

Our Ref: G07/01466

The Director
Budget Estimates
Parliament House – Room 812
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam

I refer to your correspondence of Thursday, 25th October 2007 and my appearance before General Purpose Standing Committee No.4 in relation to Budget Estimates 2007/2008.

As required, following are answers to those questions taken on notice during the hearing.

Please note, that the question raised in relation to Patricks / Toll Holdings – Port Botany was answered later in proceedings. This was also confirmed in subsequent email correspondence by your office, and therefore, has not been included.

If you require any additional information, please contact Lee Bellia – Office Manager on 9228 5451.

Yours sincerely

Joe Tripodi
Minister for Ports and Waterways
Minister for Regulatory Reform
Minister for Small Business

(signed: 9th November 2007)

PORTS AND WATERWAYS

Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC to the Minister for Ports and Waterways, Minister for Regulatory Reform and Minister for Small Business:

QUESTION

In the past 12 months has Alan Jones raised an issue about the behaviour of a staff member of yours? Or a department person?

ANSWER

No written communication has been received from Alan Jones in the past 12 months by NSW Maritime or the three port corporations about the behaviour of a staff member.

QUESTION

Sydney Harbour power boat race:

- a) What parts of Sydney Harbour are being considered for possible venue/race locations?
- b) In relation to the possible venues – how many loops are there for each possible venue?
- c) What is the route / distance of the race?
- d) What time will be taken – including setup, dismantling and the actual race?
- e) Will this involve closing down part of the Harbour?

ANSWER

Early discussions with the organisers of the event indicate that the proposed trial race circuit could be a location east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Exact details in relation to the event have not been finalised. The race length is one to 2 hours, with the number of loops limited by the set time limit for the race

The race course will be set up by the placement of marker buoys a few days prior to the event, ensuring the main harbour activities of commercial shipping, ferry operations and recreational use of the harbour can still take place around those buoys. Part of the harbour will be closed during the event sessions.

SMALL BUSINESS

Dr John Kaye MLC to the Minister for Ports and Waterways, Minister for Regulatory Reform and Minister for Small Business:

QUESTION

1. Do you have specific material, specific programs, to assist newly arrived migrants wishing to set up a business in Australia?
2. Could you provide more details about that?

ANSWER

The Department of State and Regional Development's business migration program provides support to recently arrived migrants wishing to establish a business in Australia. The program's services include information materials, consultancy, visa sponsorship and information and networking seminars.

The Department uses a number of materials designed to assist migrants establishing a business in NSW:

- "A Guide to Doing Business in NSW" (A5 Booklet) (in English and Chinese language)
- "Living in New South Wales: A Great Place to do Business" (A5 Booklet) (in English)
- "A Quick Guide to Small Business Services: What Government Agencies Can Do for You" (A5 Booklet) (in English)
- "Sydney and New South Wales: First for Business" (A4 4 page Brochure) (in Chinese language)
- "NSW Welcomes Business Migrants" (three A4 brochures) (in English and Chinese language)
- "Business Migration to NSW" (PowerPoint presentation) (in English and Chinese language)

The Department sponsored 375 visa applications in 2006/2007 from business migrants overseas wishing to establish a business in NSW. 60% of applicants were from China. The Department meets over 200 business migrants and their migration agents or other representatives each year to discuss their business plans in preparation for an application for NSW visa sponsorship. The Department reviews these plans before granting visa sponsorship.

The Department holds seminars for newly arrived business migrants in cooperation with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Business Enterprise Centres, migration agents and other parties.

The Department sponsored 63 visa applications in 2006/2007 from business migrants who had already established a successful business in NSW under a provisional visa sponsored by the Department and were seeking the second stage visa for permanent residence in Australia. The Department visits some of these migrants' businesses while assessing their application for visa sponsorship.

In addition to those specific programs already mentioned, the Department offers a suite of programs to assist all small business owners to develop and grow their business. These programs include:

- Business Advisory Services to help business starters strategically plan the growth and development of their business, which are delivered through 18 primary locations in metropolitan and regional areas
- The Women in Business and Stepping Up mentoring programs, which assist business owners improve their business skills and tackle specific challenges by linking them with a business mentor
- The New Export Opportunities Program, which assists rapidly growing businesses to undertake export preparation and develop export market entry strategies
- An Innovation Advisory Service which assists businesses with early stage commercialisation of inventions and innovation
- The Home Based Business Program, which assists people operating a business from home to strategically plan their business direction
- Small Business September, an annual month-long program of business events which provides practical information, knowledge and tools for small business operators to improve their operations and access new markets, and
- The New South Wales Small Business Website, which provides a broad range of practical information and advice on managing and growing a small business. Small Business Fact Sheets on key management issues can be accessed from the homepage in Mandarin, Arabic, Greek, Italian and Vietnamese.

With respect to a breakdown of funds for business initiatives, details can be found within the Budget Papers. These can be accessed through the Treasury website at the following address: <http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/bp07-08/bp3/bp3>.