

**PREMIER / MINISTER FOR WESTERN SYDNEY
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013
Questions on Notice**

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING – 9 October 2012

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

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QUESTION

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: What is the budget for the VisionCare program this year?

ANSWER:

\$4.5 million in NSW Government funding has been budgeted for VisionCare in 2012-13. VisionCare has received \$1.5 million of this funding to date (\$375,000 per month from 1 July 2012 to end October 2012).

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QUESTION

The Hon. LUKE FOLEY: Premier, with respect to your election commitment to "require electricity company directors to personally certify that dividend payments place no additional pressure on prices or reliability", are you in a position to table those personal certifications today?

ANSWER:

Directors' Statements confirming that payment of any annual or 'special' dividends will not place additional pressure on prices, service quality or future reliability are to be submitted in the context of annual reports by electricity companies. The next Annual Reports must be received by the Government by 31 October 2012, and be tabled by the shareholder Ministers by 30 November 2012.

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QUESTION

The Hon. WALT SECORD: When did you tell Mr Baird that you were going to appoint Mr Massy-Greene to the head of Networks NSW?

ANSWER:

Before Cabinet in accordance with the usual process.

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QUESTION

Dr JOHN KAYE: There are two ways there can be a second casino. The first way is by a change to the current Act that allows for a second licence. The other way is by splitting the Echo licence.

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: I do not think the latter is an option.

Dr JOHN KAYE: You are ruling out the idea that Echo could, in a deal with Crown—

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: I am happy to take that on notice, but I do not believe the current legislative provisions allow that to occur.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Allow Echo, under its licence, to run a second off-site high-roller room?

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: As I understand it, and I have not looked at the legislation, the exclusivity relates to a single casino licence in Sydney.

Dr JOHN KAYE: But does it relate to a single site?

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: As I understand it does, but I am happy to get you that answer on notice.

ANSWER:

Section 6 of the *Casino Control Act 1992* currently provides that:

Only one casino licence may be in force under this Act at any particular time. A casino licence is to apply to one casino only.

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QUESTION

Dr JOHN KAYE: Can I ask why it is that your Government has cut funding to the digital archive project at State Records?

ANSWER:

In 2011-12, State Records was allocated \$1.8 million as a project grant towards implementing this whole-of-government digital archiving initiative. A further \$1.1 million has been provided in the Authority's 2012-13 Budget to take the Digital State Archives project live.

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QUESTION

CHAIR: Another area for which you are responsible is working with Aboriginal communities, private and public landowners to protect and conserve Aboriginal heritage. There is a large number of native title claims in New South Wales. Are they creating any dilemmas for you in future developments and projects? How are you handling that?

ANSWER:

I am informed that there are approximately 26,000 land claims over certain Crown land claimable under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*. The Department of Primary Industries is however, working with specific land councils to streamline the land claim process in an effort to reduce this backlog. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is also undertaking a statutory review of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* which includes reviewing the land claim process.

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Page 45 of transcript – Relates to Justice Levine and Police Integrity Commission

QUESTION

Dr JOHN KAYE: You have made offers but he has no additional assistance other than one barrister?

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: We have made offers. He has indicated that those offers were not necessary and he has indicated, yes, he is using a barrister to assist in the work.

Dr JOHN KAYE: Can you get back to me with the additional resources, apart from that barrister, that you have provided him with?

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: I am happy to get back to you with the resources he is provided with.

Dr JOHN KAYE: But you are saying in personnel there is only one, which is the barrister?

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL: I am not sure that is right, but I will get back to you with the details.

ANSWER:

The Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission (itself a part time position) has an Executive Assistant and a Legal Officer (solicitor) engaged in his office. (Each of those positions is part time). He may also engage additional assistance from time to time as the need arises by arrangement with Department of Premier & Cabinet.