



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016 Supplementary Questions**

**General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5**

Industry, Resources and Energy

Wednesday 2 September 2015

**Answers due by: Monday 28 September 2015**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

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## Questions from Shaoquett Moselmane MLC

### Efficiency Dividend

1. For each of the past three financial years, what was the efficiency dividend in dollar value to be met by each of the agencies within your administration?
2. What savings and revenue generating strategies did each agency implement to achieve the efficiency dividend and what was the amount of the savings or revenue actually achieved?
3. What is the efficiency dividend in dollar value required to be achieved by each agency within your administration for this financial year?
4. What savings and revenue generating strategies are you implementing this financial year and what do you expect to achieve for each strategy?

### Legal Fees

5. How much has been spent to date on legal fees in connection with the challenge to the Australian Energy Regulator's determination by Endeavour Energy, Ausgrid and Essential Energy? In answering this question, please provide a breakdown of those fees by type.
6. How much is estimated to be spent in total on legal fees in connection with the challenge to the Australian Energy Regulator's determination by Endeavour Energy, Ausgrid and Essential Energy? In answering this question, please provide a breakdown of those fees by type.
7. How much has been spent in total to date on all matters in connection with the challenge to the Australian Energy Regulator's determination by Endeavour Energy, Ausgrid and Essential Energy? In answering this question, please provide a breakdown of that spending by type or category.
8. What is the estimated total expenditure on all matters in connection with the challenge to the Australian Energy Regulator's determination by Endeavour Energy, Ausgrid and Essential Energy? In answering this question, please provide a breakdown of the spending by type or category.

### Coal Seam Gas

9. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 3 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
10. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 3 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
11. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 4 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
12. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 4 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
13. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 5 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
14. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 5 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?

15. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 6 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
16. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 6 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
17. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 7 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
18. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 7 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
19. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 8 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
20. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 8 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
21. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 9 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
22. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 9 the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
23. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 10 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
24. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 10 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
25. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 11 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
26. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 11 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
27. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 12 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
28. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 12 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
29. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 13 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
30. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 13 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
31. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 14 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.

32. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 14 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
33. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 15 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
34. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 15 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
35. What progress has been made to date in implementing recommendation 16 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014? In answering this question, please list each discrete action taken.
36. When will there be full implementation of recommendation 16 of the final report of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on coal seam gas dated September 2014?
37. Has there been an increase in the number of suicides and mental health occurrences affecting electricity workers in NSW?
38. Regarding Ms Rachel Connell:
  - a) When did Ms Rachel Connell leave the Office of Coal Seam Gas?
  - b) Where is Ms Connell now employed?
  - c) In which position?
  - d) How did she come to occupy that position?
  - e) Was the position she now holds advertised?
  - f) When, where and for how long was it advertised?
  - g) How many persons applied for that position?
  - h) How many persons were interviewed?
  - i) By whom were applicants interviewed?
  - j) When was Ms Connell informed she was successful in obtaining the position?
  - k) When did Ms Connell start in the position?
  - l) To whom and what position does she now report?
  - m) What is the salary or salary band of the position she now holds? What is the total remuneration of the position she now holds?
39. What is the salary or salary band of the former position of Director, Office of Coal Seam Gas? What is the total remuneration of that former position?
40. Why was the Office of Coal Seam Gas abolished?
  - a) When was this decided?
  - b) Who made the decision?
41. Where do the functions of Office of Coal Seam Gas now reside in your portfolio, in which position(s) in which division in which agency?
42. Which person(s) now exercise the functions of the former Director, Office of Coal Seam Gas?

### **Mental Health of Workers**

43. Are you aware of the number of power workers have taken their own life in the past 3 years or had mental health issues including breakdowns and depression?
44. Minister I am of the understanding that there is a high level of angst felt among power workers due to the amount of workplace change, uncertain futures and severe deterioration of morale as a result of aggressive management. Have you heard these same reports?

45. Do you think the risk of suicide and mental health related issues could be reduced in the electricity sector namely at Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy?
46. Is it true that in recent times Ausgrid have deployed additional employee assistance program resources to deal with a spike in employees seeking assistance and if so can you please outline what additional services have been made available, when they were engaged and what prompted their introduction?
47. Will you and your government commit to doing whatever is necessary to reduce any future risk of suicide or mental illness within the electricity sector?

### **Blue Scope Steel**

48. As Minister for Industry, can you please advise what measures, if any, that the NSW Government is undertaking to support the ongoing operation and retention of hundreds of regional jobs at Blue Scope Port Kembla?
49. If Blue Scope Steel seeks financial assistance from the NSW Government, will you as minister do whatever possible to secure this assistance? What will you do?

### **Publicly Owned Electricity Companies Employment**

50. The Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act provides that network operators will “not implement a program of forced redundancies (except by agreement with the affected employees or in accordance with the Fair Work Act)”. Why then is Networks NSW, Ausgrid and Endeavour Energy now attempting to introduce forced redundancies without the agreement of the workforce?
51. Will you guarantee that a policy of no forced redundancy will be maintained as it was intended under the electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act?
52. Do you believe that the publicly owned electricity companies should explore every available opportunity to maximise employment opportunities and staff retention including seeking contestable work?

### **Electricity Generator Authorised Transaction Bill 2012**

53. Clause 3, Schedule 4 of the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act sets out the minimum staffing levels for the industry as follows:-

#### *3 Minimum number of employees*

*(1) For each relevant period during the employment guarantee period, the number of full time equivalent employees of a network operator must not be less than the appropriate staffing level for the relevant electricity network SOC.*

*(2) The "appropriate staffing level" for an electricity network SOC is the number of full time equivalent employees that is sustainable in the context of business revenue resulting from the AER Final Determination for the SOC as determined in accordance with the business practices of the SOC, being:*

- (a) for Ausgrid-3,570 full time equivalent employees, or*
- (b) for Endeavour Energy-2,100 full time equivalent employees, or*
- (c) for TransGrid-1,000 full time equivalent employees.*

Can you confirm that these numbers are of direct employees in filled positions and do not include consultants, contractors or other forms of engagement of labour?

54. Under the Electricity Generator Authorised Transaction Act 2012 Act 2012 section 16 (4) covers future employment of apprentices as follows:

*(4) The Treasurer is to take all reasonable steps to ensure that, under the transaction arrangements with all private sector employers, a total of at least 150 apprenticeships is maintained in the electricity generation businesses of those employers in NSW during any employment guarantee period under this section. The timeline for purchases was as follows with the 2 year employment guarantee period for each commencing at the time of sale.*

- 1 July 2013 – Origin Energy buys Eraring Energy
- 25 July 2013 – Energy Australia buys “Delta West”
- 2 September 2014 – AGL buys Macquarie Generation
- 29 December 2014 – Snony Hydro buys Colongra Gas Fired Power Station
- Delta Coastal (Vales Point + Munmorah Development Site) yet to be sold

- a) Can you advise how many apprentices were employed by each of the above electricity generators for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 Financial Years?
- b) Can you explain what steps she and/or her predecessors took to ensure that a minimum of 150 apprentices were employed by these generators as required by law?
- c) In the event there was less than 150 employed
  - i. How did this situation eventuate and what steps were taken by the treasurer to try and prevent it?

55. What penalties applied for these electricity generators for breaching the electricity generator authorised transaction bill 2012?

### **Brian Doyle**

56. In which agency in your portfolio is Mr Bryan Doyle, the Member for Campbelltown up until March 2015, now employed?

- a) What is Mr Doyle’s position title?
- b) Is this a permanent position?
- c) What is the salary or salary band for that position? What is the total remuneration for that position?
- d) Who does Mr Doyle report to?
- e) What do his day to day duties involve?
- f) Was the position advertised?
- g) Where was it advertised and for how long?
- h) How many people applied?
- i) Was Mr Doyle interviewed for the position and by whom?
- j) What specific relevant experience does Mr Doyle bring to role he has been appointed to?

57. Were you aware that Mr Doyle had applied for that position before he was appointed?

58. When and how did you become aware?

59. If you were not aware, was your office aware? If yes, who in your office became aware and how did they become aware?

60. Were you a referee for Mr Doyle?

61. Were any Members of Parliament referees for Mr Doyle? If so, who were his referees?

62. When did the position in which Mr Doyle is now employed come into existence?

63. When did you become aware that Mr Doyle was employed in a position in an agency in your portfolio?

64. How did you become aware?

## **Labour Expenses Cap**

65. How much has been saved in each agency in your portfolio by the application of the labour expenses cap in the last four financial years, and what is expected to be saved in the present financial year, and across the forward estimates?

## **Ministerial Office Administration**

66. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
- What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2014-15?
  - What is the average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office based on current appointments?
67. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- For each phone, how much was each bill in the past financial year?
  - How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
    - What is the cost of replacing those phones?
68. How many iPads or tablets does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- What is the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office?
  - How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage?
    - What was the cost of replacing these devices?
69. Did any your or your ministerial staff incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- If so, how many times did this occur?
    - What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?
70. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your office?
- What is the cost of this?
71. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office?
- If so, what was the cost of these items?
72. What is the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals?
- What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
    - Who is the subscriber for each of these?
73. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office?
- What were the gifts purchased?
    - Who were they gifted to?
74. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- What is the cost of this?
75. Can you advise the names of all contractors/consultants employed and/or paid for by your office, under any agreement, contract or fee-for -service arrangement in 2014-15?
- Do they have ABN's?
    - If so, please provide details?
  - Details of paid or unpaid invoices and amounts?
  - Details of services and fees provided by each contractor and or consultant?

76. Details of the agreement between your office and any contractors/consultants engaged by your office?

### **Ministerial And Office Travel**

77. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
- a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
78. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?
- a) What were the nature of these trips?
  - b) Who paid for these trips?
79. What was the total bill for your office in 2014-15 for:
- a) Taxi hire
  - b) Limousine hire
  - c) Private hire care
  - d) Hire car rental
80. Have you ever used Uber?
- a) If yes, were any of these occasions in an UberX vehicle?
81. Have you or anyone in your office used Uber services travelling to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- a) Were any of those services in an UberX vehicle?
82. Have you or anyone in your office sought reimbursement for using Uber services to travel to or from work-related events, meetings or functions?
- a) What is the value of those reimbursements?
83. Have you used Airbnb?
84. Have you or anyone in your office used Airbnb as an accommodation solution whilst travelling on official business?
85. Have any planes or helicopters been chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money?
- a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?
86. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

### **Labour Hire Firms**

87. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form:
- a) The names of the firms utilised
  - b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
  - c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company



## **Media And Public Relations**

88. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
89. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
90. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?
91. Have you had media training or speech training?
  - a) If yes, who paid for it?
  - b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount?

## **Consultants, Lobbyists And Former Parliamentarians**

92. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Hartcher in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
93. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Stoner in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
94. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Tim Owen in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
95. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Craig Baumann in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
96. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Andrew Cornwell in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
97. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Chris Spence in the time since he has left the Parliament?
  - a) Who attended those meetings?

- b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
98. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Darren Webber in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
99. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Garry Edwards in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
100. Have you, your office or your Departmental Officers had any meetings with former MP Bart Bassett in the time since he has left the Parliament?
- a) Who attended those meetings?
  - b) What was the nature of those meetings?
  - c) What was discussed?
  - d) Were any records of those meetings kept?
101. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Department? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?
- a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
  - b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
102. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
- a) If yes, what is their role in the project?

## Consulting

103. How much have the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spent in legal costs?
- a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
104. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice:
- a) Social media
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - b) Photography
    - ii. And the cost of these services
  - c) Acting training
    - iii. And the cost of these services
  - d) Ergonomics
    - iv. And the cost of these services

## Department/Agency Administration

105. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-15?
  - a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - i. Voluntary
    - ii. Forced
  - b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?
106. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
  - a) What was the nature of these works/services?
  - b) What was the total cost of these works or services?
107. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?
108. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2014-15?
  - a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?
109. How much was spent on corporate hospitality by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
110. How much was spent on indoor plant hire and maintenance by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015 year?
111. How much did Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend on restaurant bills during the year 2014/2015?
  - a) How much of these bills were alcohol?
112. Were instances of internal fraud detected by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2014-2015?
  - a) What was the sum total of any such fraud and what was the result of any investigations?
113. How large is the Department's vehicle fleet?
  - a) What is the composition of this fleet in terms of engine size?
  - b) How many of the fleet were involved in an accident during the year 2014-2015?
  - c) What was the total cost of insurance claims and repairs?
114. How much did departments/agencies spend on newspaper and journal subscriptions during 2014-2015?
115. How many SES employees are employed within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio?
  - a) What is their remuneration band?
  - b) For each SES employee, how many have:
    - i. 0 staff reporting to them;
    - ii. less than 2 staff reporting to them; and
    - iii. less than 5 staff?
116. How many sick days, leave days or days attributable to workers compensation were lost for each department/agency within your portfolio responsibility during 2014-15 for:
  - a) workplace bullying;
  - b) stress leave; and
  - c) sick leave?

117. Do any of the departments/agencies under your portfolio area employ actors for staff training?
- a) If so, what is:
    - i. the size of the contract for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - ii. the term of the contracts for the provision of actors for staff training in your departments?
    - iii. the tender numbers for each of the contracts?

### **Department/Agency Travel**

118. What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
- a) Taxi hire
  - b) Limousine/private car hire
  - c) Hire car rental
119. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have a policy on utilising Uber services for travel on official business?
120. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Uber services?
- a) Were any of these payments for UberX services?
121. Have staff in your Department/agencies either paid for with departmental funds or been recompensed for official travel using Airbnb services?
122. Did any officers within departments/agencies under your ministerial portfolio use charter aircraft during the year 2014-2015?
- a) If so what was the purpose and cost?

### **Departmental/Agency IT**

123. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on iTunes?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?
124. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- a) What was the total expenditure in 2014-15 on Android?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?
125. How many Department/agency mobile phones, tablets and laptops were replaced due to loss or damage during 2014-2015?
- a) What was the total cost of replacing these items?
126. Did any staff within departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities incur data charges on a mobile phone or tablet device greater than \$1000 for a single billing period?
- a) If so, how many times did this occur?
    - i. What was the individual cost of each data charge over \$1000 for a single billing period?

## Questions from Hon John Kaye MLC

### Draft Wind Planning Guidelines

127. What is the current status of the NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms?
- (a) Are the guidelines still in draft form?
    - i. If so, is the Baird government planning to formalise them?
  - (1) If so when.
  - (b) The guidelines are listed on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as a "useful resource."
    - i. Are proposed wind farm projects, both current and future, required to abide by the guidelines even though they are in draft form?

### Federal Renewable Energy Target

128. On 18 May 2015, the federal Coalition government struck a deal with the Labor Opposition to cut the Renewable Energy Target (RET) from 41,000 GWh to 33,000 GWh by 2020. Given that energy market analysts predict that investment in Australian projects will fall from an expected \$20.6 billion by 2020 to \$14.7 as a result of this cut:
- (a) Can the Minister please outline how the changes to the RET are expected to affect the clean energy sector in NSW, in particular:
    - i. What is the government's understanding of the total investment loss to NSW as a result of a reduction in the RET?
    - ii. Has any analysis or modelling been done to measure the impact of the cut to the sector in NSW?
  - (1) If so, what did the analysis and or modelling show?
    - iii. How many job opportunities in NSW have been impacted by the cut to the RET?
  - (b) Is the Baird government considering the introduction of a state-based renewable energy scheme in order to address the loss of investment expected as a result of the cut to the RET?
    - i. If not why not?
129. Of the \$7.3 billion of clean energy projects seeking approval as of August 2014 as noted in the 2014 Renewable Energy Action Plan annual report, how many are exposed to the Renewable Energy Target?
- (a) Will any of these projects not be proceeding due to cuts to the renewable energy target?

### State Renewable Energy Policy

130. According to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2014 annual report, 79.5% of NSW's energy generation came from coal and just 12.9% from renewables in 2013.

- (a) How are they planning to reduce the reliance on coal to meet the 20% renewable energy target by 2020 goal?
130. Is the Minister committed to a secure, affordable and renewable energy future for NSW?
131. According to the Clean Energy Council's 2014 Clean Energy Australia Report, NSW is the poorest performing state when it comes to renewable energy generation, behind South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and Queensland.
- (a) Would the Minister agree with this finding?
  - (b) If not, please provide reasons.

### **Coal industry**

132. How many people are currently employed in NSW
- (a) Coal mines
    - i. Directly
    - ii. Indirectly
  - (b) Coal fired power stations
    - i. Directly
    - ii. Indirectly
133. Which mines in the Hunter region of NSW currently supply fuel to Bayswater coal fired power station? Please provide
- (c) the names of the mines
  - (d) the amount that is contracted
  - (e) timeframes for those contracts

### **Vegetation clearing by electricity companies**

134. How is the Minister addressing the concerns of community members regarding the removal of vegetation by the distribution and transmission companies?
- (f) Can the Minister please advise whether his office has received complaints of this nature and any response given.

## **Questions from Hon Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC**

### **Decline of Coal**

135. Given the world wide transition away from coal, which will likely accelerate with political agreement in Paris and technological advancements in renewable energy, does the NSW Government have any plan or strategy to transition regional economies away from coal?
136. Is there a structural decline in coal mining occurring in NSW?

### **Wilpinjong**

137. According to the recently released Coal Industry Profile Volume 2, Peabody produced 17.33 million tonnes of raw coal and 14.62 million tonnes of saleable coal in 2013-14 despite their conditions of consent at the time only allowing 15 million tonnes of raw and 12.5 million tonnes of saleable to be produced. Have Peabody breached their Conditions of Consent for their Wilpinjong mine?
- (a) If so, what has or will be done about this?

### **Fit and Proper Person Test**

138. What process do you go through to determine whether a company or person applying for a mining lease meets the fit and proper person test?

### **Ministerial Staff**

139. Have any of your ministerial staff been previously employed by the mining industry?
- (a) If so, how many and who?

### **CSG Liverpool Plains**

140. Do you think coal seam gas should go ahead in the Liverpool Plains?
141. When do you expect to make a decision on whether to renew PEL 1 over the Liverpool Plains?
142. When do you expect to make a decision on whether to renew PEL 452?

### **Coal Production**

143. How many coal mines are currently operating in NSW?
144. How many coal mines in NSW are in care and maintenance?
145. How many coal mines in NSW are abandoned?
146. How many coal mines in NSW have come out of care and maintenance in the past 50 years?
147. How many million tonnes of coal production has your government approved since it came to office in 2011?
148. How many new mines or mine extensions has your government approved since it came to office in 2011?

149. How many applications for new mines or mine extensions have been rejected by your government since it came to office in 2011?

### **Santos Narrabri**

150. When do you expect Santos to lodge their EIS?
151. Do you accept that in the current economic climate Santos will not go ahead with their Narrabri gas project?

### **Buy Backs**

152. Will the government rule out issuing new petroleum exploration licenses in the areas where buy backs have occurred?
153. Will the government rule out issuing new exploration licenses over the Central Coast?
154. Will the government rule out issuing new exploration licenses over the Sydney Basin?
155. Will the government rule out issuing new exploration licenses over the North Coast?
156. Will the Government rule out issuing new exploration licenses over the Illawarra?
157. Will the Government rule out issuing new exploration licenses over the Riverina?

### **Carbon Capture and Storage**

158. How much CO<sub>2</sub> has been captured in NSW, in total, as a result of carbon capture and storage programs, excluding land use, land use change and forestry?
159. Of the CO<sub>2</sub> which has been captured as a result of carbon capture and storage programs, (excluding land use, land use change and forestry), how much is being permanently stored right now?
160. What percentage of captured CO<sub>2</sub> in NSW (excluding land use, land use change and forestry) has been subsequently released back into the atmosphere?
161. If any CO<sub>2</sub> at all has been captured and permanently stored in NSW (excluding though land use, land use change and forestry), what is the average cost per tonne of this CCS to date?
162. Is it true that the only known CO<sub>2</sub> storage in NSW in the Darling Basin, may – at the lower end of its potential capacity – only store emissions equivalent to what NSW emitted between January to end April, 2013, before it is completely full?

### **Rehabilitation Security Deposits**

163. Can the Minister guarantee that the \$158,675,800 held as security for the mines operated by Metropolitan Coal Pty Limited, Wambo Coal Pty Limited and Wilpinjong Coal Pty Limited is enough to rehabilitate the three mines if Peabody goes bankrupt?
164. Can the Minister guarantee that the NSW Government currently holds enough rehabilitation security guarantees to cover the rehabilitation cost estimates for all existing coal mines in NSW?
165. When a mine is sold, does the purchaser automatically assume the full rehabilitation cost and conditions under which the mine was been approved?
166. How often is the DRE Schedule of Rehabilitation Costs reviewed?
- (a) When was it last reviewed?



167. Does the DRE Schedule of Rehabilitation Costs increase with CPI annually?
- (a) If no, why not?
168. In her answer to the committee on rehabilitation security deposits, Deputy Secretary Kylie Hargreaves said “obviously we reconsider and revisit those bonds on a regular basis”. How often are the rehabilitation cost estimates reviewed for coal mines in NSW?
- (a) Is there a standard time period in which they must be reviewed for each mine?
169. Do companies which have participated in the NSW Government’s buy back scheme for petroleum exploration licenses still have a responsibility to meet their rehabilitation requirements or has this responsibility been transferred to the state?
170. What is the total rehabilitation security guarantee held by the Government for the following coal mines:
- (a) Ashton Underground
  - (b) Ashton Open cut
  - (c) Bengalla
  - (d) Bulga Complex
  - (e) Dellworth Project
  - (f) Drayton
  - (g) Drayton South Project
  - (h) Ferndale Project
  - (i) Hunter Valley Operations
  - (j) Integra Uunderground
  - (k) Integra Open cut
  - (l) Liddell
  - (m) Mangoola
  - (n) Mitchells Flat Project
  - (o) Monash Project
  - (p) Mount Pleasant Project
  - (q) Mount Thorley Warkworth
  - (r) Mt Arthur
  - (s) Mt Owen Complex
  - (t) Muswellbrook
  - (u) Ravensworth Surface Operations
  - (v) Ravensworth Underground
  - (w) Ridgeland Project
  - (x) Rix’s Creek
  - (y) Sandy Creek Project
  - (z) Savoy Hill Project
  - (aa) Spur Hill Project
  - (bb) Wambo Complex
  - (cc) West Muswellbrook Project
  - (dd) Abel
  - (ee) Austar
  - (ff) Awaba
  - (gg) Bloomfield
  - (hh) Chain Valley

(ii) Donaldson  
(jj) Mandalong  
(kk) Mannering  
(ll) Myuna  
(mm) Newstan  
(nn) Tasman  
(oo) Wallarah 2 Project  
(pp) West Wallsend  
(qq) Westside  
(rr) Duralie  
(ss) Stratford  
(tt) Rocky Hill Project  
(uu) Appin  
(vv) Berrima  
(ww) Dendrobium  
(xx) Hume Project  
(yy) Metropolitan  
(zz) Russell Vale  
(aaa) Tahmoor  
(bbb) Tahmoor South Project  
(ccc) West Cliff  
(ddd) Wongawilli  
(eee) Oaklands Proposal  
(fff) Oaklands North Project  
(ggg) Airly  
(hhh) Angus Place  
(iii) Baal Bone  
(jjj) Bylong Project  
(kkk) Charbon open cut  
(lll) Charbon underground  
(mmm) Clarence  
(nnn) Cobbora Project  
(ooo) Cullen Valley  
(ppp) Inglenook Project  
(qqq) Invincible  
(rrr) Ivanhoe North  
(sss) Moolarben  
(ttt) Neubeck Project  
(uuu) Pine Dale  
(vvv) Running Stream Project  
(www) Springvale  
(xxx) Ulan Mine Complex  
(yyy) Wilpinjong  
(zzz) Boggabri  
(aaaa) Carroona Project

- (bbbb) Maules Creek Project
- (cccc) Narrabri
- (dddd) Rocglen
- (eeee) Sunnyside
- (ffff) Tarrawonga
- (gggg) Vickery Project
- (hhhh) Watermark Project
- (iiii) Werris Creek
- (jjjj) Ashford Project

171. When were the rehabilitation cost estimates for the following coal mines last reviewed:

- (a) Ashton Underground
- (b) Ashton Open cut
- (c) Bengalla
- (d) Bulga Complex
- (e) Dellworth Project
- (f) Drayton
- (g) Drayton South Project
- (h) Ferndale Project
- (i) Hunter Valley Operations
- (j) Integra Underground
- (k) Integra Open cut
- (l) Liddell
- (m) Mangoola
- (n) Mitchells Flat Project
- (o) Monash Project
- (p) Mount Pleasant Project
- (q) Mount Thorley Warkworth
- (r) Mt Arthur
- (s) Mt Owen Complex
- (t) Muswellbrook
- (u) Ravensworth Surface Operations
- (v) Ravensworth Underground
- (w) Ridgeland Project
- (x) Rix's Creek
- (y) Sandy Creek Project
- (z) Savoy Hill Project
- (aa) Spur Hill Project
- (bb) Wambo Complex
- (cc) West Muswellbrook Project
- (dd) Abel
- (ee) Austar
- (ff) Awaba
- (gg) Bloomfield
- (hh) Chain Valley
- (ii) Donaldson

(jj) Mandalong  
(kk) Mannering  
(ll) Myuna  
(mm) Newstan  
(nn) Tasman  
(oo) Wallarah 2 Project  
(pp) West Wallsend  
(qq) Westside  
(rr) Duralie  
(ss) Stratford  
(tt) Rocky Hill Project  
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(vv) Berrima  
(ww) Dendrobium  
(xx) Hume Project  
(yy) Metropolitan  
(zz) Russell Vale  
(aaa) Tahmoor  
(bbb) Tahmoor South Project  
(ccc) West Cliff  
(ddd) Wongawilli  
(eee) Oaklands Proposal  
(fff) Oaklands North Project  
(ggg) Airly  
(hhh) Angus Place  
(iii) Baal Bone  
(jjj) Bylong Project  
(kkk) Charbon open cut  
(lll) Charbon underground  
(mmm) Clarence  
(nnn) Cobbora Project  
(ooo) Cullen Valley  
(ppp) Inglenook Project  
(qqq) Invincible  
(rrr) Ivanhoe North  
(sss) Moolarben  
(ttt) Neubeck Project  
(uuu) Pine Dale  
(vvv) Running Stream Project  
(www) Springvale  
(xxx) Ulan Mine Complex  
(yyy) Wilpinjong  
(zzz) Boggabri  
(aaaa) Carroona Project  
(bbbb) Maules Creek Project

- (cccc) Narrabri
- (dddd) Rocglen
- (eeee) Sunnyside
- (ffff) Tarrawonga
- (gggg) Vickery Project
- (hhhh) Watermark Project
- (iiii) Werris Creek
- (jjjj) Ashford Project

172. What is the total rehabilitation security guarantee held by the Government for the following petroleum authorities:

- (a) PAL 2
- (b) PEL 1
- (c) PEL 6
- (d) PEL 12
- (e) PEL 13
- (f) PEL 16
- (g) PEL 238
- (h) PEL 285
- (i) PEL 426
- (j) PEL 427
- (k) PEL 428
- (l) PEL 433
- (m) PEL 434
- (n) PEL 445
- (o) PEL 450
- (p) PEL 452
- (q) PEL 456
- (r) PEL 457
- (s) PEL 458
- (t) PEL 461
- (u) PEL 462
- (v) PEL 475
- (w) PPL 1
- (x) PPL 2
- (y) PPL 3
- (z) PPL 4
- (aa) PPL 5
- (bb) PPL 6
- (cc) PPLA 9
- (dd) PPLA 11
- (ee) PPLA 12
- (ff) PPLA 13
- (gg) PPLA 14
- (hh) PPLA 15
- (ii) PPLA 16

173. When were the rehabilitation cost estimates for the following petroleum authorities last reviewed:

- (a) PAL 2
- (b) PEL 1
- (c) PEL 6
- (d) PEL 12
- (e) PEL 13
- (f) PEL 16
- (g) PEL 238
- (h) PEL 285
- (i) PEL 426
- (j) PEL 427
- (k) PEL 428
- (l) PEL 433
- (m) PEL 434
- (n) PEL 445
- (o) PEL 450
- (p) PEL 452
- (q) PEL 456
- (r) PEL 457
- (s) PEL 458
- (t) PEL 461
- (u) PEL 462
- (v) PEL 475
- (w) PPL 1
- (x) PPL 2
- (y) PPL 3
- (z) PPL 4
- (aa) PPL 5
- (bb) PPL 6
- (cc) PPLA 9
- (dd) PPLA 11
- (ee) PPLA 12
- (ff) PPLA 13
- (gg) PPLA 14
- (hh) PPLA 15
- (ii) PPLA 16

## **Shenhua**

174. Has the Minister or Department been involved in any negotiations with Shenhua about setting a new timetable for payment of the state's success fee for the grant of a mining license in the Liverpool Plains?
175. Will the Minister commit to investigating Shenhua's coal operations in China as part of the assessment of whether the company meets the fit and proper person test if and when a mining lease application is made by Shenhua?

176. Has the Minister or the Department met with the Minister for Primary Industries since 2011 regarding the impact of the Shenhua mine on agriculture in the Liverpool Plains?  
(a) If so, on what dates and what was discussed?
177. Has the Minister or the Department met with the Department of Primary Industries since 2011 regarding the impact of the Shenhua mine on agriculture in the Liverpool Plains?  
(a) If so, on what dates and what was discussed?

### **Centennial Coal**

178. Is the Minister investigating whether Centennial Coal meet the fit and proper person test given they have breached their Environmental Protection License more than 1360 times since 2000?
179. Under what circumstances would the Minister review whether an existing mining company in NSW meets the fit and proper person test?

### **Renewable Energy Target**

180. Does the NSW government have a renewable energy target for energy generated in NSW?  
(a) If your government does, what is the plan to achieve this target?
181. In the 'Progressing the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan, Annual Report 2014', the NSW Government "reiterated its support for the achievement of a national 20% (41,000 gigawatt hours)" target. Now the national target for large-scale generation is only 33,000 GWh in 2020. If your target is Tony Abbott's target, does this mean that NSW has lowered its renewable energy target by about 20%?

### **Environmental Data Repository**

182. Where is the establishment of an Environmental Data Repository, as recommended by the NSW Chief Scientist, up to?

### **Mine Subsidence Board**

183. The Wallarah 2 PAC suggested in their report that a thorough investigation was needed into the Mine Subsidence Board's given the lack of independence and significant public concern about its processes. Have you instigated or are you considering any review?
184. Has the Department commenced or does the Department plan to commence any reviews into the standards of governance of the Mine Subsidence Board following the allegations made to the ICAC that Darren Bullock, the former district manager of the Picton branch of the NSW MSB, received at least \$300,000 in corrupt payments from Kevin Inskip, the principal of Plantac Pty Limited?

## **Werris Creek coal mine**

185. What compliance action can the Minister or the department take if there is a reduction in the saturated thickness of the groundwater above the trigger levels at the Werris Creek coal mine?
186. Has Whitehaven been investigated for any breaches of the conditions of its mining consent by the Minister or the department since 2011?
  - (a) If so, what were the outcomes of these investigations and what compliance action was taken on each occasion if a breach was identified?