



## **The Hon Niall Blair MLC**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

**Budget Estimates 2018-19 – Friday 31 August 2018  
Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport  
Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry**

**Questions Taken on Notice**

**Question 1 (Pages 2-3 of transcript)**

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Have you ever met with Mr David Trebeck?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** My diary is published. I have it here if you want me to go through it. Do you have a potential date?

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** I have an up-to-date one here. Have you ever met with him, not just as a Minister, but prior to—

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** The name does not immediately ring a bell but if you have a date and I have met with him—I have my diary here, which is publicly available—

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Has the department met with Mr David Trebeck?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** We could take that on notice. The department is quite big.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** I am happy for you to take that on notice. What about Australia's Oyster Coast [AOC]? Have you ever met with—

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** No.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Your office?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Not that I am aware of. Again, my diary is there. I am happy to check through. I have got the whole thing.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Has the department?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Are you talking about the Department of Primary Industries?

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** At this time, the Department of Primary Industries. Thank you for clarifying.

**Mr HANSEN:** I would have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** The Department of Industry?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Again, we can probably take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that one Department of Primary Industries Fisheries staff member met Mr David Trebeck along with other aquaculture and commercial and recreational

fishing representatives at a Fisheries Research Development Corporation stakeholder gathering at Nowra in approximately 2015.

The Department of Industry has advised that to its knowledge, there have been no other meetings with Mr Trebeck.

## **Question 2 (page 13 of transcript)**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** No, I am not asking about that. I am not interested in the processes. We held many debates in Parliament about the processes. I am asking you specifically why WaterNSW secretly approved every one of the illegally constructed works by Webster Limited on 26 April this year?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** As I said, I do not handle the applications. It would be inappropriate for the Minister to handle the applications. I am happy for Mr Harris, if he has any information on that, to provide it.

**Mr HARRIS:** The important thing about this is that previously and, under the Water Act, some structures were not required to have an approval. That situation changed under the Water Management Act and, as you know, there is provision for works owners or holders to seek approval of those works, but of course those works have to meet the requirements of the current water sharing plan. That provision broadly exists across all water sharing plans. The information that you have just read out in terms of the number or the applications that WaterNSW and all of the department have granted is not consistent with the information I have here. I am happy to take that on notice.

### **ANSWER:**

The works owned by Bengerang Ltd did not require approval when they were first constructed. Subsequent changes to legislation, namely the commencement of the Water Management (General) Amendment (Floodplain) Regulation 2017 and commencement of the Barwon Darling Floodplain Management Plan, mean that new structures of this kind are now subject to a formal approval process – but pre-existing structures are exempt, in accordance with Clause 39 of the Floodplain Management Plan.

Bengerang Ltd voluntarily took the option of having the pre-existing structures assessed against the new rules. These structures were found by WaterNSW to meet the new criteria and approval was granted, and then respectively notified on 25 and 28 May this year.

WaterNSW followed procedure by publicly advertising the applications in regional media. These public notices published in early February included details of a 28-day period during which public submissions on the applications were invited. No objections were received.

### **Question 3 (page 14 of transcript)**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** If they have met the requirements as assessed by WaterNSW, did you ascertain precisely when they were constructed?

**Mr HARRIS:** Mr Mookhey, I do not have that detail. I am happy to take that question on notice.

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Did you ascertain precisely how much water has passed through them?

**Mr HARRIS:** Again, I am happy to take that question on notice in terms of the work that was done by our officers in assessing those works under the provisions of the Barwon-Darling water sharing plan, which is what those works must meet to get the grant of approval that they have received.

### **ANSWER:**

WaterNSW verified that the works were constructed prior to the commencement of the Water Sharing Plan for the Barwon-Darling and the Barwon-Darling Floodplain Management Plan.

In assessing the application for the subject works it was not necessary to establish their precise construction date, only to verify that they were existing at the time of the commencement of the Water Sharing Plan and the Floodplain Management Plan, and as such were an accepted feature of the floodplain under the *Water Act 1912*.

It was not necessary to determine the amount of water that has passed through the structures in order to undertake the assessment of this application. Water take is measured at the pump site, and no additional pumps were approved.

**Question 4 (page 16 of transcript)**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** What is the status of Bidvalt Pty Ltd's application for the retrospective approval of waterworks? This is a company owned by Mr Peter Harris. What is the status of its application lodged in 2015?

**Mr HARRIS:** I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that information in front of me.

**ANSWER:**

The works in question is a supply channel between two properties owned by Budvalt Pty Ltd. The supply channel is for both water supply and recirculation of drainage waters between the properties. The channel is not connected directly to the water source.

This application is pending. It has not been granted.

### **Question 5 (page 18 of transcript)**

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** Your Government renewed the Shenhua mining licence in July 2018. I acknowledge that the renewed licence covers a reduced area. Why did you renew the licence? Why not protect all of the Liverpool Plains? Why not secure agriculture's future in that region?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I did not renew that licence. That is a question for the Minister—

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD:** Point of order: I believe that is a different portfolio responsibility.

**The CHAIR:** I uphold the point of order.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** What role did your department play in the renewal of that licence?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am happy to allow Ms Livingstone to provide some information about the water aspect of that question. However, again, the decision is not made by me.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** Do you support that decision?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I will get Ms Livingstone to answer the first question and I will come back to the second question.

**Ms LIVINGSTONE:** My understanding is that the exploration licence was renewed, not the mining licence.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** Yes.

**Ms LIVINGSTONE:** Given that, there was no assessment process; it was a routine renewal process. We do not provide individual advice for that process.

**Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM:** You did not provide advice to that process?

**Ms LIVINGSTONE:** Not as far as I am aware, but I can take the question on notice to confirm that. It was a routine renewal.

### **ANSWER:**

The exploration licence was renewed by Resources & Geoscience within the Department of Planning and Environment under the *Mining Act 1992* and approved by the relevant Minister. To the best of my knowledge there is no requirement to, nor was any advice sought from, Department of Industry - Lands & Water or the Department of Primary Industries.

## **Question 6 (page 21 of transcript)**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I want to ask some questions about the animal welfare aspects of the approved zoo that is going into Western Sydney Parklands. How many Department of Primary Industry staff are assigned to review and process the multiple licence requests for this facility?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Thank you for the question. Obviously, the department is responsible for a number of components in relation to exhibited animals. I know that that is an area that many members of the community are very interested in. I have signed many letters—correspondence—in relation to everything from circuses right through to zoos. The latest information I have is that New South Wales DPI is assessing applications for the construction of enclosures and permits for the display of animals at Sydney Zoo in line with the Exhibited Animals Protection Act—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Minister, when do you expect those assessments to be finalised?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** The department is working with the applicant towards a staged opening beginning in early 2019 to allow the applicant time to apply for and complete the construction of remaining enclosures. To date, applications for the construction of enclosures and associated structures have been assessed and approved by the department.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Could you give me some more specifics: How many assessments and how many have been approved? You can take these questions on notice if you need to.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Thank you for allowing me to check the rest of my note to see if I had those specifics. I appreciate the help. Mr Hansen might be able to provide more specific information in relation to the numbers.

**Mr HANSEN:** The first application was lodged in 2016, and we have been working with the applicant since then. We have approved 33 applications. As the Minister said, they are coming in tranches—in stages—that follow construction process for the zoo. We are in constant communication with them. Your first question was about how many officers we have working on this. We actually have the ability to ramp up or ramp down officers dedicated to the handling of these applications as they come forward, depending on whether we get a tranche in or not, as they come in. It is literally on an as-needs basis.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** When you have a tranche in, how many staff are working on it?

**Mr HANSEN:** We can move up to 10 people across to work in that space, but our typical staffing level is about two or three staff working in exhibited animals.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** What inspections have you undertaken or what evidence have you sought before granting a licence?

**Mr HANSEN:** That is something I would have to take on notice, in terms of each of the individual applications and what was required for approval of those licences.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That would be great. Are you certain that the enclosures, particularly for the elephants, are going to meet best-practice standards?

**Mr HANSEN:** If they do not then they will not be approved. They will need to meet our standards for exhibited animals and for elephants. I am not sure whether they are part of the 33 that have been approved yet. Again, I will take that on notice.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Please also give me where each one is up to.

**Mr HANSEN:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Thank you. The concern is that elephants are quite difficult to keep, and we want them to be kept well. Some experts have said that for a park that is only 16 hectares you need about half of that for the elephants, but it is only going to be a fraction of that. Can you tell me how big the elephant enclosure is at the proposed zoo?

**Mr HANSEN:** No, I cannot. I would have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** The elephant in the room—that question.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Are you able to tell the Committee, given its proposed opening in early 2019, what species will be exhibited at that date?

**Mr HANSEN:** No, not at this point in time. I am happy to take on notice what we have already approved, because that is obviously what we know.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Yes, but there is obviously a difference between approval and what is actually going to be exhibited at the opening.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** No, they would only be allowed to exhibit what has been approved.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I know that, but my question is whether they have actually obtained the animals and what oversight there is once those animals are on site, and the time frame for that. That is where I am going to with this line of questioning.

**Mr HANSEN:** I am happy to supply you with the details of where we are up to with that approval process. From what we know, everything is still on track for the opening on Australia Day 2019, which I think is their target date.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I want to know what animals are going to be exhibited at the opening.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** We will take that on notice and provide information on what applications have been submitted and approved. I do not think—but we can check—



we know what applications have not been submitted, unless there has been discussion. We will provide as much information as we can.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I want to understand the animal welfare structure of this new facility, as significant concerns have been raised within the community and I am trying to get to the bottom of how your department is managing those concerns.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** We will provide as much information as we can to allay those concerns. Again, I state that we take animal welfare issues seriously. We will not be cutting any corners when it comes to this facility. We will make sure that the appropriate processes and approvals are required before they will be allowed to exhibit. We can provide some information around the ongoing structures or programs from there.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** As you would be aware, two Acts oversee what is happening at the zoo, the Exhibited Animals Protection Act and the Biosecurity Act. Are you confident that the zoo has appropriate expertise in animal acquisition and welfare within its organisation currently?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** From where I sit as Minister, I would be happy to— I am happy for Mr Hansen to answer.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I am happy for Mr Hansen to answer.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I rely upon the expertise within the department in relation to this. The zoo is not open—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That is why I am asking these questions. The time to get this right is now.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am not being difficult, but I am saying that I rely upon the work done within DPI on this. We want to make sure that this is appropriate and goes through the right channels. We will provide that information on notice, so that we can give you and anyone in the community the confidence that this is going to be a facility that meets the required standards we have in New South Wales. We do not compromise on that.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** In that case, please take it on notice. I want you to provide information in relation to how you assess the expertise in animal acquisition and welfare within the organisation. How are you applying the capable and fit and proper person test, as required for the granting of the licences for this facility?

**Mr HANSEN:** I am happy to take that on notice.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** We are more than happy to give you a fulsome response in relation to all of these matters, particularly because we are dealing with a project that is staged and that is not open. I agree, the time for us to assess and to go through this process is current, and there are ebbs and flows. We are more than happy to give you a fulsome response to all of those issues on notice.

**ANSWER:**

**What inspections have you undertaken or what evidence have you sought before granting a licence?**

As at 13 September 2018, no licenses have been granted to Sydney Zoo. Sydney Zoo has been provided approval to construct exhibits which will be assessed for compliance with legislative requirements prior to any permits being issued to exhibit animals.

**Are you certain that the enclosures, particularly for the elephants, are going to meet best-practice standards?**

The approval to construct the elephant exhibit was determined and assessed against the [General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales](#) which is published by the Department pursuant to clause 8(1) of the [Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation 2010](#).

**Where are the 33 approvals at (where each one is up to).**

Sydney Zoo has submitted 33 applications to construct enclosures since 24 February 2017. Further, they have submitted 19 permit applications for prescribed species at the same time, which have been assessed and approved, but not issued.

**Can you tell me how big the elephant enclosure is at the proposed zoo?**

The size of the elephant enclosure will be assessed against the prescribed requirements set out in the [General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales](#)

**Are you able to tell the Committee, given its proposed opening in early 2019, what species will be exhibited at that date?**

The Department can only advise on what applications it has received in relation to exhibits it has approved to be constructed.

**I want to understand the animal welfare structure of this new facility, as significant concerns have been raised within the community and I am trying to get to the bottom of how your department is managing those concerns.**

The welfare of animals housed in exhibits is assessed by the Department against the [General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales](#), [Standards for Exhibiting Carnivores in New South Wales](#), [Standards for Exhibiting Australian Mammals in New South Wales](#) and the [Policy on Exhibiting Primates in New South Wales](#). This assessment is undertaken concurrently with the assessment for construction approval.

**Are you confident that the zoo has appropriate expertise in animal acquisition and welfare within its organisation currently? I want you to provide**

**information in relation to how you assess the expertise in animal acquisition and welfare within the organisation. How are you applying the capable and fit and proper person test, as required for the granting of the licences for this facility?**

Sydney Zoo has provided the Department with a job matrix outlining specific requirements associated with various roles at the new zoo, including the experience and expertise of staff. A further assessment of staff employed at the zoo will be undertaken before permits to exhibit these species are given.

### **Question 7 (page 27 of transcript)**

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** To be clear, this money, which is quite new—\$45.7 million announced only a couple of weeks ago as part of the strategy, announced at the same time as the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion phase 3 was announced—has that money already been allocated?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** In relation to the Marine Estate Management Authority and the Richmond River, I know that MEMA recognised that the effective coastal marine management needs to be holistic, coordinated and evidence-based. It responds to issues raised by stakeholders and the broader community regarding poor water quality and other key threats impacting the health of the Richmond River. The 10-year strategy also aims to deliver healthy coastal habitats and sustainable land use. The plan for climate change—you can give that to your buddy when you get back to your office—that was a statement put in for him.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** The question was quite specific to the funding.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am coming to some numbers—protect Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate; reduce impacts on marine life; ensuring sustainable boating, fishing and aquaculture; enhance social, cultural and economic benefits; and deliver effective governance. Programs in place to protect and enhance the health of the Richmond River and its diverse range of habitats include North Coast Local Land Services directing \$70,000 of some of the Catchment Action NSW funds to upgrade dairy effluent systems and reduce nutrient leakage into nearby waterways on dairy farms in the Richmond catchment; negotiating with the Australian Government the parameters around land care funding which we have been a recipient of; the Kyogle Weir fishway has also been included. I can get you a breakdown.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Is any of that new funding?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I can get you a breakdown of the other projects across the State that were announced in relation to MEMA and provide that information to you on notice.

### **ANSWER:**

Yes, the Marine Estate Management Strategy (Strategy) funding has been allocated to DPI. My department is currently working with key partner agencies on implementation planning.

There is both new funding and existing funding in relation to the issues the Strategy seeks to address. The Strategy funding will ensure new evidence-based actions aimed at reducing threats to water quality are able to be coordinated and implemented, while also complementing similar existing funding programs (eg OEH-Coast and Estuary funding program). The coordination of funding and investment programs is a key focus of the Strategy and this focus will ensure new and existing funding is strategic in its prioritisation and targeted in its application.

**Question 8 (page 28 of transcript)**

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** That is just my response. I can answer however I want. It is good to see that Ballina has someone who is advocating on behalf of the needs of the community and particularly the environment. That is what we are seeing. I can get some further information about the specifics of the project on notice and come back to you.

**ANSWER:**

The Richmond River pilot will integrate all nine initiatives from the Strategy, and this pilot will be used to inform future approaches to marine management across the state.

Programs will include riparian works, the Clean Coastal Catchments program and resilient coastal floodplains work.

Other water quality actions will complement and build on the support being provided to councils to deliver the coastal reforms, including providing additional training and tools.

There will be a strategic roll-out of these works, based on targeted priority areas.

**Question 9: (page 29 of transcript)**

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Do you plan on expanding the pen aquaculture in the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** At the moment, we have the pens that have been given approval, and that is what we have been managing. As the Minister responsible for food production in this State, I am very much interested in the role that aquaculture, both onshore and offshore, can play in the way that we meet the demand for protein domestically and internationally. It is important that we need to have a look at how this is done and go through the appropriate planning processes, which we did.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Has there been any investigation? I do not need the details. Just yes or no.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am more than happy to allow Mr Hansen to provide information in relation to that.

**Mr HANSEN:** Yes, there have been investigations. There has been both an internal investigation by Huon as well as one by the Department of Planning and Environment, which is the consent authority for the trial.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Are those investigations completed?

**Mr HANSEN:** Yes.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Are the results publicly available?

**Mr HANSEN:** As far as I am aware, they are, yes.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I will put it on notice, but if you could point to those—or I am happy to send an email, if you could point to those.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that a summary of the Compliance Review is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website.

An Incident Investigation Summary prepared by Huon Aquaculture/NSW Department of Primary Industries also is available on the NSW DPI Aquaculture webpage <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/About-compliance/Inspections-and-enforcements/Penalty-Notice-issued-to-Huon-Aquaculture-Company-Pty-Ltd-Port-Stephens-LGA>

**Question 10 (page 34 of transcript)**

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Has the Recreational Fishing Trust been honouring its statutory annual reporting obligations—that is, does it provide an annual report and if not, why not?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I will take the question on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Fisheries trust fund reports, including for the Recreational Fishing Trusts, are published in the NSW Department of Industry Annual Report as required by Section 239 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. This information is also published, in more detail, on the Department of Primary Industries website on the Recreational Fishing Trust webpage.

**Question 11 (page 34 of transcript)**

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** How much of the trust's money was spent on administration? How much goes to the Department of Primary Industries for programs by DPI Fisheries?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am happy to look at those programs.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** For both trusts.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I am happy to look at any information we have. It is also important to remember that some of the programs we administer are key, vital and widely supported. The trust itself makes these recommendations. It is open for people to make applications. The projects are funded on their merits. We have key people on that trust to make those decisions.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** I am not attacking the trust.

**Mr HANSEN:** Can I clarify the question?

**The CHAIR:** You may.

**Mr HANSEN:** A number of the projects that the trust funds involve money coming to DPI to carry out breeding and restocking activities to progress our artificial reef development and so on.

**The Hon. MICK VEITCH:** Can you provide a breakdown?

**Mr HANSEN:** That is published and available. We will ensure it is available to the Committee.

**ANSWER:**

The Recreational Fishing Trust Expenditure Committees review all applications for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. These Committees are comprised of mainly recreational fishing representatives. Recommendations from the Expenditure Committees are considered by the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, which are provided to the Minister for Primary Industries.

A total of \$10.3 million was approved from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for Department of Primary Industries (DPI) programs to improve recreational fishing in 2017/18. For some of these programs, DPI has an ongoing project management role where funds are further disbursed to community grants or to third parties as part of major projects. Examples include contractors for construction of offshore artificial reefs, fish aggregating devices, habitat action grants, small grants and the Government Licensing Service.

A total of \$1.9 million was provided from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for the Recreational Fishing Fee Administration project. In addition, \$68,545 was provided for



the Recreational Fisher Research Database Project and \$122,850 for the Recreational Fishing Fee Renewal Notice System Project.

**Question 12 (pages 34-35 of transcript)**

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** The SMART drumline program was run across the State. Trials were in place for a while and ended quite a while ago. We have not seen an assessment of that trial. When will it be released?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I have a lot of information here.

**Mr HANSEN:** I will have to take that on notice.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** We will take that on notice. I was trying to be helpful and to provide a direct answer rather than reading through all the paragraphs.

**Mr HANSEN:** I appreciate that.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** I know that time is of the essence.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Would you like 10 seconds more?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** It is probably easier to take the question on notice.

**ANSWER:**

All data from SMART drumline trials run across the state are posted monthly on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website and a summary of the six month trials undertaken at Coffs Harbour, Forster, Kiama and Ulladulla were also posted on the DPI website. An assessment of the trial is based on the catch, and also the response from the community in relation to the trials. DPI has been conducting focus groups throughout August and September in each of the trial areas to gauge community feedback to the SMART drumline trials and other components of the Shark Management Strategy. Results from the trials and feedback from the community will help inform the future of shark mitigation activity along the NSW coast.

### **QUESTION 13 (page 35)**

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I refer to the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund that you and I have spoken about a number of times. How many applications have been received for funds in the 2018 round?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** It is a question that I am happy to take on notice. I do not get exposure to applications but I am more than happy to see if we have a number for you. We will take that on notice.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** I would like a breakdown of the number of small grants, large grants and low interest loans. I just want to get a sense of where those are across the various coastal regions of the State. That would be useful. Do you know if there have been any that have been assessed and are successful? I imagine they would have been announced if they had been. The closing date was March this year, so I assume none has been granted at this point.

**Mr HANSEN:** I will take that on notice. With respect to the SMART drumline trials however, the reports for the 2016-17 year and 2017-18 are on the website.

#### **ANSWER:**

A total of 25 applications were received.

Of the 25 applications received; there were 21 large grant applications and four small grant applications. There were no applications for a loan however one large grant applicant indicated that they would be prepared to accept a loan.

A total of 15 of the applications related to areas east of the Great Dividing Range (Central Coast – 1; Mid North Coast – 5; Sydney Metropolitan – 1; South Coast – 8). Eight of the applications related to areas west of the Great Dividing Range (South West – 2; Central West – 4; North West – 2). One application was not relevant to an area and one covered multiple areas.

The Aboriginal Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee and the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council have both assessed the applications and provided expenditure advice. The final outcome will be available shortly.