a self funding statutory body that receives revenue from development application fees and other sources.

The total budgeted spend for the Heritage Council in 2013/14 is \$1,150,906.

In 2012/13 the Heritage Council spent \$796,805, and in 2011/12 it spent \$965,323. The Office of Environment and Heritage does not hold financial data prior to 2011/12 as the Heritage Council was part of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

30. How much money has the National Trust received from the Government in following financial years: 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012?

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a self funding not for profit organisation that has access to State and Federal Government grants. The NSW Heritage Grants program has provided the following grants to the National Trust of Australia (NSW): \$201,824 in 2011/12; \$231,407 in 2010/11; \$223,537 in 2009/10; and \$213,000 in 2008/9.

31. How much money has the Government given the National Trust in the recent budget?

Funding to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) is not allocated in the NSW Government Budget. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a self funding not for profit organisation and is eligible to apply for grant funding through the NSW Heritage Grants Program. In 2012/13, \$226,412 funding was provided to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) from the NSW Heritage Grants Program.

32. How much funding has the Historic Houses Trust received for the following financial years: 2009,10,11,12?

In 2012-13 HHT received \$19,642,000 from the state. For previous years please consult the HHT's annual reports.

33. How much money has been budgeted for the Historic Houses Trust for 2012/13? Provide a breakdown of what the funding is for including building related, staff and operational expenses.

The total Expenditure budget for HHT for 2012/13 is outlined in Budget Paper 3.

34. How much money was spent on the Sydney Living Museums campaign, including all advertising and branding.

- Branding - \$66,619
- Advertising - \$36,486 (SMH insert, A-frames for properties and property brochure)

35. What staff cuts have there been at Sydney Living Museums over the last financial year?

The correct name of the organisation is Historic Houses Trust, which has been used to replace Sydney Living Museums in the following questions. Non-casual head count at 30 June 2013 from the Annual Workforce Profile was 183, down 16 from the previous year.

36. How many staff left the Historic Houses Trust in the last financial year?

During 2012/13 the Historic Houses Trust progressed an organisation-wide restructure.

During the period of restructure some positions were filled on a temporary or fixed term contract basis. Following the recruitment of staff to positions in the new organisational structure, a combination of the cessation of fixed term contracts (12 positions) and acceptance of voluntary redundancy offers (33 positions) occurred.

During the year there was also the usual employment turnover with one staff member retiring, one person transferring to another public sector agency and the majority of the remaining resignations being staff taking up employment outside the public sector.

The total FTE count is 62.

37. What was the salary of Kate Clark, former director of Historic Houses Trust?

Salary \$214,725 + \$21,900 recruitment allowance. This was negotiated under the previous government.

38. Why has the new director of Historic Houses Trust only been appointed for a year? What is his salary?

A Director has been appointed for a 12 month period during which time the role will be reviewed taking into account changes to HHT, the heritage sector and the NSW public service. Salary \$214,725

39. Why was no one at Historic Houses Trust suitable to take over the position?

To ensure a smooth leadership transition, Mr Mark Goggin was appointed to the Director position. He has over twenty years leadership experience across the museum, cultural and health sectors, as CEO, marketer, festival producer, educator and researcher.

40. How much money was allocated to the Heritage Council in 2012-13? How does this compare to 2011-12.

The Heritage Council does not receive a budget allocation from the NSW Government. The Heritage Council is a self funding statutory body that receives revenue from development application fees and other sources.

41. The White Paper on Heritage states the Heritage Council takes too long to approve developments on State significant buildings. What evidence is there to support this?

The figure quoted in the White Paper is referenced as being taken from an unpublished report by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

42. What is the average time taken by the Heritage Council to approve developments?

The majority of applications determined by the Heritage Council for changes to heritage places are assessed under section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. The average processing time is 40 days, with a median completion time of 32 days. This is within the statutory timeframes established by the *Heritage Act 1977*.

43. Did the Minister for Heritage or her Department give any evidence regarding time taken to approve such developments?

No.

44. Has the Minister for Heritage outlined her concerns about the lack of Heritage Council role in assessing developments in the new Planning legislation? If so, to whom and when?

I have instructed the Office of Environment & Heritage to work with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on all elements of the reforms to the planning system to ensure strong protection for environment and heritage matters. I am aware that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is also working closely with the Heritage Council to address its outstanding concerns.

45. Under the new Planning regime the Government has said that it would embark on a Strategic Planning including community consultation.

This is not a question.

46. How much money does the Minister believe should be set aside for heritage studies for LGA's?

The resources required for heritage studies will be clearer once the new planning system has been finalised. The identification and management of local heritage items is a matter for local government.

47. How will Aboriginal heritage be protected under the new legislation?

The new planning system will ensure not just the protection of New South Wales' cultural heritage at the 'end point' in planning decision making, but also that objects and places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are factored into the planning and land use system early.

The new planning system will be underpinned by strategic, evidence based planning instruments including NSW Planning Policies, Regional Growth Plans, and Subregional Delivery Plans which will ensure that heritage values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, are identified up front so that planning decisions factor these in and avoid land use conflicts.

This approach will begin with the legislation itself - the draft exposure Bill includes objects regarding the conservation of cultural heritage.

48. How will you incorporate Aboriginal cultural places and sites in a culturally sensitive way in the new system? What input has your Department had into this?

My agency will work with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on protocols for the treatment of culturally sensitive information in the planning process

The new planning system will ensure not just the protection of New South Wales' cultural heritage at the 'end point' in planning decision making, but also that objects and places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are factored into the planning and land use system early.

49. How much money went to the heritage grants program for 2012-13? Provide a breakdown for Aboriginal, historic and built heritage.

The NSW Heritage Grants program is a rolling grants program with a two-year funding cycle. The 2012-13 financial year is the final year of the 2011/2013 NSW Heritage Grants Program and Hunter Region Heritage Grants program.

In 2012-13, a total of \$3,211,324 was spent on Aboriginal, historic and built heritage projects under the 2011-13 NSW Heritage Grants Program and Hunter Region Heritage Grants Program, comprising \$28,971 for Aboriginal heritage projects and \$3,182,353 for historic and built heritage projects.

50. How much money went to the heritage grants program for the following financial years 2011/2010/2009?

The NSW Heritage Grants program provided:

- \$2,729,000 in heritage grants over 2010/11;
- \$2,662,000 in heritage grants over 2009/10; and
- \$2,662,000 in heritage grants over 2008/9.

It should be noted that the NSW Heritage Grants program is a rolling grants program with a two-year funding cycle.

51. Given the fact that Challoner House at Mittagong is facing demolition and the land sold to Urban Growth why has your office still not replied to any of the correspondence, nor returned any phone calls to groups wanting to meet with you about its destruction?

I met with the representative of the supporters of Challoner House on 20 August 2013. I met with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure to discuss this matter on 22 August 2013.

52. Did the Minister for Community Services, her office or Department advise your office before applying to demolish Challoner House at Mittagong?

Given Challoner House is not a State Heritage listed property, there was no statutory requirement to contact the Minister, the Office of Environment and Heritage or the Heritage Council before making the application to demolish, and as such the Office of Environment and Heritage was not contacted directly by the Minister for Community Services, her office or Department.

53. Has the Minister outlined any concerns about the demolition of Challoner House to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure or the Minister for Community Services or any other member of cabinet? If so, to whom, when and how?

Under delegation of the Heritage Council, the Office of Environment and Heritage has written to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to advise it of the potential heritage significance of Challoner House and the request for action under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

I can confirm that I met with the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on 22 August 2013 to advise of the property's potential heritage significance.

54. Will the Minister undertake further investigation of the site's heritage significance?

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is expecting to receive a formal nomination for listing on the State Heritage Register in the coming weeks. Once received, OEH will undertake a preliminary assessment of the nomination and consult with the Heritage Council.

I am advised that OEH has completed an initial desktop assessment of Challoner House and its heritage values.

55. From a heritage perspective can you explain how the demolition of a unique heritage precinct at Thompson Square reflects best practice management of the State's heritage assets?

A decision has not been taken to demolish Thompson Square. The Roads and Maritime Services project to build a new Windsor Bridge is currently being assessed by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under the Significant Infrastructure provisions of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Roads and Maritime Services has consulted with the Heritage Council about how the heritage impacts of a new bridge might be mitigated. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has commissioned a number of independent reviews including a heritage review, and comment will be sought from the Heritage Council in relation to the independent heritage review.

Further questions regarding the project should be directed to my colleague, Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC.

56. Last Tuesday the Leader of the Federal Opposition, Tony Abbott, gave a personal commitment to discuss the destruction of Thompson Square with the State Government. Has he contacted your office? Have you contacted him in this regard? If not, why not?

The NSW Government will seriously consider any representations Mr Abbott should make.

57. What conditions have you insisted should be placed around the sale of the Lands Department building and the Chief Secretary's Building given their outstanding heritage value and the fact that both buildings have continuously been used by successive NSW Governments since their construction?

The proposed sale of the buildings falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon Andrew Constance MP. Any matters relating to the decision to sell, or the due diligence and disposal requirements associated with the proposed sale of these buildings, would be questions for Minister Constance.

Nevertheless, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Heritage Council have a role in managing any future change that would affect the heritage significance of items listed on the State Heritage Register under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* (the Act). As items of state heritage significance, the buildings are afforded a high level of protection under the Act and will remain subject to strong controls if or when they are transferred into private ownership.

If the buildings are sold, an Asset Transfer Plan will be required, which outlines the measures needed to protect and maintain the significance of the asset once ownership is transferred.

58. What is the Minister doing about the state of disrepair of the former Female Factory at North Parramatta?

The Parramatta Female Factory has already received the NSW Government's highest level of heritage recognition through its listing on the State Heritage Register. The Heritage Council of NSW is the appropriate authority to enforce the proper care and management of State Heritage Register listed properties under the *Heritage Act 1977*. The Office of Environment and Heritage is in ongoing consultation with the Department of Health over the care and control of its property.

59. Regarding the fire damaged West range of the Norma Parker Centre, given that the Norma Parker Centre is listed on the State Heritage Register, has the NSW Heritage Office undertaken an inspection of the site?

Yes.

60. Has the NSW Heritage Office prepared a report on damage and recommendations for rebuilding?

Assessing the damage and recommending options for reconstruction is the responsibility of the property owner. The Heritage Division (under delegation of the Heritage Council) is the consent authority for any proposed rebuilding works.

The Department of Health has engaged a specialist to assess the damage to the building fabric and provide options for rebuilding. The Heritage Council recently approved an application under Section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* for its reconstruction.

61. Has the NSW Heritage Office implemented measures to ensure that all repair work complies with building codes for heritage listed buildings?

The Heritage Council approved the reconstruction works in line with the *Heritage Act 1977* controls, and with regard to retaining the maximum amount of remnant heritage fabric.

62. Has the NSW Heritage Office monitored works carried out and how often?

The reconstruction works have not begun. All work must comply with the conditions attached to the approval under section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* granted by the Heritage Council. To assist in meeting these conditions, the Department of Corrective Services has engaged independent expert heritage services.

63. I am given to understand that a large active termite nest was found in the basement of the main building known as Morgan House, has this been removed?

This is matter for the property owner, being the Department of Corrective Services.

64. What preventative measures have been implemented to prevent further infestation?

This is matter for the property owner, being the Department of Corrective Services.

65. Local community groups have informed me that over the last 10 years they have observed considerable deterioration to this 1840's building with invasive vines growing into mortar and chimney stacks; ventilation features to the basement and ground floor areas blocked by plastic sheeting, timber and garden weeds thereby preventing adequate air ventilation to the building structure causing the building to rot from the inside; entrance doors to upper floor barricaded, again preventing ventilation; upper floors invaded by possums, feral cats, rats, mice and other vermin; corrosion to fire alarm systems triggering false alarms. Has a fire safety inspection been carried out recently to ensure that systems are safe and in good working order?

All owners of State Heritage Register listed properties are required to meet basic maintenance and security standards under Section 118 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. The Office of Environment and Heritage will consult with the owner on the current condition of the building.

66. Does NSW Corrective Services intend to utilize the site as a detention centre once work is completed?

Questions concerning the intentions of NSW Corrective Services regarding the future use of the site should be directed to my colleague the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, the Hon Greg Smith SC MP.

67. Given that the former Parramatta Gaol is now subject to a claim by the Deerubin Aboriginal Land Council, how does this claim affect the government's commitment to undertake the masterplan for the Parramatta Heritage sites which include the Parramatta Gaol, Parramatta Female Factory Precinct representing (Norma Parker Centre former Parramatta Girls Home; Cumberland Hospital and former Female Factory) and the Old Kings School, if one of these sites being the Parramatta Gaol is subject to a land claim how can the masterplan proceed?

The development of the Parramatta Government Lands Precinct Master Plan is being managed by UrbanGrowth NSW. Questions regarding the master plan should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning.

68. Given that the masterplan was announced last August, when will it be actioned if ever?

The development of the Parramatta Government Lands Precinct Master Plan is being managed by UrbanGrowth NSW. Questions regarding the master plan should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning.

69. Will stakeholders who are historically connected to these sites be involved at a steering committee level in the masterplan process?

The development of the Parramatta Government Lands Precinct Master Plan is being managed by UrbanGrowth NSW. Questions regarding the master plan should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning.

GENERAL

1. How many staff positions have been made redundant by the Office of Environment and Heritage in 2012/13?

In 2012/13, 114 voluntary redundancies were taken up by staff in the Office of Environment and Heritage.

2. What is your relationship to Michael Photios?

Michael Photos is a former Member of NSW Parliament, former NSW Cabinet Minister, Member of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) and on the NSW Register of Lobbyists.

3. How often do you speak with him?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

4. Have you met with clients of PremierState?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

5. On how many occasions and what dates did you meet with Michael Photios or representatives of PremierState?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

6. What was discussed at these meetings?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

7. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with Michael Photios or a client of PremierState?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

8. Did you attend his wedding?

No.

9. Did Michael Photios vote in your preselection?

I was endorsed unopposed as the Liberal Candidate for Maitland. No preselection was held.

10. Have you met with lobbyists other than PremierState?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

11. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

12. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

13. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

14. To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

15. In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?

Meetings with lobbyists are in accordance with the NSW Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

16. Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?

Yes.

17. Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all the travel?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

18. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

19. What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

20. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

21. Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

22. Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

23. Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back travel money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?

Information regarding reimbursement payments is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

24. Have you had meetings scheduled intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

25. Did you take your spouse on these trips?

Information regarding travel is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet disclosure log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

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

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

26. Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?

Information on Department of Premier and Cabinet Memorandum 'Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying' can be found at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/announcements/ministerial_memoranda/2007/m2007-02

27. If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?

Information on Department of Premier and Cabinet Memorandum 'Dignity and Respect: Policy and Guidelines on Preventing and Managing Workplace Bullying' can be found at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/announcements/ministerial_memoranda/2007/m2007-02

28. How many blackberries or smartphones are assigned to your staff?

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices.

29. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?

The total expenditure on all phone types by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$483,310	\$578,691	\$434,854	\$188,761	\$197,226	\$232,286

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

30. How many phones have been lost in your office?

For Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

31. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

The cost is the normal contract price and this costs in claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

32. How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

The number of iPads issued for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices for 2012/13 is 75.

33. How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

iPads are supplied by DPC.

34. How many iPhone or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

169 phones have been issued to NSW Ministerial offices.

35. How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

iPhones or Smart Phones are supplied by DPC.

36. How many iPhone or other smart phones have been lost in your office?

For Premier's office and Ministerial Offices, the number of phones lost was 5.

37. How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?

For Premier's office and Ministerial Offices, the number of iPads lost was 2.

38. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?

The cost is the normal contract price and this costs in claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund.

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

As at 21 August 2013, 15.2 EFT across the Environment and Heritage min-cluster.

40. What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

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

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

Information regarding travel information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

42. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Information regarding travel information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

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

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

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

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

45. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

46. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012/13?

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

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

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

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

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

49. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log.

50. How many political advisors are in your office?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

51. How many administration staff?

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/publications/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers.

52. How many Departmental Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

The number of Departmental Liaison Officers is:

	Number of DLOs as at 5/09/2012	Number of DLOs as at 30/06/2013
Premier	1	1
Ministers	57	54
TOTAL	58	55

53. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

As at 21 August 2013, 15.6 EFT

54. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?

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

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

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

56. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including CabCharge in the 2012/13 financial year?

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
TOTAL	\$160,155	\$175,776	\$60,277	\$96,094	\$92,829

Note. 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of Keneally Government and 3 months of O'Farrell Government.

57. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing restructure?

Yes.

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

To achieve savings targets OEH has identified a reduction of at least 350 staff over the three years from 2012/13 to 2014/15.

The EPA may need to offer up to five redundancies in 2013-14 to enable it to reprioritise resource requirements to emerging priorities.

59. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

The OEH Strategic Realignment will involve the transition from a program-based structure to a regionally-based service delivery structure, and will deliver targeted reductions in total salary expenditure. New or changed positions will be graded and assessed based on the work to be performed, and current OEH staff will have the first opportunity to apply for vacancies. In keeping with standard public service processes, salaries will be based on the work performed in individual positions.

60. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

61. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

62. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?

The Government's program of voluntary redundancies remains on track.

This includes the target of 5,000 positions announced in the 2011/12 Budget and the labour expense cap introduced in the 2012/13 Budget. Directors General will be given as much flexibility as possible to achieve the Labour Expense Cap savings in the most appropriate way to meet the service requirements of their agencies. Nurses, police officers and teachers in schools have been quarantined from this measure.

63. How much did your Departments spend on catering in 2012/13?

\$1.38 million, which includes catering provided to support staff involved in essential operational activities such as fire management and wildfire fire-fighting and pest and weed programs.

64. How much did your Departments spend on stationary in 2012/13?

\$381,000.

65. What is your Department's catering budget?

In 2013/14 we budgeted \$1.44 million for catering expenditure. The budget is consistent with the actual expenditure in 2012-13 and it includes savings requirements across the Environment and Heritage portfolio.

66. What is your Department's stationary budget?

In 2013/14 we budgeted \$383,000 for Stationery expenditure. The budget is consistent with the actual expenditure in 2012-13 and it includes savings requirements across the Environment and Heritage portfolio.

67. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Departments changed their branding?

Yes.

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

- The cost of the change of name from DECCW to OEH is estimated at \$29,650.
- The rebranding for Centennial Park cost \$11,000, which was self-funded through the Trust's recurrent budget.
- The cost of branding for HHT was \$103,105, which was self-funded through the Trust's recurrent budget.
- The cost of the new logo/brand design for Parramatta Park Trust was \$12,000, which was self-funded through the Trust's recurrent budget.

69. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your office?

The Department's recommended timeframe for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

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

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

The Department's recommended timeframe for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

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

71. In 2012/13, how many invoices has your Department failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

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

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

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

Information regarding "30 days to pay" policy is available at <http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/30days/how-government-will-report-policy>.

74. Does your Department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes,

- a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
- c) On what date was the funding advanced?
- d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
- f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- g) What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2012/13?
- h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- i) Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?

a-d A list of grants, including recurrent and external grants, is provided in the Annual Report of each agency.

e No

f Not applicable

- g Nil
- h *Duplication of question 79e.*
- i No.

75. How many contractors has your Department retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?

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

76. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department/s?

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at June 2013 will be included in the Workforce Profile 2013 Report, due to be released with the 2013 State of the Public Sector Report in November 2013. NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 outlines Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

77. How has that changed since 1 July 2012?

An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the NSW public sector at June 2012 can be found in the Workforce Profile 2012 Report. This report is available on the PSC website on the Workforce Profile page: <http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/About-the-Public-Sector/workforce-profile>.

78. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department/s?

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf.

Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

79. Is your Department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so, then;

- a) **What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- b) **Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- c) **Was each study, audit, taskforce or review publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?**
- d) **Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?**
- e) **What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?**

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

- 80. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If not, why not? If so, then:**
- a) Who conducted the training?**
 - b) When was it conducted?**
 - c) Where was it conducted?**
 - d) What were the costs of the training?**
 - e) Who paid for the training?**

The Minister undertook media training in 2011, funded personally.