

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011 – 2012
General Purpose Standing Committee No 1.
Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Questions on Notice to the Premier

Questions from Dr John Kaye MLC

1. Will the Premier rule out any dam on the site of the proposed Tillegra impoundment?

ANSWER: The Government has made it clear that it will not build the Tillegra Dam.

2. Will the Premier rule out any dam at Native Dog Creek in the Tillegra Valley near the Williams River?
- a. If so, will the Premier ensure that Hunter Water is aware of this decision?

ANSWER: The Government is progressing the development of the Lower Hunter Water Plan, to meet the needs of a growing population and manage drought in the region. In line with the Council of Australian Government's National Urban Water Planning principles, it will involve investigation of a broad range of options. However, the Government has made it clear it will not build the Tillegra Dam.

The Metropolitan Water Directorate within the Department of Finance and Services will lead and coordinate development of the Plan, and will work with government agencies and Hunter Water.

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

3. Parliamentary Secretary
- b. Can you please list all travel related costs for your Parliamentary Secretaries (Ray Williams MP and the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC) incurred in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary since 1 July 2011:
- i. kilometres travelled
 - ii. accommodation,
 - iii. air fares
 - iv. meals/entertaining?
- c. Can you please provide details of the following activities undertaken by your Parliamentary Secretaries (Ray Williams MP and the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC) since 1 July 2011:
- i. meetings attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
 - ii. functions attended in their capacity as Parliamentary Secretary?
- d. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretaries?
- i. Are these meetings documented?
 - ii. Who attends these meetings?

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- e. Who provides instructions and direction to your Parliamentary Secretary, you or your Chief of Staff?
- f. Have any of the Parliamentary Secretaries appointed by you (Hon John Ajaka MLC, Craig Baumann MP, Goeff Provest MP, Steve Candsell, Hon David Clarke MLC, Hon Maire Ficarra MLC, Try Grant MP, Hon Charlie Lynn MLC, Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC, Hon Melinda Pavey MLC, Rob Stokes MP, Paul Toole MP, Gabrielle Upton MP and Ray Williams MP) been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Parliamentary Secretary?
- g. If so, in respect of each Parliamentary Secretary please advise:
 - i. Who conducted the training?
 - ii. When was it conducted?
 - iii. Where was it conducted?
 - iv. What were the costs of the training?
 - v. Who paid for the training?

ANSWER: I am advised:

- a. The costs for my Parliamentary Secretaries were:
 - Marie Ficarra – nil
 - Ray Williams - \$636.10

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

e. to g. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has not incurred any expense for this purpose.

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- 4.** How many adverse findings has the Police Integrity Commission (PIC) Inspector now delivered in relation to the PIC?

ANSWER: The Inspector of the PIC has published eleven complaint reports since December 2007. Findings contained in these reports can be accessed on the Inspector's website.

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5. What action are you going to take in respect of the PIC Inspector's reports in order to restore confidence in the PIC?

ANSWER: The Government has noted the reports of the Inspector of the PIC. On 10 November 2011, following my statutory review of the *Police Integrity Commission Act 1996*, the Government announced reforms to the Act including procedural fairness arrangements and enhanced powers of the Inspector to publish reports.

6. Do you have concerns about the operations of the PIC?

ANSWER: The PIC plays a vital role in overseeing the NSW Police Force and NSW Crime Commission. The operations of the PIC are overseen by the Inspector of the PIC and the Parliamentary Joint Committee (PJC) on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission.

7. Do you support the continued existence of the PIC?

ANSWER: The Government supports the continued existence of the PIC as a stand-alone independent integrity agency.

8. Are you going to disband the PIC?

ANSWER: The Government supports the continued existence of the PIC.

9. If not, are you going to undertake an overhaul of the PIC i.e. appoint a new Commissioner and staff?

ANSWER: I have nominated the Honourable Justice Bruce James QC as the next Commissioner of the PIC. Subject to approval of this nomination by the PJC, Justice James will be appointed by the Governor to commence in the office of Commissioner from 1 January 2012.

Decisions concerning the management of Commission staff will be a matter for the new Commissioner.

10. Phones

- a. How many blackberries does DPC assign to your Ministerial staff and to whom have they been issued?

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- b.** How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- c.** How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- d.** How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- e.** How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
- f.** For each phone or device, how much was each bill from April to October?
- g.** How many phones or devices have been lost in your office?
- h.** What is the cost of replacing those phones or devices?

ANSWER: I am advised:

a. to e. For all Ministerial Offices, there is a total of:

- i.** Blackberries - 151
- ii.** iPads - 19
- iii** iPhones - 3

f. Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government from April 2011 to October 2011 spent a total of \$88,902. This compares with \$238,567 spent under the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

g. to h. For all Ministerial Offices in the NSW Government, there has been one stolen phone, which cost \$577 (ex GST) to replace.

11. Media and Public Relations

- a.** How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
- b.** What is the forecast for 2011-12 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
- c.** How many media or public relations advisers are employed in your ministerial office?

ANSWER: I am advised:

a. to b. The Department of Premier and Cabinet does not have media or public relations advisers employed.

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

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12. Overseas trips

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

ANSWER: I am advised:

a to b. Information regarding Ministerial travel is available on the relevant Minister's appropriate agency website, in accordance with Ministerial Memorandum M2009-10 "Release of Overseas Travel Information".

13. Office Costs

- a. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
- b. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
- c. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
- d. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2011-12?
- e. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April?
- f. If so , could you give details of contracted costs?
- g. What is your office budget?
- h. How many political advisors are in your office?
- i. How many administration staff ?
- j. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
- k. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?

ANSWER: I am advised:

a. to c. and h. to i. Ministerial staff numbers and salary bands are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

d and g. Based on actual expenditure patterns, total forecast expenditures for all Ministerial offices are expected to be \$36,900,000 in 2011/12. This compares to \$47,046,453 spent by the former NSW Government from April 2010 to March 2011.

e. Yes

f. \$1,283 (ex GST) for workstations and repairs to light switch.

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j. refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0681— Premier—DEPARTMENTAL LIASION OFFICERS, that details this information as at 7 August 2011.

k. each Minister is provided with a Ministerial driver, with the Premier provided with three Ministerial drivers.

14. Cabcharge

- a. In terms of your ministerial office, how much did your office spend on taxi fares , including Cabcharge since April?

ANSWER: I am advised:

For all Ministerial offices, the cost of Cabcharge was \$38,806.38 over 6 months from April 2011 to September 2011.

This is compared with the cost of \$78,023.11 in the 6 months of the previous NSW Government from October 2010 to March 2011.

15. Restructure

- a. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
b. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
c. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
d. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered as a result of that restructure?

ANSWER: The following information is provided for the Agencies in the DPC Cluster for which the Premier has portfolio responsibility:

Police Integrity Commission:

- a. The Commission has undertaken a recent minor restructuring of the Information, Communication & Technology (IC&T) Unit. The restructure was specifically aimed at the IC&T Unit and has no wider ramifications for the rest of the Commission.
b. and d. One position was abolished as a result of the IC&T Unit restructure. The officer affected was offered a voluntary redundancy, which was accepted.
c. No people have had their wages cut as a result of the minor restructure.

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Department of Premier and Cabinet:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is currently undertaking a review of its functions and responsibilities to better align with Government priorities.

16. Agency Costs

- a. What is your agency's catering budget?
- b. Since April, has the agency changed its branding?
- c. How much was spent on rebranding the agency?
- d. How much has been spent on stationery?

ANSWER:

- a. The Department incurs catering costs predominantly in the protocol and events areas and the Governor's Office. For 2010-11 the Department spent \$1.327m on catering.
 - b. No
 - c. N/A
 - d. For 2010/11 the Department spent \$184,594 on stationery
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17. Correspondence

- a. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your agency?
- b. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

ANSWER: I am advised:

a and b. The Department's recommended time frame for completing responses to correspondence from Ministers, Members of Parliament and members of the public is 20 working days from the Department's receipt of the correspondence.

However, it is not always possible to comply with this time frame for any number of reasons including: the nature and complexity of the matter; stakeholder consultation; or further information required from other Departments and sources.

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18. Paying bills on time

- a. Since April, on how many occasions has the agency not paid a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
- b. How many bills have been outstanding for longer than that period?

ANSWER: This information is available in the Department of Premier of Cabinet Annual Report.

19. Grants to non-government organisations

- a. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
- b. 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?
 - vi. If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - vii. What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2011/2012?

ANSWER:

a and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0447—Premier—GRANTS TO NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

20. Feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews

- a. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews?
- b. If so,
 - i. What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - ii. Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - iii. Was each study, audit, taskforce or review publically advertised seeking expressions of interest or competitive tenders?
 - iv. Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - v. What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?

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- vi.** What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

ANSWER: a. and b. Refer to the answer to the Question on Notice from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney – LC 0327—Premier—FEASIBILITY STUDIES, AUDITS, TASKFORCES AND REVIEWS.

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Questions on Notice to the Minister for Western Sydney

Questions from the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

1. Premier, How many submissions and representations have you made to Cabinet as the Minister for Western Sydney?

ANSWER: It is not appropriate to respond to questions on matters related to the considerations of Cabinet.

2. How many staff are employed in your office to support you in your role as Minister for Western Sydney?

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

3. How many licensed venues in NSW have been fined since April 2011 for breaches of the Smokefree Environment Act?
 - a. How many of those are in Western Sydney?

ANSWER: Three licensed premises have been issued a fine by the courts: one in Leichhardt, one in Green Valley and one in Petersham.

4. How many other organisations or institutions have been fined for breaches of the Smokefree Environment Act since April 2011?
 - a. How many in Western Sydney?

ANSWER: Nil

5. How much is expected to be raised from fines issued under the Smokefree Environment Act in the coming year?

ANSWER: NSW Health's focus is on achieving compliance with the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000*, rather than raising revenue. NSW Health will only prosecute when compliance is not achieved through other methods. Compliance is frequently achieved through the issue of a warning.

Fines are only imposed by the courts after the court finds an offence proven or after there is a guilty plea. Even where an offence is proven, the court retains the discretion to record a conviction and not impose a fine. As such, an estimate of the level of revenue that may be raised from fines under the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* is not possible.

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6. Is money raised from fines issued under the Smokefree Environment Act used for providing further protection to NSW citizens from second hand tobacco smoke?
 - a. Or is it simply put into consolidated revenue?

ANSWER: Fines imposed by courts are generally put into consolidated revenue.
