



NEW SOUTH WALES

**Minister for Police  
Minister for Utilities  
Leader of the House**

Ms Tanya Bosch  
Director, Budget Estimates  
Legislative Council  
NSW Parliament  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

25 OCT 2005

Dear Ms Bosch

**Re: Budget Estimates 2005- 06 – Questions taken on notice**

I refer to your letter of 23 September 2005 regarding my appearance before General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 in relation to the portfolio areas of Police and Utilities on Wednesday, 21 September 2005.

In accordance with the Committee's instructions, please find attached a list of answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing. Please note that the list of answers is also provided in electronic format on the enclosed computer disk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Scully'.

**CARL SCULLY MP  
Minister for Police  
Minister for Utilities**

## UTILITIES PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

**1. EFFECTIVENESS OF CLOUD SEEDING** – The Hon Duncan Gay MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

Has the Government investigated the cost effectiveness of cloud seeding in the Sydney catchment areas given that cloud seeding trials in the Snowy Mountains have produced up to an estimated 25 per cent increase in precipitation?

ANSWER:

This question falls within the Portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for the Environment.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**

**2. COST OF REBUILDING OLD GENERATORS** – The Hon Jon Jenkins MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

What sort of costs are you looking at in, say, the next five to 10 years, in rebuilding these old generators.

ANSWER:

State Owned Corporations are responsible for planning and developing upgrades and expansions to their networks.

The capital expenditure allowance by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for the NSW Distributors during the regulatory period 2004/05 to 2008/09 is \$4.8 billion.

The capital expenditure allowance by IPART for the NSW Distributors for 1999/2000 to 2003/04 was \$3.1 billion.

This represents an increase of 54%.

During the same period, capital expenditure for transmission will be \$2.2 billion.

This is a total of \$7 billion of new investment in electricity transmission and distribution networks.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**

**3. COMPARATIVE COSTS WOLLAR TO WELLINGTON TRANSMISSION LINE —**

The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

**QUESTION:**

I understand that the cost of the proposed Wollar to Wellington line is currently \$67.7 million. What would be the comparative cost of, say, 10 two megawatt local gas-fired generators being run only at times of peak demand?

**ANSWER:**

I am advised by Transgrid that:

The capacity of 10 x 2MW local gas-fired generators is inadequate to meet the reliability criteria. The capacity of a local power station that would be required to defer the Wollar to Wellington line and overcome the limitation in reliability of electricity supply to the area would be at least 150MW at a cost an estimated \$120 million. This does not include the cost of pipelines, fuel costs and maintenance.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Utilities**

**4. ANNUALISED VALUE OF DEFERRING THE WOLLAR TO WELLINGTON TRANSMISSION LINE FOR THREE YEARS** – The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

What would be the annualised value of deferring the Wollar to Wellington line for three years, including the annualised operating costs, the total annual net costs of servicing the capital expenditure, including financing charges and capital depreciation? We are only talking about three years here.

ANSWER:

I am advised by Transgrid that:

TransGrid would be expected to incur costs in respect of the Wollar to Wellington project, including the new line, the new Wollar Switching Station, minor works at the existing Wellington Substation and communications works, of approximately \$11 million per year, including interest on capital, plus depreciation and operating costs.

Deferring the line would lose the benefits of reduced electrical losses of about \$1 million per year and the benefit of increased reliability that has the potential to avoid significant economic loss in the event of an outage. By way of an example, a two day disruption to supply in the Central West, in economic terms, could be around \$100 million.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**

**5. DEMAND FORECASTS WOLLAR TO WELLINGTON TRANSMISSION LINE –**  
The Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

**QUESTION:**

Could you tell us the time line of when that decision will be made?

**ANSWER:**

A decision on the Wollar to Wellington transmission line will be made when submissions on the Environmental Impact Statement are received, considered by TransGrid and a report submitted to the Department of Planning.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**

**6. RANKING SYSTEM - BACKLOG WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECTS** – The Hon Duncan Gay MLC asked the Minister for Utilities a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

Can you explain the determining factors in the department's ranking system for backlog water and sewerage projects seeking funding under the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Scheme?

ANSWER:

I am advised that an Inter-Agency Prioritisation Committee examines each of the projects listed on the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program and ranks them under the criteria of Public Health, Environment and Security of Supply.

The Committee is made up of representatives from NSW Health, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the NSW Water Directorate, the Local Government Association and the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability.

Each project achieves a score of between 0 and 5 in each category. The projects are then ranked in descending order of scores, starting with those projects that ranked 5 in one or more categories.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Utilities**

**7. COST OF PRODUCING THE GREEN AND WHITE PAPERS ON ENERGY** – The Hon Duncan Gay MLC asked the Minister for Utilities, a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

How much money has been spent by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability on preparing and producing the green paper and white paper on energy up to this point?

ANSWER:

The Cabinet Office and the Department of Energy, Utilities, and Sustainability have been liaising with a range of Government departments and agencies, the State Owned Corporations, and other stakeholders, including consultation with industry, in order to formulate the Energy Directions White Paper. An unnecessary diversion of resources would be required to attempt to quantify the cost of finalising the paper.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**



**8. COUNTRY ENERGY - COST OF PRODUCING THE DOCUMENT ON-DESALINATION** – The Hon Duncan Gay MLC asked the Minister for Utilities, a Question Without Notice.

QUESTION:

How much did it cost Country Energy to develop and produce this document on desalination, trying to sell desalination to the people of Sydney at the recent Watts 'n' Drops exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum?

ANSWER:

Country Energy supported the *watts 'n' drops* exhibition organised by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability held at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney on 10-18 September 2005. As part of Country Energy's exhibition, information on electricity and water use was distributed to visitors, including a single-sided fact sheet on desalination.

As the Hon Duncan Gay would be aware, Country Energy provides water supply and sewerage services to Broken Hill, Menindee and Silverton, and operates a desalination plant in Broken Hill, used as a backup to normal water treatments. Country Energy produced a desalination fact sheet as an educational resource for 10,000 water and sewerage customers in the Broken Hill, Menindee and Silverton areas, along with other materials providing water information and efficiency advice.

The desalination fact sheet was produced for Country Energy customers, and is available in its local Customer Service Centres. While the fact sheet was not produced specifically for the *watts 'n' drops* exhibition, Country Energy decided to make 150 copies of the fact sheet available at the exhibition, at an additional printing cost of \$0.058 per fact sheet – or a total additional cost of \$8.70.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Utilities**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 1  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

Since the commencement of Reference Valentine in November 2003, what is the number of arrests for ram raid offences that have been effected (by the NSW Crime Commission) thus far? What was the total number of arrests out of the Commission during 2004-05? What is the position for the current financial year?

Answer :

I am advised these figures are published in the NSW Crime Commission's Annual Reports.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 2  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

The principal objective of the Crime Commission is to reduce the incidence of drug trafficking. What are the figures in that regard in the financial year thus far?

**Answer :**

I am advised these figures are published in the NSW Crime Commission's Annual Reports.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 3  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

What was the total cost to the Police Integrity Commission of Operation Vail?

**Answer :**

I am advised that the Commission's resources are available to multiple investigations and resourcing to particular investigations fluctuates from day to day, depending on operational priorities. Precise total costs for a particular investigation cannot, therefore, be readily aggregated.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 4  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

Can you indicate to the Committee the number of category one complaints the Police Integrity Commission has received during this last financial year as opposed to the previous year, to see whether there is a trend?

Answer :

I am advised these figures are published in the Police Integrity Commission's Annual Reports.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 5  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

How many investigations did the PIC directly undertake in 2004-05?

**Answer :**

I am advised these figures are published in the Police Integrity Commission's Annual Reports.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 6  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

(Regarding Operation Emblems)

Are you happy to provide the comments or recommendations of the investigating officer to the Committee on notice? Were departmental charges laid?

Answer :

I am advised that, in accordance with established practice, it is not considered appropriate for details of an internal investigative report or investigator's recommendations to be provided or made public.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 7**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC**

Question :

How many officers were attached to Task Force Gain as at 30 June 2004? When Task Force Gain was formed, how many officers were attached to the task force?

Answer :

I am advised that Task Force Gain commenced on 22 October 2003 with a total of 177 officers. The number was unchanged as at 30 June 2004.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**



**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 8  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

(In relation to two Target Action Group units supporting Task Force Gain)

Where are these two support units structurally located? Are they still shown on paper as attached to Task Force Gain, or are they working on paper from another unit?

Answer :

I am advised that Task Force Gain is now located in the Police Headquarters in Parramatta.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 9**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC**

Question :

How many arrests have been made by Task Force Gain since it started this year?

Answer :

I am advised that between 1 January 2005 and 30 September 2005 there were 82 arrests made by Task Force Gain.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 10  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

How many ram raids in Sydney is Strike Force Piccadilly currently investigating?

Answer :

I am advised the total is 22.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 11**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC**

Question :

(In relation to ram raids being investigated by Operation Piccadilly)

What is the total amount of money stolen from the ram raids thus far?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me that for operational security reasons, this information cannot be released.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 12  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

(In relation to ram raids being investigated by Operation Piccadilly)

How many luxury, high-performance or specialist motor vehicles have been stolen and used in ram raids and thefts thus far in connection with your investigations?

Answer :

I am advised Strike Force Piccadilly is investigating 11 actual and 7 attempted car-jackings, most involving high performance and / or 4WD vehicles.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 13  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon J Jenkins MLC

**Question :**

I notice that there is a lot of new IT equipment and a lot of new technology coming on line, such as number plate recognition systems which presumably have some basic systems like that already, computer-aided dispatching systems or information exchanges with the Attorney General's Department and the court system and in-car data terminals. Can you give me a rough idea of how much you are spending on this technology? Roughly how much is being spent on hardware versus software versus consultants and administration?

**Answer :**

I refer the Honourable Member to Budget Paper 4.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 14  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

(In relation to officers on long term sick leave)

What would be the financial cost to the Government of paying out those approximately 450 officers?

Answer :

I am advised that not all officers currently on long term sick leave are expected to be medically discharged, as many will be successfully rehabilitated and will return to either full or restricted duties within NSW Police. Entitlements for those officers medically discharged would vary greatly depending upon their individual circumstances. Given these variables, I am unable to provide an accurate answer to this question.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 15**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon L Rhiannon MLC**

**Question :**

What involvement did New South Wales police have in trials of a cautionary regime for all illegal drugs, funded by the Federal Government, that was held in northern New South Wales and the Illawarra region? What was the result of those trials in the Illawarra and northern New South Wales?

**Answer :**

I am advised that there was no such Federally funded trial.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**



**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 16  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

How much money has been spent in the past financial year on uniforms for NSW Police?

Answer :

I am advised that total expenditure on police uniforms for the 2004-05 financial year was approximately \$6.9 million.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 17  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

Do the budget papers take into account the anticipated income for the private funding of police to attend (user pays) events? I just want to get a sense of how much money you will raise?

Answer :

I am advised that revenue for sporting and entertainment events is shown in the Budget Papers under the category of Sales of Goods and Services.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 18**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC**

Question :

(In relation to two Target Action Group units supporting Task Force Gain)

You indicated earlier you have two TAG units working out of the 57 that are there - are they part of the 57, or in addition to the 57?

Answer :

I am advised that Task Force Gain currently has 57 staff attached to it, commensurate with the other squads in the State Crime Command.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question: 19**  
**Notice Given: 21 September 2005**  
**Asked by: The Hon M Gallacher MLC**

Question :

Can you tell the Committee the total amount that has been received and put into investigations by NSW Police as a direct result of the Criminal Assets Recovery Act?

Answer :

I am advised the Recovered Assets Pool, established in 2003 to meet an election commitment, is allocated up to \$2 million each financial year from the Confiscated Proceeds Account to fund NSW Police investigations and operations.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 20  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

How many motor vehicles have been stolen back by criminals that have been taken under the control of the police under the criminal assets recovery legislation?

**Answer :**

The Criminal Assets Recovery Act is administered by the Crime Commission, not NSW Police. Details of confiscations are listed in the Commission's annual report.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 21  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

Has the NSW Police assigned forensic accountants to each of the squads to analyse the work of each strike force and to identify the assets of offenders and places, caveats on houses, for example?

Answer :

I am advised that financial investigators are contained within the State Crime Command Asset Confiscation Unit and are available generally to support squad operations as required.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 22  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

(In relation to the Criminal Assets Recovery Act)

Since the introduction of the legislation, has NSW Police increased the number of staff at the assets confiscation unit?

Answer :

The Criminal Assets Recovery Act is administered by the Crime Commission, not NSW Police. Details of confiscations are listed in the Commission's annual report.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 23  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

How many assistant commissioners does NSW Police currently have?

**Answer :**

I am advised there are currently 14.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**



**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 24  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

How many police firearms have been reported lost or stolen in the financial year 2004-2005? What about stolen or reported lost warrant cards?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me the total is one firearm and 89 warrant cards.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 25  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

**Question :**

How many police uniforms have been reported lost or stolen in the financial year 2004-2005?

**Answer :**

NSW Police has advised me that this data is not readily available from police information systems and its extraction would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources from frontline policing.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP  
Minister for Police**

**POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 26  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon L Rhiannon MLC

Question :

How many capsicum spray canisters have been reported lost or stolen in the financial year 2004-2005?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me there were 4 canisters of capsicum spray lost or stolen in the 2004-05 financial year. (Note that this figure does not include canisters that were notified as having been lost and which were subsequently recovered.)

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**

## **POLICE PORTFOLIO BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**Question:** 27  
**Notice Given:** 21 September 2005  
**Asked by:** The Hon M Gallacher MLC

Question :

- a) How many complaints were received following the Macquarie Fields riots in February 2005 from members of the public about the conduct of members of the New South Wales Police Service?
- b) Of the total number of complaints received, what was the total number of officers subject to the investigations?
- c) Could you also take on notice to provide in writing to the Committee the same situation so far as Redfern is concerned: the total number of complaints that were lodged and the total number of officers that were subject to the investigations?
- d) Have any compensation claims being lodged by members of the public against the New South Wales Police Service as a result of injuries in either of those two riots?

Answer :

NSW Police has advised me :

- a) 4.
- b) One has been identified so far; a final number is unable to be provided as other investigations are ongoing.
- c) 4, and 5.
- d) No.

**The Hon Carl Scully MP**  
**Minister for Police**