



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018-2019 Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance**

**THE LEGISLATURE**

Hearing: Thursday 6 September 2018

**Answers due by: Tuesday 2 October 2018**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

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## THE LEGISLATURE

<b>Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)</b>
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### **Audio Problems:**

1. Mr President, following on from questions last year and the year before, what action has been taken to correct the audio problems in committee rooms, such as total breakdown and poor quality, in particular the Macquarie Room?
  - (a) Was the Preston Stanley Room ever expected to be used for public hearings?
  - (b) In its construction, was it wired for audio-visual?
  - (c) Does it have a hearing loop?
  - (d) What plans are in place to bring it up to modern standards despite it being recently renovated, and at what cost?

### **Neville Wran Bust:**

2. Mr President, last year you confirmed that the bust of former Premier Neville Wran had been relocated to the Parkes Room in July 2016. You also noted that modern management includes regularly reviewing the placement of moveable display objects. The bust of Neville Wran has now been in the same place for two and a half years. Will you now return it to a prominent position in the main public area of the Parliament?

### **Timers for Committee Rooms:**

3. When Committees (such as Estimates) have to abide by strict time constraints, it is very distracting for Members to have to repeatedly ask the Clerks how much time they have left, or otherwise refer to stopwatches. Will you investigate having appropriate and unobtrusive timers installed in the major committee rooms that can be seen by all Committee Members and operated by the Committee Clerks?

### **Efficiency Dividends**

4. Mr President, you've indicated in your Budget Estimates hearing that you are "taking the issue to Treasury, to the Treasurer, and indicating that our department—this Parliament—should be given exemptions in relation to efficiency dividends."

Can you please provide us with the response you receive from Treasury as soon as it comes to hand?

## Vacancies

5. In response to Mr Moselmane’s question “how long does it usually take to fill vacancies?” You advised that “always operate in the most efficient and quickest manner.”
- (a) Can you please provide us with the process from vacancy to employment?
  - (b) What is the most efficient and quickest manner?
  - (c) The number of vacancies across DPS since 2011 to date and how long did DPS take to fill each of those vacancies?
  - (d) If the vacancy was not immediately filled as per the most efficient and quickest manner, upon the position becoming vacant, please provide details as to why and how long each vacancy took to fill from vacancy date to date of advertising to date of filling in the positions?
  - (e) If there were delays in filling the vacancies, please advise why and what action was then taken to prevent future delays in filling of those vacancies.

## Facilities Hire Fees

6. With regards to Mr Moselmane’s question about the splitting of facilities hire fees, you’ve indicated that the head of DPS will now have carriage of granting reduced fees depending on the number of users of parliamentary facilities on the same night and same times.
7. I note that you’ve indicated that the afterhours hire fees for members is actually and I quote:
- The PRESIDENT:** No, for members it is \$350 an hour. For non-members, for corporate, it is \$500 an hour.*
- Can you please advise where in the Room and Venue use Policy I can find this? Otherwise, Can you ensure that these figures are clearly set out in the current August 2017 policy

## Car Parking

8. What are the numbers of car spots that are reserved for “Annual Parking” access in:
- (a) 2018
  - (b) 2017
  - (c) 2016
  - (d) 2015
9. What are the numbers of car spots that are reserved for “Dedicated Parking” access in:

- (a) 2018
- (b) 2017
- (c) 2016
- (d) 2015

10. With reference to car spot 334 (see image below)



- (a) Does the former Member for Orange, Mr A. Gee continue to pay for a Dedicated Parking spot?
- (b) Why does a former MP who is not a former Office Holder or Premier have a Dedicated Parking spot?
- (c) How many other former MPs/MLCs who are not former Office Holders or Premiers have a Dedicated Parking spot?
- (d) Please list the names of these MPs/MLCs

### **DPS Staffing**

11. What is the annual cost of labour hire agency staff in the Catering division of DPS?

- (a) How many catering workers are employed this way?

- (b) How many catering workers have been employed this way for a period greater than 2 years?
  - (c) How many catering workers are employed as permanent staff?
  - (d) Can labour hire agency catering workers request permanency?
12. How many Full Time Equivalent cleaning staff positions are there in this financial year?
- (a) How many were there last year?
  - (b) How many were there five years ago?
  - (c) What is the annual cost of labour hire agency staff in the Cleaning division of DPS?
  - (d) How many cleaning workers are employed this way?
  - (e) How many cleaning workers have been employed this way for a period greater than 2 years?
  - (f) How many catering workers are employed as permanent staff?
  - (g) Can labour hire agency cleaning workers request permanency?

### **DPS Facilities**

13. What is the annual total Fringe Benefit Tax liability in respect of all parking provided to MPs and staff in the Parliamentary precinct?
- (a) Does the Parliament pay the Parking Space Levy to NSW Treasury?
  - (b) Notwithstanding the offset of any potential FBT liability by the payment of annual parking fees, would the Parliament accrue a fringe benefit tax liability in respect of MPs use of parking in the Parliamentary precinct at all given the ATO acknowledges in its TR 1999/10 ruling that MPs are not employed by The Legislature?
  - (c) Further, given the MoPS Act 2013 establishes MPs as the employer of electorate officers and Secretary-Research Assistants, and notwithstanding the offset of any potential FBT liability by the payment of annual parking fees, would the Parliament accrue a fringe benefit tax liability in respect of MoPS Act 2013 staff use of parking in the Parliamentary precinct?
14. What was the cost of recently acquired lounge furniture for the public and common areas of the Parliament? (Foyer area Level 7 / open areas on Level 10 and Level 11 of Tower Block)
- (a) How old was the furniture it replaced?
  - (b) Was the old furniture damaged?

- (c) What process did the Parliament follow for the disposal of that old furniture?

### **MoPS Act 2013 Staff**

15. The Determination of the Presiding Officers sets pay and conditions for Members staff employed under the MoPS Act 2013. Against which NSW Public Service Clerk Gradings are salaries for these staff benchmarked?
16. When was the last time the Presiding Officers or the Parliament assessed the duties and position descriptions of MoPS Act staff against the day to day working lives of these staff?

### **Skills and Training Development within DPS**

17. Do DPS and the two houses have a training and professional development scheme for their employees?
- (a) What is the annual budget?
  - (b) Do external providers attend Parliament to provide in-service training on-site?
  - (c) Do employees attend training off site?
  - (d) What types of courses do employees have access to?
  - (e) What is the most expensive (per person) training or professional development provided?
  - (f) Are individual employees limited to a set dollar amount of training and development per person to be expended each year?
18. Do Managers and Directors within DPS and the LA or LC attend management seminars or conferences?
- (a) How many of these occur each year?
  - (b) How many people attend?
  - (c) What is the annual budget for seminars, conferences or training for DPS and LA/LC executives or managers?
  - (d) What is the most expensive (per person) seminar, conference or training course attended by a DPS executive in the past five years?
  - (e) How many seminars, conferences or training courses have been attended by:
    - i. The DPS Executive Manager / CEO?
    - ii. The Clerk of the LA?

- iii. The Clerk of the LC?
- iv. Each of the four DPS Directors?
- v. Who approves which conferences, seminars or training courses may be attended by DPS executives or the LA / LC Clerks?

### **Fax Lines**

- 19. How much does the Parliament spend on fax line rental for electorate offices?
- 20. What is the average number of incoming and outgoing faxes for electorate offices?
- 21. Has consideration been given to changing the fax line to a phone line now that there is a third staff member in each electorate office?
- 22. How much does the Parliament spend on fax line rental for MPs offices in Parliament House?
- 23. On average, what is the number of incoming and outgoing faxes to and from these fax machines?
- 24. Has the Parliament explored options for a digital inbox for incoming faxes?

### **WH&S in Electorate Offices**

- 25. Who is responsible for undertaking WHS assessments of electorate offices?
- 26. How regularly are these required to be undertaken?
- 27. Who tracks and records whether the assessments have been undertaken and who is responsible for following up if they have not been done?
- 28. What WHS training is provided to electorate office staff?
  - (a) By whom is this training provided by?
  - (b) How often is this training undertaken?
- 29. How are WHS incidents recorded and reported?
- 30. Who is responsible for reporting incidents and when are they provided with advice on when and how to report incidents?
- 31. Is the Parliament responsible for providing First Aid kits to electorate offices?
- 32. How often are the first aid kits checked and restocked?
- 33. Is any training on how to use fire extinguishers provided to electorate office staff?
  - (a) If so by whom and how frequently?

34. Are any emergency evacuation drills conducted for electorate offices?
- (a) If so, how often are these conducted?
  - (b) who is responsible for arranging and undertaking the drills?
35. How often are duress alarms in electorate offices tested?
- (a) By whom are they tested?
  - (b) to whom are the results of the tests reported