

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION:           LEGAL COSTS, GMT RENT DISPUTE**

**Notice Given:       15 October 2007**

**Asked by:           The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

Are you willing to divulge what legal costs have been incurred in this dispute or negotiation? (page 34)

**Answer:**

I am advised that legal costs incurred in respect to the 2003 rent review negotiations are an estimated \$29,400.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: GMT LEASE**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

You commented that the lease was signed under the previous Coalition Government. That may have been the case in respect of the old lease but I understand that the new lease was signed by Morris lemma, the Premier, in 2002. Is that correct? (page 34)

**Answer:**

I am advised that the new lease was not signed by the Hon Morris lemma, MP, in 2002.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: GMT LEASE**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

In relation to the lease negotiated in 2002 by this Government, by the Premier who signed it in 2002, can you explain why there was open market rent reviews with three of the next seven years in that regard? (page 34)

**Answer:**

I am advised that the rent review structure for the new lease term provides for open market reviews on a designated basis. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that at each review the rent reflects the true market rent for the building at that time.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: GMT LEASE DISPUTE**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

So the 2007 rent review is formally in dispute? I just want to be absolutely clear about that. It will rely on the resolution of the 2005 review? Yes or no will be sufficient. (page 43)

**Answer:**

I am advised that the answer is yes. The 2007 review will occur following the resolution of the 2005 review.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: CBD OFFICE SPACE**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

Could you clarify just how much CBD space is used by the New South Wales State Government? (page 43)

**Answer:**

I am advised that the Government occupies approximately 409,300m<sup>2</sup> of owned and leased office space in the Sydney CBD.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: CAR SPACES**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

Are the car spaces leased by the State Government in the Central Business District paid for by employees or Government? (page 47)

**Answer:**

I am unable to respond to this question as the State Property Authority advises that payment for parking spaces is a matter for individual agencies.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2007-2008**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**QUESTION: ACCOMMODATION IN TATTERSALLS AND CHIFLEY BUILDINGS**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance-

Who is housed in the Tattersalls and Chifley Buildings? (page 47)

**Answer:**

I am advised that NSW Lotteries has retail space in the Pitt Street side of the Tattersalls Building and MacQuarie Generation, which is a State Owned Corporation, has space on Level 33 of Chifley Tower.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

Ms Gardiner to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

**CHAIR:** Is it fair to say that RailCorp or CityRail have certain procedures that are available at every station where there may be such an incident again and that it is readily to hand?

**Mr GRAHAM:** Yes, that is my understanding. Indeed those particular evacuation plans are tested both at the desktop level and at emergency exercise level, including multi-agency exercising on a very regular basis.

**CHAIR:** Would it be possible for you to provide the Committee with that manual?

**The Hon. GREG DONNELLY:** Madam Chair, I raise a question about the document and where it leads to if provided to the Committee. It is obviously quite a sensitive document, I would have thought. I might not be correct but is that something we would want in the public domain.

**Mr GRAHAM:** It is certainly not something we would want in the public domain but it is a document that outlines an evacuation process for a particular station.

**The Hon. AMANDA FAZIO:** It could be provided to the Committee, but not made public.

**CHAIR:** Is that what you prefer?

**Mr GRAHAM:** I think that would be a sensible way of dealing with it.

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Enclosed is the RailCorp Station Operation Incident Management Plan. As agreed, this document is provided for review by the General Purpose Standing Committee and is not to be made public.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**



**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Minister, Mr Graham commented earlier this year, after the second train broke down on the Harbour Bridge, that there was a lack of maintenance culture within RailCorp, and you announced a review of maintenance procedures to be undertaken by Mr Clark. When will the review be finalised, and what is the estimated cost of that review?”

**Answer:**

The NSW Government is satisfied with progress in the rail maintenance improvement process. The Clark report is finalised and being progressed by the Commission.

I refer the Honourable member to my press releases of 11 October 2007 and 5 November 2007.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC

**Question:**

Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“I would like to move on to CountryLink. I want to try to get some figures. What is the 2007-08 allocation for CountryLink, separate from CityRail services? What is the allocation in 2007-08 and the actual expenditure? I just want to get a comparison.”

**Answer:**

I am advised that as a business entity of RailCorp, CountryLink is embedded with the RailCorp annual budget. These details are available in NSW Budget Papers at [www.treasury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au)

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

Minister, I want to ask you a series of questions on the Tcard. The budget papers reveal that about \$64 million has been spent by the State Government on the Tcard project to date. What specifically has this money been spent on?

**Answer:**

I am advised that, as at 30 June 2007, the total cost incurred on the Tcard project is \$65.64 million. The capital component of this expenditure to 30 June 2007 was \$60.8 million against the capital budget estimate of \$64 million.

I am advised that this consists of costs associated with the design, implementation and project management of the Tcard system, the installation of infrastructure as part of an early works program, interest costs and some minor capital payments. However, no contract milestones have been reached that trigger payment to Integrated Transit Solutions Limited.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“What have you actually done (about problems in the delivery of the Tcard) and do they continue to exist?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that the Public Transport Ticketing Corporation (PTTC) continues to work with the contractor, Integrated Transit Solutions Limited (ITSL) to manage the contract and address concerns with a view to ensuring the delivery of an integrated ticketing system that represents value for taxpayers' investment and a seamless travel experience for customers.

John Watkins MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Why did you announce widespread trials of the Tcard project before the last State election when you must have known that the project was not meeting the milestones you had already announced?”

**Answer:**

I was advised by the Public Transport Ticketing Corporation (PTTC) in August 2006 that Tcard trials involving commuters on selected bus services in Sydney’s Inner West were expected to take place in October 2006. However, problems with the Tcard system were subsequently discovered.

In order to avoid disruption to the travelling public, the commencement of the trials was delayed.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“What project milestones have been reached under the contract with ERG?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that Integrated Transit Solutions Limited has not yet reached a contract milestone that triggers a payment.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“When does the Government expect network-wide trials of the Tcard to proceed?”

“So where are we up to now?”

**Answer:**

I have been advised by the Public Transport Ticketing Corporation (PTTC) that a limited Bus Field Trial has been in operation since May 2007 with staff from various transport agencies. On 8 October 2007, volunteers from the general public were re-contacted to assess their willingness to continue with the trial, which is expected to commence before the end of the year. A number of third-party distribution outlets have also been commissioned.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Mathew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“What is the fare structure that Tcard will have? Can you give us an outline of that? For instance, will it be distance or zone based and how will this compare with existing arrangements?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that the Tcard contract requires all current fares to be made available.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**



**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“When will all commuters have access to the Tcard in your estimate?”

**Answer:**

The Government remains committed to delivering an integrated ticketing system for the commuters of Sydney.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Have any compensation payments already been made by ERG? If so, how much has been paid?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that no compensation payments have been made by Integrated Transit Solutions Limited to date.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Can you give us the total estimated cost of the Tcard project at this stage?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that, as at 30 June 2007, the total cost incurred on the Tcard project is \$65.64 million.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“With regard to CountryLink, can you advise the Committee how much revenue the Government has reaped from the pensioner booking fee that was introduced in March last year for the 2006-07 financial year?”

**Answer:**

Revenue to Railcorp for the 2006/07 financial year will be available in its 2006/07 Annual Report.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Minister, can you advise the Committee of the average wage of a full-time Sydney Ferries captain?”

“Also, we would appreciate information as to the average wage of the full-time Sydney Ferries deckhand. Would you take that on notice?”

“The same for the average wage for the full-time Sydney Ferries ticket sales person.”

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Sydney Ferries reports on wages and salaries as required in its annual report.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“With regard to CountryLink, can you advise the Committee how much revenue the Government has reaped from the pensioner booking fee that was introduced in March last year for the 2006-07 financial year?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that income obtained from the Pensioner Booking Fee for 2006-07 was \$3,548,154.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Minister, can you advise the Committee why the management of Sydney Ferries approved a 10 percent pay rise for ferry captains, which was well above the 2.5 percent cap that your colleague Mr Costa has imposed on public servants, given that the captains had received a 4 percent pay rise earlier this year as part of an enterprise bargaining agreement?”

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The salary increase awarded to 22 Freshwater Class ferry masters was not consistent with the NSW Government’s wages policy or Sydney Ferries’ own Statement of Corporate Intent.

Sydney Ferries has advised that the increase was a result of a failure in its industrial relations systems.

The Government views this matter seriously.

Appropriate disciplinary action has been taken and the Sydney Ferries’ Board has been ordered to review Sydney Ferries’ internal industrial relations systems.

The agreement with Outer Harbour Masters will not be registered as an amendment to the Enterprise Agreement and no budget supplementation will be provided.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**QUESTION:** LA 0962

**Notice Given:** 16 October 2007

**Asked by:** Mr Malcolm Kerr MP

**Question:**

Mr Malcolm Kerr MP to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) “How many trees have been removed from the Cronulla Sutherland Rail Corridor as part of the duplication of the Cronulla railway line?”
- (2) “How many trees will be planted as a part of the landscaping plan for the duplication of the Cronulla railway line?”

**Answer:**

I am advised:

- (1) – (2) Information regarding the Cronulla Rail Line Duplication project is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation website at [www.tidc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tidc.nsw.gov.au) .

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**



**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“By how much does the Public Transport Ticketing Corporation expect the liability cap of \$10 million to be exceeded?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that the current liability of Integrated Transit Solutions Limited cannot exceed \$10 million.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“I move on to super metro buses. The budget papers indicate that the Government will commence a two-year trial of five super metro buses at a cost of \$12 million. When the policy was re-announced on 15 August 2007, why had the trial been reduced to 12 months but still at the same cost as the two-year trial?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that the overall project length is still **two financial years** and \$12 million funding is allocated over these **two financial years**. The media release referred to the twelve month physical trial of the new SuperMetro vehicles on the road.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Prior to the election the Premier indicated that the new Super Metro buses would be deployed throughout the city by Christmas 2007. Why have the buses now been delayed until 2008?”

**Answer:**

I am advised that State Transit has developed a new style of route to trial the SuperMetro Buses. The change in the scope of the project took some extra months of development beyond the original date announced by the Premier in February 2007.

In my media release of 15 August, 2007 I made it very clear that the first SuperMetro Bus trial service is planned for 2008.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

With respect to the program for the acquisition of 505 new buses, in the 2006-07 budget papers there was provision for the acquisition of those buses with a program to run until 2011.

The budget allocated \$36 million for that program. Can you advise the Committee how much did the Government actually spend on that program in 2006-07?

**Answer:**

State Transit spent \$46 million on 100 new buses in 2006/07.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) Can you tell us how many of those (505) buses are in operation?
- (2) How many do you anticipate will be operating by the end of this financial year?

**Answer:**

I am advised:

- (1) The Government has committed \$254 million to replace more than a quarter of State Transit's bus fleet – the biggest ever investment in new buses in NSW history.

The first 66 Euro 5 diesel buses are already in service at Randwick, Burwood and Hamilton in Newcastle.

- (2) Based on the delivery schedules provided by Volvo and DaimlerChrysler, State Transit estimates there will be a total of 161 buses in operation from the 505 bus contract by 30 June 2008.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) "Can you tell us when will the delivery of the 505 new buses be completed and how much will the Government spend this financial year on those new buses?"
- (2) "And is it 1,447 (buses) over the seven-year period?"
- (3) "How many new buses did the Government actually purchase in the last financial year?"
- (4) "How many of these buses were articulated?"
- (5) "How much was allocated for the acquisition of new buses for this financial year?"

**Answer:**

- (1) I am advised that the State Transit Authority's 505 bus replacement contract will be finalised by 2012/13.

The State Transit Authority estimates delivery of 134 buses from the 505 bus contract this financial year (2007/08). It is estimated that the 134 new buses expected to be delivered during 2007/08 will cost approximately \$3 million through the Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan Bus System Contracts and under the New Fleet Periodic Payment.

- (2) The total number of buses planned for purchase through the Metropolitan Bus System Contract and Outer Metropolitan Bus System Contract is 1,469 replacement buses and an additional 47 buses for service growth. The Government has also committed to the acquisition of five SuperMetro Buses. This takes the total number of buses to 1,521.
- (3) The total number of buses delivered during the 2006/07 financial year under the Metropolitan Bus System Contract and Outer Metropolitan Bus System Contract was 259. The total cost of buses through the New Fleet Periodic Payment was \$16.5 million.
- (4) During the 2006/07 financial year, the Government approved the purchase of 34 articulated buses.

- (5) I am advised that in the 2007/08 financial year, the value of the New Fleet Periodic Payments is estimated to be \$16.5 million for all new buses acquired under the contracts since their commencement.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) Can you tell us what a standard bus costs?
- (2) What does an articulated bus cost?

**Answer:**

I am advised that:

A standard bus can costs in the order of \$410,000 - \$460,000 with articulated buses costing approximately 44% more. Articulated buses carry approximately 44% more people but are useful on high capacity routes and also has a lower operating hourly cost.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**



**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“What productivity measures have you traded off?” (in relation to the Bus Operators’ Enterprise Agreement negotiation.)

**Answer:**

I refer the Honourable Member to my press release of 30 October 2007.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

**Question:**

The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“How much money has the Government spent to date on establishing a transport ombudsman, following the State election promise? When will the transport ombudsman be appointed?”

**Answer:**

The New South Wales Government is implementing the Commuter Charter.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC**

**Question:**

Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

“Our office has been receiving a number of complaints about the change to the city bus services travelling from the Anzac Bridge down a dedicated bus lane and into the city that went via Druitt Street and has now been re-routed via Bathurst Street. The complaints are that the time for the journey has almost doubled. People were fond of the service and are now quite aggravated by it because it is not as direct. Bathurst Street does not have a dedicated bus lane, and there are major building works going on in Bathurst Street. How long will the current situation continue?”

“What is your time line? When will the audit be finished? Then how will you proceed?”

**Answer:**

Safety is and must be the number one priority of our public transport system. To ensure the safety of bus operations in Druitt Street, State Transit has voluntarily implemented a 40km/hour speed limit for buses operating on Druitt Street.

State Transit has also diverted eastbound buses away from Druitt Street to Bathurst Street as a precautionary interim measure, pending the outcome of an independent road safety audit being undertaken by the RTA, Ministry of Transport, State Transit and City of Sydney Council.

I am currently awaiting the outcome of the Druitt Street safety audit and advice on what measures are needed to ensure the safety of both passengers and pedestrians in the area.

Further to the safety audit underway, I am advised the Office of Transport Safety Investigations has initiated an investigation into three pedestrian incidents including the fatality in Druitt Street .

I will review any findings of the OTSI investigation in conjunction with the outcomes of the road safety audit.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) “How much money will the Government spend on undertaking a study of 25 railway station and bus interchanges across Sydney?”
- (2) “Can you advise how much the Government has allocated to improving the already existing transport interchanges and implementation of the Auditor-Generals’ recommendation following the performance report *“Interconnecting with Public Transport”*?”
- (3) “Can you advise which recommendations out of that report the Government intends to adopt?”

**Answer:**

- (1) – (3) I refer the Honourable Member to my media release of 25 August, 2007.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**

**Asked by: The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC**

**Question:**

The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

- (1) Can you advise how much money RailCorp has paid to its employees in the past financial year as a result of complaints made by RailCorp staff against other RailCorp staff associated with sexual harassment or resulting from breaches of RailCorp's code of conduct, equal opportunity, anti-workplace bullying and anti-harassment policies?
- (2) How many RailCorp staff were dismissed last financial year for breaching that code of conduct and other related policies, including any anti-corruption laws?

**Answer:**

I am advised that:

- (1)-(2) Information on the RailCorp Code of Conduct is available on the RailCorp website, [www.railcorp.info](http://www.railcorp.info).

RailCorp also reports on the Code of Conduct as required in its annual report.

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES  
QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Notice Given: 15 October 2007**  
**Asked by: Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC**

**Question:**

Ms Rhiannon to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

How many workers in the department that you are responsible for are on 457 visas?

Could you check the number and also what jobs they are doing?

**Answer:**

I am advised:

Generally a person must be a permanent resident or citizen of Australia to be eligible for appointment to a permanent position in the NSW public sector. Overseas workers on visas may work in the NSW public sector as either temporary or casual employees or contract workers. In some limited instances, overseas workers on a 457 visa may be appointed to an ongoing position, for example in the health sector.

Temporary or casual employees on temporary work visas need to be sponsored by the employing department or agency. Contract workers on temporary work visas need to be sponsored by the contract employment agency.

The NSW Government employs workers who have entered Australia on 457 visas to fill vacancies that cannot be filled from within the Australian workforce.

Where a NSW Government agency employs overseas workers on temporary work visas, it must comply with Commonwealth requirements.

Agencies have policies in place to verify information supporting appointments, including the identity, residency status and qualifications of potential employees. On commencing duties with a NSW Government agency, an employee would be required to provide sufficient documentation about these matters.

In the case of contract workers, compliance with Commonwealth requirements is the responsibility of the contract employment agency and the contract worker.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet does not separately collate information about employees' or contractors' visas.

**John Watkins MP**  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Transport**  
**Minister for Finance**

**Notice Given:** 15 October 2007

**Asked by:** Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC

**Question:**

Ms Rhiannon to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance:

What aspects of the transport department's work have been contracted out?

**Answer:**

I am advised:

The use of contractors is limited to areas in which the agency does not have the necessary skills or specific expertise to effectively and efficiently undertake a required project or task. As well as establishing a need, it is standard practise to forecast contractor costs in order to conduct a cost-benefit analysis prior to making a decision of engagement. Contractors' work is monitored and evaluated to ensure that objectives and milestones specific to the project are met within the agreed budget and time-frame.

The Auditor-General audits agencies' expenditure as required by the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and this audit process provides an independent assessment of agencies' financial situation. Internal audit procedures are guided by information supplied by NSW Treasury which is publicly available at [www.treasury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au), in particular Treasury Policy and Guideline Papers TPP95a (Statement of Best Practice – Internal Control and Audit) and TPP95b (Internal Control and Assessment) and Treasurer's Directions 720.01-.03 (Internal Control and Internal Audit).

**John Watkins MP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Finance**