

**PREMIER  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013  
Questions on Notice**

**Questions from Dr Kaye  
Premier**

**QUESTION**

**1.** What is the Premier doing to address climate change and local health and economic impacts of coal mining and the use of coal to generate electricity in NSW?

**ANSWER:** The NSW Strategic Regional Land Use Plans provide details on the Government's actions to address these issues. One of the objectives of the Plans is to ensure that the growth of the mining and coal seam gas industries does not significantly impact on community health and amenity.

**2.** In the context of the government's often asserted need to tighten the budget across a range of departments, will the Premier rule out boosting the administration funding of small political parties?; and

**2 a.** If not, in the context of education and health spending cuts, how can the Premier justify spending additional public funds on a political party?

**ANSWER:** This matter is currently being considered by the Electoral Matters Committee.

**3 a.** Was the decision to establish an inquiry into the administration funding of minor political parties taken after consultation with representatives of the Shooters and Fishers Party or the Christian Democratic Party? If so, with which party and on what date did this consultation take place?;

**3 b.** Did you or any member of your office discuss the establishment of this inquiry with any representative of the Shooters and Fishers Party or Christian Democratic Party? If so, with which party and on what date did this discussion take place?; and

**3 c.** Was the establishment of this inquiry at any stage mentioned as an inducement or reward for Upper House MPs in the Christian Democratic Party or Shooters and Fishers Party voting for government legislation?

**ANSWER:** Please refer to the media release "Funding for Minor Parties" of 31 May 2012 available at [www.premier.nsw.gov.au](http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au).

**4.** Will the Premier introduce legislation to create caps on political donations and electoral communication expenditure that apply to local government elections as they apply to state elections?

**ANSWER:** This matter is under consideration.

**5.** Will the Premier introduce legislation to ensure that parties are required to disclose how much it spent on each state electorate to avoid suspicions around undetectable breaches of the spending cap in some marginal electorates?

**ANSWER:** Expenditure caps apply for individual Assembly seats during the 'capped expenditure period'. For the 2015 general election, the capped expenditure period will commence on 1 October 2014. The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is currently reviewing the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981*. It is expected to report by December 2012. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations for legislative changes that the Committee may make.

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**6.** As the Premier:

**6 a.** Are you aware that the Heritage Council of NSW has adopted the Burra Charter and thus its associated guidelines?

**ANSWER:** I am advised the Heritage Council of NSW formally adopted the Burra Charter at its meeting of 1 December 2004.

**6 b.** As these guidelines require State management and conservation of NSW Heritage List items, what are the specifics of NSW management including maintenance funding and completed work over recent years for the iconic NSW heritage-listed Parramatta Female Factory Precinct (PFFP) buildings including at Kamballa (Dept of Community Services), Norma Parker (Dept of Corrective Services) and Cumberland Hospital (Dept of Health)?

**ANSWER:** Maintenance funding and works schedules are undertaken by the agency responsible for the property. As State Heritage-listed assets, the approval controls of the Heritage Act 1977 guide appropriate intervention. All Government agencies follow the Government's Total Asset Management framework.

**6 c.** Given the dilapidated state of many of the PFFP heritage buildings, what are the current forward estimates for funding and works completion timelines for the PFFP component for each of these departments?

**ANSWER:** The maintenance budget allocations and works schedules are a matter for each agency. The Government is committed to the development of a Master Plan for the ongoing management of heritage in Parramatta. The master plan will be developed in close consultation with property owners and the community.

**6 d.** Given the PFFP includes Australia's oldest existing convict women's site, which predates all but two of the 11 Australian convict sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, do you support this iconic site being considered urgently for National and/or World Heritage Listing?

**ANSWER:** The Government considers whether to support each application for National and/or World Heritage Listing on a case-by-case basis. The same process would apply for any application in relation to the PFFP.