

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

Dr Kaye MLC
Western Sydney

1. As the Minister for Western Sydney, how can you justify the fact that 5 out of 272 NSW public schools to lose funding under Every Student Every School are in the Penrith local government area?

ANSWER: Out of approximately 2,000 regular government schools in NSW, 1,813 regular schools have received an increased allocation of learning and support resources because their enrolment levels have increased, or the number of students requiring learning and support resources at that school has increased, or both. Forty-three schools in the Penrith local government area (LGA) have received an increased allocation of learning and support resources. Regular schools in the Penrith LGA are receiving more than \$7.5 million in 2012 for additional learning and support.

2. As the Minister for Western Sydney, what steps are you taking to increase investment in public transport for Western Sydney residents?

ANSWER: The Government is committed to investing in public transport in Western Sydney, and has made tangible progress on upgrading infrastructure and improving services.

The draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan, released on 4 September 2012, deals extensively with transport challenges facing Western Sydney and proposes a specific initiatives designed to improved transport in Parramatta, Penrith and Liverpool. The final Master Plan will be released before the end of 2012.

The North West Rail Link is a priority rail infrastructure project, with \$320 million allocated in the 2012-2013 Transport budget as well as \$40 million for the Department of Planning. The Budget also provided \$397 million to the South West Rail Link project, with the Glenfield Station upgrade opened to the public in September 2012, and services to commence on the new line in 2016.

Improvements are being made to existing transport infrastructure in Western Sydney. For example, the Government has committed \$24 million to build new commuter car parks at Granville and Canley Vale stations, and under the Government's Transport Access Program, a number of Western Sydney stations including East Hills, Quakers Hill, Windsor, Lidcombe, Liverpool, Penrith, Seven Hills and Fairfield, Birrong and Blacktown have been improved.

3. How does building more tollway roads assist Western Sydney residents in their quality of life and costs of living?

ANSWER: As noted in the State Infrastructure Strategy, 93 per cent of passenger journeys in Sydney are made by road, with the vast majority of freight travelling by road.

The people of Western Sydney and Western Sydney businesses deserve better access to Global Sydney including the CBD, the airport and Port Botany. The proposed WestConnex motorway initiative would improve that access.

Users of WestConnex will reach their destination faster by avoiding numerous sets of traffic lights and use less fuel through reduced queuing and stop/start driving. The proposed motorways would open up opportunities to Western Sydney residents by improving access and connections to employment areas and supporting economic growth and development around the road corridors.

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4 a. Is it true that the Mount Druitt TAFE Plumbing section has had its budget reduced this semester by \$50,000 whilst delivering services to the same number of apprentices?

ANSWER: There has been no reduction in funding in the Mount Druitt College Plumbing section for delivery to apprentices.

4 b. Is it also true that the same section has been ordered by management to deliver another \$80,000 in efficiency savings via reducing teaching hours for stage 3 plumbing apprentices?

ANSWER: There have been no specific directions to reduce teaching hours for Stage 3 plumbing apprentices.

4 c. Given that there is currently a skills shortage in the plumbing industry, as the Minister for Western Sydney, what steps are you taking to ensure that the quality of teaching in the Mount Druitt TAFE plumbing section remains high?

ANSWER: Western Sydney Institute is committed to delivering training to apprentices with a high priority in skill shortages areas, including for the plumbing industry. The Institute guarantees to provide a training place to every plumbing apprentice who chooses to enrol with TAFE NSW – Western Sydney Institute. The Institute will endeavour to continue to maximise training opportunities through innovative delivery strategies, use of technology and well-targeted training that industry requires.

Western Sydney Institute has forged strong links with industry and is working closely with industry to ensure that the quality of its educational programs meets industry needs.

5. As the Minister for Western Sydney:

5 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.

5 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 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.

5 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.

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5 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.

6. Can the Minister explain how cutting \$2 million from TAFE in Western Sydney for Fine Arts, the only place in Western Sydney to study Fine Arts considering that the University of Western Sydney closed its programs sometime ago and consequently closing the door of opportunity for people in Western Sydney who may be interested in pursuing a career in Fine Arts, is needed to meet the NSW Government's financial imperatives whilst the government at the same time approved TCorp spending \$4.43 million on a complete office overhaul, including furniture and fittings, at its offices in Governor Phillip Tower?

ANSWER: TAFE NSW Fine Arts courses (including ceramics, sculpture and visual arts) will be offered on a fee-for-service basis from 2013, including some via VET Fee Help. Aboriginal Cultural Arts courses will continue to be offered through government funding for Aboriginal students. These students will continue to be fee exempt

End of questions from Dr Kaye.