



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

MEMORANDUM

To	Hon Ian Cohen MLC Hon Richard Colless MLC Hon Kayee Griffin MLC Hon Sylvia Hale MLC Hon Don Harwin MLC Hon Henry Tsang MLC Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC	cc:	Hon Don Harwin MLC Hon Peter Primrose MLC Hon Amanda Fazio MLC Hon Charlie Lynn MLC Hon Ian West MLC
From	Tanya Bosch		
Subject	Answers to Questions on Notice - Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services, Lands		
Date	28 October 2004		
Reference			

Please find attached a copy of the answers provided to the questions taken on notice by the Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services and Lands at the Budget Estimates hearing on Thursday 16 September 2004.

Tanya Bosch
Director, Budget Estimates



The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Lands

The Director
Budget Estimates
Room 812
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

25 OCT 2004

Dear Ms Bosch,

Please find attached responses to questions taken on notice during the GPSC 4 Budget Estimates Hearing into the portfolios of Rural Affairs, Local Government, Emergency Services and Lands on 16 September 2004.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Kelly".

Tony Kelly
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Lands

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEES

28 OCT 2004

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**Estimates Committee
16 September 2004**

Questions taken on notice during the hearing

1. The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I refer to the Opal Cove conference at Coffs Harbour on 10 August... How many managers attended? What was the cost of the conference?

110 managers attended the management conference in Coffs Harbour. The cost of the conference was \$80,000.

2. The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Did any companies that participated in that conference contribute to the conference? If so, would you provide details of their contributions.

The following companies sponsored the management conference:

• Chubb Fire	\$15,000
• Helicorp/ Erickson	\$12,000
• Isuzu GM	\$10,000
• Suttons GM/Holden	\$ 7,500
• Conacher Travers	\$ 4,000
• InCheck Systems	\$ 1,400
• Hogan Print	\$ 1,400
• Tait Communications	\$ 1,400

3. The Hon. RICK COLLESS: How many Isuzu have had a flaw? I understand that some 100 have been recalled to have modifications made to them. How many of the tankers have cracked?

927 of the subject vehicles have been inspected, of which 56 were found to have chassis cracks. As at 18 October all but 7 of these had been repaired.

4. Mr I. COHEN (Chair): What is the anticipated cost, over time, to the New South Wales Government of these management and response implications? (for emergency services management and responses consequent to the proposed new nuclear reactor in Sydney)

It is anticipated that up to \$50,000 could be expended on a public education campaign. Cost associated with maintaining adequate supplies of stable iodine tablets is a matter for NSW Health.

5. The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: When was the last time that the Rural Fire Service vis-a-vis the New South Wales Fire Brigades boundaries reviewed its responsibility? We have areas like Glenwood, for example, which were Rural Fire Service before, but are now heavily populated residential areas. When will they be reviewed again and what protocols will be in place to ensure that the Fire Service resources attend fires as soon as possible? Could you take this on notice and tell us what the situation is at Glenwood?

The two fire services continually review the boundaries of their respective areas of jurisdiction to ensure the best possible emergency service is provided for the community. This process includes the periodic review of Mutual Aid Agreements between the fire services.

Within the Blacktown local government area, the localities of Glenwood, Acacia Gardens, Quakers Hill and Parklea were transferred to the NSW Fire Brigades Sydney Fire District in January 2003.

6. The Hon. RICK COLLESS: Do you have any idea, and I will not hold you to the exact dollar figure, of the quantum of the value of Gilbert and Roach's contract?

The Rural Fire Service does not have any contractual arrangement with Gilbert and Roach. A Government contract exists with Isuzu General Motors for the supply of cabs and chassis. Gilbert and Roach is the preferred supplier on behalf of Isuzu for Category 1 and Category 2 tankers.

7. The Hon. RICK COLLESS: Can you tell me if Gilbert and Roach sponsored your conference in Opal Cove? What would the value of the sponsorship be? Perhaps you could supply the Committee with the exact figure of the sponsorship, if you would not mind?

Gilbert and Roach did not sponsor the management conference.

8. The Hon. RICK COLLESS: Has there ever been any occasion when full-time RFS staff have accessed those funds (RFSA funds) to go to conferences and that sort of thing?

The RFS has provided a copy of the Honourable Member's questions to the President of the RFSA as agreed.

9. The Hon. RICK COLLESS: You were talking about Liverpool council earlier and its sacking. Was it fully investigated over the deficit that was created during Mr Latham's term as mayor?

The Report of the Inquiry into Liverpool Council is available on the Department of Local Government Website. As I advised the committee during the hearing, I was aware that Professor Maurie Daly, who conducted the Inquiry, had addressed the issue of Mr Latham's term as mayor in a letter that was reported in the media. At the hearing, I undertook to provide a copy of that letter to the Committee.

I am advised this letter was written by Professor Maurie Daly in his capacity as a private individual, on Daly Research Systems Pty Ltd letterhead, as the Liverpool City Council Public Inquiry had concluded. Neither the Department of Local Government nor the Minister's Office holds a copy of this letter.

10. The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: Minister, I understand your regional reviewers and you have estimated savings of millions of dollars in local government areas. Can you provide details of the projected estimated cost savings?

It should be noted that any savings from amalgamations may not be realised for a number of years. However, I note that the proposals for reform developed by the independent regional review facilitators and the examination of those proposals by the Local Government Boundaries Commission has identified potential one-off savings of \$10,958,000 and annual savings of \$11,793,350 as a result of amalgamations and boundary alterations that have been implemented since the Government commenced its Local Government Reform Program.

Details of the projected cost savings as a result of reform are contained in the individual Boundaries Commission reports on amalgamation proposals, available on the Boundaries Commission website.

11. The Hon. CHARLIE LYNN: I understand that you, as Minister, intervened in the proposed rate increases for Yarralumla and Gunning shire residents who were incorporated into Yass shire. Will you do the same for residents of Michelago who previously were in Yarrowlumla shire but who are now in Cooma and who face rate increases of up to 300 per cent?

No. The Government limits the total general income of councils but councils control the levying of rates on individual properties.



Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Lands