



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

Transport and Central Coast

Thursday 16 September 2010

Answers to be lodged by: Tuesday 12 October 2010

Budget Estimates Secretariat

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| Hearing date | Portfolio | Answer to be lodged by |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 15 September 2010 | Fair Trading | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Arts | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Housing | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Small Business | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Veteran's Affairs | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Planning | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Infrastructure | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 15 September 2010 | Lands | 11 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Transport | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Central Coast | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Roads | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |
| 16 September 2010 | Western Sydney | 12 October 2010 [21 days] |

Questions relating to the portfolio of Transport

16 September 2010, 9:15 am – 1:00 pm

Questions from Ms Faehrmann

Parking at Penrith Station

1. Funding for a parking building on the north side of Penrith Railway station was acquired from the Federal Govt three years ago. When will this project begin, who will construct it and how much will it cost?

Rail Costing Penrith to Blaxland

2. What is the estimated cost for the quadruplication of the railway line between Penrith & St Marys.
3. What is the estimated cost of the upgrade that would be required to the Western Railway-line between St Marys and Blaxland, such that safe railway operation travel times of heavy freight trains would be the same as for road freight between the same two railway stations when the trucks travel via the F4 then Great Western Highway after Lapstone.
4. What is the estimated cost of the upgrade that would be required to the Western Railway-line between St Marys and Blaxland, such that safe railway passenger operations are no slower than same maximum speed limits currently experienced by private cars travelling between the same two railway stations when the cars travel via the F4 then Great Western Highway after Lapstone.
5. If the costs of delivering these services is not known, what would be the costs to conduct an assessment of the likely costs of such upgrades.

Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) Incentive Payments

6. As the NSW government already provides a number of generous incentives to WAT driver/operators to offset the cost of converting vehicles to operate as a WAT, and the fact that the WAT driver/operators are provided with a licence with conditions stating they must give priority to people with disability, especially wheelchair users, could the Minister please explain why his department continues to pay the \$8.47 WAT driver bonus incentive scheme?
7. Although the \$8.47 WAT driver bonus incentive scheme commenced with the intention to get the WAT drivers to be more responsive to bookings and provide wheelchair users with an equitable service, can the Minister please explain why it is paying the \$8.47 to the drivers regardless of whether the driver is on time to the booking or one hour late to the booking, or whether the wheelchair user is hiring the taxi from a taxi rank or street hail?
8. Could the Minister please provide the total amount of money it has paid in WAT driver bonus incentives since the payment commenced in December 2007 including a breakdown of payment in each financial year until now?

Two More Trains for Singleton

9. Is the Minister aware of the proposal by the group 'Two More Trains for Singleton' for and increase in services between Newcastle and Sydney daily with a target of for 2025 of train services every two hours?
10. Have there been any feasibility studies or costings done in relation to the proposal?
 - a) If not. Is the Minister willing to consider such an undertaking?
 - b) If yes. Please provide details.

Coffs Harbour Passenger Rail Services

11. Why is the State Government unwilling to support a Feasibility Study for Rail, funded via the Sustainable Living Initiative funding program, as requested by Coffs Harbour Council in its submission to the State Government?

Isolated Transport Accommodation and Assistance Scheme (IPTASS)

In 2010 – 2011 the budget for the Isolated Transport Accommodation and Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) is \$12.8m, a 9% increase on 09-10 which was \$11.7m. However the budget for Transport For Health is \$4.9m. This is nearly a 11% decrease on the 09-10 budget of \$5.5m.

12. There are increasing demands on community transport providers to provide transport for health services. For example one provider in Northern Sydney has had demands for transport for health increase from 15,000 trips in 07-08 to 20,000 trips in 08-09 (approximately 20% of all trips provided). Why has there been such a significant drop in funding?

Seatbelts in School Buses

13. How many school bus routes services with buses without seat belts for all passengers, travel on roads with speed zones 80 kph or greater in NSW?
14. Will the NSW Government mandate that all new and replacement school buses used on roads with maximum speeds of more than 80km/h be fitted with lap/sash seat belts?
15. Would such a mandate allow bus operators to apply for federal 'Seatbelts for Kids' subsidy funding?
16. Will the NSW Government immediately alter the School Student Transport Scheme contracts to allow bus operators to apply for federal 'Seatbelts for Kids' subsidy funding, given that current contracts restrict utilising this funding because of reduced capacity if using a seat belted school bus?
17. Will the NSW Government provide funding in the next budget for any extra buses that may be required because of reduced capacity when seat belts are fitted, on any school bus route travelling on roads with maximum speeds of more than 80km/h?

Rail Noise Abatement

18. How much money was spent in the 09/10 financial year on noise abatement measures provided to home owners (additions made to homes eg. shutters on windows, glazing etc not general abatement measures such as sound proof barriers servicing multiple homes) suffering from noise pollution from City Rail operations?
19. How much money was spent on general abatement measures (those measures that did not involve alterations or additions to homes)
20. What body makes decisions in relation providing funding for noise abatement direct to homes?
21. What is the process that is applied in assessing claims relating to noise pollution?
22. Is there a level of noise that if experienced by home owners from rail noise makes them eligible for noise abatement measures.
23. Is there any provision for independent assessors to be used to assess noise impacts in the event of a dispute between the government and home owners?
24. Are there periods of time in which services cannot operate on particular lines due to the potential for noise pollution to impact on residents?
 - a) For each of the major rail lines servicing metropolitan Sydney, please provide the details of these windows.

Public Transport Usage Rate

25. For the last available period, what are the patronage rates for the following public transport services (where possible provide patronage rates as a percentage of available seats for each route or rail line):
- Sydney Buses?
 - Private Buses?
 - Sydney Ferries?
 - City Rail?

My Zone

26. What have been the implications on revenue from ticket sales resulting from the introduction of the 'My Zone' ticketing system?
27. Has there been any change in patronage rates since the introduction of the 'My Zone' ticketing system?
28. Please provide details of changes for each of the services identified in question 21 for all available routes or rail lines.

Parramatta to Epping Rail Link

29. Will additional services be running through the Chatswood to Epping tunnel due to the completion of the link?
- if so will there be any reduction in total seats on the Northern Line to the North of Chatswood?
30. Will there be any reduction in seats travelling directly (without the need to change trains from Hornsby to the City)?

Casino to Murwillumbah Line

31. Does the NSW Government have any plans to reopen the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line?
- If not why not?
 - Would the State Government consider handing over management of this line to a rail heritage society to manage reinstatement/operation of the line with the state government providing the funding?

Questions from Mr Mason-Cox

32. What was the total cost for stationary and website changes when the "Ministry of Transport" was changed to "Transport and Infrastructure" and then "Transport NSW"?
33. What is the total fare box revenue for travel on New Year's Eve for STA buses, private buses, trains and ferries?
34. Has the NSW Government made a submission to Infrastructure Australia for funding for the North West Rail Link?
- If so, what does the submission ask for and when was it submitted?
35. What requirements does Transport NSW place on service outlets selling prepaid bus tickets?
- Does this include accessibility into the shop?
 - If not, what strategies are in place to address this issue?
36. When will easy access work at Martin Place train station be completed?
37. Do you have a maintenance program for the upkeep of lifts?
- How many times are lifts serviced per year?
 - When were the lifts at Central Station last serviced?
38. In relation to the easy access scheme, which stations have been:
- Fully planned, funded and work has commenced within the 2009 and 2010 periods?
 - Fully planned and funded but not yet commenced for the 2010 and 2011 periods; and

- c) Fully planned and not yet funded for future financial consideration?
- 39. In relation to the easy access scheme, which ferry wharves have been:
 - a) Fully planned, funded and work has commenced within the 2009 and 2010 periods?
 - b) Fully planned and funded but not yet commenced for the 2010 and 2011 periods; and
 - c) Fully planned and not yet funded for future financial consideration?
- 40. As part of the regional bus contracts that are currently being rolled out across the state, is there a section within the contract to ensure buses are made more wheelchair accessible within a reasonable time frame?
- 41. What percentage of the total regional bus fleet is wheelchair accessible?
- 42. Who is responsible for the administration of the departmental budget for Transport NSW? What are their qualifications and background?
- 43. Why have CityRail CCTV monitoring stations been reduced from 16 to 1? Have any jobs been lost due to the cuts? How much have the changes cost?
- 44. In relation to Home and Community Care funding from Transport NSW:
 - a) What is the breakdown of funding for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2010-11?
 - b) Does the NSW Government plan to increase funding to cope with the ageing population?
 - c) If so, by what percentage will funding increase each year?

Rail

In relation to the duplication of the Richmond Line:

- 45. When will construction start on the duplication of the Richmond Line from Schofields to Vineyard?
- 46. What is the total estimated cost of the duplication of the Richmond Line from Schofields to Vineyard?
- 47. Does the NSW Government have plans to complete the duplication of the Richmond line, all the way to Richmond?
 - a) If so, when by?
- 48. What percentages of Illawarra train services have toilet facilities on board?
- 49. Why did the NSW Government remove a dedicated security service from the South Coast Line (after 7PM) between Kiama and Bomaderry in 2005?

In relation to the Wollongong free green bus service:

- 50. What is the annual cost of the service?
- 51. Please provide a breakdown of commuter numbers on an annual basis since the introduction of the service.
- 52. Is the NSW Government committed to meeting the ongoing cost of the service?
- 53. Will the NSW Government deliver digital platform located train timetabling screens for St Marys Station?
 - a) Is so, when will they be delivered and at what total cost?

In relation to CityRail services on the Cronulla line:

- 54. Please provide a breakdown of average passenger numbers for the financial years 2003-04 to 2010-11;
- 55. What was the cleaning budget for carriages on the Cronulla line from 2003-04 to 2010-11;
- 56. What was the maintenance budget for carriages on the Cronulla line from 2003-04 to 2010-11;
- 57. What capital works are planned for stations on the Cronulla line this financial year?
 - a) Please provide a breakdown of total estimated cost and expenditure this financial year for each station?

58. When will all 626 carriages be delivered? How many new rail carriages will be allocated to the Western line and when?
59. How many half tickets were sold to commuters who catch the train with a bike in 2008, 2009 and 2010?
 - a) What is the total income from those half fares?
60. How many contractors does RailCorp employ?
 - a) What is the weekly cost of those contractors?
 - b) What is the average time of engagement of a contractor?
61. What is the total cost of graffiti on the CityRail and Countrylink networks, including trains, stations, platforms and other rail property?
62. In relation to RailCorp's \$710,840 maintenance budget, which includes corrective maintenance and emergency work, how is corrective maintenance and emergency work costed?
63. Are there plans for a pedestrian ramp at St Mary's train station? If so, when will it be delivered and at what total cost?
64. How is the Rail Heritage Portfolio collaborating with other Heritage Offices and Departments within government?'

Ferries

65. What is the total cost of the removal of graffiti on Sydney Ferries vessels, wharves and other property?

In relation to Sydney Ferry services to the Inner West:

66. How does the Government plan to encourage patronage of Sydney Ferries by commuters from the Inner West?
67. How do such plans fit with the new ferry timetable, scheduled for introduction next month, given that it: cuts all services to Birkenhead; reduces evening peak services for Chiswick and Drummoyne wharves; and reduces evening peak services departing from Circular Quay to the Inner West?
68. How many contractors do Sydney Ferries employ?
 - a) What is the weekly cost of those contractors?
 - b) What is the average time of engagement of a contractor?

Buses

69. Why would you send Drummoyne bus services (specifically L39/439 service) along Parramatta Road from Victoria Road, pushing out travel times up to 15 minutes one way, when you are spending \$175 million on a dedicated Inner West Busway along Victoria Road?
70. What is the total cost of graffiti on Sydney buses, bus stops and other STA property?

In relation to the \$ 598,834,000 allocated for Metropolitan Bus Services for 2010-11

71. What is the total allocation for bus services in Mulgoa electorate?
72. How many additional services will this bring into the electorate?
73. What express bus services from St Clair and St Marys into Penrith will be provided through this funding?
74. How many additional services will be provided in the rural areas of Mulgoa?'
75. How many of the 200 New Buses for Metropolitan Transport Plan will be allocated to the bus routes in the Mulgoa electorate?

In relation to the new car park at Wollongong Train Station:

76. Was the car park intended as a commuter car park or to service the Wollongong CBD?
77. Have any studies been conducted into the number of commuters that use the car park versus the number of people accessing the CBD? If so, please provide a breakdown of car park usage types.
78. Does the NSW Government have any plans to pay for the Parramatta free shuttle bus service? If so, when will the NSW Government start contributing to the service and how much?
79. How many contractors do Sydney Buses (STA) employ? What is the weekly cost of those contractors? What is the average time of engagement of a contractor?

Questions relating to the portfolio of Central Coast

16 September 2010, 9:15 am – 1:00 pm

Questions from Mr Mason-Cox

Ex-HMAS Adelaide

1. Minister, the sinking of the ex-HMAS Adelaide was delayed because the Government failed to conduct adequate consultation and those who felt they had not been consulted moved for an injunction against the sinking. How much did the Government spend organising the functions relating to the sinking?
2. What did the cancellation cost NSW taxpayers?
3. What action have you taken as Central Coast Minister to ensure the same lack of consultation does not reoccur before a new sinking date is set?

Central Coast fast train proposal

4. Did you raise the Central Coast fast train proposal with your Cabinet colleagues and seek Cabinet agreement for the proposal prior to the announcement?
5. What guarantee can you give that the NSW Government will deliver the project with the Federal Government, given that the last – and almost identical – proposal was cancelled?
6. The delivery date for the last fast train proposal was this year – 2010. What is the promised delivery date for the new proposal?

Transport

7. Minister, the people of Warnervale are still waiting for a new train station. When will it be completed?
8. Minister, CityRail reduced the number of station staff at Central Coast stations to the point where some stations are barely manned at all. Will the Government be adopting union plans to reinstate station staff to provide service and security to Coast commuters?
9. A number of residents near Gosford station have complained to you and Local Labor MP Marie Andrews about train horn noise after new policies were implemented by CityRail at Gosford Station. How many times have you met with the residents in question either as Minister for Transport or Minister for the Central Coast?
10. What representations have you had from Marie Andrews asking you to act on residents' behalf?
11. What action have you taken to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome is found?
12. Minister, the Government introduced its new fare system and included Central Coast buses, run by private companies, but not the Ettalong to Palm Beach ferry, also run by a private company. Why was the ferry service not included?
13. Since becoming aware of the error, what action have you taken to amend the new fare system to include the ferry?