

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: ICAC REPORT**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Minister, I move on to the ICAC position paper on corruption risks in New South Wales development approval processes. Will the Government implement any or all of the recommendations contained in that position paper?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The Government reviewed those recommendations. I remember reading the report. I do not think I have it with me. I remember thinking that some of them were inconsistent or would have the opposite effect to that which ICAC was proposing. But the Government has not taken—

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Will you provide a formal response?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The Government will provide a response in due course. It is a matter for the whole of Cabinet. They are promoting panels, for example. If you read the various ICAC reports, they are promoting removing the say of local councillors. In a number of their reports that is a consistent theme now. They are also promoting that the Minister for Planning has to disclose who donates to the Labor Party. I prefer not to know who donates to the Labor Party, because I do not think that is relevant to my considerations. In fact, it is better that I do not know, and I do not want to know.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Are you being serious when you suggest you do not know any of the donors to the Labor Party?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I would guess who some are, but in most cases I would not know, and I would not care.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** When you are sitting at a fundraising lunch or dinner surely you know who is sitting there with you.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** There are lots of people who donate to the Labor Party who do not sit with me at dinner. I deal with people without fear or favour. Whether they donate to the Labor Party or not is irrelevant. One of the ICAC recommendations is that I should know everyone who has donated to the Labor Party. I think that is not helpful. This is a national issue, as Premier Carr said in the past, if both parties want to do this at a national level to reduce donations of developers. I do not have any problem with that personally. In fact, I would welcome it. But remember this: most developments are not by developers; they are actually by other applicants.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Minister, when do you expect the response to this paper will be released?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** It is an ICAC recommendation and probably will require the consideration of the whole of Cabinet.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** When will it be released?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** It has not yet been submitted to Cabinet. I do not have an exact time, but in the next few months.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Will you take that on notice?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I will take it on notice and seek advice from the Cabinet Office.

**Answer:**

In relation to the planning aspects, the Department of Planning is considering the relevant recommendations from the ICAC position paper, Corruption Risks in NSW Development Approval Processes, in the preparation and finalisation of a discussion paper about the proposed planning reforms.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : BURWOOD CENTRE HIERARCHY**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

**Question:**

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** When you determine a local environmental plan [LEP] you determine permissible uses, you do not actually determine specific use, you say a range of permissible uses. The local environmental plan does not determine the location of the library. There may be a development application, a component of which is the library, which might be considered as part of an application, but the panel has no mandate from me to go around making decisions about the library unless they arise as part of an integrated application for a site where the library might otherwise be located. The local environmental plan will not determine where the library goes.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Burwood is identified as a major centre and the guidelines for major centres—

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** In the hierarchy, is it a major centre?

**Mr HADDAD:** It is not a major centre.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** It is not a major centre?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** No, it is the next one down. There is a hierarchy.

**Mr HADDAD:** It is not a major centre.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** It is the next level down. There is a hierarchy, regional—I forget which one it is.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** What is the next one called?

**Mr HADDAD:** Town centre. It is not a regional centre.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** We will get back to you on the hierarchy.

**Answer:**

Burwood is a major centre recognised in the Metropolitan Strategy centres hierarchy.

Essentially, major centres have a role with State strategic importance as an accessible location for the location of jobs, housing and regional facilities.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: 457 VISAS**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I am glad you have had the opportunity to get that on the record and I hope it makes you feel better. Are you aware of any workers employed by your department or employed by companies undertaking contracting to your department who are on 457 visas? I am happy for you to take it on notice.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** What is a 457 visa?

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** These are the visas that the Federal Government has issued so that people can be brought in from overseas. Some departments were employing people on 457 visas.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** You are not on a 457 visa, are you?

**Mr HADDAD:** No. I think we had one such person.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The director general thinks he had one such person.

**Mr HADDAD:** We had one such person. I am happy to take that on notice and give you the details. I am not sure whether she is still with us.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I am interested in the numbers and what positions they were working in.

#### **Answer:**

There are currently no employees of the Department who fit this category.

There was one instance during 2007 of an individual on a 457 visa, who was employed by the Department as an Urban and Regional Planner. Her employment ceased on 25 April 2007.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : ADVERTISING COSTS**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I am glad you have had the opportunity to get that on the record and I hope it makes you feel better. Are you aware of any workers employed by your department or employed by companies undertaking contracting to your department who are on 457 visas? I am happy for you to take it on notice.

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**Mr HADDAD:** No. I think we had one such person.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The director general thinks he had one such person.

**Mr HADDAD:** We had one such person. I am happy to take that on notice and give you the details. I am not sure whether she is still with us.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I am interested in the numbers and what positions they were working in. Can you inform the Committee what your department has spent on government advertising in 2006-07 and also for the previous two years?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Very little. We have it somewhere.

**Mr HADDAD:** The number we have is that it is about \$710,000 by way of statutory advertising costs during the last financial year. I am told that that was for more than 360 projects that we had to advertise, including policies and the like.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Can you take it on notice and provide the figures for the two previous financial years as well?

**Mr HADDAD:** Yes, sure.

#### **Answer:**

I have been advised total expenditure by the Department of Planning on advertising in 2006/07 was \$689,855 and \$550,140 in 2005/06.

The Department of Planning was created in August 2005. Prior to that date, expenditure data would have related to the former Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: COAL MINES AND PRODUCTION FIGURES**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Thank you, Minister. I have some questions about the coal industry, which you may wish to take on notice, but I will put them on the record and look forward to your response. How many new coalmines have been approved by you and previous Ministers in the life of this New South Wales Government? What is their expected annual and lifetime coal production?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Currently coal accounts for about 75 per cent of the State's mining income and more than 15 per cent of its export income. In 2005-06, \$8.5 billion worth of coal was mined in New South Wales and the State Government received more than \$450 million in coal royalties. The coalmining sector employs about 12,500 people directly in New South Wales and many regional towns and communities are dependent on the jobs created by mining and associated industries. In the past 3½ years the Government has approved 78 proposals for either new coalmines or coalmine extensions, including the approval of three major new mining proposals at Anvil Hill, near Denman, Moolarben mine near Mudgee, and the Abel mine near Maitland. These proposals have provided significant economic and social benefits to the New South Wales economy, have a combined capital investment value of \$1.29 billion and create jobs for more than 3,500 workers.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** That is useful information. The last figure you gave about 3,500 workers, was that additional to the earlier jobs figures you gave?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** No, I think it would be part of the same thing. I am advised that that is correct.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** How many new mines or mine extensions have been rejected?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I do not know. I think some of them do not even come in. For example, in the Lake Macquarie area we prohibited open-cut mining, so we killed the proposal there for Awaba.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** But Centennial had already withdrawn that, had it not?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** No. They were still prattling on, still interested, and that was excluded. In other cases the director general's requirements probably led to some of them not progressing at all.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Could you take that question on notice? I am interested in a figure of how many new mines or mine extensions have been rejected.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** We can do that. You need to understand that the whole purpose of the 3As that you issue are the director general's requirements. Sometimes developments just get killed before they even get lodged.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I totally understand that. I am interested in the current process of what has been rejected.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** With the greatest respect, if I answer that question I should also answer the question concerning proposals that have come to pass that had never proceeded. There is a screening system that knocks over some of them before they even start.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** If you could expand on that in your answer, that would be excellent.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Yes, okay.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** My question is about actual coal production. Maybe you could take that on notice. How many new coalmines have been approved in the life of this New South Wales Government? What is their expected annual and lifetime coal production? How many coalmine extensions have there been? What is their expected annual and lifetime additional coal production?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I will get hold of that, I am sure it all is available. I will try to assemble it and get it to you.

**Answer:**

Since 1 August 2005, five new coal mines and 17 extensions to existing coal mines have been approved by the NSW Government. The annual production limits and reserves for these mines are shown in Table 1 below.

These approvals allow the extraction of a total of around 690 million tonnes of raw coal over a period of up to 21 years.

However, I must emphasize that annual production limits do not necessarily equate to annual production figures. There are a series of factors which control overall production at any single mine. Mining conditions and capital requirements may mean that "nameplate" capacity is never reached at a mine. Beyond that, there are a series of constraints in the export coal chain from the Hunter Valley to the Port of Newcastle and capacity constraints within the Port itself. International coal demand and prices also impose their own limits on total export sales.

The most reliable information on actual production rates is contained in the *NSW Coal Industry Profile*, which is published annually by the Department of Primary Industries.



Table 2 below contains a summary of information on coal mining production rates over the last decade in NSW, and includes actual production figures for raw coal (ie run-of-mine coal), saleable coal (ie washed where necessary), the number of coal mines (both open cut and underground), employment, export sales (tonnage and value) and domestic consumption (tonnage).

These figures show:

- relatively constant annual domestic consumption of coal in NSW;
- a steady increase in total annual production and in export tonnages;
- a doubling in the annual value of export sales.

The *Coal Industry Profile* also contains figures regarding coal mine openings and closings.

In the five and a half years from January 2001 to June 2006, 32 coal mines were opened (or re-opened), and 28 were closed. The overall picture is of a slow, steady expansion in the industry over time.

The Government has not rejected any development application or project application for a new coal mine. However, as I indicated in my answer to the Committee on 15 October, the Government instead seeks to undertake early engagement with proponents of new coal mining projects to ensure that they are in the best interests of the community and have environmental impacts that can be adequately avoided, mitigated or otherwise managed.

Examples of the Government's actions in this regard include:

- the prohibition on open cut mining within the Lake Macquarie LGA;
- the *Strategic Assessment of Coal Mining Potential in the Upper Hunter Valley*, undertaken in 2005, which led to the requirement for the proponent of the proposed Bickham Coal Mine to prepare and lodge a full Water Resource Assessment and draft Water Management Plan;
- establishing the Southern Coalfield Independent Expert Panel, which is undertaking a review of subsidence-related impacts of mining in the Southern Coalfield with the aim of advising the Government on appropriate assessment and management of upcoming Part 3A approvals in that area; and
- establishing the Wyong LGA Independent Expert Panel, which is undertaking a review of potential new coal mining proposals within the Wyong LGA, including the Wallarah No 2 proposal.

**Frank Sartor**

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**Table 1: Annual Production Limits and Coal Reserves for Mines approved since 1 August 2005**

<b>New Mines</b>				
	<b>Production Limit (ROM Mtpa)</b>		<b>Total Estimated Reserves (Mt)</b>	
<i>Tarrawonga</i>	2.0		12.4	
<i>Wilpinjong</i>	13.0		251	
<i>Anvil Hill</i>	10.5		158	
<i>Abel</i>	4.5		80	
<i>Moolarben</i>	12.0		127	
<b>Extensions of Existing Mines</b>				
	<b>Increased Production Limit (ROM Mtpa)</b>	<b>Additional Estimated Reserves (Mt)</b>	<b>Total Production Limit (ROM Mtpa)</b>	<b>Total Estimated Reserves (Mt)</b>
<i>Angus Place</i>	1.2	0	3.5	32
<i>Bengalla</i>	2.0	0	10.7	190
<i>Bulga</i>	0	14	20	212
<i>Donaldson</i>	0	0.65	2.5	20
<i>Duralie</i>	0.3	1.4	1.8	13.1
<i>Glennies Creek</i>	1.5	0	4.5	65
<i>HVO North</i>	0	19	10	400
<i>HVO South</i>	0	8	8	85
<i>Invincible</i>	0	0.72	0.35	2
<i>Ivanhoe North</i>	0	0.55	0.3	0.55
<i>Lamberts Gully</i>	0	1.5	0.4	1.5
<i>Liddell</i>	4.5	c. 10	8.0	108
<i>Newstan</i>	0	3	4	54
<i>Stratford</i>	0.6	0.95	2.3	5.4
<i>Ulan</i>	0	2.35	8.4	206
<i>Werris Creek</i>	0	0.28	1.5	9.8
<i>Whitehaven</i>	0	0.15	1.25	1

**Table 2: NSW Coal Production Figures 1995-96 to 2006-07**

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
<b>Raw coal production (Mt)</b>	113.1	123.7	134.01	131.38	132.90	138.78	145.2	143.1	147.0	156.3	161.3	170.2
<b>Saleable coal production (Mt)</b>	91.9	99.48	107.71	103.42	105.19	110.24	114.3	111.5	114.2	122.1	124.7	131.4
<b>Mines (open cut)</b>	24	24	25	24	22	24	24	27	25	27	28	n/a
<b>Mines (underground)</b>	45	44	41	40	35	32	32	29	27	28	30	n/a
<b>Employment</b>	13,612	14,351	11,695	10,400	9,583	9,821	10,052	9,758	9,998	11,290	12,658	13,376
<b>Export sales (Mt)</b>	62.58	67.46	75.93	76.41	72.39	75.86	77.51	79.29	85.01	86.57	89.84	91.5
<b>NSW consumption (Mt)</b>	29.52	29.69	31.49	31.38	31.18	32.33	31.90	31.38	33.16	32.87	33.12	33.4
<b>Export sales (\$bn)</b>	3.32	3.40	4.00	3.76	3.09	3.83	4.71	3.85	3.73	5.49	6.73	6.20

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: COMPREHENSIVE COASTAL ASSESSMENT**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** With regard to some coastal erosion, the review of coastal erosion by the Coastal Council recommended that the Government undertake a comprehensive coastal assessment. Given that \$8.5 million was committed to the assessment, what value is the taxpayer getting for this \$8.5 million in terms of the Department of Planning's processes?

**Mr HADDAD:** We have a coastal assessment program and we are continuing to input as applicable into the planning aspects of the program. As you know, we have a branch and dedicated staff. I will have to just follow up on where the whole program is because responsibilities went to the recently established Department of Climate Change. We just have to check with them and come back to you.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Can you tell us how the \$8.5 million has been spent?

**Mr HADDAD:** As I am saying, I will just have to check on that \$8.5 million. But we are allocating per year \$3 million to coastal areas. Recently some of these functional areas were split between us and the Department of Climate Change. I will get an update of this.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I have some further questions you can take on notice, which is quite understandable. How does the comprehensive coastal assessment help to shape the regional strategy processes?

**Mr HADDAD:** As part of an original planning process, they were taken into account quite substantially in all the studies that we have done. That is evidenced in the draft documents that we have put out and the submissions that we have received, considerations of the submissions, and final plans that were made accordingly.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Do you have a time line on this process when we will be seeing the results of it?

**Mr HADDAD:** I am sorry, which process?

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** With regard to the comprehensive coastal assessment and when you will be making public what your final decision is.

**Mr HADDAD:** I will get back to you, if you like. I know that we have developed the tool kits and I will get back to you with the details.

**Answer:**

In May this year, the Department released the Comprehensive Coastal Assessment toolkit to all 18 non-metropolitan coastal councils, contributing State agencies and catchment management authorities along the coast.

The toolkit, available to the public through the Department's Bridge Street Planning Centre, is contained on a double DVD set, which includes more than 140 data sets, reports and decision support tools relevant for NSW coastal councils.

The reports and data sets include:

- Detailed aquatic mapping, showing the location and extent of mangroves, salt marsh and seagrasses.
- Land use feasibility maps to help councils match land use to land condition.
- Geology and resource maps.
- Coastal lake and estuarine capacity.
- Economic statistics on employment and income, agriculture value and other coastal economic sectors.
- Coastal population movement and other associated statistics.
- A tourism database, which includes statistics such as monthly visitation rates to help plan for tourism needs including peak loads in holiday periods.

The information data and methodologies are employed extensively and were used in the development of the coastal Regional Strategies. The data is now being made available to support work by local councils in developing their new local environmental plans under the Government's planning reforms.

Whilst primarily designed to help coastal councils and catchment management authorities, the toolkit is also available to be used by the private sector, such as property industry consultants.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: CROWN STREET RESERVOIR**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** The question I would like you to take on notice is the timeline when that will be announced. Just going back to the Crown Street reservoir: I understand the Heritage Office may have been involved in this issue. So could you take the question on notice and check?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I will take it on notice. But, certainly, nothing has come past me.

#### **Answer:**

The Sydney Water Corporation (SWC) lodged a section 60 application with the Heritage Council in May 2005, for the subdivision of the Crown Street Reservoir site.

The application included a master plan for the subdivision and alteration/additions to the commercial trade building and former workshop building, which would be subdivided from the reservoir site.

The Heritage Council's Approvals Committee at its meeting on 13 September 2005 approved the application subject to long term lease rather than sale.

In December 2005, the Approvals Committee considered an amendment of the S60 approval, which would allow the sale of the surplus portion of the site.

The Committee advised the applicant that a S65A application should be submitted to amend the approval and that this be delegated to the Director of the Heritage Office for processing.

Subsequently, the Director of the Heritage Office approved the s65 application under delegation from the Heritage Council.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** How long will we have to wait, considering when Mr Lemma became Premier more than two years ago he announced the Government would be formulating an affordable housing strategy for New South Wales? We have a housing crisis in this State, so how long do we have to wait?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** It is a whole-of-government process, and I do not speak for the whole of Government.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** So you are not the main driver. Are you a key driver? Could you take the question on notice?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Planning obviously has a role. I will have to take this on notice and refer it to others.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** The question I would like you to take on notice is the timeline when that will be announced. Just going back to the Crown Street reservoir: I understand the Heritage Office may have been involved in this issue. So could you take the question on notice and check?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I will take it on notice. But, certainly, nothing has come past me.

#### **Answer:**

The NSW Government is currently preparing an Affordable Housing Strategy, which will examine a number of options to address the availability of affordable housing.

This is one of the strategies identified in the NSW State Plan Priority E6: Housing Affordability.

To date, two parts to this Strategy have been released: *New Directions in Social Housing for Older People* and the *Affordable Community Housing Strategy* which was launched by the NSW Government in March 2007.

Work is continuing across a range of agencies to examine further options to improve housing affordability in NSW.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : LEP NUMBERS**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Minister, we had finished on the issue of 3A developments, but I return to that. Last year the then Health Minister, Mr Hatzistergos, requested approval for redevelopment at Royal North Shore hospital, MP060051. Having in mind the appalling physical conditions at Royal North Shore, how do you justify your failure to approve the redevelopment?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Failure to approve Royal North Shore hospital redevelopment? I do not believe we have. We certainly approved the medical research centre. We have approved the concept plan. That is my recollection. We approved a medical research building and we approved the concept plan for the whole thing. Then they come back with project applications as they require them.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** When will the infrastructure levy for West Dapto be released?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** West Dapto is a site that potentially could house 60,000 people. It is a significantly large redevelopment area. In scale, it is almost of the same order as the growth centres of Sydney. The Government is carefully looking at all local and State infrastructure implications on that and there will need to be a whole-of-government decision about it. When the processes of government are complete we will announce it.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** How many local environmental plans [LEPs] are lined up on your desk?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** For the record, Royal North Shore Hospital's concept application was approved on 13 April this year and the Royal North Shore Hospital education building was approved on 29 January this year.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** How many LEPs are lined up on your desk or are in your department waiting for ministerial approval?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Very few. In fact, the stuff in my office gets cleared very quickly. The delays in LEPs tend to occur when councils wish to impose policies and things that are inconsistent with formal State policies. My department is forever negotiating to resolve these disagreements, like the current Parramatta comprehensive LEP. Council said, "We have this LEP ready for exhibition", but when I went back to my department I found that about 10 areas were totally contrary to State policies. Delays tend to occur in the interplay between councils and the department and within councils. Then there are always technical and drafting issues.



The LEPs that get to my office get through pretty quickly, or they get dealt with pretty quickly one way or the other.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** What is the actual number?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I do not go round the office every morning counting them. All I can tell you is that in my office I would be flat out counting three that are ready for my consideration.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** How many LEPs are in the Department of Planning at the moment awaiting approval?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I do not know but I suspect that that number would be very small.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Can you give the Committee an answer on notice as of today?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Yes. I can assure you, Mr Harwin, that my office is the fastest link in the chain.

**CHAIR:** You should be able to give a quick answer.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** In my office is a big tray that rarely has more than two or three LEPs in it.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I am delighted to hear that you are efficient in dealing with your correspondence, Minister, but my question also included the department. I would be grateful for an answer, on notice if necessary.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** As I understand it, your question is: How many LEPs are there that have been through all the formal processes and simply require the Minister's sign off? If that is the question you will get an answer to that question.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I will read the question again for the benefit of the Minister. How many LEPs are lined up on your desk or in your department waiting for ministerial approval? That was the exact question, Minister.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I am told that the number awaiting ministerial approval would relate only to those in our office, not to the department. I will get the director general to double check to establish whether there are any in my department, but there would be very few in my office. Five or 10 come through and in my office I never get more than about three before I deal with them. Go for it. Keep asking that question but it is a non-event.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I take it that you will provide us with an answer?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Yes, I will give you an answer if you choose to waste your time and the time of everyone else. I am happy to help waste time with you.

**Answer:**

On 15 October 2007, only 3 LEPs were awaiting Ministerial approval and these were in my office.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : PLANNING REFORM FUND EXPENDITURE**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** How much money has been collected through the Planning Reform Fund, and what were the sources of those funds?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I would have to take that question on notice. It comes under the planning reform funding arrangements that were put in place well before my time. The director general might want to answer that question or take it on notice.

**Mr HADDAD:** We will take that question on notice.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** On what types of projects or items are moneys from the fund being spent?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** A portion of it goes to councils and the balance pretty much goes to reform issues that we are dealing with through councils or at a State level.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Thank you for that answer but could you be a little more specific? Could you provide a list?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The director general can add more.

**Mr HADDAD:** It is a combination of projects run by the council that are of a strategic nature locally or of a strategic nature at a State level. For example, a part of these funds went into the metropolitan strategy, into subregional strategies and into the city centres program. These are strategic works. The purpose of these funds is to facilitate downstream decision-making.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Could you provide the Committee with a complete list of the projects and items that money from the fund has been spent on? Can you also provide the Committee with a council-by-council breakdown?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The difficulty is that councils get approval for money and then there are so many delays that the formal request takes a long time to come. A formal request can take years to come. We can give you a list.

#### **Answer:**

The Planning Reform fee, of 65 cents for every \$1,000, is collected by all consent authorities in NSW for certain developments estimated to cost over \$50,000. The amount collected varies each year depending on the amount and value of proposed developments. In 2006/07 the total amount collected was \$16.4m.

The Planning Reform Fund supports the development and implementation of reforms to the planning system, to streamline the planning process making it more strategic, efficient and transparent while enhancing community involvement. This is consistent with the provisions of clause 245AA of the EP&A Regulation which authorises the collection of the Planning Reform fee.

The Planning Reform Fund enables the NSW Government to provide financial contributions to local councils to support the delivery of new local plans, key strategic planning projects and other planning reform initiatives.

In 2006/07, the Planning Reform Fund supported the following:

- the review and preparation of numerous LEPs by councils consistent with the standard template
- progress on actions of the Metropolitan Strategy
- the preparation of draft East, Inner North and North-East Subregional Strategies to translate Metropolitan Strategy planning principles to the local level to inform council planning
- the preparation of the draft Central Coast Regional Strategy covering Gosford and Wyong and a draft Regional Strategy for the Mid North Coast
- completion of Regional Strategies for the Far North Coast, Lower Hunter, Illawarra and South Coast to identify areas for future growth
- the development of a suite of four planning documents for six regional cities: Wollongong, Newcastle, Gosford, Parramatta, Liverpool, and Penrith including a Vision Statement, Local Environmental Plan, Development Control Plan and Civic Improvement Plan.
- the establishment of the Cities Taskforce model for city planning in partnership with local government
- the preparation of the Employment Lands for Sydney Action Plan.

In March 2007, I announced a further allocation of \$4.2m to councils to help prepare new LEPs and implement Metropolitan and Regional Strategy goals. A council by council breakdown of this allocation can be found on the Department's website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE : STATE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTION- GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Where are the moneys held that are acquired through the State infrastructure contribution? What are the Government's accountability and reporting requirements related to them?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** The existing State infrastructure contributions, as I have said, are based around a voluntary planning agreements, with the exception of a couple of local environmental plans, including the Wollongong local environment plan and the Pitcairn local environment plan, and they would be kept in separate accounts. Maybe the director general can get back to you on the details. It is however intended that the new regime will put these monies into separate accounts within an urban improvement fund. Therefore they would be oversights and managed by Treasury.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** You have taken on notice that you will get back to me with details about governance, accountability and reporting requirements.

#### **Answer:**

The recently announced establishment of the Urban Improvement Fund will enable the Government to track the receipt of all development contributions for State infrastructure and enable the distribution of these funds to relevant agencies as part of the Budget allocation process. This fund will be established as a Special Deposits Account and will be managed by Treasury. In certain circumstances, such as in the Growth Centres, local development contributions under section 94 will also be kept in trust in the Urban Improvement Fund.

This approach provides greater consistency to the allocation of monies to State and Local Government authorities for the provision of infrastructure to new release areas.

The limited funds already collected from negotiated State Developer Agreements will continue to be managed in separate accounts and overseen by the Department of Planning and the Treasury. However, there have been very few circumstances where funds have been provided as many of these agreements have only recently been finalised.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: ART GALLERY of NSW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon Don Harwin:** The Art Gallery is in need of routine maintenance and upgraded air conditioning and air control. How many rooms in the Art Gallery of New South Wales are fitted with air conditioning and appropriate air control?

#### **Answer:**

24 rooms.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: ART GALLERY of NSW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon Don Harwin:** Has the quality of any of the artworks deteriorated as a result of inadequate air conditioning or air control?

#### **Answer:**

The Gallery's fundamental goal is to acquire, collect and present to the public the finest works of art available. To ensure the collections will be available for future generations the Gallery consults, advises, plans and implements strategies that will protect each object.

The Art Gallery ensures that invaluable works, such of those borrowed from other collections for its exhibitions program, are maintained in accord to appropriate standards for environmental controls. These standards are reflected in the terms and conditions parties agree to when these works are borrowed by the Gallery.

The Gallery's highly skilled conservators and other staff carry out preventive conservation, working to ensure that artworks are safely displayed, stored or transported.

I am advised that any deterioration of artwork that may occur cannot be attributed to a single environmental factor. Time changes the condition of a work of art. Although the Gallery itself provides physical protection for the artworks, this is not enough on its own to preserve them, as many are made of fragile materials and may require extensive treatments.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon Roy Smith MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon Roy Smith:** The Australian Museum has a pre-existing program for firearms that are either unsuitable for the museum's collection or, for other reasons, deemed no longer required by the museum. How are such firearms disposed of and, where they are appropriately licensed, are collectors able to purchase them from the museum?

#### **Answer:**

The Boards and Trusts of the cultural institutions are responsible for the management of their own collections.

Firearms that are identified for disposal by the Australian Museum Trust are deaccessioned in accordance with the *Australian Museum Trust Act 1975 (the Act)*, the *Firearms Act 1996*, the *Firearms (General) Regulation 1997*, and relevant public sector guidelines.

At the request of the Australian Museum Trust, on 25 July 2007 the Governor approved, under section 9 of *the Act*, the deaccessioning of number of firearms that were bequeathed in 1972 to the Australian Museum by the collector Melbourne C Ward.

The Australian Museum has advised that in this instance the specific process for disposing of these items has yet to be determined.

**Frank Sartor**



## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: STATE LIBRARY REVIEW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

**Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** In relation to Internet access at public libraries, has any money been provided in the budget for the installation of Internet filtering technology in each New South Wales public library?

**Mr Frank Sartor:** I will take that question on notice.

**The Hon J Gardiner:** If it has not been installed, you do not know when it will be. You will have to take the question on notice as well.

**Answer:**

State Government funds have not been provided specifically for the installation of Internet filtering technology.

The management of public libraries is a matter for local government.

It is therefore a matter for local councils to determine whether the public libraries they administer use internet filters.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** Can you advise the Committee how many millions of units were there in terms of web site page requests at public libraries in 2006/07?

#### **Answer:**

The management of public libraries is a matter for local government.

The keeping of statistics on web page requests is therefore a matter for each local government authority.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: STATE LIBRARY REVIEW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** A detailed list of how public library funding subsidies and grants were allocated in 2006/07.

#### **Answer:**

For the Subsidy and Disability & Geographic Adjustment payments for 2006/07 see **List 1** attached.

For the Library Development Grants for 2006/07 see **List 2** attached.

**Frank Sartor**

## State Funding for Public Libraries 2006/07

<b>Council</b>	<b>Subsidy &amp; Disability/ Geographic adjustment 2006/07</b>
	<b>\$</b>
Albury	125,729
Armidale Dumaresq	82,920
Ashfield	106,040
Auburn	168,289
Ballina	107,614
Balranald	21,983
Bankstown	435,080
Bathurst Regional	110,633
Baulkham Hills	395,150
Bega Valley	100,897
Bellingen	48,362
Berrigan	37,809
Blacktown	704,668
Bland	34,241
Blayney	30,271
Blue Mountains	197,455
Bogan	22,794
Bombala	20,835
Boorowa	20,277
Botany Bay	99,057
Bourke	28,470
Brewarrina	22,273
Broken Hill	69,163
Burwood	86,220
Byron	86,846
Cabonne	45,400
Camden	135,904
Campbelltown	369,729
Canada Bay	183,495
Canterbury	335,009
Carrathool	24,683
Cessnock	129,755
Clarence Valley	192,598
Cobar	31,302
Coffs Harbour	171,895
Conargo	31,299
Coolamon	24,141
Cooma-Monaro	39,749
Coonamble	27,943
Cootamundra	33,694
Corowa	46,342
Cowra	46,876
Deniliquin	36,970
Dubbo	106,082
Dungog	34,398
Eurobodalla	108,977
Fairfield	467,082
Forbes	39,476

<b>Council</b>	<b>Subsidy &amp; Disability/ Geographic adjustment 2006/07</b>
	<b>\$</b>
Gilgandra	25,198
Glen Innes Severn	50,513
Gloucester	26,723
Gosford	405,441
Goulburn Mulwaree	86,013
Great Lakes	104,702
Greater Hume	60,775
Greater Taree	124,935
Griffith	78,339
Gundagai	23,368
Gunnedah	44,030
Guyra	25,049
Gwydir	45,203
Harden	23,648
Hawkesbury	169,440
Hay	25,377
Holroyd	229,321
Hornsby	386,090
Hunters Hill	45,134
Hurstville	190,812
Inverell	53,896
Jerilderie	18,562
Junee	28,058
Kempsey	83,392
Kiama	60,795
Kogarah	142,752
Ku-ring-gai	269,110
Kyogle	37,972
Lachlan	38,045
Lake Macquarie	469,021
Lane Cove	86,374
Leeton	47,214
Leichhardt	130,551
Lismore	113,401
Lithgow	63,628
Liverpool	432,949
Liverpool Plains	38,727
Lockhart	22,668
Maitland	158,601
Manly	101,203
Marrickville	188,364
Mid-Western	84,050
Moree Plains	60,924
Mosman	77,462
Murray	34,052
Murrumbidgee	21,061
Muswellbrook	51,410
Nambucca	60,445
Narrabri	51,754
Narrandera	31,407
Narromine	31,408
Newcastle	361,220
North Sydney	154,219

<b>Council</b>	<b>Subsidy &amp; Disability/ Geographic adjustment 2006/07</b>
	<b>\$</b>
Oberon	27,640
Orange	100,934
Palerang	51,651
Parkes	51,965
Parramatta	373,669
Penrith	437,255
Pittwater	145,710
Port Macquarie-Hastings	180,800
Port Stephens	171,021
Queanbeyan	102,648
Randwick	310,942
Richmond Valley	78,751
Rockdale	237,487
Ryde	247,233
Shellharbour	160,808
Shoalhaven	250,835
Singleton	66,759
Snowy River	35,707
Strathfield	87,815
Sutherland	524,953
Sydney	372,772
Tamworth Regional	190,259
Temora	30,429
Tenterfield	33,676
Tumbarumba	23,745
Tumut	42,373
Tweed	219,642
Upper Hunter	69,388
Upper Lachlan	42,840
Uralla	28,353
Urana	16,927
Wagga Wagga	148,311
Wakool	30,805
Walcha	22,296
Walgett	41,606
Warren	22,998
Warringah	343,428
Warrumbungle	58,133
Waverley	155,692
Weddin	24,530
Wellington	34,912
Wentworth	33,999
Willoughby	161,641
Wingecarribee	119,617
Wollondilly	116,050
Wollongong	471,406
Woollahra	134,387
Wyong	356,350
Yass Valley	50,501
Young	45,683

## List 2

## Library Development Grants 2006/07

<b>Council</b>	<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
Baulkham Hills	Promotion	20,919
Bega Valley	Programs	9,647
Bellingen	Building – new	200,000
Broken Hill	Outreach services	98,664
Burwood	Research	33,030
Byron	Collection – older people	28,773
Campbelltown	Library management system	126,900
Canterbury	Research	41,290
Canterbury	Collection	149,398
Coolamon	Building	199,940
Cooma-Monaro	Home library service	25,593
Cooma-Monaro	Web services	19,285
Goulburn Mulwaree	Collection – literacy	40,000
Greater Taree	Professional development	22,396
Griffith	Collection	37,055
Guyra	Children's services	10,684
Harden	Young people	6,529
Hawkesbury	Collection – young people	22,789
Holroyd	Library management system	199,388
Hornsby	Promotion	28,302
Inverell	Collection	20,970
Jerilderie	Building – renovation	200,000
Kempsey	Young people	17,634
Kempsey	Collections – young people	82,608
Kiama	Young people	17,169
Ku-Ring-Gai	Young people	76,386
Kyogle	Collection	8,401
Lachlan	Local studies	25,366
Lake Macquarie	Services - older people	22,600
Leeton	Library management system	101,070
Lismore	Children's services	5,740
Liverpool	Library management system	175,000
Liverpool	Collection – multicultural	160,000
Liverpool Plains	Building – new	200,000
Muswellbrook	Building – new	20,840
Nambucca	Collection – older people	49,848
Newcastle	Research	20,000
Parkes	Research	24,720
Port Stephens	Literacy	17,479
Randwick	Literacy	11,447
Richmond Valley	Promotion	42,315
Ryde	Collection – multicultural	33,150
Tenterfield	Local studies	20,775
Tweed	Mobile library	28,776
Warren	Collection – older people	60,000
Warrumbungle	Building – renovation	115,050
Wollongong	Local studies	79,498
Woollahra	Research	63,000

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: STATE LIBRARY – STATE LIBRARY- STOCK**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** In terms of the condition of library stock, can you tell the Committee how many items at the State Library were restored to appropriate condition in 2007/08?

**Mr Frank Sartor:** I will take that on notice.

**The Hon J Gardiner:**-and how that compares to the previous year?

#### **Answer:**

I am advised there are over 5 million items held in the State Library's collections.

All items are stored in appropriately controlled and monitored climatic conditions.

In 2006/07...20,800 items received individual conservation treatments.

The target for individual conservation treatments of collection items in 2007/08 is 25,000.

**Frank Sartor**



## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: STATE LIBRARY - STAFFING**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** In terms of staffing of public libraries, is it correct to say that the average staffing expressed in terms of equivalent full time positions was 381 in 2006/07? How does that compare with the previous year? What is the anticipated average staffing numbers in 2007/08?

**Mr Frank Sartor:** Is this the State Library?

**The Hon J Gardiner:** Yes

**Mr Frank Sartor:** I will take that on notice.

#### **Answer:**

I am advised the average staffing of the State Library in 2006/07 expressed in terms of equivalent full time positions was 373.

In 2005/06 it was 383.

It is forecast to be 375 in 2007/08.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: STATE LIBRARY REVIEW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** Can you tell us the process for stakeholders to send a submission in to the [public libraries] review?

#### **Answer:**

Written submissions were able to be made via mail or email by the closing date for submissions to the review, 19 October 2007.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: PUBLIC LIBRARY USAGE**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon J Gardiner MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon J Gardiner:** Would you be good enough to provide us with information about the level of usage of libraries across the State? I appreciate that you may need to take some of this on notice.

**Mr Frank Sartor:** I think I might take that on notice.

**The Hon J Gardiner:** Can you provide us with the recorded use of services in terms of million units for 2006/07? How does that compare to the previous year, 2005/06? What is the anticipated use of services in 2007/08?

#### **Answer:**

I have been advised that figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are not yet available.

For 2005/06, the figures are as follows:

Visits	33.3 million
Loans	47.3 million
Registered members	3.2 million
Number of Internet bookings by clients	2.3 million
Internet hours used by clients	1.8 million

**Frank Sartor**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE: BROWNFIELD LEVIES**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

**Question:**

**The Hon Don Harwin:** Can you make the Treasury calculations available for us to look at?

**Mr Frank Sartor:** That was done for Cabinet. I will have to take it on notice.

**Answer:**

This is a matter for the Treasurer.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: BROWNFIELD SITES - LEVIES**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Earlier we were talking about the application of levies to brownfield sites and the fact that that was already taking place. I would like to explore with you and Mr Haddad in some more detail exactly to what degree they are already being applied. Over the last year or two, how many brownfield sites in total have had levies applied to them? What proportion of the total applications does that represent?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** You are asking for details that I do not have with me. For example, the Yamba Blue Dolphin voluntary planning agreement was negotiated between the Clarence Valley Council and a developer. It provided for certain requirements. We had Carlton United Breweries with two voluntary planning agreements, with the Redfern-Waterloo Authority and the Minister for Planning, and it secured certain types of benefits. From time to time a lot of sites come up, not in the growth centres. The ones I have dealt with in Western Sydney have voluntary planning agreements, some that are in brownfield areas and some that are not. They are negotiated case by case. The important thing for us is to set out a coherent and consistent philosophy across the State which will inform voluntary planning agreements—

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Yes, we have had that from you. Can you come back to my specific question, which was a feel for exactly what proportion of those brownfield sites have had those sorts of voluntary planning agreements applied to them containing levies.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I do not have that information here. If you look, for example, at the Wollongong local environmental plan—

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Okay. You say you do not have them here.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** There is a 3 per cent levy, and 2 per cent of that is for local infrastructure and 1 per cent is for State infrastructure. It is at Wollongong. That exists and they were gazetted about eight months ago.

**Mr HADDAD:** Wollongong is an example. The provisions are there in the legislation now for voluntary planning agreements in brownfield areas to be enforced. There are a number of other developments. The discussion that is going on now in Burwood is another example. There is discussion with rezoning. They need to upgrade the railway station. That is an example of where the State is looking.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** There is a \$17,000 per lot transport contribution, for example, in the Warriewood area.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Mr Haddad, do you have some feel for the actual proportion?

**Mr HADDAD:** Not offhand.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Is it 50, 20, 10 per cent?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** It varies from site to site.

**Mr HADDAD:** To give you a credible answer, maybe we can get back to you. The main thing is that there is a provision. In fact, if there is a development proposal before the department we will have to look at the nexus between that development in brownfield situations and the impact of the development on State as well as local infrastructure. That is what we would do. We would then advise the Minister on that basis. So the provision in the legislation is there for us to look at it. Sometimes there is no additional impact as the direct result from this development, in other cases there are.

Where there are impacts we have to put provisions in the approval or in the local environmental plan for it to be included. I will have to go back and check. We are looking at three developments around the Chatswood area, for example, where there are instances where there is a nexus between the impact of the development and on State infrastructure. The provisions are there in the legislation.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Sydney Water at Parramatta is another one. The Chatswood interchange is another. We will have to get back to you with the details.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Could you give us, on notice, a complete list of all instances where those levies have been placed on brownfield sites?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** If you want a complete list, 21 days may not be enough. It depends on how big a list you want. We could have to go through files and dig out all that information. We can give you within 21 days a reasonable number of examples.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** And a sense of the proportion also.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Proportion between State and regional, or between regional and local?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** No, the brownfield sites that have levies put on them and those that do not.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** We will have to get that information out, file by file.

**Answer:**

The provision of State Infrastructure levies on brownfield sites applies in instances where there are major redevelopment opportunities and associated/significant increases in demand for services and infrastructure.

These provisions existed under the planning legislation (Environmental Planning and Assessment Act) since July 2005 (section 93F) and are being applied by way of 'satisfactory arrangements' or 'voluntary planning agreements,' or as part of the conditions of consent imposed for State significant development by me, as Minister.

Some examples of where levies have been applied include:

Wollongong City Centre LEP  
Carlton United Brewery Site  
Channel 7 Site, Epping  
Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Ryde  
Rhodes Peninsula  
Chatswood Transport Precinct

In addition, Councils have been charging section 94 contributions that relate to infrastructure for infill (brownfield sites) development for some time. Some examples include:

Newcastle City Centre LEP (draft)

Gosford City Centre LEP (draft)

Coffs Harbour city centre (covers a range of facilities including libraries, regional open space, beach protection, surf lifesaving and flood mitigation)

Lake Macquarie has a S.94A Contribution Plan that covers its major centres - Belmont,

Cardiff, Charlestown, Morisset, Swansea and Warners Bay

Cessnock City Council has a car parking contribution for its CBD

Shellharbour City Centre has levies for traffic management works and car parking. This is on top of area-wide contributions rates.

The revised policy will significantly benefit the above in that it will focus on infrastructure requirements that directly relate to the development (nexus) rather than broader claims by local government in particular.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: LEVIES**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

**The Hon Don Harwin:** Can you advise the Committee, on notice if necessary, how the calculations were made for each of the levies that have been struck relating to the figure of \$15,000, the figure of \$25,000 to \$65,000, the figure of \$33,000, and last Friday's figure of \$25,000?

### **ANSWER:**

In 2001 the Government introduced an interim transport levy of \$15,000/lot to help fund regional transport infrastructure and services needed to support the urban development of a range of new release areas including Spring Farm and Elderslie in Camden, Second Ponds Creek in Blacktown and Balmoral Road in Baulkham Hills.

From 2004 the Government conducted a detailed assessment of a wider range of infrastructure needs likely to arise from development in the North West and South West Growth Centres. Details and costs of this infrastructure were published in June 2005 in the "Preliminary Infrastructure Report for the North West and South West Growth Centres."

At that time, the Department of Planning proposed that levies ranging between \$25,000 and \$65,000 per lot would be charged in the Growth Centres to help meet 75% of the costs of this infrastructure.

Following the establishment of the Growth Centres Commission, the Government requested the Commission to review the preliminary work of the Department of Planning. Resulting from that review, the Government was able to reduce the proposed levy to an average of \$33,000 per lot. The detailed list of infrastructure and relevant costs were published by the Growth Centres Commission in its Special Infrastructure Contribution Practice Note in December 2006.

Following a further review by the Government, announced on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, the average State development contribution in the Growth Centres has been revised down to \$23,000 per average lot by transferring the cost of a range of infrastructure (approximately \$2bn) to the State budget over the life of the development of the Growth Centres, rather than have that cost met from development contributions.

The Growth Centres Commission will shortly publish a revised Practice Note detailing the relevant infrastructure and costs underpinning the revised contribution.

**Frank Sartor**



## **QUESTION ON NOTICE - BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: PLANNING REFORM FUND EXPENDITURE**

On 15 October, 2007, the Hon Lee Rhiannon MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Residential accommodation for students has been cited as one of the issues for the university on that site. Do you, your departments or agencies have a legal opinion on whether this breaches or complies with the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Okay. Let us see what comes out of the discussions that are taking place, to see whether it ends up being—

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Still—

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** Hang on—whether it is still a request of the university or not. I do not know how far the university wants to push that. Let us see what comes out of the process.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** I have just asked whether you have received a legal opinion. Would you prefer not to answer that?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I do not know that I have received a legal opinion, to be honest. I do not recall looking at it.

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Could you ask one of your advisers whether you have received a legal opinion?

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** On what? On whether the university can have student accommodation or not?

**Ms LEE RHIANNON:** Whether the university can have residential accommodation.

**Mr FRANK SARTOR:** I will take it on notice.

#### **Answer:**

The Callan Park Act refers to using the site for community, education and health purposes. Education purposes relate to university use, not primary and secondary schools.

The non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sydney referred to exploring the potential for a coherent university campus at Callan Park which could include student accommodation.

I am advised student accommodation is an ancillary use and not in conflict with the Act and that student accommodation is already provided at Callan Park by the NSW Ambulance Service for trainee officers.

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon I Voltz MLC asked a question of the Minister for Planning, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

1. I have another question on Sydney Olympic Park. Occasionally we hear comments about mosquito problems at the park. Is there a program to deal with the mosquito issues coming out of the parklands?
2. Will a program be run this year?

#### **Answer:**

1-2.Details of the Sydney Olympic Park Authorities Mosquito Control Program is available from the Authority's website at [www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au](http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au)

**Frank Sartor**

## **QUESTION ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE HEARING**

### **QUESTION ON NOTICE: ART GALLERY of NSW**

On 15 October 2007, the Hon Don Harwin MLC asked a question of the Minister for the Arts, during the Budget Estimates Committee Hearing which was taken on notice.

#### **Question:**

**The Hon Don Harwin:** How much money out of this year's budget allocation has been allocated to upgrading the air conditioning at the Art Gallery?

#### **Answer:**

The day to day management of the Gallery is a matter for the Art Gallery Trust. This includes the prioritising of Government funding to the appropriate areas.

I understand that in 2007-08, from a capital budget of \$1.77 million, an amount of \$428,000 has been set aside specifically for air-conditioning and related work.

**Frank Sartor**