

**BUDGET ESTIMATES RECALL
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING THE HEARING**

QUESTIONS 1 TO 37

**QUESTION 1, PAGE 2.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

Would you be prepared to tell the Committee whether State Forests had marked vulnerable trees or trees that were inappropriately logged? Did State Forests mark those trees? Were those trees identified?

ANSWER

In relation to alleged breaches of licence conditions in Compartment 344, Baradine State Forest, information has been provided by Forests NSW to the independent regulator the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Forests NSW will cooperate fully with DEC in its enquiries. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further until this issue is resolved with the regulator.

**QUESTION 2, PAGE 5.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

Why will the Government not make a commitment to monitoring programs at Lord Howe Island and Cape Byron marine parks, programs that are necessary to assess the impacts of these parks?

ANSWER

The Government does provide funding for research and monitoring in all marine parks.

**QUESTION 3, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

Of the \$38 million that was allocated for drought assistance in the 2004-05 budget, how much of that funding has already been spent?

ANSWER

I am advised that in excess of \$30 million has been spent.

QUESTION 4, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

What has been the Government's total spending on drought assistance since 2002?

ANSWER

The NSW Government has spent in excess of \$150 million on drought assistance since 2002.

QUESTION 5, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Can you also provide us with a breakdown of the total amount of funding for each drought support program in those figures?

ANSWER

See following table.

Program	Spending (to 2 February 2005)
Pests	\$3,645,633
Fees Waivers	\$5,387,009
Drought Programmes	\$16,523,086
Transport Subsidies	\$62,551,096
Rural Business	\$4,233,724
Training and Animal Welfare	\$1,500,000
EC Interest Subsidies (State's 10% component)	\$10,791,258
Loans to Farmers	\$45,245,345
Town Water	\$6,005,000
Total	\$155,882,151

QUESTION 6, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Turning to the National Livestock Identification Scheme [NLIS], and I refer to the \$2.4 million that was in the 2004-05 budget allocation for the implementation of the NLIS for cattle in New South Wales. How much of that funding has been spent to date?

ANSWER

Over half has been spent with almost equal amounts approved for expenditure under agreed contracts.

**QUESTION 7, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

When you provide us with those figures, can you get us also a breakdown of the NLIS programs and activities that have received that funding?

ANSWER

I am advised that the funding can be broken down as follows:

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY	FUNDING
Industry infrastructure	\$391,687
Producer support	\$537,717
Communications	\$164,683
Financial Administration	\$18,304
Technical support	\$40,978
Executive Officer	\$72,711
Incidentals	\$1,650
Advisory committee	\$22,985
TOTAL	\$1,250,715

**QUESTION 8, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

Has any part of that funding been used to fund departmental administration and, if so, how much?

ANSWER

I am advised that all costs listed are directly related to the NLIS program.

**QUESTION 9, PAGE 7.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

When you are digging those figures up you might also have a look to see if any of that funding has been used to fund departmental salaries and how much?

ANSWER

I am advised that all costs listed are directly related to the NLIS program.

**QUESTION 10, PAGE 12.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

I refer to your press release dated 21 January 2005 titled "Locust partners agree to future funding arrangements". How much of the \$5.25 million provided by the State Government in the fight against locusts has been used by the Government for on-ground control—that is, chemical and spraying activities—how much is being taken up as the interest component of the loan, and how much has been used to fund the salaries of the Department of Primary Industries [DPI] officers?

ANSWER

I am advised that of the \$5.25 million provided by the State Government in the fight against locusts:

- \$750,000 is a grant to the Pest Insect Destruction Fund which is used on operation aspects including purchase of insecticide and aerial surveying and spraying activities;
- \$2.5 million is the interest component on the \$14 million loan; and
- \$2 million has been provided as in-kind resources by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

**QUESTION 11, PAGE 13.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

How can you justify spending \$365,464 of the total 2003-04 budget of \$426,286 on administration of buyouts rather than actual buyouts?

ANSWER

I am advised that \$124,000 (from the saltwater trust) was spent on administration of the buy out program and \$200,000 (from the \$20 million loan) was spent on payments to fishers to finish the buy out program including accelerated depreciation, retraining and relocation costs in 2003/04.

**QUESTION 12, PAGE 14.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

How many grey nurse sharks have been captured and killed in shark protection netting in the Sydney area this season?

ANSWER

Two.

**QUESTION 13, PAGE 15.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

How many fatalities have occurred in non-netted areas along the New South Wales coast in recent years on beaches or just offshore?

ANSWER

I am advised that records of shark attacks and fatalities in NSW are maintained by Taronga Zoo.

**QUESTION 14, PAGES 15 & 16.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

Fisheries conservation managers play a vital role in ensuring the protection of fish habitat and the integration of marine and fresh water environment protection in all development applications and other works. Those conservation managers are currently contract staff and, therefore, at risk of losing their positions. Will you commit to maintain these positions in the long term as a core function of your department? Would you agree that conservation managers should be seen as a core function in the department? It would be reasonable to see them in something more secure than a contract?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries will continue to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to aquatic habitat protection and threatened species management provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

**QUESTION 15, PAGE 16.
COHEN TO MACDONALD**

Could you inform the committee what resources will go into each CMA? Could you give us a ballpark figure on your projection for these organisations?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries has established a Regional Relations and Education Branch specifically to deal with major clients such as the Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

QUESTION 16, PAGE 16.
COHEN TO MACDONALD

To what extent does the New South Wales Government subsidise the commercial fishers operating in New South Wales by covering management costs for the industry?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries applies the broad pricing principles for cost recovery recommended by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for commercial fisheries.

QUESTION 17, PAGES 16 & 17.
GAY TO MACDONALD

Minister, my loyal spies inform me that you have a column that appears in a number of newspapers around the State. Can you inform me how many, and when and what papers your column appears in?

ANSWER

I have a monthly column in the Western Magazine, which is distributed to a number of regional newspapers. I also have a monthly column in Ag Today, a publication produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and distributed as a supplement within The Land.

Both columns are important vehicles for updating primary producers on the latest information and issues relating to their industries.

QUESTION 18, PAGE 17.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Can you explain the 30 per cent decrease in the Department of Agriculture staff over a 10-year period from 1995 to 2005? That decline was from 3,093 in 1995 to 2,081 in 2005.

ANSWER

The figures provided do not equate with Departmental records.

QUESTION 19, PAGES 17 & 18.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

How many staff do you have in your office? Could you also include in that their salaries—the salary range?

ANSWER

Ministerial staff are employed by the Director-General of the Premier's Department under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. Conditions of employment and entitlements are regulated by the provisions of the Act.

QUESTION 20, PAGE 18.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

How much money do you spend a month on media monitoring?

ANSWER

None.

QUESTION 21, PAGE 18.
GAY TO BUFFIER

How much money does the department spend a month on media monitoring?

ANSWER

Approximately \$1,500 each month.

QUESTION 22, PAGE 18.
GAY TO MACDONALD

Minister, is your new chief of staff paid the same salary as your old chief of staff?

ANSWER

Ministerial Staff are employed by the Director-General of the Premier's Department under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002. Conditions of employment and entitlements are regulated by the provisions of the Act.

QUESTION 23, PAGE 19.
GAY TO MACDONALD

Minister, what proportion of the \$11.7 million budget allocation for the New South Wales Food Authority has been spent on food safety programs?

ANSWER

Approximately 65% of the Government's \$11.7 million budget allocation to the NSW Food Authority has been allocated to food safety programs.

QUESTION 24, PAGE 19.
GAY TO MACDONALD

What proportion of the Food Authority budget is allocated to cracking down on incorrect labelling of prawns and fish substitution?

ANSWER

I am advised that any targeted campaigns, such as the incorrect labelling of prawns and fish substitution campaign, are not separately budgeted for, but paid out of the Food Authority's Compliance and Enforcement Units' total budgets.

QUESTION 25, PAGE 20.
GAY TO MACDONALD

Some of the \$1 million pledged to mark the Cronulla Fisheries Research Station Centenary is to be used to purchase three underwater cameras. How much is one of these cameras?

ANSWER

\$US120,000.

QUESTION 26, PAGE 21.
GAY TO MACDONALD

What was the total cost of the celebrations of the centenary of the Cronulla Fisheries Research Centre?

ANSWER

Approximately \$10,000.

**QUESTION 27, PAGE 22.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

Minister, how many of the conservation manager positions are supported by recreational fishing licence funds?

ANSWER

Two.

**QUESTION 28, PAGE 22.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

What is the value of new grants received by New South Wales Fisheries this year?

ANSWER

More than \$3.4 million.

**QUESTION 29, PAGE 22.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

Can you also provide us with details of the types of programs that the grants are being used to fund?

ANSWER

Details about grant funded fisheries research programs can be found on the Department of Primary Industries website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

**QUESTION 30, PAGE 22.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

It has come to my attention that people are having difficulty finding an outlet that can supply them with a fishing licence.

ANSWER

Refer to my response provided during the hearing.

QUESTION 31, PAGE 22.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Can you tell us when the retail outlet sends the money for the fishing licence back to the department? Is it on receipt, weekly, monthly, at the end of the book or what?

ANSWER

Monthly.

QUESTION 32, PAGE 23.
COHEN TO MACDONALD

In the share allocation process under share management fisheries are you considering those indigenous fishers who do not have the classic catch history, given their traditional methods and the way that they have fished in recent years?

ANSWER

The criteria for eligibility to shares are outlined in the Public Notice. These criteria were developed in consultation with Industry and reflect current fishing entitlements.

QUESTION 33, PAGES 23 & 24.
COHEN TO MACDONALD

What measures are being taken to ensure indigenous fishing rights are protected?

ANSWER

The Government's Indigenous Fisheries Strategy recognises the traditional cultural fishing practices of Indigenous people in New South Wales. Staff employed under the strategy continue to work on indigenous fishing issues as part of the Department's newly created Aboriginal Liaison and Cultural Heritage Unit.

QUESTION 34, PAGE 24
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Are you aware of the recent decision to permit only fishing businesses, instead of individual fishermen, to vote for representatives on the Beach Haul and

Management Advisory Committee? Who made the decision, why it was made, and was there any consultation with the industry before that decision was taken?

ANSWER

Persons who are eligible to vote for representatives on the management advisory committees are outlined in the *Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2002*. No amendment has been made to this Regulation.

**QUESTION 35, PAGE 25.
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

How many submissions have you received in relation to the discussion paper “New Opportunities for the Seafood Industry in the Management of Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture”, and have you received mostly positive or negative feedback from the industry following the publication of that paper, which was in October 2004?

ANSWER

17 written submissions and a range of verbal feedback have been received in response to the discussion paper. The comments fall into roughly three categories - supportive, supportive but qualified, and not in support.

**QUESTION 36, PAGE 25
COLLESS TO MACDONALD**

I note that you have based your model for the new industry company on the New Zealand southern scallop fishery. Why has this model been chosen when the New South Wales fishing industry does not have the single species focus that the New Zealand model has? How do you plan on representing all the fisheries in New South Wales based on that single model?

ANSWER

The discussion paper provides a broad overview of the typical aspects of management models that have been used in other natural resource contexts and the critical aspects that would need to be considered in designing an appropriate model suitable for NSW's fisheries. The description of the management model that has been implemented for the New Zealand scallop fishery was shown for reference purposes only, and could not be directly applied in the NSW context.

QUESTION 37, PAGE 25
COLLESS TO MACDONALD

Have you investigated basing this model on the interstate fishing models? For example, Western Australia and South Australia have models that might be appropriate. If not, why not?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Industries, in conjunction with the Seafood Industry Advisory Forum, is exploring these and a range of other models