

**QUESTION ARISING FROM THE HEARINGS, AS HIGHLIGHTED IN
THE TRANSCRIPT – GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE
NUMBER 1 - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
TREASURY**

9 October 2012

Transcript Page Reference: 6

Question from: The Hon Greg Donnelly

Question:

I am asking: For the period November 2011 to June 2012 was only \$3 million raised (in Waratah Bonds)? I am trying to work out how much has accumulated since the funds got underway.

Answer:

\$30.2 million was raised during this period.

Transcript Page Reference: 21 and 22

Question from: Dr John Kaye

Question:

Dr JOHN KAYE: Treasurer, I turn to the power transaction that your Government got permission from the Parliament to undertake. Can you give us a brief account of how much you have spent so far on the transaction in terms of advice and other matters?

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I have not got the exact details, but obviously we will make that available.

Dr JOHN KAYE: So you will take that on notice?

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Can we get an itemised account of who you have spent it with?

Mr MIKE BAIRD: We will provide the details.

Answer:

Phase One of the Electricity Generation Transaction Project is almost complete. This is the Scoping Studies and Strategy Phase. Projected costs are \$2.7 million for this first Phase for Consultants, Contractors and external experts. The Scoping Study and Strategy Phase costs are expected to come in below projected costs. To date \$825,000 in invoices has been received for Phase One.

Transcript Page Reference: 26

Question from the Hon Reverend Fred Nile

Question: Will you supply to our Committee a copy of your submission (to the GST Review Panel).

Answer:

NSW has submitted three separate submissions and one joint submission with VIC QLD and WA to the GST Review Panel and these are all publicly available at the following website: <http://www.gstdistributionreview.gov.au>

Transcript Page Reference: 28

Question from: The Hon W Secord

Question: How much is the remuneration (for Roger Massy-Greene)?

Answer:

Refer to response to Question Number 1.

Transcript Page Reference: 32

Question from: The Hon W Secord

Question to Treasury: Have you prepared any documentation for the signature of the Treasurer involving these appointments? (The appointment of Mr Massy-Greene).

Answer:

As the Premier told the Committee in Estimates, the paperwork was prepared for the signature of the voting shareholders following the Premier interviewing Mr Massy-Greene and recommending his appointment. It was a merit-based appointment and approved by Cabinet.

Transcript Page Reference: 37

Question: Tomago Aluminium and Macquarie Generation

Question from: Dr John Kaye

Question: How do we know that this is value for money? What were the interruptability provisions in that contract and who is paying for those provisions?

Answer:

The contract between Tomago and Macquarie Generation arose out of commercial negotiations. The interruptability provisions provide commercial advantages for

Macquarie Generation which are reflected in what Tomago Aluminium is charged. Details around these provisions are commercial-in-confidence.

Transcript Page Reference: 39

Question: Appointment of Mr Roger Massey-Greene

Question from: The Hon Walt Secord

Answer:

Refer to response to Question on page 32 of transcript.

Industrial Relations

Transcript Page Reference: 51

Question from: Mr David Shoebridge

Question: Did the Government put out a circular in the last 18 months stating that parents of surrogates and foster parents are not entitled to parental leave?

Answer:

No.

Transcript Page Reference: 59

Question from: Mr David Shoebridge

Question: Can you take on notice any compliance action you have taken?

Answer:

In the first year of the scheme's operation, the Long Service Corporation (LSC) took an educative approach towards industry employers rather than a punitive one. This allowed employers time to get their internal systems and processes developed for quarterly reporting purposes.

Considerable effort was made by LSC to identify industry employers. Data was accessed from the Australian Business Register and employer associations and over 11,000 letters issued to industry participants. Further industry employers were identified using various directory and online services. WorkCover NSW performed a mail out on behalf of LSC to over 1,700 workers' compensation policy holders

classified as being members of the contract cleaning industry. Editorials were placed in the INCLEAN magazine and the NSW IR email update service. Local councils, cleaning franchises, accounting and bookkeeping bodies and other associations were issued with requests to advise their cleaning providers and members of the scheme's existence and of their obligations. Advisory visits were conducted with contractors under the NSW Whole of Government Facilities Management Contract as well as visits to United Voice delegates and the Building Services Contractor Association of Australia's annual general meeting.

In the 2012/13 financial year the approach has shifted to ensuring compliance and any suspected matters of underpaid workers or sham contracting will be referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman.