

**Legislative Council Questions on Notice
Estimates Committee – Treasury, Infrastructure, Hunter
26 October 2007**

Superannuation Contributions (page 28)

What is the difference between the Total State Sector superannuation contributions reported in the Budget and the contributions quoted in the Mercer report?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Budget Paper superannuation funding plan comments and figures relate to the Crown.

The estimate in the report by Mercer Human Resources relates to employer contributions for the total Pooled Fund which comprises the Crown, and Non Crown General Government agencies, Public Trading Enterprises, Universities and other employers including local councils.

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Criminal Infringement Notice Scheme (page 42)

What is the percentage on fines paid under the trial of the Criminal Infringement Notice Scheme?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Almost 65% of CINS fines issued during the trial period were paid in full by their due date on the penalty notice, reminder notice or since becoming enforced, or are currently under 'Time to Pay' arrangements.

The remaining outstanding CINS fines are under management by the State Debt Recovery Office and are being pursued through the various enforcement options available under the *Fines Act*.

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General Government Net Borrowings (page 45)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Budget made provision for long term borrowing to reduce the Consolidated Fund overdraft provided market conditions are favourable. Given arrangements with TCorp it was expected this would have a negligible impact on the Budget result.

Additional borrowings will only be undertaken if market conditions are favourable and the financial impact on the Budget remains negligible.

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Sydney Airport Sale Stamp Duty (page 48-50)

Who authorised the assessment to be issued?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Refer to page 49 of the transcript.

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Criminal Infringement Notice Scheme (page 58)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Refer to the response given to the Question on Notice on page 42 of the transcript.

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Criminal Infringement Notice Scheme (page 60)

Did the Office of State Revenue provide a submission to the Government following the Ombudsman's report in 2005 in relation to CINS?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The Office of State Revenue did not make a submission to the Government following the Ombudsman's report in 2005 in relation to this system.

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Evaluation of Capital Expenditure Proposals (pages 64 and 65)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

The major construction projects sampled were 2005-06 projects with a total cost of over one million dollars.

The analysis involved calculating for each project, the percentage change between its then current predicted or actual final cost and its original approved budget. The average percentage change per project was then calculated for those projects that commenced prior to the introduction of Gateway and for those that commenced after the introduction of Gateway. The latter group showed a 50% reduction in average percentage change compared to the earlier group.

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Commonwealth Government Grants to the States (page 71)

Can you explain the current situation with the Federal and State Governments funding of New South Wales?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Commonwealth Government current grants to State and local governments expressed as a share of national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) averaged 6.6 per cent a year in the period 1980-81 to 1989-90.

In 2006-07, Commonwealth current grants to State and local governments, adjusted for the impact of the GST tax reforms, were 4.9 per cent of GDP. Since 2000-01, when the GST was introduced, Commonwealth current grants to State and local governments, adjusted for the impact of the GST reforms, have averaged 5.1 per cent of GDP a year.

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Criminal Infringement Notice Scheme (page 73)

...Approximately how many go to Court and have the matter determined at Court?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

Approximately 2 per cent.

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Swansea Channel (pages 87 and 88)

ANSWER

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Lands.

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Newcastle Flood Damage (pages 87 and 88)

Have you got a total cost at this stage to Newcastle for infrastructure damage from the flooding in June?

ANSWER

I'm advised:

According to the latest update from The Insurance Council, which estimates over 98,000 claims have been registered by the General Insurance Industry at an estimated cost of \$1.47 billion from the Newcastle, Hunter Valley and Central Coast area.