



**Chris Hartcher MP**  
Minister for Resources and Energy  
Special Minister of State and  
Minister for the Central Coast

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013**

Portfolio Areas of –

**RESOURCES AND ENERGY, SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, CENTRAL COAST**

The Hon. Robert Brown (Chair),

Please find attached the following documents relating to the Budget Estimates hearing for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State and the Central Coast.

- Answers to questions highlighted in the transcript
- Answers to further QON lodged by Members

Due date – Wednesday 11 September 2013.

Yours sincerely,

**Chris Hartcher MP**



**Chris Hartcher MP**  
Minister for Resources and Energy  
Special Minister of State and  
Minister for the Central Coast

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE RELATING TO THE PORTFOLIOS OF  
RESOURCES & ENERGY, SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTER FOR THE  
CENTRAL COAST**

**FRIDAY 16 AUGUST 2013, 9.00am – 1.00pm**

**RESOURCES & ENERGY**

**QUESTION 1**

Has the Minister undergone any further consultation with industry and affected stakeholders in the mining and the fossil fuel energy sector since the consultation period for Renewable Energy Action Plan closed?

- a. If so -
  - i. what was the nature of that consultation?
  - ii. what were the outcomes from that consultation?

**ANSWER**

The Renewable Energy Action Plan will be released shortly.

The Honourable Member can be assured that, as with the draft Renewable Energy Action Plan, all wasteful green schemes will be excluded from the final Plan.

## **QUESTION 2**

Can the Minister please explain why a solar roof top feed-in tariff was not included in the draft Renewable Energy Action Plan?

## **ANSWER**

Unlike the former Labor Government, the NSW Government will not force NSW households to foot the bill for financially unsustainable solar tariff schemes.

The Government will continue doing all it can to rein in rising electricity prices caused by the Solar Bonus Scheme.

### **QUESTION 3**

Can the Minister please provide a breakdown of the \$2.5 billion in projected savings from the restructuring of the electricity network as announced on 23 April 2013?

### **ANSWER**

I am advised that the baseline used to calculate savings for the NSW Government's Network Reform program was the original forecast contained in the 2010/11 Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI), for the five-year period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016.

The 2010/11 SCI assumed that the sum of operational and capital expenditure for this five-year period was \$26 billion.

The first phase of the network reform initiative delivered actual and forecast savings of \$1.9 billion across Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy over the five-year period. In addition, further initiatives are expected to deliver another \$0.6 billion in savings. Together, this brings the total savings from the NSW Government's Network Reform Program to \$2.5 billion.

I understand that the forecast five-year savings against the 2010/11 baseline will be updated as part of the 2013/14 SCI process.

#### **QUESTION 4**

What review processes has the Minister undertaken on Transgrid's proposed construction of a 330kv transmission line from Bonshaw to Lismore?

- a. How does the Minister respond to the community's call for an Independent Review of the proposal?

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised that following completion of the NSW Government's Mid-North Coast Review, TransGrid has launched a project review of the transmission line known as Dumaresq to Lismore (near Bonshaw).

## **QUESTION 5**

What has the Minister done to ensure electricity companies are exploring less destructive alternatives to tree-clearing which have greater respect for the amenity of the streetscape?

## **ANSWER**

The Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001, Part 10 – Tree Preservation, clauses 136-138, stipulates requirements for preservation of trees, tree management plans and consultation with councils and the general public. The Electricity Network Operators must conform to these Regulations and strict penalties apply for violations.

## **QUESTION 6**

What is the Minister doing to ensure that electricity companies are appropriately engaging with the local community on the issues of:

- a. Tree-clearing and lopping?
- b. Underground cabling?

## **ANSWER**

The Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001, Part 10 – Tree Preservation, clauses 136-138, stipulates requirements for preservation of trees, tree management plans, and consultation with councils and the general public. The Electricity Network Operators must conform to these Regulations and strict penalties apply for violations.

Part 11 of the Electricity Supply (General) Regulation – Infrastructure Protection specifies requirements for notification of excavation or work near underground electricity power lines.

There are industry guidelines in force which also relate to the above matters.

## **QUESTION 7**

How is the government monitoring and encouraging the electricity companies to make energy efficiency improvements on the grid and in street lighting?

## **ANSWER**

The Member will be aware that the NSW Government recently announced that 41 councils across Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter will become the first in Australia to be a part of a grid-wide rollout of LED streetlights. Essential Energy and Endeavour Energy are looking to pursue similar options.



### **QUESTION 8**

What were the results of the NSW Government's Wind Farm audit that was announced last year?

- a. If the results are unavailable,
  - i. why has the audit taken so long?
  - ii. when will the results be available?

### **ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Planning.

**QUESTIONS 9, 10, 11**

9. Can the Minister outline the Government's plan for reducing carbon emissions in NSW?
10. What resources, if any, has the government allocated to reducing carbon emissions in NSW?
11. What policy measures, if any, does the government intend to introduce to reduce carbon emissions in NSW?

**ANSWER**

The NSW Government remains committed to reaching its target of 20% renewable energy by 2020.

## **QUESTION 12**

Can the Minister please explain the impacts of keeping the total budget for the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance program at \$15 million while increasing the EAPA voucher from \$30-\$50?

- a. Although this increase is welcome, did the government underspend on this item last year or will the number of people receiving assistance decrease?
- b. Has the government considered redirecting the underspend from the Family Energy Rebate to boost overall funding for EAPA, which goes to households in crisis and at risk of having their power disconnected?

## **ANSWER**

Unlike the previous Government, the O'Farrell Government is committed to providing targeted, ongoing assistance to help households and families struggling to manage the impacts of the Labor Government's legacy of power price rises.

The Government increased the total funds available to assist customers in 2013/14. NSW Trade & Investment carefully monitors the EAPA scheme to ensure the maximum number of vouchers is used to assist customers.

**QUESTION 13**

What opportunities are going to be made for government schools to reduce the ever increasing utility expenses for operating? Are there grants, concessions or any such programs in the works?

**ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Education.

#### **QUESTION 14**

Is the Minister aware that Transgrid's website states in reference to Far North NSW - Dumaresq to Lismore transmission line that "the latest forecast data indicates the project may not be required until sometime in the 2020s"?

- a. If so, has this been taken into account in assessing the need for the project?

#### **ANSWER**

I am advised that as part of its normal planning and reviewing processes, TransGrid reviews the need, scope and proposed timing when updated load forecasts become available. TransGrid will continue to review the need for the line and report the outcome of that review each year.

### **QUESTION 15 - URANIUM**

Has the Minister requested any companies or entities (eg NSW Aboriginal Land Council) apply for uranium exploration licenses in NSW?

#### **ANSWER**

No.

### **QUESTION 16 - URANIUM**

Which companies/entities were asked to apply?

#### **ANSWER**

The Expression of Interest process is not yet finalised.

### **QUESTION 17 - URANIUM**

Some companies submitted multiple expressions of interest for uranium exploration. What are the specific regions or locations that have been identified by companies that are being asked to apply for licenses?

#### **ANSWER**

The Expression of Interest process is not yet finalised.

### **QUESTION 18 - URANIUM**

What is the deadline for companies/entities to submit the applications?

#### **ANSWER**

The period for submission of expressions of interest (EOI) closed in November 2012. Following completion of the EOI process, successful companies will be invited to apply for an Exploration Licence.

### **QUESTION 19 - URANIUM**

Is there any opportunity for public comment at the application stage?

#### **ANSWER**

The Expression of Interest process is not yet finalised.

## **QUESTION 20 - URANIUM**

When is exploration activity expected to begin?

### **ANSWER**

Following the completion of the EOI process, successful applicants will then need to apply for an exploration licence.

## **QUESTION 21 - URANIUM**

How many parcels and what total area of land is expected to be under exploration for uranium in NSW after issuing of the exploration licences?

### **ANSWER**

The Expression of interest process is not finalised.

## QUESTION 22 - DOYLES CREEK

Why has the Doyles Creek Exploration Licence been renewed, given that it is located adjacent to the historic and heritage zoned village of Jerrys Plains, the Wollemi National Park (part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area), the Hunter River, and is located on government-identified *prime agricultural land*, as well as two major Hunter tributaries, Appletree Creek and Doyles Creek?

- a. Will the Government commit to refusing the Doyle's Creek Coal Project application?

## ANSWER

Exploration Licence 7270 held by Doyles Creek Mining Pty Limited has not been renewed.

- a. This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

## QUESTION 23 - INSTITUTE FOR FRONTIER GEOSCIENCE

Why is the NSW Department of Trade & Investment involved in a joint funding arrangement with disgraced miner Doyles Creek Mining, to fund the NSW Institute for Frontier Geoscience?

- a. How many people have been trained by the Institute for Frontier Geoscience?
- b. What quantum of funding has the Government provided to this institute?
- c. Is Brad Mullard still the Chair of this the Institute's advisory committee?
- d. For what period has Brad Mullard served on the advisory committee, and in what roles?

## ANSWER

The agreement was between the Department of Primary Industries and the University of Newcastle to provide seed funding for the position of Chair in the NSW Institute of Frontier Geoscience.

The University of Newcastle entered into a separate agreement with Doyles Creek Mining for funding of the NSW Institute of Frontier Geoscience.

The University of Newcastle has advised:

- a. Since 2011, 342 undergraduate students, three honours supervision students, and five PhD supervision students have been trained. Forty students have also attended professional training courses.
- b. The NSW Government, through a funding agreement with the University of Newcastle, provided \$1 million over four years from 2009 to 2012.
- c. Mr Brad Mullard resigned as Chair in March 2013.
- d. Mr Brad Mullard has served on the advisory committee since its inception in February 2012.



## **QUESTION 24 - LOW EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGIES**

Budget Paper 3, p 8-6 lists \$19 million for research and development of low emissions technologies.

- a. What are these 'low emissions' technologies?
- b. What body or bodies receive this funding?
- c. Does the Government consider these funds as subsidies to the fossil fuel industry?

## **ANSWER**

Low emission coal technologies increase the energy efficiency and improve the environmental performance of burning coal to produce electricity.

The Coal Innovation NSW Fund has provided grant funding into the research and development of low emission coal technologies. Information is available on the Division of Resources website.

## **QUESTION 25 - NEW FRONTIERS PRE-EXPLORATION DATA**

In regards to the \$28 million over 4 years for the New Frontiers pre-exploration data collection, what resources does this program target?

- a. Will the government commit to excluding such funds from being used for exploration of fossil fuels?
- b. Does the Government consider these funds as subsidies to the fossil fuel industry?

## **ANSWER**

The New Frontiers minerals and energy exploration initiative has the key aim to increase exploration investment in the State through the provision of pre-competitive geoscience information. I would be interested to know how these funds could be considered subsidies given New Frontiers is funded by the mineral and petroleum annual rental fees.

## **QUESTION 26 - ROYALTY RATE**

In light of the declining revenue from coal royalties, will the government commit to increasing the royalty rate on coal in order to increase government revenue?

## **ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

## **QUESTION 27 - ROYALTY RATE**

Will the government investigate increasing the royalty rate on other minerals, such as gold, in order to increase government revenue?

## **ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**QUESTION 28 - COBBORA COAL MINE**

In light of the falling coal price and excess supply, why is the Government proceeding with the Cobbora coal mine?

**ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**QUESTION 29 - COBBORA COAL MINE**

What works are being undertaken at the Cobbora coal project? What planning approvals is the Cobbora Holding Company operating under?

**ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

**QUESTION 30 - COBBORA COAL MINE**

Assuming it gets planning approval, does the Government plan to sell the Cobbora coal project?

**ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

**QUESTION 31 - COBBORA COAL MINE**

In light of Cobbora's low quality coal and high ash content, what price per tonne could be expected?

**ANSWER**

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

## **QUESTION 32 - ANTIMONY / GOLD**

Does the government support gold mining and rare earth mining on the Dorrigo plateau in the headwaters of the Clarence and Macleay rivers?

### **ANSWER**

Before any mining is approved or supported it is subject to development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. As part of the assessment process, proponents are required to prepare and submit a comprehensive environmental assessment that addresses all potential impacts of the proposal, including impacts on the environment and water resources, as well as cumulative impacts.

Following the release of plans and policies under the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, the NSW Government now requires proponents to also include an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) in their environmental assessment. The AIS is required to ensure a focused assessment on the potential impacts of mining activities on agricultural resources or industries. The planning process also provides for community and agency consultation.

## **QUESTION 33**

In light of Anchor Resources breaching its Wild Cattle Creek exploration licence near Dorrigo in December 2011, why has the government approved a further exploration licence around the Dundurrabin area in the headwaters of the Clarence catchment?

### **ANSWER**

Anchor Resources Limited has been requested by NSW Trade & Investment to complete further rehabilitation of some drilling sites in the Wild Cattle Creek area.

All exploration licence applications are carefully assessed by the Division of Resources & Energy in line with Government policies and procedures.

## **THE CENTRAL COAST**

### **QUESTION 1**

As Minister for the Central Coast what specific steps did you take to preserve the free loop bus service in the Gosford CBD?

### **ANSWER**

As Minister for the Central Coast I make representations on a number of issues.

### **QUESTION 2**

What specific programs funded by the 2013-2014 budget will target unemployment on the Central Coast?

### **ANSWER**

See Budget papers.

### **QUESTION 3**

How many NSW public sector jobs on the Central Coast are expected to be made redundant over the 2013-2014 budget period?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

### **QUESTION 4**

As Minister for the Central Coast what steps have you taken to improve the funding of palliative care services on the Central Coast?

### **ANSWER**

As Minister for the Central Coast I make representations on a number of issues.

### **QUESTION 5**

Which State Government Department(s) are going to be relocated to the Gosford Public School site?

### **ANSWER**

This is to be determined in consultation with the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation.

**QUESTION 6**

As Minister for the Central Coast have you made any representations to the Minister for Education and Communities over the building of a new public high school in Warnervale?

**ANSWER**

As Minister for the Central Coast I make representations to other Ministers as appropriate.

**QUESTION 7**

What specific programs funded by the 2013-2014 budget will target homelessness on the Central Coast?

**ANSWER****QUESTION 8**

As Minister for the Central Coast have you made any representations to the Minister for Police over increasing police numbers on the Central Coast?

**ANSWER**

As Minister for the Central Coast I make representations to other Ministers as appropriate.

**QUESTION 9**

As Minister for the Central Coast have you made any representations to the Minister for Family and Community Services with respect to the shortage of DoCS case workers on the Central Coast?

**ANSWER**

As Minister for the Central Coast I make representations to other Ministers as appropriate.

## **GENERAL**

### **QUESTION 1**

On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

### **ANSWER**

I meet with a number of stakeholders in my capacity as Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State and Minister for the Central Coast.

### **QUESTION 2**

Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

### **QUESTION 3**

On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

### **QUESTION 4**

To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

### **QUESTION 5**

In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

## **QUESTION 6**

Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any interstate or intrastate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?

### **ANSWER**

Yes.

## **QUESTION 7**

Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all travel?

### **ANSWER**

This information is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log.

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at

[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/156026/Official\\_Travel\\_Policy\\_within\\_Australia\\_and\\_Overseas\\_-\\_August\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf)

## **QUESTION 8**

Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

## **QUESTION 9**

What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

## **QUESTION 10**

Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?

### **ANSWER**

See previous response.



**QUESTION 11**

Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 12**

Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 13**

Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 14**

Have you had meetings scheduled interstate or intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 15**

Did you take your spouse/partner on these trips?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

#### **QUESTION 16**

Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?

#### **ANSWER**

See response to LC QON 4672.

#### **QUESTION 17**

If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?

#### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

#### **QUESTION 18**

How many blackberries or smart phones are assigned to your staff?

#### **ANSWER**

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices.

#### **QUESTION 19**

For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?

#### **ANSWER**

The total expenditure on all phone types by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the department's financial system is set out in the table below. Please note that this expenditure may include mobile phone purchase costs as the financial system does not separate the purchase costs and mobile usage charges.

|              | <b>2007-08</b> | <b>2008-09</b> | <b>2009-10</b> | <b>2010-11</b> | <b>2011-12</b> | <b>2012-13</b> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | \$483,310      | \$578,691      | \$434,854      | \$188,761      | \$197,226      | \$232,286      |

Note: 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of the Keneally Government and 3 months of the O'Farrell Government.

**QUESTION 20**

How many have phones have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER**

0.

**QUESTION 21**

What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 22**

How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER**

The number of iPads issued for the Premier's office and Ministers' offices for 2012/13 is 75.

**QUESTION 23**

How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER**

iPads are supplied by the Department of Premier and Cabinet and have not been purchased by Ministers' offices.

**QUESTION 24**

How many iPhones or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER**

169 phones have been issued to the Premier's Office and Ministers' Offices.

**QUESTION 25**

How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

**ANSWER**

0.

**QUESTION 26**

How many iPhones or other smart phones have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER**

0.

**QUESTION 27**

How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?

**ANSWER**

0.

**QUESTION 28**

What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 29**

How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

**ANSWER**

I refer you to my answer to this identical question asked in each of the past two years, and provided to the Committee.

**QUESTION 30**

What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 31**

Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?

**ANSWER**

I refer you to my answer to this identical question asked in each of the past two years, and provided to the Committee.

**QUESTION 32**

If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 33**

What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

**QUESTION 34**

What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 35**

What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 36**

What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?

**ANSWER**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log)

**QUESTION 37**

Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?

**ANSWER**

Information on the assets balances for leasehold improvements are available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report.

**QUESTION 38**

If so, could you give details of contracted costs?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 39**

What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?

**ANSWER**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log)

**QUESTION 40**

How many political advisors are in your office?

**ANSWER**

Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

**QUESTION 41**

How many administration staff?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 42**

How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?

**ANSWER**

The assignment of DLOs to Ministerial offices is in accordance with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Circular C2010-35 Department Liaison Officers, implemented under the former Labor Government.

**QUESTION 43**

How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

**ANSWER**

Agency staff numbers are in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 44**

Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office? If so, in what capacities?

**ANSWER**

No.

**QUESTION 45**

How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 46**

How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2012/13 financial year?

**ANSWER**

Taxi expenditure by the Premier's office and Ministers' offices as represented in the Department's financial system is represented in the table below.

|              | <b>2008-09</b> | <b>2009-10</b> | <b>2010-11</b> | <b>2011-12</b> | <b>2012-13</b> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | \$160,155      | \$175,776      | \$60,277       | \$96,094       | \$92,829       |

Note: 2010-11 figures are a combination of 9 months of the Keneally Government and 3 months of the O'Farrell Government.

**QUESTION 47**

Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?

**ANSWER**

No.

**QUESTION 48**

How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 49**

How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.



**QUESTION 50**

How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?

**ANSWER**

Five offers of voluntary redundancy have been made up to 30 June 2013 in the Division of Resources & Energy within NSW Trade and Investment.

**QUESTION 51**

How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?

**ANSWER**

Five employees have accepted offers of redundancy up to 30 June 2013 in the Division of Resources & Energy within NSW Trade and Investment.

**QUESTION 52**

How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?

**ANSWER**

See response to Question 47.

**QUESTION 53**

How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2012/13?

**ANSWER**

All agency costs are in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 54**

How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2012/13?

**ANSWER**

All agency costs are in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 55**

What is your Department's catering budget?

**ANSWER**

All agency costs are in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 56**

What is your Department's stationary budget?

**ANSWER**

The Department does not allocate a specific budget for stationery.

**QUESTION 57**

Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?

**ANSWER**

Yes.

**QUESTION 58**

If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

**ANSWER**

\$53,913.

**QUESTION 59**

How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?

**ANSWER**

I refer you to my answer to this identical question asked in each of the past two years, and provided to the Committee.

**QUESTION 60**

How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

**ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 61**

IN 2012/13 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

**ANSWER**

All payments are made in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 62**

As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

**ANSWER**

All payments are made in accordance with Government guidelines.

**QUESTION 63**

How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

**ANSWER**

NSW Trade & Investment publishes information about invoice payments in the Annual Report.

**QUESTION 64**

Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes:

- a. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
- b. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
- c. On what date was the funding advanced?
- d. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
- e. Was any funding withheld or returned?
- f. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?

- g. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/2013?
- h. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- i. Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?

## **ANSWER**

NSW Government agencies provide grants to local government councils and a range of non-government, non-profit organisations for the purpose of providing a service to the community or to undertake a project of benefit to the community.

Grants administration in New South Wales occurs within the legal and regulatory framework under which the NSW Government operates.

All Government Departments and authorities are required to publish details of grants made to non-government organisations in their annual report. The requirements are set out in Premier's Memorandum 91-34.

This policy has not changed since the change of Government.

## **QUESTION 65**

How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?

## **ANSWER**

All appointments have been made in accordance with Government guidelines.

## **QUESTON 66**

What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?

## **ANSWER**

The Public Service Commission collects workforce data from the NSW public sector, including regarding levels of Aboriginal employment. An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the sector at June 2013 will be included in the Workforce Profile 2013 Report, due to be released with the 2013 State of the Public Sector Report in November 2013. NSW Treasury Circular 11/03 outlines Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Disclosure Requirements, requiring that NSW public sector agencies include EEO data in their annual reports.

### QUESTION 67

How has that changed since 1 July 2012?

### ANSWER

An estimate of the level of Aboriginal employment in the NSW public sector at June 2012 can be found in the Workforce Profile 2012 Report.

This report is available on the PSC website on the Workforce Profile page:  
<http://www.psc.nsw.gov.au/About-the-Public-Sector/workforce-profile>.

### QUESTION 68

Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

### ANSWER

Travel is in accordance with the 'Policy on Official Travel within Australia and Overseas' available at  
[http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/156026/Official\\_Travel\\_Policy\\_within\\_Australia\\_and\\_Overseas\\_-\\_August\\_2013.pdf](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/156026/Official_Travel_Policy_within_Australia_and_Overseas_-_August_2013.pdf).

Details regarding travel costs are published in the Department's Annual Report.

### QUESTION 69

Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

- a. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- b. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- c. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
- d. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
- e. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
- f. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

### ANSWER

I refer you to my answer to this identical question asked last year, and provided to the Committee.

#### **QUESTION 70**

Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2012

- a. kilometres travelled
- b. accommodation
- c. air fares
- d. meals/entertaining?

#### **ANSWER**

Information regarding Premier's Office and Ministerial Offices budget and expenditure is available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet Disclosure Log at [http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing\\_dpc\\_information/dpc\\_disclosure\\_log](http://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/about/accessing_dpc_information/dpc_disclosure_log)

#### **QUESTION 71**

Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2012;

- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?

#### **ANSWER**

Parliamentary Secretaries provide assistance to the Premier and other Ministers, including signing correspondence; receiving deputations; officiating at functions; and assisting the Premier and Ministers in some of their duties. The duties to be performed are those allocated by the Minister, or which have the Minister's endorsement.

#### **QUESTION 72**

How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?

- a. Are these meetings documented?
- b. Who attends these meetings?

#### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

#### **QUESTION 73**

Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

#### **ANSWER**

See previous response.

**QUESTION 74**

Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;

- a. Who conducted the training?
- b. When was it conducted?
- c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- d. Who paid for the training?

**ANSWER**

No.

**QUESTION 75**

Has the Parliamentary Secretary been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary? If so, then;

- a. Who conducted the training?
- b. When was it conducted?
- c. Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
- d. Who paid for the training?

**ANSWER**

No.