



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 5

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5

Primary Industries
Small Business

Monday 8 October 2012

Answers to be lodged by: Friday 2 November 2012

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Questions from The Hon. Steve Whan, MLC

1. On 4 October 2012 you stated to The Land:

"The (new) structure will free up staff to work more closely with their communities, encourage innovation and integration across the landscape and be more accountable to ratepayers."

How will this amalgamation allow for staff to be freed up to assist farmers and land owners?
2. How will DPI and the review committee determine how many staff will be required for each office?
 - a. Will this decision ultimately require staffing positions to be lost?
3. Has DPI been requested to find savings within the current financial year 2012/13?
 - a. What is the percentage and amount of these savings?
 - b. What divisions/branches are affected by these savings?
4. Will your department make its required budget savings through making through this amalgamation process?
5. How many jobs do you expect to be taken out of regional areas due to with this announcement?
6. You have stated that the rates raised by the LHPA will be frozen until the amalgamation process is determined in 2014, how will LHPAs cater for increased costs for wages or will they simply have to cut services?
7. You have indicated that the CMAs are expected to find savings of \$11 million for 2013/14 Budget. Where do you expect the CMAs to find funding to help maintain current levels of services?
8. You also stated that Agriculture NSW and Biosecurity NSW has to find savings of \$9.3m and \$5.6m respectively for the 2013-14 financial year and beyond, while the Department of Primary Industries Business Services must find savings of \$4.7m for the same time period.

This is a total of \$30.6 million in savings that the DPI and Biosecurity will have to find, are you comprising services and jobs just to meet the meet the budget bottom line?
9. This year you said it was a bumper budget for DPI of \$1.1 billion, how will these decisions now affect next year's budget?
10. How many submissions to the Ryan Review suggested that the LHPAs, CMAs and Extension Office should be amalgamated?

11. Did the feedback from the regional meetings and submissions to the Ryan Review suggest a loss of face to face services in their areas?
12. How do you believe the NBN will assist with support services for stock and land owners?
13. Will the Central Office of the LLS stay in Orange?
14. Why did you feel it appropriate to cut the grant to central office if these 'ear marked' changes to services do not come into effect until January 2014?
15. How will local officials be appointed to the regional offices?
16. Why wasn't the review of Extension Officers publicly announced and why has there been no opportunity for farmers, industry or unions to have any input into the review?
17. In an article in the Land recently you talked about there being duplication in extension officers work, what examples do you have of that?
18. You have suggested in your criticism of the current arrangements for extension officers that a number of the services are available from private consultants. Do you intend to remove that duplication?
19. Are you happy that farmers will end up paying commercial fees for services that are currently provided by the Department?
20. Do you have any concerns about private providers of advice who may take the place of Departmental extension officers pushing particular commercial products?
21. In a recent interview with Central Coast ABC radio one current extension officer said she did not know what was happening with her position and that she understood services would be moving online. She also indicated that on the ground services like educational presences at agricultural shows and field days could be a thing of the past - do you agree with that assessment, is that what you have planned?
22. How will centralising extension services comply with the so called decade of decentralisation?

Cronulla Fisheries

23. Why are the 10 positions mentioned in the cost benefit analysis not being filled, how is that consistent with your commitment to fill all positions?
24. Are you able to indicate yet what the future of the site is at Cronulla? Given your cost benefit analysis includes no provision for future maintenance of the site, who do you expect to meet the cost?

25. On what dates did you visit the Cronulla Fisheries site?
26. How many projects are being funded this year under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewage Scheme?
 - a. How much funding has been allocated?
27. When will you announce the future of the Snowy Scientific Committee?
 - a. What long term research is being undertaken on the Snowy River?
28. Have you had a report from your department on what the impact is of sacking the research staff?
29. You publicly opposed the returning of flows to the Snowy River in Opposition, what's changed your mind?
30. If Infrastructure NSW state that Water Security is so crucial why is it suggesting that the upgrade and construction of regional dams in regional NSW should be over the next 20 years? Shouldn't it be a higher priority?
31. Can you provide the committee with a current list of research projects being undertaken by or in conjunction with DPI, the status of each project and whether it is affected by budget cuts?
 - a. What are the current funding levels for these projects
32. What engagement has DPI got with carbon farming initiatives in NSW?

Phones/iPads

33. How many blackberries are assigned to your staff?
34. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2011/12 financial year?
35. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
36. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
37. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
38. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
39. How many mobile phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
40. How many mobile phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?

41. How many mobile phones have been lost in your office?
42. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
43. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

Media/public relations

44. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
45. What is the forecast for 2012-13 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Overseas trips

46. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
47. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Office costs

48. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
49. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
50. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
51. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
52. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
53. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
54. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2012/13?
55. How many political advisors are in your office?
56. How many administration staff?
57. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
58. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

59. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
 - a. If so, in what capacities?
60. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Cabcharge

61. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2011/12 financial year?

Restructure

62. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
63. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
64. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
65. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
66. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
67. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2012/13?

Agency costs

68. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2011/12?
69. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2011/12?
70. What is your Department's catering budget?
71. What is your Department's stationary budget?
72. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
 - a. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Correspondence

73. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
74. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Paying bills on time

- 75. In 2011/12 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
- 76. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
- 77. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Grants to non-government organisations

- 78. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
 - a. If yes,
 - i. What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - ii. What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - iii. On what date was the funding advanced?
 - iv. What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - v. Was any funding withheld or returned?
- 79. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
- 80. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?
- 81. What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Contractors

- 82. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2012 and at what cost?

Aboriginal employment

- 83. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
- 84. How has that changed since 1 July 2011?

Charter air flights

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

Reviews and studies

- 86. In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:
 - a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;

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

Parliamentary Secretary

90. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretary incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011
- a. kilometres travelled
 - b. accommodation,
 - c. air fares
 - d. meals/entertaining?
91. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011;
- a. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - b. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
92. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
- a. Are these meetings documented?
 - b. Who attends these meetings?
93. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?

Media training

94. 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?
95. 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?

Pecuniary Interest

96. Minister, in the inquiry you stated that your principle residential address was in Yass, how many other properties do you own?
- a. What is the residential address of these properties/businesses?

End of questions from The Hon. Steve Whan, MLC.

Questions from The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC

Local Land Services

1. Will all of the current functions including statutory functions currently performed by the Catchment Management Authorities and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities be performed by the new Local Land Services?
 - a. If no, what function won't be and who will perform those roles.
2. My understanding is that there will be 11 Local Land Services offices or districts.
 - a. Where will they be located?
 - b. Will these services be catchment based?
3. In relation to the election of the new Local Land Services boards:
 - a. How many members of the board will be elected?
 - b. Who will be eligible to stand for election?
 - c. Who will be eligible to vote in the elections?
4. Will the elections be conducted prior to the start date of January 2014 for the new Local Land Services?
5. In relation to the non-elected board members:
 - a. How many members will be non elected?
 - b. Who will appoint these members?
 - c. What will the tenure arrangements be for these members?
6. How will these board members, both elected and not-elected be remunerated?
7. The 2013 Budget shows a decline in expenditure in your portfolio including almost a 10% decline from Primary Industries and a 7.6% decline for the Catchment Management Authorities. Normally when an organisation is planning for a major restructure there is a short term increase in costs in order to implement a change in order to get longer term efficiencies and cost reductions. Noting that these new services are due to start operating in January 2014 can I ask, does the 2013 budget reflect the implementation costs associated with the Local Land Services announcement?
8. Of the \$100m in the budget to be spent on CMAs, including \$35m from the Commonwealth Caring for our Country program to help communities address natural resource management priorities, will any of this \$100m be redirected from these purposes as part of the administrative change over to the Local Land Services model?
9. In the 2013 financial year, how much of the CMA funding will go towards on-ground natural resource management activities?
10. In the 2013 financial year, how much of the CMA funding will go towards native vegetation compliance activities?

11. What is the anticipated direct budget contributions from the NSW Government to the new Local Land Services?

Landuse Mapping

12. The budget papers for the Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services Cluster indicate that \$1.1m will be spent on continuing to develop a land use agricultural mapping' policy to protect strategic agricultural land:
- a. How will this \$1.1m be expended? What work will be commissioned or conducted to improve mapping?
 - b. How will this \$1.1m be slip on a region by region basis?

Noxious Weeds

13. The budget papers for the Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services Cluster indicate that \$11m will be spent on controlling noxious weeds to improve agricultural productivity and protect the environment.
- a. How much of this will be expended in the 2012-13 financial year?
 - b. How much has been allocated to on-ground activities vs administrative costs?
 - c. How does this compare with on-ground expenditure in the 2011-12 financial year?
 - d. How will this \$11m be allocated across the state?

Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

14. The financial statement for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority indicates total expenses excluding losses for the 2012-13 financial year will more than halve compared to 2011-12. Given that expenditure is relatively stable for all other CMAs, what is the rationale for this?

Biosecurity

15. The Budget Papers for the Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services Cluster indicate that \$4.8 million will be contributed by NSW to inter-jurisdictional national biosecurity arrangements to manage risks posed by pests, weeds, diseases and contaminants and to minimise their impact on the NSW economy, environment and communities. Which particular projects and initiatives will this money be assisting to fund?
16. Of the 2013 Primary Industries Budget, how much has been allocated to responding to biosecurity threats in NSW? What initiatives and projects will this money be spent on?
17. Of the 2013 Primary Industries Budget, how much has been allocated to biosecurity planning and research? What initiatives and projects will this money be spent on?

End of questions from The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC.

Questions from The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC, on behalf of Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

1. What, if any, consultation has been undertaken by the Government (including with the Shooters and Fishers Party) regarding proposals to expand duck hunting in NSW?
2. What scientific research has been undertaken to assess proposals to expand duck hunting in NSW?
 - a. What were the results of this research?
3. How many complaints of breaches by amateur hunters operating in State Forests were received in:
 - a. 2012 to date?
 - b. 2011?
 - c. 2010?
 - d. 2009?
4. Of these complaints, how many resulted in an investigation?
5. Of these complaints, how many resulted in a sanction of some kind?
6. Of these complaints, how many people had their license revoked?
7. Does the Game Council have current plans for future programs to target children in schools with pro-hunting materials?
8. When is the Game Council expected to become self funding?
9. How much public money was spent on Game Council pro-hunting water bottles as distributed in a school in Orange?
10. Who approved the water bottle campaign?
11. How much did the Game Council spend on advertising in:
 - a. 2012 to date?
 - b. 2011?
 - c. 2010?
 - d. 2009?
12. How many submissions were received on the Government's proposed regulations which included provisions to allow children as young as 12 to hunt on public land unsupervised with knives and pig dogs?
 - a. Of these, how many supported the proposal? How many opposed the proposal?
13. Are there current plans to introduce legislation to allow for additional forms of hunting for young people?

14. How much public forest is now declared open for hunting under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act
15. How many inspectors are employed by the Game Council and/or the department to monitor and police amateur hunting in State Forests in NSW?

End of questions from The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham, MLC, on behalf of Mr David Shoebridge, MLC.

Questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC

Forestry

Logging on private property

1. What environmental assessments are required before approvals for logging for the purposes of commercial firewood can take place on private property?
2. What strategies are in place to end the logging of private land on Mount Rae for firewood, given that the proposed operations negatively impact on threatened species in the area?

Koala High Use Areas

3. What actions have been taken against Forests NSW for the destruction of Koala High Use Areas in Royal Camp State Forest in Compartment 15 during July-August 2012 and Compartment 16 during September 2012?
4. What action is being taken for breaches of the Threatened Species Licence by Forests NSW for the logging of Koala High Use Areas in Compartment 120 of Clouds Creek State Forest?

Complaints from the public

5. How many complaints has the Office of Environment and Heritage received from the public for the period November 2011- October 2012 for the following regions:
 - a. Central Region?
 - b. Hume Region?
 - c. Macquarie Region?
 - d. [Monaro Region?](#)
 - e. North East Region?
 - f. Northern Region?
 - g. Southern Region?
 - h. Western Region?
6. How many audits were undertaken of each region listed in the period November 2011-October 2012 as a result of these complaints?

Felling of roadside trees

7. What action has been taken over the felling by Forests NSW of more than 2km of roadside trees up to 43 metres in distance back from Styx River Forest Way on road reserve land in April 2012?
8. What cost was incurred by Forests NSW for the felling of more than 2 km of roadside trees along Styx River Forest Way in April 2012?

Ellis State Forest

9. What plans are in place to protect residents on properties close to Ellis State Forest from the increased fire risk from eucalyptus regeneration over the next twenty five years given the high cutting rate of the proposed harvest plan 63/64?
10. What plans are in place to protect koala habitat in Compartment 63 of Ellis State Forest, given the heavy cutting volumes proposed in the harvest plan 63/64?
11. How does Forests NSW plan to protect large mature and senescent trees within Compartments 63 and 64 of Ellis State Forest, given the acknowledged value of these trees for threatened species such as gliders, koalas and glossy black cockatoos?

Aboriginal heritage

12. How many Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits have been granted to Forests NSW for logging operations in Bago and Maragle State Forests?
13. What actions by the Office of Environment and Heritage have been taken over the destruction of Aboriginal Heritage in Bago and Maragle State Forests during logging operations since 2008?

Review of Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals

14. What timeframe has been established for the review of the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals?
15. How long a period of public consultation will be allowed for the review of the Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals?
16. Will the Committee conducting the review of IFOAs be seeking public comment during its deliberations, or after the Committee has made its recommendations to State Cabinet?
17. What plans are being made to permanently protect the remnant population of Bega Valley koalas in Compartment 2102 of Tanja State Forest by amending the Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals?

Bermagui State Forest

18. What proportion of the revenue from Bermagui State Forest Compartment 2001 was from:
 - a. Sawlogs?
 - b. Pulp logs?

Honey production in state forests

19. How many apiarists have been granted licences to use NSW state forests for the purpose of honey production in each of the following periods:
 - a. 2008-2009?
 - b. 2009-2010?
 - c. 2010-2011?
 - d. 2011 to date?
20. How many apiarists have been granted licences for the purpose of honey production in Southern Region state forests in each of the following periods:
 - a. 2008-2009?
 - b. 2009-2010?
 - c. 2010-2011?
 - d. 2011 to date?
21. How are the interests of apiarists being managed in light of logging operations in southern region state forests?

Corporatisation of Forests NSW

22. Will native timber harvest, haulage and royalty figures be publically available under the regime of independent reviews established in the *Forestry Bill 2012*?
23. Are there plans to reduce commitments from native forests down to the estimated long-term sustainable yield before corporatising Forests NSW?
24. What guarantees are there that regional jobs and skills will be retained after the corporatisation of Forests NSW?

Forest Science Centre

25. How many long-term ecological research programs will be terminated as a result of cuts to the Forest Science Centre, part of the NSW Department of Primary Industries?
26. How many jobs will be cut from the Forest Science Centre?
27. How will the cuts to the Forest Science Centre impact on the ability of Forests NSW to add value to its planted forests; enhance its commercial services and native forests businesses, and move towards sustainability?
28. How will the proposed cuts to the Forest Science Centre impact on the ability of Forests NSW to monitor, prepare for and adapt to a changing climate?

Contractors

29. Of the tenders awarded by Forests NSW to contractors in 2011 and 2012, how many tenders were awarded to operators based in Tasmania, or to operators who have worked in Tasmania within the last three years?
30. Have any of these operators been in receipt of federal funding to exit the forestry industry in Tasmania?

Section 62

31. Section 62 of the Forestry Regulation 2009 provides penalties for failure to comply with directions of an authorised officer. Which agency will be responsible for the enforcement of Section 62 of the Forestry Regulation 2009 and other regulations which are used to control protests in state forests after the corporatisation of Forests NSW?
32. If Forests NSW is to be responsible for the enforcement of Section 62 of the Forestry Regulation 2009 and other regulations which are used to control protests in state forests after the corporatisation of Forests NSW, what legal justification is used in defence of the decision to allow a state-owned Corporation law-enforcement powers of this kind?
33. Are there any plans for Forests NSW to keep the fines imposed for breaches of Section 62?
34. Will protecting the biodiversity of state forests be a core principle for the proposed corporatised Forests NSW?

Haulage and royalties

35. What is the rationale of having royalty and haulage costs set by IPART every 3 years?
36. When is it proposed that this change will take place?
37. What consultation has been undertaken to support such a change?

South East Fibre Exports

38. What quantity of pine logs was supplied to South East Fibre Exports (SEFE) in:
 - a. 2010?
 - b. 2011?
 - c. 2012 to date?
39. For 38a-c what price were these logs supplied at?

40. For 38a-c what net revenue was received by Forests NSW for the supply of pine logs to SEFE in each of those years?
41. What quantity of native forest logs from the Eden RFA Region and the Southern RFA Region was supplied to South East Fibre Exports in:
- a. 2000?
 - b. 2001?
 - c. 2002?
 - d. 2003?
 - e. 2004?
 - f. 2005?
 - g. 2006?
 - h. 2007?
 - i. 2008?
 - j. 2009?
 - k. 2010?
 - l. 2011?
 - m. 2012 to date?
42. What gross royalty revenue was obtained in each RFA Region for the sale of pulp logs to SEFE in:
- a. 2000?
 - b. 2001?
 - c. 2002?
 - d. 2003?
 - e. 2004?
 - f. 2005?
 - g. 2006?
 - h. 2007?
 - i. 2008?
 - j. 2009?
 - k. 2010?
 - l. 2011?
 - m. 2012 to date?
43. What royalty price rises have occurred for saw logs, pulp logs and other logs in Eden and Southern RFA regions in response to the recommendations of the Auditor General's report in:
- a. 2009?
 - b. 2010?
 - c. 2011?
 - d. 2012 to date?

Staffing in South Coast region

44. What staff cuts have there been in the Forests NSW South Coast Region since 2011?

45. What positions have been abolished?
46. On what basis was it determined which staff members should go?
47. How many staff in science-related positions are to be made redundant voluntarily or involuntarily?
48. Which ecologist positions have been cut?

Hunting in state forests

49. Has Forests NSW undertaken any research into the impact of hunting in state forests on the population levels of feral species in those forests (i.e. as distinct from tallies of 'game' species killed, which do not necessarily equate with impacts on population levels).

Road maintenance

50. What levies are imposed on the logging industry for the maintenance of Edrom Road and Imlay Roads on the South Coast?
51. How much has been spent on each of these roads by Forests NSW and how much of that amount was raised via industry levies?
52. Are there any other roads in the South Coast Region, apart from roads within State Forests, to which Forests NSW makes a contribution for maintenance?

Transitioning out of native forests

53. What plans are being made by Forests NSW to transition out of native forests given the diminishing returns from logging operations in native forests?

End of questions from Mr David Shoebridge, MLC.

Questions from The Hon. Cate Faehrmann, MLC

Fisheries - Ocean Trap and Line Fishery OTLF:

1. Two hammerhead shark species have now been listed as threatened species under the NSW Fisheries Management Act (Great and Scalloped Hammerheads). They are caught in the OTLF. What measures are you putting in place to ensure they will no longer be killed in this fishery?
2. Is there existing technology for fishers to reconfigure or apply to their gear to select against the hammerhead species or knowledge to avoid areas where these species are at risk of being caught? Please provide details.
3. What research is being done to develop measures to avoid the capture of hammerhead sharks in the OTLF?
4. Shark fishing in the OTLF is split into two components – OTLF (general) and OTLF (shark fishing permit). In a document obtained under GIPA we learnt that as at December 2011 shark fishing permits were offered but not taken up in the shark fishing permit component. Is this still the case?
5. Shark catches in the OTLF general were half of the quota for the period 1 Feb 2011 to 31 Jan 2012. Please provide catch levels thus far for this season.
6. Given the lack of demand for permits, the low catches and the threatened species listings, would you consider either:
 - a. significantly reducing shark fishing effort in this fishery in either or both components, or
 - b. bringing shark fishing to an end in this fishery in either or both of its components that target sharks, or
 - c. continuing to offer permits for the shark permit fishery and the same quota for sharks in the general fishery?
7. What quotas and permits do you intend to offer to catch sharks in the OTLF next year?
8. In justifying the shark catch in the OTLF Duncan Gay informed Parliament (16/08/12) that there is a legitimate market for shark products not just the fins and referred to flake commonly sold in fish and chip shops across NSW.
 - a. How much flake sold in NSW comes from NSW fisheries, and
 - b. how much comes from elsewhere in Australia and how much is imported from overseas?

Please give figures for each of 8a and 8b.

9. What is known about the ecological sustainability of the overseas fisheries from where some shark product sold as 'flake' in NSW comes from?

Fisheries – grey nurse shark

1. How do you intend to police the prohibition on line fishing at the critical habitat sites when you will be allowing boats within 200m of the critical habitat sites to carry out fishing?
2. How will enforcement officers know what is going on under the boats and whether fishers are using hooks and lines or soft plastics or artificial baits?
3. What resources have you allocated for compliance with the new grey nurse shark regulations at Fish Rock and Green Island?
4. Can you guarantee that the removal of critical habitat fishing regulations at 6 critical habitat sites, that has been done because the recreational fishing rules at these sites are also set out in marine park zoning plans, will maintain exactly the same levels of protection for grey nurse sharks in every detail?
5. In removing the critical habitat regulations, please can you explain whether or not it will now be easier to change the regulations through changes to marine park zoning?
6. If the critical habitat regulations had remained in place, could they have been altered by changes to marine park zoning? Or would a separate process to change the critical habitat regulations have been required?
7. Did the critical habitat regulations previously send a signal to all stakeholders that these regulations are important and permanent for the protection of the shark?
8. Can you guarantee that the regulations prohibiting certain forms of fishing at critical habitat sites will not be weakened by changes to marine park zoning and how will you do that?
9. How many times has NSW Fisheries undertaken compliance surveillance at each of the grey nurse sharks critical habitat sites in the past 5 years? Please provide details for each of the critical habitat sites separately for each of the last 5 years.
10. How many times do NSW Fisheries intend to undertake compliance surveillance at Fish Rock and Green Island over the next 6 months during the compliance advisory period? And over the 6 months following that?

Animal welfare

In relation to compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other relevant legislation pertaining to animal welfare

1. Do you have a policy for the minimum number of compliance visits there should be a year to a) abattoirs b) piggeries and c) factory farms?
2. How many compliance visits were there to Wally's Piggery at Murrumbateman in the 18 years since he was last convicted for animal cruelty? When did they occur?
3. If the answer to question 2 is none or few, why was it is considered inappropriate to monitor someone operating a piggery who had previously been prosecuted for animal welfare offences?
4. Animal Liberation says that "Wally has admitted during questioning that he was tipped off on the morning of the raid by Australian Pork Limited, who sent him a link to the video so that he could have time to clear up the worst of it and to prevent any illegal slaughtering that was to occur that day. It is still unclear how APL received the link to the video in the first place, as at that point it was strictly confidential, and was not released to the public until several hours after the authorities raided the property". Have you conducted an investigation into who provided Australian Pork Limited with information on the raid and the link to the video?
5. How much funding is allocated for enforcement of POCTA in abattoirs?
6. What is the funding provided to the Animal Welfare League for their statutory role in enforcing the *Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act*?
7. What is the funding provided to the RSPCA for their statutory role in enforcing the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*?
8. When was this level of funding last reviewed to ensure it is adequacy commensurate with the scale of animal welfare problems suffered by companion and farm animals in this state?

Marine Park Audit

1. When will the Minister respond to the Marine Park Audit?
2. When will the Minister lift the moratorium on the establishment of new marine parks given the Audit did not make any recommendation that it remain in place?
3. Does the Minister remain committed to a comprehensive and representative system of marine parks in NSW waters as is in line with national and international commitments?

End of questions from The Hon. Cate Faehrmann, MLC.

End of questions relating to Primary Industries.

Small Business

Questions from The Hon. Adam Searle, MLC

1. How many mediations were conducted by the Office of Small Business in 2011-2012, between small businesses in dispute with:-
 - a. other businesses;
 - b. government;
 - c. local Councils.
2. How many resulted in an agreement between the disputing parties, by the above categories?
3. Who conducted those mediations?
4. The Commissioner personally or persons employed within the Office?
5. Were they mediators engaged per mediation? If the last category, were they persons used as mediators in connection with what was the Retail Tenancies Unit?
6. Have any new persons, not previously engaged to mediate in connection with the former Retail Tenancies Unit, been used as mediators in connection with the Office of Small Business Commissioner?
7. When were those persons selected?
8. What process was used to select those mediators?
9. What criterion was used to select those mediators?
10. How many mediations will be conducted by the Office of Small Business in 2012-2013?
11. On 2 June 2011, the Minister stated that "the reality is that the vast majority of small businesses don't have the resources to spend on expensive legal battles contesting genuine grievances of unfair practices."

Other than mediation, advocacy, and information provision, what specific measures are in the 2012-2013 Budget to provide practical assistance to small business operators with genuine grievances about unfair practices?

12. The Government last year promised legislation to establish the role, and any powers, of the Small Business Commissioner. In Estimates this year, the Minister stated a draft Bill has already been drafted and consulted upon. To which persons or bodies outside government has the draft Bill been shown for consultation purposes?

End of questions from The Hon. Adam Searle, MLC.

End of questions relating to Small Business.