

General Purpose Standing Committee No 1.
Budget Estimates Hearing – 14 September 2010
Questions Taken on Notice
Premier

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *Mr O'Reilly, when a Minister changes what costs are incurred by the Government?*

Mr O'REILLY: *The normal arrangements would be, of course, the preparation of briefing material by the agencies who report to the Minister. There will also be the arrangements for the swearing in of the new Minister, the appointment of ministerial employees, the appointment of department liaison officers to the Ministry, and some minor changes with letterhead and stationery items—that sort of thing.*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *How long have you been Director General?*

Mr O'REILLY: *In this current role?*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *Yes, sorry.*

Mr O'REILLY: *Nine months.*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *In the time you have been there can you indicate to the Committee what has been the cost to the Government of these ministerial changes, in terms of staff costs, redundancy, stationery et cetera?*

Mr O'REILLY: *Can I take that on notice so I can provide you with the accurate dollar value information?*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *Do you have an average cost that you work out for the budget every year?*

Mr O'REILLY: *No, I do not.*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *You do not?*

Mr O'REILLY: *No.*

CHAIR: *Just to clarify, Mr O'Reilly, you will take that question on notice?*

Mr O'REILLY: *Yes.*

ANSWER:

See answer to Questions 50-55

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: How long was Mr Lee the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: How long was Mr Lee in that position?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Yes.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I do not have that figure in front of me but I will undertake to provide that to you.

ANSWER: Mr Lee was Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet from 27 October 2008 to 31 December 2009.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: The question was about Mr Lee. Given that he has received over \$900,000 for 14 months work, are you aware that he is now on the Board of Events New South Wales?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Yes, I am.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: How much does he get paid in that position?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: First of all, I would flag that he was on the board of Events New South Wales prior to the termination of his position.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Does he hold any other government positions in New South Wales that you are aware of?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am not aware of that, but I will take that on notice and come back to you.

ANSWER: Answered during hearing. See Page 24 of the transcript.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Do you know how much he gets paid as a board member of Events New South Wales?

Mr O'REILLY: I would have to check the figure. I think it is about \$25,000 per annum.

ANSWER: Answered during hearing. See Page 24 of the transcript.

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Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Information on the number, type and salary of government advisers is publicly available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website, which can be accessed using the path [dpc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au). I can provide the full link to that information.

CHAIR: Thank you.

ANSWER:

http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/public_employment/premiers_and_ministers_staff_numbers

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: That is okay. Could you indicate to the Committee what his predecessor, Robyn Kruk, received, if anything?

Mr O'REILLY: I can find that out for you. If I could take that on notice, I will have that information to you.

ANSWER: Answered during hearing. See Page 24 of the transcript.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Has Minister Virginia Judge disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to her relationship with Kosta Nikas, that you are aware of?

Mr O'REILLY: I am not aware. I would have to check that for you.

ANSWER: The Premier has not received a written declaration of any conflict of interest in relation to Mr Kosta Nikas.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *Mr O'Reilly, to the best of your knowledge has Minister Virginia Judge disclosed a conflict of interest regarding her relationship with Kosta Nikos?*

Mr O'REILLY: *I am not aware of that; I would have to check it.*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *How often do you check it?*

Mr O'REILLY: *Check the register? Very rarely, because it is normally brought to my attention if there is a problem.*

CHAIR: *Will you take that question on notice, to check the register?*

Mr O'REILLY: *I can certainly do that, yes.*

ANSWER: Refer to previous answer.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: *Premier, I take you to the State Plan. As you are aware, prior to August 2009 the New South Wales State Plan had a greenhouse gas emission target of returning to year 2000 levels by 2025. Some time in August 2009 that particular target was quietly dropped and it has not, to my knowledge, been reinstated. In fact, the only target we currently have for greenhouse gas emissions is a 2050 target—a 60 per cent cut on year 2000 levels by 2050. Can you explain why we no longer have a 2025 target?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *I thank you for your question, which I will be able to shortly provide you with an answer to. First of all, I note that this is a question that can also be put to the portfolio Minister. I can provide you with some information and then, if that is not sufficient, I am more than happy to take it on notice.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *Your department has responsibility for implementing the State Plan, does it not?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *For implementation, yes, but the targets within the State Plan are set in a collaborative process with the community, through community consultation as well as with stakeholder groups, and the lead Minister, of course, has specific responsibility for the target as well as its implementation.*

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As you would be aware, the New South Wales Government has a number of environmental initiatives in place and we do have those in place to meet the Commonwealth Government's target of 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020. A strong commitment to clean energy has been a hallmark of this Government. We recently have been working on the development of a strategy to support the transition to a clean energy future. The strategy will be developed in consultation with the community. It will include the consideration of gas development options and measures to increase the adoption of renewable energy resources. For example, TransGrid has been successful in applying to the Australian Energy Regulator for an annual allowance of \$1 million to further investigate innovative demand side management solutions.

In particular, these new initiatives—whether they be the Solar Bonus Scheme, the New South Wales Energy Savings Scheme—build on a successful and innovative history in supporting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme [GGAS] was one of the world's first emissions trading schemes. To date it has saved or offset over 90 million tonnes of greenhouse gas since starting. The GGAS is legislated to remain in place until 2020 and beyond or to the commencement of a national emissions trading scheme. As you know, the New South Wales Government was one of the first jurisdictions in the world to implement that. We look forward to the work that is underway in relation to reviewing the GGAS in anticipation of the introduction of the ETS.

Dr JOHN KAYE: *My question was not about that at all. My question was about the dropping of a target from the State Plan, that is, the target to return to year 2000 levels by 2025. I am struggling to connect your answer to my question.*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *I am seeking to provide you additional advice. I will take your question on notice and come back to you.*

ANSWER: See answer to question taken on notice at page 36 of transcript.

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CHAIR: *I note in the Department of Premier there is a plan called the Homelessness Action Plan. What are the main features of that plan, the budget for it and how many staff are working on that important project?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *We do not have that level of detail with us today but we would be happy to take that question on notice and provide it to you.*

CHAIR: *Can you make any comment about what the action plan is?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *The Homelessness Action Plan itself sets out a range of initiatives, the key directions and the actions that the Government will seek to*

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respond to homelessness over the next five years. It includes initiatives that are funded under year 1 of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness. Of course, we have done consultations right across New South Wales in relation to both the plan itself and regional homelessness action plans, and that includes with people who are homeless themselves. I do not want to get these percentages incorrect on the record so I will seek to come back to you. I do not have them in front of me. But it sets our targets in terms of reducing the percentage of people who are currently homeless. It also seeks to put in place strategies to overcome people who have recently found themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness and it seeks to also reverse entrenched homelessness for that category of people who have been long-term homeless. There are specific percentages; I do not have them front of me. I do not wish to name a number and not provide the correct information, but I will get that for you.

ANSWER: The *NSW Homelessness Action Plan 2009-2013* aims to prevent homelessness, improve the effectiveness of responses to homelessness, and ensure that people who are assisted out of homelessness do not become homeless again. The Action plan has three strategic directions:

1. Preventing Homelessness;
2. Responding Effectively to Homelessness; and
3. Breaking the Cycle.

The Plan aligns with the objectives and outcomes of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and incorporates the 24 initiatives for which Commonwealth funding is being provided under the Year 1 implementation plan for the National Partnership. NSW is providing matched funding of \$104.4 million under the National Partnership.

The following targets have been set in the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan* and reflect targets in the National Partnership on Homelessness:

- a reduction of 7% in the overall level of homelessness in NSW by 2013;
- a reduction of 25% in the number of people sleeping rough in NSW by 2013;
- a reduction of one third in the number of Aboriginal people that are homeless in NSW by 2013.

Key actions in the first year of the Plan include:

- Providing housing and support for homeless people in key locations around the State including western Sydney, inner Sydney, Albury/Wagga and New England;
- Establishing outreach services to assist rough sleepers and chronically homeless people in inner Sydney and Newcastle. These services include long-term accommodation and access to general health, mental health, and drug and alcohol support;
- More help for women and their children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to domestic and family violence through the Start Safely Rental Subsidy Scheme, with support services in the Western Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter areas;

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- A new approach for people leaving correctional, health or out of home care facilities to ensure early access to accommodation and support; and
- New tenancy support projects in the Richmond/Tweed and Mid-North Coast areas that will help families to maintain their tenancies.

Regional homelessness action plans are a key component of the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*. They will help achieve better coordination and collaboration across the service system and enable services and community organisations to provide input into the implementation of the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan* on a local level.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet chaired the Homelessness Working Group responsible for developing the *NSW Homelessness Action Plan*. Housing NSW is leading the implementation of the Plan.

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CHAIR: *Regarding the Aboriginal issue, the budget papers state that Aboriginal Trust Fund repayments have closed from 31 May 2009 and people have to make application. Are there any funds still in the trust fund? If so, what will happen to them? Can any person still make a late application?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *As you are aware, on 13 March 2009 the Government announced reforms to the scheme to build on the achievements to date and to ensure a more efficient and fair system for the repayment of moneys. I will not go through the changes now. However, one of the difficulties facing applicants under the old scheme was a lack of records even where there was a strong likelihood that moneys were owed. Now when there are no records but other supporting evidence exists, the panel can recommend that an applicant receive an ex gratia payment of \$11,000. That figure is based on the average repayment made under this scheme. I have a bit of information, but I am mindful of the time and I am happy to provide it in writing.*

CHAIR: *How much is left in the trust fund?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *I will take that question on notice*

ANSWER: Answered during hearing. See Page 31 of the transcript.

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The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: *But does 3.3 of the code not require that where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest that had to be placed on the register?*

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Mr O'REILLY: Yes, it does. With regard to Minister Judge, I would have to check whether there is anything on a register. As I explained earlier, the General Counsel keeps the register.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: And you will find out that?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes, I will.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Seeing we are talking about General Counsel now—in a sense that is the first time it has been identified and that is the person who does it, and I am not being critical—is there a protocol supplied by General Counsel with regard to the maintenance of that register, guidelines as to how he or she is to maintain the register?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes, there is and I can get those for you.

CHAIR: You will take that on notice?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Is there an audit process to ensure that General Counsel complies with the protocol that is in place for the maintenance of the register?

Mr O'REILLY: I will have to check that for you. The question you ask is that, logically, we should have an audit of that process but I would need to check whether an audit has been conducted.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: No, I did not ask whether one has been done. I might get to that later. I am just asking whether there is a process that deals with ensuring that in fact this is not a document or book in some form that simply gathers dust in a corner.

Mr O'REILLY: No, it certainly does not do that. If a matter was raised with the General Counsel that there was a possible conflict of interest, the General Counsel would follow that up and check to see whether there was a conflict of interest. If there is a conflict, it needs to get recorded on the register and a declaration made.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: I am not being rude; I understand that would be your expectation. In a sense what I am asking is: That being your expectation, how do you ensure that General Counsel actually does what he or she is supposed to do?

Mr O'REILLY: In the nine months of being there it has never arisen.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Is that not half the issue? You have to have processes in place to ensure that things are happening without you having to wander into everyone's office in the place making sure that they are doing their job?

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Mr O'REILLY: That is right.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: I am asking what that process is.

Mr O'REILLY: I am saying that it has never arisen. I would have to find out what the process is.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: And you will come back to us?

Mr O'REILLY: I will.

ANSWER: The Ministerial Code of Conduct obliges Ministers to provide information to the Premier about certain pecuniary interests of themselves and, if required by the Premier, of their spouses and their dependent children. The types of pecuniary interests in respect of which disclosures are required to be made include those that are required to be disclosed by all Members of Parliament under the *Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983*.

Declarations of pecuniary interests are provided by Ministers to the Premier and are received by the Premier's Office. Once reviewed, they are forwarded to the Department of Premier and Cabinet to be kept on the confidential Register of Interests. The Register is held in the Department's Legal Branch.

The disclosure of a pecuniary interest by a Minister does not necessarily mean that the particular interest will or may give rise to a conflict of interest with respect to the Minister's duties as a Minister. The information is provided for the Premier's information to give the Premier the opportunity to consider, including if necessary in consultation with the Minister, whether any steps need to be taken to avoid potential conflicts or potential perceived conflicts, either now or in the future.

The Ministerial Code of Conduct makes clear, however, that it is the responsibility of Ministers to avoid situations in which they have or might reasonably be thought to have a private interest which conflicts with their public duty. The Code also makes clear that the responsibility for knowing of any actual or apparent conflicts of interest remains at all times with the individual Minister.

In addition to the routine disclosure of pecuniary interests as outlined above, section 3.3 of the Ministerial Code of Conduct requires that, if any actual or apparent conflict of interest does arise or is likely to arise in the exercise of a Minister's office, the Minister must disclose and make a specific declaration in writing to the Premier of the nature of that conflict.

For the purposes of the Code, a Minister is taken to have such an interest in a matter if the range of possible decision or action includes decision or action reasonably capable of conferring a pecuniary or other personal advantage on the Minister themselves, or on the spouse or any child of the Minister.

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For the purposes of the Code, a spouse means a person to whom the Minister is married, or a person (of the same or different sex) with whom the Minister is either in a registered relationship under the *Registered Relationships Act 2010* or in a de facto relationship. A person is in a de facto relationship with another person if they have a relationship as a couple living together (and are not married to one another or related by family).

However, the Minister is not taken to have such an interest if the advantage (to themselves, their spouse or child) is no greater than the advantage that would be conferred by the decision or action on any member of the public at large, or any substantial section of the public.

Reference to a conflict of interest is reference to a possible conflict of interest between the interest in question and the Minister's duty as a Minister.

In the event that a conflict of interest was to arise, the action to be taken to eliminate or otherwise appropriately manage the conflict would depend on the particular circumstances.

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Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *You are a member of the Opposition. I am advised that staff in the Premier's and Ministers' offices are employed as special temporary employees. That is in accordance with the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. Staff in the office of the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are employed under the same scheme. Redundancy payments have been made to former staff of Premiers Carr, Iemma, Rees and Deputy Premiers Watkins and Refshauge, just as they were for the former staff of Mr Collins, Ms Chikarovski, Mr Brogden, Mr Debnam and Mr Souris. If you would like us to provide you with the quanta of the staff of Mr Collins, Ms Chikarovski, Mr Brogden, Mr Debnam and Mr Souris, we are happy to give that to you.*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *I would be more than happy for you to do that, but I guarantee the ones that you are about to go through within the ministry will be a darn sight worse, with what you have gone through between just Mr Rees and you in terms of the number of people who have been sacked and their chiefs of staff.*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *Is that a question?*

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *No, it is more a blatant observation.*

CHAIR: *We will keep to questions at this stage.*

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The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: So we are clear, even if we exclude Dahle Suget, who has gone for other reasons, are you able to identify—it is obviously not a memory test exercise—what the cost of the redundancies on your transition has been?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: First of all, I am advised that the average compensation under Coalition members—

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Premier, with respect, I am asking what the cost is—

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Mr Gallacher just asked a question and I can answer it.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: No, I am asking a question.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: I did not ask a question; I made an observation, remember.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: You were happy for me to provide the information.

CHAIR: He did ask—

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Thank you, Reverend Nile.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: No, actually—

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Sorry, the Chair is speaking.

CHAIR: He was happy for you to provide the information.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: As well as hers.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am advised that the average compensation under the Liberal members' offices was 48 weeks. I am advised that the average compensation under Labor is 24 weeks.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Are you able to indicate what the cost is of the redundancy payments that have been incurred in the transition from Premier Rees to you?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I do not have a quantum but I am more than happy to take that on notice.

ANSWER: The cost of staff severance in the office of former Premier Rees was \$997,903.04.

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The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: What was Minister Ian Macdonald's involvement in the organisation of those jaunts?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: First of all, I reject your characterisation of them as "jaunts". I would also note that the Leader of the Opposition has spoken about the value of face-to-face business exchange and has spoken quite highly of his determination that that occur. Secondly, on the issue of Ian Macdonald, I have no memory or recollection of his involvement.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: How does Matt Brown about a month later fit into these excursions to the Middle East?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Again, I would reject your characterisation. Again, I have no recollection whatsoever that Mr Brown was involved in my leading the delegation to Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: But we had three Ministers within three months go on trips for four days to the Middle East. Do you get a bulk discount on fares? It seems to be a heck of a lot of short trips to the Middle East.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Do you have a question?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: What was his reason for being there?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I do not know. I was not his Minister; I was not involved with his trip. We are happy to take that on notice and provide you with information.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Thank you. Would you also try to see if you can identify any other Ministers who had been doing their sabbatical in the Middle East as well?

ANSWER:

Ex Ministers Brown and Macdonald, former Premier Rees, and Minister Firth all took trips to the Middle East between November 2007 and May 2009 to promote New South Wales as a business and tourism centre. The Premier led a trade delegation of NSW businesswomen to the Middle East in November 2007.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: Premier, in answer to a question from me earlier this afternoon about the State Plan you talked about the Federal Government's 20 per cent renewable energy target, and you talked about implementing that renewable energy target here in New South Wales. Premier, are you saying that your Government is committed to building 20 per cent renewable energy here in New South Wales?

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Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I can provide you with some additional information from when you asked your question. Let us see if we can assist you.

ANSWER: The NSW Government is committed to achieving the State Plan target of 20% renewable energy consumption by 2020 in light of the Australian Government's expanded renewable energy target.

The NSW Government has established six renewable energy precincts across NSW in areas with the best-known wind resources in order to streamline the planning and approval process for wind developers. These include the New England Tablelands, Upper Hunter, Central Tablelands, NSW/ACT Border Region, South Coast and Cooma-Monaro.

Other state-wide reforms have been introduced for renewable energy. Projects with a capacity of 30 megawatts or more are deemed 'critical infrastructure' and development application fees are being waived until 30 June 2011. Dedicated renewable energy staff are in place to help drive regional initiatives and improve knowledge and understanding of renewable energy.

The NSW Government is developing a Clean Energy Strategy to further support the transition to a cleaner energy future. This strategy will build on the NSW Government's existing programs and support the achievement of our climate change and renewable energy targets to ensure our future power supply is cleaner, and more affordable and reliable.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: I want to ask you about two things you just said. First, you said that you have replaced the target of returning to the year 2000 levels by 2025 by a 5 per cent cut by 2020. You are saying that the target—

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: This will go a lot faster, Mr Khan, if you face this way.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: It is less painful if I turn around.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: It is most painful if I face you, but I do it anyway.

Dr John KAYE: Are you saying that 5 per cent reduction by 2020 was in the State Plan?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am saying that the changes that we have introduced include as I have just outlined.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: You are saying that the State Plan had a 5 per cent reduction by 2020? Is that what you are telling the Committee?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Yes, what I am telling you is that our priorities—

Dr JOHN KAYE: Could you give us a number within the State Plan where that occurs?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I do not have the State Plan in front of me but I am happy to come back to you on that.

ANSWER: The NSW Government's long term target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions remains unchanged and we have a range of initiatives focused on achieving a 60 per cent cut in greenhouse emissions by 2050, in line with current Federal Government targets.

Our interim target of reducing greenhouse emissions to 2000 levels by 2025 was removed so it could be reset in line with the implementation of the Federal Emissions Trading Scheme.

Performance against the interim and longer term target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions continues to be measured and is publicly available in our Annual Performance Report and on our State Plan website.

The most recent projection provided in our 2010 Annual Performance Report is that the interim target will be met with greenhouse gas emissions below 2000 levels by 2025, on the basis of a 5% Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), 2011-2050.

In 2003, the NSW Government established the world's first mandatory market in greenhouse gas emissions.

We continue to support a national carbon pricing mechanism as we believe a national scheme would allow the best and most efficient investment decisions and the greatest level of policy certainty.

The NSW Government is tackling climate change and developing a cleaner energy future for the State. We are developing a Clean Energy Strategy to drive change in the energy sector to ensure our future power supply is cleaner, more affordable and reliable.

The NSW Government is supporting clean energy and the low carbon jobs needed to deliver climate change solutions.

This includes through the NSW Government's \$700 million climate change fund to support low carbon jobs and help households, schools and businesses become more sustainable. For example:

- \$170 million in NSW Home Saver Rebates providing rebates for hot water systems, hot water circulators, rainwater tanks, dual flush toilets and washing machines.

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- \$30 million for the Public Facilities program to support water and energy saving upgrades in public and community facilities in NSW.
 - \$20 million for the School Energy Efficiency program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from NSW public high schools. Participating schools can benefit from lighting retrofits and a Student Savings Fund which provides up to \$18,000 per high school for students to select and fund their own energy efficiency projects.
 - \$20 million for the Rainwater Tanks in Schools program.
 - An Energy Efficiency Strategy, including a \$63 million Home Power Savings Program that helps 220,000 low income households save energy with free home assessments, a power savings kit and a home action plan, and a \$20 million expansion of the Sustainability Advantage Program to help an extra 800 medium and large businesses save energy and water and reduce waste.
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CHAIR: *I note in the budget papers that there have been 1,550 government appointments. What percentage of those appointments are women?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *That is a very good question, Reverend Nile.*

CHAIR: *And what process is in place to encourage 50:50 representation?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *I am aware that the Minister for Women has been doing some work in this area. I do not seek to anticipate any decisions or announcements she might be making. I would flag there has been some substantial work underway in the Minister for Women's portfolio. I am just looking to see if we can provide you with that figure. It will take a moment to locate it in the vast paperwork we have here to support us. Once we find it I will advise you.*

ANSWER: The actual number of appointments in FY 2009/2010 was 1,468 with 566 of those appointments women, which equates to 38.6% of appointments.

The NSW Government has announced a targeted consultation process to investigate ways to increase the number of women on NSW Government boards and committees. The consultation process involves key stakeholders and experts such as Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Ms Elizabeth Broderick. Throughout the process the Government is investigating a range of issues, including the benefits of gender targets, family friendly guidelines, or even legislating. The outcomes of these discussions will assist the Government to develop policy proposals in this area.

The consultation will build on measures the Government has already taken to increase the representation of women on boards and committees. The Government has established the NSW Government Register for Boards and Committees. The register provides a list of potential candidates to fill board and committee positions, and is consulted by Ministers and government departments. The Government encourages women to place their names on

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the register, and as at June this year 693 women were registered. The register can be accessed at www.boards.dpc.nsw.gov.au and a copy of the consultation paper is available at www.women.nsw.gov.au

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CHAIR: *I will move on to another target, but I do not believe the budget papers have given a figure. What is the target figure for the number of apprentices to be employed in the government sector?*

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: *That is also information we can provide for you. Whilst we are seeking to secure that information, which I understand is at hand, I can provide some information for a previous question to Mr Gallacher. I am advised that Mr Wedderburn's payout was \$97,498. I am advised that Mr Gleeson's payout was \$68,131.*

As for the apprenticeships and cadetships question that you asked, yes, the Government has announced 4,000 new apprentices and 2,000 new cadets that will be employed over the next four years. Since the beginning of 2009 a total of 2,264 young people started an apprenticeship and 512 had started a cadetship. They work in transport, energy, water supply, human services, health, housing and environmental management. That is for the apprenticeships. Cadets work in office administration, customer service, health care, IT support and tourism. Of course, these apprenticeships and cadetships are available both in Sydney and in regional centres. On the issue of the percentage of women on boards and committees, we will take that on notice and come back to you. The figure does exist. We simply do not have it at hand.

ANSWER: In February 2009 the Government announced that 4000 new apprentices would be employed over four years. As at 30 June 2010, 2264 young people had started an apprenticeship.

ANSWER: As at 13 September 2010, women represent 37 per cent of all members of NSW Government boards and committees.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: *Is it correct that your office currently employs 28 staff?*

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Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Yes. I am advised that that is one less than our allocation.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Why is that more than the number employed by Nathan Rees, your predecessor?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am advised that that is not accurate.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: Why is it not accurate?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am advised that that is not the case. I am happy to provide you with the staffing numbers.

ANSWER: Former Premier Rees had up to 30 staff, whereas the Premier's office has not exceeded 28 staff.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: How many ministerial advisers have been made redundant by the Government?

Mr O'REILLY: I would have to get you that information. Over what period?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: In the time you have been there.

Mr O'REILLY: I will take that question on notice.

ANSWER: Twenty six (26) Ministers' staff received severance payments in the period from 4 January 2010 to 13 September 2010.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: This is the time for Opposition questions. Premier, I draw your attention to your website, which shows that 26 staff are employed—

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Where?

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: You have 28 staff in your office and Mr Rees employed 26.6 staff members.

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: I am not aware of that, but I am happy to take the question on notice and to provide you with the information we have. I am advised differently and I will provide you with that information.

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The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER: If your previous answer is incorrect, will you withdraw it?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Absolutely.

CHAIR: You will take that question on notice and provide a comparison?

Ms KRISTINA KENEALLY: Absolutely.

ANSWER: The published staff numbers are snapshots each six months that do not reveal variations in staffing levels at other times.

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Dr JOHN KAYE: Will you provide on notice the number of people on the unattached list as a percentage of the total number of full-time equivalent public servants? Will you also provide the amount spent on the 40 people on that list for more than 12 months as a percentage of the salaries budget, including on-costs?

Mr O'REILLY: Yes.

ANSWER: As at 31 August 2010 there were 285 excess employees. This is 0.09 per cent of the full-time equivalent public sector workforce at June 2009.

Information concerning the wages costs of excess employees is not collected centrally and would only be available from agencies' pay records.

REDFERN WATERLOO AUTHORITY

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Dr JOHN KAYE: Can we now go to Redfern-Waterloo, for the sake of Mr Foley if for no other reason? Can we talk about the voluntary planning agreements and affordable housing levies that have been implemented in the Redfern-Waterloo area? Verbally can you give us a ballpark figure and, if necessary, give us a more accurate figure on notice? How much has been raised so far by those agreements?

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Mr WAKELIN-KING: *I can advise that the Redfern-Waterloo Authority and Frasers Property have entered into a voluntary planning agreement for the payment of \$32 million over the course of six years. I should note for the Committee's benefit it is just over \$32 million and I can't get the precise figure for you. Those payments were to be made in \$6 million instalments. We have received two of those instalments over the course of the last financial year and on 1 July this financial year, being a total of \$12 million.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *Have any affordable housing levies been collected so far, for example, from the RSL site or Rachel Forster?*

Mr WAKELIN-KING: *We are currently in negotiations with the appropriate parties because the RSL site has agreed to make it a value-in-kind payment. In terms of the affordable housing contribution, I need to take that on notice and I will get back to the Committee.*

ANSWER: \$600,000

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Dr JOHN KAYE: *With the RSL site, can you provide the Committee with details as to what that value in kind is, what its value is, and what you are going to do with it?*

Mr WAKELIN-KING: *The agreement will be with the Department of Planning who is the consent authority, but I can advise that the in-kind agreement that is currently under consideration will be for enhancement to Redfern Lane, which is the connecting point between Gibbons Street and Regent Street, and the enhancement of that lane to the public benefit.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *And Rachel Foster?*

Mr WAKELIN-KING: *Rachel Foster I will have to take on notice.*

ANSWER: There have been no contributions received for the Rachel Forster hospital. This requirement is only triggered by a subsequent Project application approval, which is pending.