



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2018-2019**

### **Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Industry and Transport**

**Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry**

Hearing: Friday 31 August 2018

**Answers due by: Wednesday 26 September 2018**

**Budget Estimates Secretariat**

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## PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

### Questions from Mr Jeremy Buckingham MLC

#### Deregulating a number of new genetic modification techniques

1. Last month the European Court of Justice ruled that new genetic modification (GM) techniques such as CRISPR pose similar risks to older GM techniques and need to be assessed for safety in the same way.
  - (a) Are you aware that regulation of these techniques in the EU will mean all products created using these techniques will need to be approved before being exported to the EU?
  - (b) Are you aware that deregulation means there will be no traceability mechanism or requirement in Australia?
  - (c) Have you assessed the market risks of allowing unregulated GMOs into the food chain in this way?
  - (d) Given the European Court of Justice ruling, is the NSW Department of Primary Industries reconsidering its support of the deregulation of these techniques?

**Answer:**

(a) The Australian Gene Technology Standing Committee has been conducting a consultative scientific and risk-based review of the National Gene Technology Scheme. Producers from NSW who have used the regulated techniques and who then seek to export produce to the EU, retain a robust framework against which their products can be assessed.

(b) GM techniques that will not be regulated in the future have not been regulated previously. The national Scheme will now capture a broader range of techniques than before.

(c) Representatives from the Commonwealth Government will participate in international dialogue seeking to minimise unnecessary barriers to trade and resolve issues related to the regulatory oversight of products of GM technologies.

(d) The exemption from regulation of a small number of GM approaches is based on science and risk, noting that the organisms produced would have a risk profile the same as organisms carrying natural mutations, or derived through conventional breeding techniques. Australia's national scheme is internationally recognised as a functional scientific risk based regulatory system for managing human health and environmental risks.

2. Given the regulatory scheme the State Government has established for protecting aquifer levels and groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Maules Creek Groundwater Source from over extraction in times of drought, when there is no flow across the lower edge of Maules Creek at Elfin Crossing or low flow (less than 1 megalitre of surface flow at the Elfin Crossing surface water gauge), will the Minister commit today to implementing the Temporary Restrictions on the taking of water from the aquifer in the public interest?

**Answer:**

The water sharing plan for the Namoi Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012 does not currently have cease to pump rules associated with low flow conditions at Elfin Crossing.

3. Is the Minister aware that the no flow has existed since March 2018?

**Answer:**

I am regularly updated about all river and alluvial systems across the state.

4. Is the Minister aware that local land holders have already deepened their bores or cleaned out their bores and they are still declining on a daily basis?

**Answer:**

As with most areas in NSW, which are affected by drought, I am aware that some groundwater sources are depleting.

5. Is the Minister aware that the only major depletion of groundwater from Upper Maules Creek is believed to be coming from the Maules Creek coal mine?

**Answer:**

The aquifer in the upper section of Maules Creek and the one where the mine operates are different aquifers. Monitoring bores positioned between the mine and the creek do not indicate any drawdown towards Maules Creek.

The Department is reviewing data as part of a review requested by Department of Planning and Environment, which may provide further information on this matter.

6. Is the minister aware that State Significant Projects do not override Section 324 under the Water Management Act 2000?

**Answer:**

Yes.

7. Is the Minister aware that some Maules Creek land holders are carting water for stock and domestic, i.e. showers?

**Answer:**

I am aware that across the state, some landholders are required to cart water as the drought worsens. Some of these landholders are eligible for funding through the NSW Government's DroughtHub website:  
<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/emergency-drought-relief-package>

8. Is the Minister aware that the district is facing not only an intense drought with no drought breaking rain predicted and now facing a catastrophic fire season as well?

**Answer:**

Yes.

9. Does the Minister agree that due to the absence of any alternative water sources, the Public Interest will be served by protecting water levels and water quality in the aquifer and implementing a Section 324 restrictions as a mechanism to protect water levels for the purpose of fire fighting in these dry times?

**Answer:**

In any s324 decision, all matters of public interest must be considered. These include but are not limited to the water needed for firefighting.

10. Does the Minister agree that the Public Interest will be served by protecting water levels and water quality in the aquifer and implementing a Section 324 restrictions for as a mechanism to protect water levels and water quality in the aquifer for the purposes of critical human need in these dry times?

**Answer:**

In any s324 decision, all matters of public interest must be considered. These include but are not limited to the water needed for critical human needs, which is expressly mentioned as an example of what is in the public interest.

11. Will you order in writing, direct that within a specified area and until the drought breaks and the water flows across Elfin Crossing at least 1 megalitre per day that the taking of water from the Maules Creek ground water source aquifer, or from any other aquifer that is above, below or adjacent to this aquifer, is prohibited, or subject to specified restrictions, as the case requires...?

**Answer:**

At this time there is no demonstrated need for a temporary water restriction on the taking of water from Maules Creek. Historically, flow stops at Elfin Crossing with any extended period of dry weather such as the current conditions.

12. Are you aware that Whitehaven Coal was required to acquire water to offset passive take into the Maules Creek Coal mine as a condition of approval, and that this requirement was underpinned by an assumption that this would mitigate the groundwater losses caused by mine seepage?

**Answer:**

The Aquifer Interference Policy requires all activities interfering with an aquifer, including mining activities, to account for all direct and indirect take of water. All take is to be licenced. This applies to Whitehaven Coal and Maules Creek Coal Mine.

13. In the alternative, if the Minister remains of the view that despite evidence to the contrary, passive mine seepage and pit pumping at Maules Creek mine is not impacting the Maules Creek Groundwater Source, will the Minister invoke the Precautionary Principle which prescribes that uncertainty of scientific evidence is not grounds for deferring preventive measures to stop serious or irreversible harm from occurring to Zone 11 and its users?

**Answer:**

Maules Creek coal mine has installed a network of groundwater monitoring bores designed to detect impact propagation. The Department has been requested to review the updated mine water management plan and updated groundwater model and will provide advice to the Department of Planning and Environment.

14. How have the operators of the Maules Creek Coal Mine assisted the Government in their investigations?
  - (a) How has this satisfied the NSW Government that the groundwater loss to the Maules Creek groundwater source is not linked to the mining operation?

**Answer:**

The scientific evidence available to date does not associate the losses in Maules Creek alluvial formation with the mine activities. The Department has been requested to review the updated mine water management plan and updated groundwater model and will provide advice to the Department of Planning and Environment.

## Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

### Pest animals

15. How many wild deer did amateur registered hunters kill in:
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

### Answer:

- (a) This data is not captured by Government.
- (b) This data is not captured by Government.
- (c) This data is not captured by Government.

16. How many wild deer did amateur registered hunters kill in state forests in:
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

### Answer:

- (a) 971
- (b) 1,248
- (c) 1,243 (to September 2018)

17. How many wild deer did amateur registered hunters kill on private land in:
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

### Answer:

- (a) This data is not captured by Government.
- (b) This data is not captured by Government.
- (c) This data is not captured by Government.

18. How many wild deer did professional shooters kill in:
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

### Answer:

- (a) This data is not captured by Government. Refer to answers 19 and 20 for known data.
- (b) This data is not captured by Government. Refer to answers 19 and 20 for known data.
- (c) This data is not captured by Government. Refer to answers 19 and 20 for known data.

19. How many wild deer did professional shooters kill in state forests in:
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures are as reported by only Professional or Commercial (Restricted) Game Hunting License Holders accessing State Forests.

- (a) 346
- (b) 853
- (c) 1,435 (to 10 September 2018)

20. How many wild deer did professional shooters kill on private land in
- (a) 2016?
  - (b) 2017?
  - (c) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures are as reported by Professional (General) Game Hunting License holders only. The harvest of deer species by professional shooters on private land is not captured.

- (a) 77
- (b) 200
- (c) 177 (to 10 September 2018)

21. How many wild deer did professional shooters kill in National Parks in
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP.

22. How many wild deer were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures represent wild deer killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The below figures represent wild deer destroyed under Local Land Services programs only.

	SE	NC	NT	Hunter	Wester	Riverin	Murray	GS	CT	CW	NW
2015	418	0	0	0	NIL			0	0	0	0
2016	287	0	0	0				0	0	0	
2017	476	54	0	941				15	561	0	0
To date											

<b>in 2018</b>	300	158	1198	4297		197	102	8	5313
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23. How many feral pigs were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- 2015?
  - 2016?
  - 2017?
  - To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures represent feral pigs killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The below figures represent feral pigs destroyed under Local Land Services programs only (aerial shooting and trapping). Local Land Services deliver coordinated baiting programs however the impacts of these are not able to be measured through mortality.

	SE	NC	NT	Western	Murray	Hunter	Riverina <sup>a</sup>	GS	CT	CW	NW
<b>2015</b>	NIL					425	10114	460	354	5022	2660
<b>2016</b>						491	11000	320	289	3172	0
<b>2017</b>						2125	14055	115	65	3392	0
<b>To date in 2018</b>						4410	3050	90	0	6172	948

24. How many foxes were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- 2015?
  - 2016?
  - 2017?
  - To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures represent foxes killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The below figures represent foxes destroyed under Local Land Services programs only (aerial shooting and trapping). Local Land Services deliver coordinated baiting programs however the impacts of these are not able to be measured through mortality.

	SE	NC	NT	Western	Murray	GS	Riverina <sup>a</sup>	Hunter	CT	CW	NW
<b>2015</b>								0	7	59	3

2016	NIL	0	4	49	0
2017		0	14	18	0
To date in 2018		20	4	40	0

25. How many feral goats were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):

- (a) 2015?
- (b) 2016?
- (c) 2017?
- (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures represent feral goats killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The below figures represent feral goats destroyed under Local Land Services programs only.

LLS Region	SE	NC	NT	Western	Murray	GS	Riverina	NW	Hunter	CT	CW
2015	NIL								0	955	0
2016	NIL								0	0	7
2017	NIL								0	216	8
To date in 2018	NIL								38	64	54

26. How many feral cats were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):

- (a) 2015?
- (b) 2016?
- (c) 2017?
- (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The below figures represent feral cats killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The below figures represent feral cats destroyed under Local Land Services programs only.

	SE	NC	NT	Western	Murray	GS	Riverina	Hunter	NW	CT	CW
2015	NIL								9	0	12
2016	NIL								0	56	17
2017	NIL								0	3	2



<b>To date in 2018</b>		0	1	13
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27. How many wild rabbits were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

This answer refers to rabbits killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. Local Land Services deliver coordinated baiting programs for the destruction and management of rabbits; however the impacts of these are not able to be measured through mortality.

28. How many European Starlings were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

NSW DPI does not collect this data.

29. How many Indian Mynas were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

NSW DPI and LLS do not collect this data.

30. How many Carp were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region:
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

NSW DPI and LLS do not collect this data.

31. How many wild horses were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?

- (b) 2016?
- (c) 2017?
- (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

This answer refers to wild horses killed on private and crown land only. Species killed on public land are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. Local Land Services provide advice only to land holders on the management options for wild horses.

32. How many Cane toads were killed in NSW in the following years broken down by LLS region and land use (state forest, National Park, private land, crown land etc):
- (a) 2015?
  - (b) 2016?
  - (c) 2017?
  - (d) To date in 2018?

**Answer:**

The approach to cane toad management in NSW is to prevent their spread south and west of the current containment border around the Clarence River in northern NSW. There are ongoing removal efforts just south of the containment zone refer to figures below. Increased surveillance and eradication programs are implemented where cane toads are found well outside of the containment border, with the most notable recent example being an eradication program at Taren Point refer figures in below.

Year	North Coast LLS	Greater Sydney LLS
2013/14	8,488	49
2014/15	20,536	1
2015/16	22,636	0
2016/17	173,067	0
2017/18	140,865	0

Note that data is collated for the period when the toads are active over the warmer summer months and is hence reported per financial year. The figures include adult toads, metamorphs and tadpoles. The significant increase in the figures in 2016/17 is largely due to the identification and removal of tadpoles from this point on.

**Biosecurity Education**

33. How much money is budgeted over the next 4 years for education programs related to responsibilities under the new Biosecurity Act?
- (a) What will these programs be and how much will be spent on each?
  - (b) How will the success of these programs be measured?

**Answer:**

Biosecurity in New South Wales is managed through partnerships between government, industry and the *Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

community. Functional budgets are prepared annually. Approximately \$1.4 m was allocated for education programs related to responsibilities under the new Biosecurity Act in financial year 2018-19.

- (a) New South Wales State of Biosecurity reports assess the status of biosecurity in NSW and highlight progress in achieving the objectives of the NSW Biosecurity Strategy (2013-2021). In financial year 2018-19 \$1.2 m is budgeted for improved community engagement in biosecurity management (Goal 2, Outcome 1) and \$0.2 m is budgeted for increased numbers of well-trained and well-resourced people (Goal 3, Outcome 7).
- (b) Effectiveness of outcomes of implementation of the NSW Biosecurity Strategy (2013-2021) will be outlined in the second New South Wales State of Biosecurity report.

34. How much money has been spent since the Biosecurity Act came into effect on education programs related to responsibilities under the new Biosecurity Act?

- (a) What were these programs and how much was spent on each?
- (b) How was the success of these programs measured and what were the outcomes?

**Answer:**

Biosecurity in New South Wales is managed through partnerships between government, industry and the community. In financial year 2017-18 the Department of Primary Industries spent approximately \$2.1 m on education programs related to responsibilities under the new Biosecurity Act. Local Land Services supported the delivery of the Biosecurity Act via business as usual on ground programs as per normal business and acted as a technical support role to NSW DPI in the development of education programs and content where required.

- (a) The Department of Primary Industries delivered for example, training for Authorised Officers and the 2018 Sydney Royal Easter Show programs in financial year 2017-18 at an estimated cost of \$1.9 m and \$0.2 m respectively.
- (b) Effectiveness of outcomes of implementation of the NSW Biosecurity Strategy (2013-2021) will be outlined in the second State of Biosecurity report. A monitoring and evaluation program will determine the impacts of the new legislation and regulations, with findings to be reported in future State of Biosecurity reports.

**Biosecurity authorised officers**

35. How many authorised officers under the biosecurity act are there employed by each local government in NSW?

**Answer:**

161 Local Control Authority weed officers

36. How many authorised officers under the biosecurity act are there employed by each LLS region in NSW?

**Answer:**

SE	NC	NT	Hunter	Western	Riv	Murray	GS	CT	CW	NW	TOTAL
30	11	11	7	11	17	16	6	14	22	22	167

**Biosecurity enforcement**

37. How many compliance activities, including audits and inspections, have been undertaken in the following years, broken down by offense type and compliance action type:

- (a) 2014/15?
- (b) 2015/16?

- (c)2016/17?
- (d)2017/18?

**Answer:**

There are over 110 independent local control authorities who are responsible for keeping their own records. DPI data below is for plant, animal, bee and cattle tick investigations. 2017/18 data also includes some LCA events.

- (a) Audits = 546; Inspections = 6263; Properties quarantined = 513.
- (b) Audits = 552; Inspections = 6154; Properties quarantined = 625.
- (c) Audits & Inspections = 706; Properties quarantined = 524.
- (d) Audits = 568; Inspections = 12,647; Properties quarantined under a biosecurity direction = 627.

LLS

- (a) Audits = 104; Inspections = 821
- (b) Audits = 212; Inspections = 775
- (c) Audits = 332; Inspections = 737
- (d) Audits = 344; Inspections = 707

38. How many enforcement actions have been undertaken in the following years, broken down by offense type (Warnings, advisory letters, directions, orders, undertakings and penalty notices):
- (a) 2014/15?
  - (b) 2015/16?
  - (c) 2016/17?
  - (d) 2017/18?

**Answer:**

There are over 110 independent local control authorities who are responsible for keeping their own records. DPI data below relates to plant, animal, bee and cattle tick enforcement actions.

- (a) Warning/advisory letters = 295; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 515; Penalty notices = 7, Prosecutions = 0.
- (b) Warning/advisory letters = 370; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 660; Penalty notices = 3, Prosecutions = 2.
- (c) Warning/advisory letters = 289; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 52; Penalty notices = 28, Prosecutions = 0.
- (d) Warning/advisory letters = 356; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 797; Penalty notices = 9, Prosecutions = 1.

LLS

- (a) Warning/advisory letters = 805; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 48; Penalty notices = 7, Prosecutions = 0.
- (b) Warning/advisory letters = 1005; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 58; Penalty notices = 0, Prosecutions = 0.
- (c) Warning/advisory letters = 795; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 114; Penalty notices = 1, Prosecutions = 0.
- (d) Warning/advisory letters = 1138; Directions/Orders/Undertakings = 88; Penalty notices = 1, Prosecutions = 0.

39. How many investigations have been taken undertaken in the following years, broken down by LLS region:

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

- (a) 2014/15?
- (b) 2015/16?
- (c) 2016/17?
- (d) 2017/18?

**Answer:**

Investigations are conducted in the form of property inspections by local control authorities.

The DPI component of this data is for plant, animal, bee and cattle tick investigations. The LLS component does not include data from the Hunter, Western and Riverina regions. This data is unable to be divided by LLS regions due to the nature of the reporting system.

- (a) 1635
- (b) 2147
- (c) 1927
- (d) 7139

40. How many weed inspections were conducted on properties in each LLS region in the following years:
- (a) 2014/15?
  - (b) 2015/16?
  - (c) 2016/17?
  - (d) 2017/18?

**Answer:**

Based on previous boundaries – Note (a) that prior to the formation of LLS there were 13 lead agencies who collated inspection data.

(a)	
Hawkesbury River County Council	4,560
Mid North Coast Council	4,126
Upper Macquarie County Council	100
Far North Coast County Council	16,427
Northern Inland Weeds Authority	2,801
Cowra Shire Council	1,469
Upper Hunter Weeds Authority	5,728
Hunter-Central Coast	18,880
Palerang Shire Council	3,599
Greater Hume Shire Council	2,374
Southern Councils	7,344
Cabonne Shire Council	29,075
Cooma Monaro Shire Council	10,980

	Central Tablelands	Central West	Great Sydney	Hunter	Murray	North Coast	North West	Northern Tablelands	Riverina	South East	Western
2015/16	3,593	1,430	11,771	3,412	1,282	11,936	2,999	2,444	1,819	9,774	355
2016/17	3,342	1,718	12,317	2,846	1,334	10,661	3,000	2,723	1,930	10,015	362
2017/18	1,563	1,131	262	2,479	2,682	4,751	2,347	1,520	375	6,406	134

41. How many inspections for emergency plant pests of disease were undertaken in the following years:
- (a) 2014/15?
  - (b) 2015/16?

- (c) 2016/17?
- (d) 2017/18?

**Answer:**

DPI	LLS
(a) 2014/15 - 429	(a) 601
(b) 2015/16 - 678	(b) 602
(c) 2016/17 - 653	(c) 104
(d) 2017/18 - 922	(d) 320

42. How many licenses, accreditation and permits were issued in the following years: (a) 2014/15?  
 (b) 2015/16?  
 (c) 2016/17?  
 (d) 2017/18?

**Answer:**

DPI issued:	LLS*
(a) 8,300	(a) 1,375
(b) 11,742	(b) 1,165
(c) 4,346	(c) 2,596
(d) 10,437	(d) 2,277

\* Includes permits issued for use of 1080

### Biosecurity Committees

43. How many times has the State Weed Committee met in each of the following years:  
 (a) 2015?  
 (b) 2016?  
 (c) 2017?  
 (d) 2018?

**Answer:**

- (a) One (previously known as the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee)
- (b) Four
- (c) Four
- (d) Two (to September)

44. How many times has the State Pest Animal Committee met in each of the following years:  
 (a) 2015?  
 (b) 2016?  
 (c) 2017?  
 (d) 2018?

**Answer:**

State Pest Animal Committee formed in 2017

- (a) N/A
- (b) N/A
- (c) Two
- (d) Three (to September)

NSW Pest Animal Council

(dissolved 1 July 2017 and replaced with State Pest Animal Committee)

- (a) Two
- (b) Two
- (c) One
- (d) N/A

Non-Indigenous Animal Advisory Committee (dissolved 1 July 2017 and replaced with State Pest Animal Committee)

- (a) Four
- (b) Four
- (c) Two
- (d) N/A

45. How many times has the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee met in each of the following years:

- (a) 2016?
- (b) 2017?
- (c) 2018?

**Answer:**

Much of the work of the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee was required to the lead up and implementation of the Biosecurity Reforms. The formation of the State Pest Animal Committee in 2017 was important for the development of the 11 Regional Pest Plans and therefore the need for the wider Biosecurity Advisory Committee was reduced hence the reduction in meetings in 2018. This also correlates with the development and implementation of the 11 Regional Weeds Plans developed by the State Weed Committee. These two committees could focus on the task at hand, again reducing the need for the wider Biosecurity Advisory Committee to meet.

- (a) Eight
- (b) Six
- (c) One

46. Will the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee continue to meet and be resourced now that the State of Biosecurity report has been delivered?
- (a) Will a Local Government representative be added to the Committee as recommended by the current committee in July 2017?

**Answer:**

The term of the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee ceased on 30 June 2018. The Committee was established to provide advice on development of the Biosecurity legislation, which was achieved with commencement of the Biosecurity Act on 1 July 2017.

The ongoing need for such a committee is currently being considered having regard to the range of other committees in place that provide advice of biosecurity issues that may affect NSW economy, environment and community and performance of biosecurity within NSW.

- (a) Membership of any such committee will be considered based on its term of reference.

47. What education and advisory material to facilitate a greater understanding of obligations to support compliance has been developed by the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee?

**Answer:**

None. The role of the committee was to provide advice on such matters. There is a range of advisory and educational material endorsed by the committee available on <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>

**Weed management**

48. What are the 1,750 exotic plant species naturalised in NSW and referred to in the 2017 State of Biosecurity report?
- (a) What are the 316 species for which risk assessments have been undertaken?
- (b) What are the 266 species being managed to reduce environmental impacts?
- i. Of these, how many have been added to the list in each of the past 5 years?
- (c) What are the 316 species being managed to reduce agricultural impacts?
- i. Of these, how many have been added to the list in each of the past 5 years?

**Answer:**

The figure in the question (1,750) relates to the State of the Environment Report, not the State of Biosecurity Report.

- (a) The 316 includes priority weeds (high risk) identified in NSW WeedWise.
- (b) It is a subset of the 316 (as not all priority weeds impact the environment), plus new weeds detected within the environment. NPWS manages these in addition to the priority weeds.
- (c) As above.

49. How many risk assessments have been undertaken in each of the past 5 years?

**Answer:**

2013-14 - 200  
2014-15 - 150  
2015-16 - 30  
2016-17 - 280  
2017-18 - 20

50. How are decisions on whether to include weed species in eradication programs made?

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*



Decisions are based on risk assessments.

51. Has the NSW Government received advice about the need to manage new species under eradication programs?

(a) If so, which species and when will they program be implemented?

**Answer:**

Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* includes 28 species prescribed as prohibited matter; i.e. they are not in NSW and considered to be high risk to the NSW economy, environment and community.

(a) If the above species, or other species that are identified as high risk are detected in NSW eradication programs will be initiated where eradication is considered a feasible option.

52. Of the 6 new exotic species detected in the wild over the past five years that are known to be invasive:

- (a) How many were detected and reported in each of the past 5 years?
- (b) How many were detected and reported within months?
- (c) How many were detected and reported between 1 and 5 years?
- (d) How many were detected and reported longer than 5 years?
- (e) How many were delimited with 3 months and eradicated?
- (f) How many have been confined to the initial geographic area?
- (g) How many have expanded in their geographic reach since introduction?
- (h) Is the NSW Government taking action to eliminate these weeds?

**Answer:**

- (a) 2013-14 - One  
2014-15 - One  
2015-16 - 0  
2016-17 - One  
2017-18 - One
- (b) All
- (c) All
- (d) None
- (e) Two
- (f) All
- (g) None
- (h) Yes

**Terrestrial vertebrate management**

53. What are the 64 Non-Indigenous animals naturalised in NSW and referred to in the 2017 State of Biosecurity report?

(a) What are the 109 species for which risk assessments have been undertaken?

**Answer:**

Mammals	Birds	Reptile	Amphibian	Fish	Total
Asian house rat	Barbary dove	Asian house gecko	Cane toad	Brown trout	
black rat	Cattle egret	Red-eared slider turtle		Eastern gambusia	

Brown rat	Common blackbird	Indo-pacific gecko		European carp	
chital deer	European goldfinch			Goldfish	
Dingo/feral dog	European starling			Guppy	
European brown hare	European greenfinch			Rainbow trout	
European rabbit	House sparrow			Redfin perch	
European red fox	Indian myna			Tench	
fallow deer	Indian ringnecked parrot			Weather loach	
feral camel	Mallard			Banded grunter	
Feral cat	Nutmeg mannikin			Mozambique Tilapia	
Feral cattle	Indian Peafowl			Green swordtails	
Feral donkey	red whiskered bulbul			Jack Dempsey chichilids	
Feral goat	common pigeon			Pearl Chichilid	
Feral horse	Eurasian Skylark			White cloud mountain minnows	
Feral pig	Spotted dove			Speckled mosquitofish	
feral sheep	Tree sparrow			Platyfish	
hog deer	Common pheasant				
House mouse	Helmeted guineafowl				
red deer	Senegal dove				
rusa deer	Song thrush				
sambar deer					
22	21	3	1	17	64

(a)

Myna, Common; Indian Myna(h); Indian House Myna(h)

Lovebird, Peach-faced

Panda, Giant

Aboina Parrot; Moluccan King-parrot

Goose, Egyptian

Munia, Red; Red Strawberry Finch; Red or Indian Avadavat; Tiger Finch; Red Waxbill

Amazon, Cuban; Cuban Parrot

Yellow-crowned Amazon; Yellow-headed Amazon; Yellow-fronted Amazon; Yellow-naped Amazon

Amazon, Yellow-naped

Western Tiger Salamander

Axolotl; Mexican Walking Fish  
 Duck, Mallard; Mallard  
 Macaw, Hyacinth  
 Goose, Swan; Chinese Goose  
 Oriental Small-clawed Otter  
 Kiwi, Brown  
 Macaw, Red-fronted  
 Sun Conure; Sun Parakeet  
 Chital Deer; Axis Deer  
 New Zealand Scaup  
 Babirusa  
 Crane, Grey-crowned  
 Bison, American  
 Puff Adder  
 Rhinoceros Viper  
 Boa Constrictor  
 Banteng Cattle  
 Canada Goose  
 Cane Toad; Giant Toad  
 Black-spined Toad  
 White Cockatoo  
 Marmoset, Common; White-tufted-ear Marmoset  
 Camel, Bactrian  
 Camel, Feral  
 Black-backed Jackal  
 Feral Goat  
 Goldfinch; Eurasian Goldfinch  
 Red Deer; Wapiti; Elk  
 Rusa Deer; Timor Deer  
 Big Hairy Armadillo; Large Hairy Armadillo  
 Brown Lory  
 Romer's Tree Frog  
 Bobwhite Quail; Northern Bobwhite  
 Emerald Tree Boa  
 House Crow; Indian or Ceylon Crow  
 Japanese Quail  
 Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle  
 Fallow Deer  
 Grey Dorcopsis  
 Corn Snake  
 Striped Trinket Snake; Stripe-tailed Rat Snake; Taiwan Beauty Snake to Beauty Snake  
 Burchell's Zebra  
 Western European Hedgehog  
 Common Waxbill; St Helena Waxbill  
 Green Junglefowl  
 Malayan Sun Bear; Sun Bear  
 Spiny Turtle  
 Crested Porcupine; North African Crested Porcupine  
 Malayan Narrow-mouthed Toad; Indian Bullfrog; Beautiful Kaloula; Asiatic Painted Frog  
 Lechwe

Llama  
 Guanaco  
 Alpaca  
 Silver-eared Mesia  
 Pekin Robin; Red-billed Leiothrix  
 Golden Lion Tamarin  
 Snowshoe Hare  
 European Hare  
 Bali Myna or Starling  
 African Silverbill  
 Black-headed Munia; Black-headed Nun  
 Himalayan Monal Pheasant; Impeyan Pheasant  
 Siamese Fireback Pheasant  
 Edwards Pheasant  
 Yellow-bibbed Lory  
 Chattering Lory  
 Black-capped Lory  
 Dog, African Hunting; African Wild Dog; Wild Dog  
 Eurasian Lynx  
 Javan Horned Frog  
 Razor-billed Curassow  
 Ermine; Stoat  
 Ferret; Domestic Ferret  
 Monk Parakeet; Quaker Parrot  
 Nanday Conure  
 Raccoon Dog; Raccoon-dog  
 European Rabbit (wild rabbit only with wild-type brown colouring; not domestic or commercial breed)  
 Damara sheep breed  
 Domestic sheep (no breeds distinguished)  
 Dorper sheep breed  
 Merino sheep breed  
 Domestic sheep's ancestor – mouflon  
 Java Sparrow; Paddy Finch  
 Leopard  
 House Sparrow  
 Collared Pecari  
 Spring Hare  
 Ring-necked Pheasant; Common Pheasant  
 Chilean Flamingo  
 Greater Flamingo  
 Palawan Peacock-pheasant  
 Fishing Cat  
 Common Raccoon; Northern Raccoon  
 Dusky Lory  
 Brown Jay  
 Alexandrine Parakeet  
 Rose-ringed Parakeet; Indian or African Ringneck Parrot or Parakeet  
 Grey Parrot; African Grey Parrot  
 Red-whiskered Bulbul  
 Maroon-bellied Conure

African Bullfrog  
 Flowerpot Snake; Brahminy blindsnake; Bootlace Snake  
 Pacific Rat; Polynesian Rat  
 Greater Rhea  
 Collared Dove; Collared Turtle-dove; Indian Ring Dove; Barbary Dove (fawn or white variations)  
 African Collared Dove  
 Ostrich  
 Common Starling; European Starling  
 Meerkat  
 Wild Boar; Feral pig  
 Siamang  
 Reeves' Pheasant  
 Rough-skinned Newt  
 White-cheeked Turaco  
 Ornate Box turtle; Western Box Turtle  
 Common Slider; Pond Slider; Yellow-bellied Slider; Red-eared Slider  
 Ornate Lorikeet  
 Smooth Newt  
 Common Blackbird; Eurasian Blackbird  
 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu  
 Violet-eared Waxbill; Common Grenadier  
 Brown bear; Grizzly bear  
 Blue-black Grassquit; Jacarini Finch  
 Red Fox  
 Andean Condor  
 African Clawed Toad; African Clawed Frog

Source: PestSmart Connect (<https://www.pestsmart.org.au/pest-animal-species/potential-invasives/risk/risk-assessment-list/> Last updated 24 February 2015)

54. Of the 72 new exotic species detected in the wild over the past five years:
- How many were detected and reported in each of the past 5 years?
  - How many were detected and reported within months?
  - How many were detected and reported between 1 and 5 years?
  - How many were detected and reported longer than 5 years?
  - How many were delimited with 3 months and eradicated?
  - How many have been confined to the initial geographic area?
  - How many have expanded in their geographic reach since introduction?

**Answer:**

There was a total 72 suspected detections reported, many of which are the same species.

(a)-(c) Table: The number of detections of new exotic species in each month from September 2014 to August 2018.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
2015	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	15

2016	1	1	1	1	-	1	2	-	6	6	6	2	27
2017	5	4	6	6	2	2	2	3	6	11	19	10	76
2018	10	9	10	10	2	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	53
													171

Notes:

- This table only includes reports submitted to or shared with NSW DPI
- This table only includes detections in the wild for the five-year period ending August 2018.
- Not all reports are verified/reliable.
- The question was interpreted to refer to the number of detection events, rather than number of species (there have not been 72 new species detected in that time period).
- The State of Biosecurity Report 2017 used data to June 2017.
- NSW DPI took over responsibility for management of exotic reptiles in July 2017 (from NSW OEH) which has contributed to an increase in reported detections, along with increased community awareness.

(d) NSW DPI does not have data prior to 2014.

(e) As per the State of Biosecurity Report 2017 (Table 12), six NIA species had been eradicated in the five years prior to publication:

- Asian black spined toad
- Mexican Red Knee Tarantula
- Leopard gecko
- African pygmy hedgehog
- Asian black spined toad (2nd introduction)
- Red Imported Fire Ant

A full eradication response is usually not appropriate where a detection is of an individual animal and there is no reliable evidence of a breeding population. NSW Government agencies may undertake follow-up surveillance work and raise local community awareness in response to higher risk reports and as resources allow.

(f) One species (cane toad) has a defined containment zone that has not been modified since its establishment.

(g) NSW DPI does not have reliable data indicating range expansion for any of these species detections.

### State of Biosecurity Report

55. On what basis were the categories of performance in the *Rubric assessment of invasive species management in NSW (2016-17)* in the 2017 State of Biosecurity Report determined?

- (a) Was the criteria in the table agreed to by the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee?
- (b) Were the results agreed to by the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee?

#### Answer:

The categories were developed by the NSW DPI to provide a generalised performance range across a broad range of disparate invasive species.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.

56. Regarding the NSW Government Weed Action Program funding, how much was spent in each LLS *Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

region in each year from 2010-11 to 2017-18?

- (a) How much is allocated for each of the next four years?
- (b) How much is allocated to each LLS region for each of the next four years?

**Answer:**

The LLS regions were not formed until 2015-16.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Central Tablelands	779,279	716,762	884,514
Central West	743,787	684,364	851,314
Greater Sydney	1,034,915	955,182	1,111,056
Hunter	1,061,990	974,821	1,148,964
Murray	539,720	468,131	537,621
North Coast	1,357,055	1,249,137	1,430,075
North West	648,246	597,154	762,043
Northern Tablelands	573,220	520,653	658,915
Riverina	781,292	717,978	883,846
South East	1,536,148	1,407,633	1,592,496
Western	233,467	218,542	373,956
Regional Total	9,289,119	8,510,357	10,234,800

- (a) These are allocated on a yearly basis which is determined by NSW Treasury.
- (b) As above.

**Questions from Ms Dawn Walker MLC**

**NSW Integrated Forestry Operations Approval**

57. The Natural Resource Commission report accompanying the draft NSW Integrated Forestry Operations Approval cited advice given by the NRC to the NSW government on the risks of the five year contract extension provided to Boral as part of the north coast timber buyback overseen by Katrina Hodgkinson. Can the Primary Industry Minister provide that advice, and documentation relating to how it was acted upon?

**Answer:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Lands and Forestry, the Hon Paul Toole MP.

**Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC**

## Marine Estate Strategy 2018-2028

58. The NSW Marine Estate Strategy 2018-28 has been allocated \$45.7 million:
- Was this included in the 2018-19 NSW Budget?
    - If yes, please indicate which in which budget papers and on what pages it is referred to?
    - If not, where has this funding been allocated from, when was it allocated and over how many years will these funds be distributed?
  - How much of this has been identified for projects associated with Phase 3 of the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion assessment?

### Answer:

- The Marine Estate Management Strategy was allocated \$38.7 million from Treasury in the 2018-19 budget to deliver Stage 1 implementation (2018/19 and 2019/20). This was not reported in the budget papers, but was announced on 16 August 2018. An additional \$7 million was allocated to Strategy initiatives lead by the Office of Environment and Heritage, totalling \$45.7 million. This funding was allocated in May 2018.
  - \$3.7 million has been allocated from the \$38.7 million Treasury funding for 2018/19 and 2019/20 for 'Enhancing marine biodiversity conservation in the Hawkesbury shelf marine bioregion (marine park proposal)'.
59. What is the breakdown of initiatives that will be funded under the \$45.7 million allocated under the NSW Marine Estate Strategy 2018-28 including:
- The name of the initiative;
  - The lead agency for implementation; and
  - The amount allocated?

### Answer:

Initiative name	Lead – Department of Primary Industries	Lead – Office of Environment and Heritage	Total funding per initiative for Stage 1 implementation (2018/19 and 2019/20)
<b>1 – Improving water quality and reducing litter</b>	\$24,479,986	\$5,800,000	\$30,279,986
<b>2 – Delivering healthy coastal habitats with sustainable use and development</b>	\$5,211,689		\$5,211,689
<b>3 – Planning for climate change</b>	\$690,803		\$690,803
<b>4 – Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate</b>	\$1,830,142		\$1,830,142
<b>5 – Reducing impacts to threatened and protected species</b>		\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
<b>6 – Ensuring sustainable fishing and aquaculture</b>			(To be funded from recurrent funds and Trust funds)
<b>7 – Enabling safe and sustainable boating</b>			(To be funded via the Waterways



			Fund via Transport for NSW)
<b>8 – Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits</b>	\$1,736,135		\$1,736,135
<b>9 – Delivering effective governance</b>	\$1,033,656		\$1,033,656
<b>Enhancing marine biodiversity conservation in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion (marine park proposal)</b>	\$3,687,865		\$3,687,865
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$38,670,276	\$7,000,000	\$45,670,276

60. If specific initiatives haven't been determined in relation to the allocation of \$45.7 million under the NSW Marine Estate Strategy 2018-28, when will these decisions be made?

**Answer:**

A staged approach to implementation is ensuring the highest priority threats are addressed first and for pilot projects to commence, that can be expanded (or amended based on monitoring and evaluation) in subsequent stages of implementation over the remaining eight years of the Strategy. Based on the statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA), management initiatives and actions that address water quality, marine litter and complementary work to deliver healthy coastal habitats were prioritised for funding in Stage 1.

Funding for Stage 2 delivery of the Strategy will be sought from Treasury and other relevant funding programs in 2019/20.

61. What is the process that has been used, or will be used for decision making on the funding of initiatives as part of the allocation of \$45.7 million under the NSW Marine Estate Strategy 2018- 28?

**Answer:**

Funding allocated to the Strategy to date was informed by a comprehensive business case, cost benefit analysis and was subject to review by the independent Recurrent Investor Assurance Panel. Actions within the nine initiatives will be delivered in accordance with implementation planning in the business case, relevant to the amount of funding provided for Stage 1.

62. If applications are going to be invited for funding as part of the allocation of \$45.7 million under the NSW Marine Estate Strategy 2018-28 please provide:
- A timeline for applications, including opening and closing dates
  - Criteria for funding
  - Any community engagement plans to advise of the funding opportunities.

**Answer:**

Detailed implementation planning for delivery of funding during Stage 1 is currently being developed in consultation with delivery partner agencies and marine estate stakeholders. The community will be advised of any relevant funding opportunities during Stage 1 implementation.

63. In regards to the \$45.7 million proposed allocation as part of the NSW Marine Estate Strategy:
- How much will be directed to improving the health of the Richmond River?
  - What are the water quality initiatives that will be piloted in the Richmond River as referred to in recent media statements about the funding?
  - Will the community be invited to make applications for local projects to improve the health of the

Richmond River?

- (d) Will any funding be directed to the impacts of clearing riparian and adjacent habitats identified as a threat in the NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment?

**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. It is important to note that a number of the programs that sit within the Strategy are broad scale rather than catchment specific. Programs will include riparian works, the Clean Coastal Catchments program and resilient coastal floodplains work. This 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.

Detailed implementation planning for delivery of funding during Stage 1 is currently being developed in consultation with delivery partner agencies and marine estate stakeholders. The community will be advised of any relevant funding opportunities during Stage 1 implementation.

### **Richmond River**

64. In regards to the Richmond River:

- (a) What programs are currently in operation to improve the health and water quality of Richmond River?
- i. Please list each program with the amount invested by the Government into each program for the last three years?
- (b) Are there any proposed programs to improve the health and water quality of Richmond River?
- i. Please list each program with the amount to be invested by the Government into each program over the forward estimates?
- (c) Has there been any assessment of required funding and programs that will successfully improve the health and water quality of the Richmond River?
- i. If so, how much funding and what programs?

**Answer:**

(a)

i. DPI NSW Recreational Fishing Trust's Flagship Habitat Action Grant Program

- 'Restoration and Rehabilitation of Tuckean Wetlands Stage 1a & 1b' – \$160,000 granted to OzFish Unlimited (2016-17)

DPI NSW Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants

- 'Enhancing fish highways, riparian restoration at the junction of the Richmond and Wilsons Rivers Coraki NSW (stage 1)' - \$19,996 granted to Richmond Valley Council (2017-18)
  - 'Re-snagging the Richmond River' - Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants. \$10,473 granted to Ozfish Unlimited (2016-17)
  - 'Protecting Wilsons River fish habitat through riparian rehabilitation and wetland restoration' - Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants. \$34,896 granted to Conservation Volunteers Australia (2016-17)
  - 'Restoring lowland rainforest and wetlands on the Leycester Creek floodplain Lismore' - Recreational Fishing Trust's Habitat Action Grants. \$21,190 granted to South Lismore Duck Pond Landcare (2016-17)
- Recent Fishers for Fish Habitat Forum held in Ballina, 24-25 August 2018, educating over 80 recreational fishers about habitat improvements and promoting local, state and national

rehabilitation actions.

NSW Government Catchment Action and National Landcare Program funding –

- ‘Floodplain Management – Richmond River Estuary’ - \$175,000 (2015/16 – 2017/18)
- Understanding our soils – Improving adoption and innovation in soil management - \$79,690 (2015/16 – 2017/18)

(b) 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. It is important to note that a number of the programs that sit within the Strategy are broad scale rather than catchment specific. Programs will include riparian works, the Clean Coastal Catchments program and resilient coastal floodplains work. Further details on the Richmond River water quality funding will be announced in the coming months.

(c) A statewide threat and risk assessment, including results for the North Region which includes the Richmond catchment, and a comprehensive assessment of current management and effective management responses to reduce the priority and cumulative threats to the marine estate was undertaken at a statewide scale to inform the Marine Estate Management Strategy, and associated business case for the nine initiatives and actions in the Strategy.

A Marine Integrated Monitoring Program will be developed this year and implemented over the ten year life of the Strategy to monitor the condition and trend of the environment and community benefits, to evaluate the effectiveness of the management initiatives and actions and to fill knowledge gaps.

### **NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment**

65. The NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment ranked climate change as the top risk to social and economic benefits of the marine estate. What is the Government’s priority response to mitigate this risk to the marine estate across NSW?

**Answer:**

Water pollution from urban stormwater discharge, agricultural diffuse-source runoff and litter, waste, debris and microplastics were ranked as the top three threats respectively to social, cultural and economic benefits statewide in the NSW Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment Report. Climate change over the next 20 years was ranked as ninth in the list of priority threats statewide.

The NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy (2018-2028) includes a specific initiative on climate change (Initiative 3 – Planning for Climate Change) and five actions that aim to address the identified priority threats and risks from climate change on the marine estate.

The initial focus for the first two years includes targeted mapping of saltmarsh habitats that are at risk from sea level rise, monitoring of coastal kelp communities that are impacted from ocean warming and storm events, expansion of sea temperature monitoring across the state, and monitoring of changes in fish assemblages along the coast using citizen science programs. This work complements related climate change assessments in the coastal regions as part of the other NSW Government initiatives such as the NSW Coastal Reforms.

66. In regards to the impacts of urchin barrens, specifically on the NSW South Coast:

- (a) Was this identified as a risk in the Threat and Risk Assessment process?
- (b) Has any funding or resources been allocated to research into the impacts and prevalence of urchin barrens?
  - i. If so, how much and what programs?
- (c) Will the Batemans Marine Park management plan specifically aim to reduce the impacts and

prevalence of urchin barrens?

**Answer:**

- (a) Sea urchins and urchin barrens were not identified as a threat in the statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA).
- (b) Monitoring is underway to understand how the structure of reefs may change in the presence and absence of urchin predators. An expansion of this monitoring is included in the list of knowledge gaps prioritised for action in the Marine Integrated Monitoring Program currently being developed under the Marine Estate Management Strategy.
- (c) Urchin barrens will be considered in developing a new management plan under the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* for the Batemans Marine Park and management actions will be developed with input from the local advisory committee, stakeholders and the community.

**Marine Park Management Pilots**

67. In regards to the marine park management pilots, when are the pilot programs expected to be finalised for:

- (a) Batemans Marine Park
- (b) Solitary Islands Marine Park

**Answer:**

The Batemans Marine Park Advisory Committee and local Aboriginal community members have held a series of workshops since July 2018 to develop a new management plan for Batemans Marine Park. As a pilot project, and the first two new management plans for our marine parks, we want to ensure there is sufficient time for extensive consultation with marine park advisory committees, stakeholders and the community before the plans are finalised. The Solitary Islands pilot will begin following work on the Batemans pilot.

68. What methods of community consultation does the Government plan to undertake between now and when the marine park management pilots are finalised?

- (a) Will the community be shown draft maps?
- (b) Will the community be shown draft zoning plans?

**Answer:**

Community consultation will include workshops with marine park advisory committees, workshops with Aboriginal community members, and broader stakeholder and community input to develop draft management plans. A draft management plan, and draft management rules, including zones, for each marine park will be on public exhibition for two months and would include maps.

69. For each of the six marine park advisory committees:

- (a) Are there currently any unfilled positions on the committees?
  - i. If so, what is the timeline for filling each position?
  - ii. For each unfilled position, will major decisions on reform processes, including consultation on proposed management plans, be delayed until the committee position is filled?

**Answer:**

(a) There is presently only one unfilled position on a marine park advisory committee (Aboriginal culture – Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park Advisory Committee). This vacancy resulted from the recent resignation of the member and will be filled in accordance with agreed protocols. The management plan for the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park will be reviewed in due course.

Marine park advisory committees are non-statutory committees established to provide a voice for local

communities contributing to the management of the marine estate and local marine parks.

Committees are generally appointed for a term not exceeding four years and the membership categories and size of each committee varies.

### **Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion – Phase 3**

70. What is the economic value and catch volume of lobster and abalone commercial fishing that occurs in the conservation zones proposed as part of the marine park for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion?

**Answer:**

The average annual commercial fishery catch and landed value from 2012 to 2017 in the three conservation zones of the proposed marine park is estimated as approximately 1900 kg and \$139,000 for lobster and 120 kg and \$3,700 for abalone.

71. Have any studies been undertaken to assess the projected economic benefit of a marine park for the Hawkesbury Shelf Bioregion?

(a) If so, what is the economic value and is this information publicly available?

(b) If not, will the Government undertake any modelling to assess the economic value of a new marine park?

**Answer:**

The expected environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits of the proposed marine park in the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion are shown in the discussion paper available on the marine estate website ([www.marine.nsw.gov.au](http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au)).

The Government will continue to take a triple bottom line approach to marine estate management, which includes considering social, economic and environmental costs and benefits.

72. What is the status of the proposal for the artificial reef Port Kembla?

**Answer:**

The Department of Primary Industries is planning a public tender for the design and construction of the Wollongong (Port Kembla) artificial reef to be released on the NSW eTender webpage. Artificial reef construction is scheduled for 2019.

### **‘Shark Deterrents and Detectors: Review of Bather Protection Technologies’ report**

73. In regards to the ‘Shark Deterrents and Detectors: Review of Bather Protection Technologies’ was published by CARDNO in October 2015:

(a) What steps has the Government taken to implement its recommendations?

i. Please provide a specific reference to each of the four recommendations.

(b) Considering the report found that ‘of the shark detectors, the shark spotter program ranked the highest’, what assessment has been conducted to assess the adequacy of shark spotting at beaches and ways to improve shark spotting?

**Answer:**

(a) Recommendation 1 re integrating emerging technologies. Following the CARDNO review, the NSW Government implemented its 5-year, \$16 million Shark Management Strategy (the Strategy), which includes trials of new and emerging technologies for shark detection and deterrents. Aerial surveillance using helicopters continues in the SMP and its temporal coverage has been extended. Aerial surveillance using helicopters has also been conducted in six other regions created under the Strategy, providing spatial coverage of the most popular and populous regions of the coast from Tweed to Eden. The Strategy also enhanced the existing SharkSmart app, and now includes real-time alerts

when sharks are observed by the helicopters, and the electronic reporting tool has been integrated into the SMP region as well. The same reporting and alerting system has been applied throughout the trials of SMART drumlines, and as with all trials of the Strategy, begins with consultation with the local council and community to ensure the Government is providing them with the tools and strategies that are best suited to their community.

Recommendation 2 re shark deterrent technologies: the CARDNO review identified some technical refinements that they believed were necessary before trials could be implemented in NSW Table 4-1 in CARDNO). The NSW Government concurred with that assessment to the extent by which only ‘off the shelf’, commercially available, whole-of-beach deterrent products were trialled by DPI. Rather than wait for years of further product refinement and development by the shark barrier developers “...in conditions similar to those experienced at a NSW beach” as proposed by CARDNO, the NSW Government ran real-life field trials of the two commercially available shark barriers. That approach was consistent with the key objective of the Strategy and with local council and community expectations. Neither barrier could be installed safely and effectively in the highly dynamic coastal waters of NSW beaches.

Recommendation 3 re trials of SMART drumlines and Clever Buoy: the recommendations from CARDNO were fully implemented during the trials, except for the “...independent scientific verification of effectiveness (i.e. of SMART drumlines) against White, Tiger and Bull Sharks”, which is currently underway at the moment. NSW DPI is currently the only agency in Australia trialling SMART drumlines, and one of the objectives of the trials is to determine their effectiveness for catching (and then tagging and releasing) target sharks. The ‘independent verification’ will occur when DPI presents its results as manuscripts to peer reviewed scientific publications.

Recommendation 4 re SharkSmart program to include advice re personal deterrents: Flinders University was awarded funding through the Annual Competitive Grants Program (\$200K/annum) of the Strategy to independently and scientifically assess the effectiveness of commercially available personal deterrents. The study determined that one product was far more effective than all others tested. The report is available on the DPI shark management webpage (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/sharks/shark-management/annual-competitive-grants-program>) and will be included in the SharkSmart community awareness campaign during its current upgrade.

- (b) Representatives from DPI and Surf Lifesaving NSW (SLS NSW) met with representatives from South Africa’s Shark Spotters program in March 2016 to discuss their operating protocols, procedures, and applicability to the NSW coastline and existing beach safety programs. Those consultations identified only 6 of the some 1,200 beaches and headlands in NSW where such a shark spotting approach might be effective in the right conditions. The geography and labour markets are vastly different between Cape Town, South Africa, and the NSW coast and socio-economics. Drones were collectively identified as likely to be the most appropriate shark observation platform, which DPI research has since validated, and continues to be trialled by SLS NSW and other local beach authorities in NSW.

### **Shark spotting programs**

74. What engagement has occurred with both professional lifeguards and surf lifesaving lifeguards to improve shark spotting programs?

#### **Answer:**

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) continues to enhance its existing partnerships with local beach

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

authorities to improve their ability and capacity to detect sharks. DPI has met with relevant bodies on several occasions to discuss their expectations and to outline the approaches being trialled through the Strategy. Beach authorities were consulted during the various trials of drones by DPI, and following the effectiveness of those trials SLS NSW ran its own trials, supported by funding from DPI and the Deputy Premier. DPI and SLS NSW have recently collaborated to extend those initial trials to more beaches and times throughout 2018/19.

NSW DPI also provides funding to beach authorities through its Shark Observation Grants Program, which is part of the Shark Meshing Program. That funding was increased from \$30k per annum to \$200K per annum in 2015/16 and continues to provide shark observation equipment and communication and alert systems to beach authorities along the coast, e.g. the 'shark blimp' at Kiama; shark observation towers at Sharpes Beach, Ballina and Scarborough Beach and Kiama Beach in the Illawarra; and solar panels to support existing towers on the north coast.

75. How much funding was dedicated to shark spotting programs in 2017-18?
- (a) Please provide a breakdown into programs.

**Answer:**

- (a) Shark Observation Grants Program: \$200,000  
Shark Management Strategy: \$330,000.

**Senate inquiry into shark mitigation and deterrent measures**

76. In regards to the Senate inquiry into Shark mitigation and deterrent measures' (12 December 2017) what specific programs has the NSW Government implemented to achieve the following recommendations:
- (a) Recommendation 5 regarding research into effective shark mitigation and deterrent measures
- (b) Recommendation 9 regarding ensuring personal shark deterrent devices are independently verified as being fit-for-purpose
- (c) Recommendation 15 regarding developing a program to provide grants for specialised trauma kits at venues near beaches associated with the risk of human–shark encounters
- i. Has any consideration been given to Sea Shepherd Australia's Acute Shark Attack Pack (ASAP) or similar products?
- (d) Recommendation 16 regarding reviewing and enhancing the water safety education programs and education about sharks generally that is provided in schools (particularly schools in coastal areas)
- (e) Recommendation 18 that specifically recommended the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries improve its consultation and communication with animal rescue groups regarding marine wildlife caught in or injured by lethal shark control measures.

**Answer:**

- (a) The Annual Competitive Grants Program, the PhD Funding Program, shark tagging and tracking programs, and VR4G listening stations of the Shark Management Strategy.
- (b) As stated above, Flinders University, with funding from the Strategy and other sources, compared the effectiveness on White Sharks of five commercially available personal deterrent devices. The final report is available at the annual grants section of the Strategy webpage: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/sharks/shark-management>.
- (c) DPI is responsible for implementing the Government's Shark Management Strategy, not assessing or determining the efficacy of medical devices. Any such products should adhere to Australian Standards and/or be developed in consultation with the relevant Commonwealth agency.

- (d) DPI continues to enhance community awareness programs, including working with beach authorities and peak organisations for water users. In September 2018, DPI will host a live ‘incursion’ for over 5000 school students who will be able to discuss and observe aspects of the Shark Management Strategy with DPI scientists and community engagement officers. The files will be retained by the Department of Education as an ongoing resource for primary and secondary school students. The DPI is also investigating inclusion of shark conservation and management material into the NSW school curriculum.
- (e) DPI is in regular contact with Australian Seabird Rescue at Ballina in the region of the North Coast Shark Net trials, and with the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia for any interactions in NSW waters. DPI worked with both organisations during the risk assessment process for the North Coast Shark Net trials, and the associated Fauna Disentanglement Plans. DPI also works with its partner agency, the Office of Environment and Heritage, on all matters related to marine mammal management and disentanglement from fishing and shark control gear. NSW DPI also works with Queensland Boating and Fishing Patrols in training and accrediting staff for disentanglements, and DPI also purchased a purpose-built vessel for marine mammal disentanglements. DPI continues to increase its own capacity and that of other agencies and organisations to mitigate the impact of shark control measures in NSW and adjacent jurisdictions.

77. In regards to the Clever Buoy trial at Bondi Beach in 2016:

- (a) Why has the Government not invested further in this technology?
- (b) Does the Government plan to implement this technology in the future?

**Answer:**

- (a) The initial trial at Bondi Beach, conducted by the developers of the Clever Buoy system (Shark Mitigation Systems), was focussed on testing the communications system and resilience of the equipment in the marine environment. While demonstrating potential, further development is required. For example, the Clever Buoy successfully identified White Sharks 45% of the time within a 46m range, and the length estimates determined by Clever Buoy were reliably close to the lengths estimated by video cameras. However, the range and accuracy of the data was significantly influenced by the trial design and water depth, with the sonar configuration post-testing found to be not correctly positioned for the water depth encountered and the shark size smaller than the detection algorithm had been designed for.
- (b) The Clever Buoy technology requires further research and development by Shark Mitigation Systems to demonstrate its effectiveness and reliability in NSW waters before it could be considered for implementation by the State or local governments.

78. In regards to the installation of shark barriers:

- (a) Does the Government intend to introduce more shark barriers?
- (b) Will there be a retrial of shark barriers in NSW?
- (c) What plans does the Government have to roll them out further along the coast line, particularly at popular beaches?

**Answer:**

- (a) No
- (b) No, not under the Shark Management Strategy.
- (c) None, the two trials at north coast beaches showed that the developers of shark barriers need to demonstrate that their product can be installed safely and effectively in NSW waters before the Government, in consultation and collaboration with local councils, could consider potentially deploying them on the NSW coast.

**Shark Observation Grants Program**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*



79. Will the Shark Observation Grant Program that committed total funding of \$200,000 for the 2017-18 financial year be available in the 2018-19 financial year?
- (a) If so, when will applications be open?
  - (b) If not, what alternative funding programs are available for new observation towers and how much money will be available under these programs in the 2018-19 financial year?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yes, later this year.

80. In regards to training beach lifeguards as drone operators:
- (a) Has any funding been allocated, or are there any plans to allocate funding, to Surf Life Saving NSW to train their members?
  - (b) Has any funding been allocated, or are there any plans to allocate funding, to Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguard Association to train their members?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yes: the NSW Government provided funding in 2017/18 to Surf Life Saving NSW to operate drones, and has extended this program for 2018/19.
- (b) APOLA's focus to date has been on installing shark observation towers, the majority of which have been funded through DPI's Shark Observation Grants Program. DPI will continue discussions with APOLA and other beach authorities to provide funding to enhance shark detection by local beach authorities using drones.

81. In regards to Lake Macquarie City Council receiving \$33,290 funding under the 2017-18 Shark Observation Grants Program to 'purchase drone and train staff to conduct a 14 week drone trial for shark observation and beach safety':
- (a) Should further funding of drone trials be subject to the results of this 14 week trial?
  - (b) If the trial is successful, will funding be made available for other coastal councils? Particularly those that have permanent, full-time, lifeguard services?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yes, we continue to trial the effectiveness of drones in shark mitigation at a number of locations.
- (b) The Department of Primary Industries continues to work with all beach authorities to enhance the uptake of drones as one of their shark detection tools. It is unlikely that a single strategy will be appropriate at any given beach, rather a suite of strategies will be applied primarily by the local beach authority with support and/or funding from the NSW Government. Local councils represent their community, generally manage parks and reserves and bather safety, and are best placed to provide the front line for bather protection at beaches by building on the trials and research of the Shark Management Strategy.

### **NSW Shark Management Strategy**

82. In regards to the NSW Shark Management Strategy that allocated \$16 million of funding over five years:
- (a) How much money was spent in 2015-16?
    - i. Please list each allocation of funding
  - (b) How much money was spent in 2016-17?
    - i. Please list each allocation of funding
  - (c) How much money was spent in 2017-18?

- i. Please list each allocation of funding
- (d) How much money is planned to be spent in 2018-19 and 2019-20?
  - i. Please list each allocation of funding, where known.

**Answer:**

The Shark Management Strategy is comprised of three programs of trials:

- Program 1 Surveillance, Detection and Deterrents – includes aerial surveillance using drones and helicopters; VR4G listening stations; SMART drumlines; Clever Buoy; and eco-friendly shark barriers
- Program 2 Science and Research – includes shark tagging; Annual Competitive Grants; and PhD bursaries
- Program 3 Education and Community Awareness – includes partnerships with SLS and APOLA; SharkSmart app; community awareness programs; and publications.

The following table reports actual operating expenditure against each Program for 2015/16 to 2017/18. Expenditure for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 will be available in those budget papers.

	Actual expenditure		
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Program 1	\$1,966,518	\$2,913,874	\$1,748,640
Program 2	\$89,030	\$760,172	\$513,383
Program 3	\$99,102	\$208,048	\$343,147

83. In regards to funding the North Coast shark net trial:
- (a) How much of the \$16 million allocated to the NSW Shark Management Strategy was used?
  - (b) What other funding sources were used, if any?
  - (c) How much money was spent on the North Coast shark net trial from:
    - i. 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?
  - (d) How much money was spent on contractors from: i.
    - 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?

**Answer:**

- (a) None
  - (b) Consolidated Revenue
  - (c) i. \$1.05m
    - ii. \$1.06m
  - (d) i. \$0.336m
    - ii. \$0.308m
84. In regards to funding the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program:
- (a) How much of the \$16 million allocated to the NSW Shark Management Strategy was used?
  - (b) What other funding sources were used, if any?
  - (c) How much money was spent on the program from: i.
    - 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?
  - (d) How much money was spent on contractors under the program from: i.
    - 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?

**Answer:**

- (a) 2016/17: None                      2017/18: None
- (b) Consolidated Revenue
- (c) i. \$2.1m  
ii. \$2.0m
- (d) i. \$1.5m  
ii. \$1.5m

85. In regards to funding the deployment of SMART drumlines:
- (a) How much of the \$16 million allocated to the NSW Shark Management Strategy was used?
  - (b) What other funding sources were used, if any?
  - (c) How much money was/will be spent on SMART drumlines from:
    - i. 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?
    - iii. 2018-19?
  - (d) How much money was/will be spent on contractors from:
    - i. 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?
    - iii. 2018-19?
  - (e) How much money was/will be spent on tagging sharks from (Please provide the breakdown in terms of tag type)
    - i. 2016-17?
    - ii. 2017-18?
    - iii. 2018-19?

**Answer:**

- (a) \$76,000 for initial purchase of 15 SMART drumlines for evaluation
- (b) Consolidated Revenue
- (c) i. \$1m  
ii. \$1.8m  
iii. This information is not yet available.
- (d) i. \$0.634m  
ii. \$1.7m  
iii. This information is not yet available.
- (e) i. \$0.446m (operational)  
ii. \$0.153m (operational)  
iii. This information is not yet available

Tag type	2016/17 (tag purchase)	2017/18 (tag purchase)
Acoustic	\$0.120m	\$0.043m
Satellite	\$0.107m	
Mini-PAT	\$0.125m	
SPOT	\$0.056m	

**Shark nets**

86. In regards to responding to entanglements in the shark nets from Wollongong to Newcastle:  
*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

- (a) Will DPI Fisheries staff or contractors respond to all calls from community members that report marine animals entangled in the nets?
  - i. If not, list what species require an immediate response?
- (b) Is there a policy on responding to entanglements in the nets?
  - i. Does this policy provide instructions around where community groups and marine rescue groups can respond to marine animal entanglements?
- (c) What training is required to rescue animals entangled in the nets?
  - i. Do you think this training should be available to community groups?

**Answer:**

- (a) DPI Fisheries and the Office of Environment and Heritage work together in responding to verified reports of entanglements of whales.
- (b) The Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program (SMP) between Wollongong and Newcastle is authorised by a Joint Management Agreement (within the provisions of Part 7A Division 8 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*) between the Minister for Primary Industries and the Chief Executive of the Office of Environment and Heritage and operates in accordance with an associated Management Plan. The Joint Management Agreement, the Management Plan and the Contracts make provisions for mitigating the impact of the SMP on all marine life.
- (c) DPI engages Contractors who have the appropriate vessels, skills, experience, and WHS protocols for shark netting operations on the NSW coast. DPI and OEHL also provide additional training and material related to the operation of shark nets and the associated fauna, including but not limited to annual pre-season workshops for Contractors and DPI observers.
  - i. No. Shark meshing is a high risk activity in open waters and should only be undertaken in a managed and coordinated manner to ensure the safety of operators and the animals. DPI scientists and managers, the Fisheries Scientific Committee and the Scientific Committee are also reliant on the accuracy of the data collected during net inspections and that cannot be managed and controlled by ad hoc net inspections by community groups or concerned members of the public.

87. The Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program 2017/18 Annual Performance Report listed 12 incidents where nets had been damaged from whales:

- (a) What measures are in place to alert DPI Fisheries to whale entanglements?
  - i. Is there a required response time for whale entanglements?
  - ii. If so, did DPI Fisheries meet this required response time on all occasions a whale was entangled in the nets?
- (b) Was there any monitoring done on the whales that were entangled?
- (c) Is there a number of whale entanglements would trigger the removal of the nets?

**Answer:**

- (a) Verified reports from the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA), or the meshing Contractors. There were no entanglements in the SMP in 2017/2018 and all nets are fitted with whale alarms.
  - i. No
- (b) There were no whale entanglements in the SMP in 2017/18.
- (c) No, there is no provision for this in the Management Plan for the NSW Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program.

88. In regards to the Shark Meshing (Bather Protection) Program 2017/18 Annual Performance Report that identified the 'trigger point' was tripped for several threatened species, what actions will you take to

address the harm on the following:

- (a) Grey nurse sharks
- (b) Great Hammerheads
- (c) Hawksbill Turtles

**Answer:**

- (a) The Trigger Point Review Report for 2017/18 prepared by DPI and OEH will assess the need for and extent of any further or modified mitigation actions.
- (b) The Trigger Point Review Report for 2017/18 prepared by DPI and OEH will assess the need for and extent of any further or modified mitigation actions.
- (c) The Trigger Point Review Report for 2017/18 prepared by DPI and OEH will assess the need for and extent of any further or modified mitigation actions.

89. In regards to turtles caught in shark nets:

- (a) Are all turtles tagged?
- (b) How many turtles caught in nets in NSW were tagged over:
  - i. 2016-17
  - ii. 2017-18
- (c) Is there a Government policy around this tagging? If so, is this publicly available?

**Answer:**

- (a) No
- (b) None in 2016/17 or 2017/18
- (c) No. The meshing Contractors tag marine fauna in accordance with the tagging protocols and equipment provided by OEH and DPI.

**SMART Drumlines**

90. Has the Government prepared, or is the Government preparing, a state-wide SMART drumline report?

- (a) If so, will this be made publicly available and where?
- (b) If not, how does the Government intend to assess the success of the SMART drumline trial program?

**Answer:**

A final report will be produced from the research undertaken using SMART drumlines to mitigate the risk of shark-bather interactions. This will be completed by the end of the 5-year Shark Management Strategy in June 2020, and will be made available to public via the DPI website.

91. In regards to the SMART drumline trial that has deployed 40 SMART drumlines in Coffs Harbour and Sawtell; Forster/Tuncurry; Kiama and Shell Cove; Ulladulla and Narrawallee:

- (a) When will a decision be made on any future deployment of SMART drumlines in these regions?
- (b) Will the community be consulted before more SMART drumlines are deployed?
  - i. If so, what methods of consultation will this involve?

**Answer:**

- (a) The NSW Government is still conducting trials on other parts of the coast before potentially revisiting earlier trial locations.
- (b) Yes

- i. DPI directly consulted each of the local councils where trial deployments of SMART drumlines was proposed. Some councils requested DPI give a formal presentation at a council meeting about the Strategy with an emphasis on SMART drumlines. Those councils then advised DPI of their support (e.g. Kiama) or objection (e.g. Byron) to conducting SMART drumline trials on beaches of their LGA. Other councils provided in-principle support at first contact, but subject to a mid-trial briefing of the council demonstrating the results of the first 3 months of the trial. Following council support for the trial, DPI then hosted community drop-in stands over successive weekends in key locations as requested by the relevant council.

92. In regards to the SMART drumline trials on the NSW South Coast (Kiama and Shell Cove; Ulladulla and Narrawallee):

- (a) What community consultation occurred *before* the drumlines were introduced:
  - i. From Ulladulla to Narrawallee?
  - ii. From Kiama to Shell Cove?

**Answer:**

- (a) As per response to Question 91.

93. In regards to the SMART drumline trials on the NSW South Coast (Kiama and Shell Cove; Ulladulla and Narrawallee), what evidence, specific to the NSW South Coast, did the Government rely on that suggested there was a need to introduce SMART drumlines?

**Answer:**

Locations for trials of SMART drumlines were determined by DPI on a combination of factors including aerial surveillance data, shark interactions or sightings, proximity to a populated area and port/river access. All SMART drumline activities under the Shark Management Strategy are trials, and part of the trials includes not only identifying areas on the basis of the potential to catch target sharks, but also on the response from the community in relation to those trials. Council support was the critical prerequisite for the trials in each location, and 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 from the community will help inform the future of shark mitigation along the NSW coast, as it did recently on the Far North Coast following the trials of shark nets in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

94. The SMART drumline trial results for the NSW South Coast showed that from November 2017 to May 2018 3 white sharks and 2 tiger sharks were caught from Ulladulla to Narrawallee and 1 white shark and 9 tiger sharks were caught from Kiama to Shell Cove:

- (a) Do these results reflect a lower likelihood of shark interactions on the NSW South Coast?
- (b) Will these SMART drumlines be redeployed as a result of this trial?
- (c) Will any further SMART drumlines be deployed on the NSW South Coast?

**Answer:**

- (a) No. Relative abundance is not an accurate indicator of the likelihood of a shark interaction.
- (b) As noted previously, the NSW Government is still conducting trials on other parts of the coast before potentially revisiting earlier trial locations.
- (c) As above.

95. What is the total number of sharks that have been recaptured from SMART drumlines since 2016?

**Answer:**

At 12 September 2018, there were 58 recaptures, though not necessarily at the same location or close to the same

time period.

96. How many sharks have been tagged in the SMART drumline program to date?  
 (a) Please list in terms of type of tag and how many of each tag has been used?

**Answer:**

Species	Total caught on SDs	Identification tag	Satellite tag	Acoustic tag	Minipat - archival tag
Bull Shark	27	26		24	
Tiger Shark	43	41	3	38	
White Shark	300	291	48	282	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>7</b>

97. How many non-target marine animals have been caught on SMART drumlines in all locations to date?

**Answer:**

As of 31 August 2018, 130 non-target marine animals.

98. Will the Government change their Shark Smart app information to include the tag number of the shark in the alert message?

**Answer:**

The current system does not allow it.

### Shark research programs

99. How many SMART drumlines in total in NSW are deployed for the purpose of research?  
 (a) Please list their locations

**Answer:**

Up to 25 SMART drumlines are available for use by research teams. These are deployed on a needs basis when targeted tagging or technology development is being undertaken. They may be deployed anywhere between Ports Stephens and Coffs Harbour, depending on where target sharks are expected to be based on information provided by the VR4Gs.

100. In regards to the research being undertaken with SMART drumlines:
- Will the results of this research be made publicly available?
    - If so when is this expected?
  - When is it predicted that this research will be used to inform the Government's shark management strategy?
  - Does the research inform target shark movement patterns?
    - If so, will this information be used in future shark management strategies?

**Answer:**

- All data, including size, sex, species, location and time of capture, about the catches of target sharks and bycatch are released monthly and posted on the DPI website. This is in addition to the average time that the SMART drumlines are deployed in each location and the average response time to an alert.

- (b) This data currently informs the Government's shark management strategy as evidenced by the permanent deployment of up to 35 SMART drumlines in the Evans Head and Ballina region until June 2020 to mitigate the risk of shark-human interactions.
- (c) An extensive tagging program using SMART drumlines to catch and release target sharks is helping DPI scientists gain a deeper understanding of seasonal and inter-annual variability in the movements of target sharks. Once the data from the receivers is analysed, it will be used to inform future shark management strategies.

101. In regards to Satellite linked (VR4G) shark listening stations:
- (a) How many are currently operating?
  - (b) What is their location?

**Answer:**

21 Satellite linked (VR4G) shark listening stations, to provide real-time tracking data of tagged sharks. These listening stations have been deployed at Kingscliff, Byron Bay, Lennox Head, Lighthouse Beach, and Sharpes Beach at Ballina, Evans Head, Yamba, Coffs Harbour, South West Rocks, Port Macquarie and Forster, Crescent Head, Old Bar, Bondi, Hawks Nest, Redhead, Kiama, Sussex Inlet, Mollymook, Batemans Bay and Merimbula.

**Handling whale carcasses**

102. What policies does the NSW Government have in place when it comes to handling whale carcasses to minimise the continued risk to ocean users?

**Answer:**

This matter falls within the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP. The Office of Environment and Heritage is the agency responsible for the care and management of marine mammals.

**Fish Farms in Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park**

103. In regards to the external investigation carried out by the Department of Planning and Environment into the accidental release of 20,000 farmed kingfish into the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park, is the investigation report publicly available?
- (a) If so, where?

**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 DPI 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>

104. Were any other external investigations carried out?

**Answer:**

I understand that the NSW Department of Planning and Environment consulted an independent expert. Huon Aquaculture also used a consultant to review operations.

105. Does the investigation assess the impacts on the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park and the marine



estate?

- (a) If not, will these impacts be assessed?

**Answer:**

Yes, I understand that the independent expert's investigation determined that the fish escape was considered to have very little harm or potential harm to the environment

106. In regards to the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project:

- (a) When will the test results from the project be made available?  
(b) Is there any current proposal to expand the footprint of the fish farms?  
(c) Has there been any testing on the impacts of the fish farm on the marine park?  
i. If yes, what is the nature of the testing, and what reporting is of the testing is made?

**Answer:**

- (a) Regular Stakeholder Updates are emailed to the local community and placed on the web. Marine fauna monitoring results are uploaded every month and independent water and seafloor sampling results undertaken by the University of Newcastle are uploaded at least twice a year. Video surveillance of the sea floor around the lease and under the sea pens is also available on the web. The Annual Environmental Management Report for 2017 is publically available online and summarises operational and monitoring results.

Nationally, research results are presented at meetings of the Fisheries Research Development Corporation funded Yellowtail Kingfish Nutrition project.

Recently a PhD student working on diet development work for Yellowtail Kingfish at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute presented a paper at an international aquaculture nutrition conference and was awarded Best Student Paper.

- (b) No  
(c) See (a)

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/starting-up/finfish-aquaculture-lease-modification-application>

**Containers Lost from YM Efficiency**

107. What are the contents of the containers lost from the YM Efficiency that are yet to be recovered?

**Answer:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

108. Will there be an assessment carried out on the impacts from these lost containers on the commercial fishing industry?

**Answer:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

**Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund**

109. In regards to the 2018 round of applications for funds to the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund:  
*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

- (a) How many applications for funds have been received?
- (b) What is the breakdown into application numbers for:
  - i. Small grants
  - ii. Large grants
  - iii. Low interest loans
- (c) What is the breakdown into application numbers for each of the state-wide regions?

**Answer:**

- (a) Twenty five applications were received
- (b) Breakdown
  - i. Four small grants
  - ii. Twenty one large grants
  - iii. No applications for a loan, however one large grant applicant indicated that they would be prepared to accept a loan
- (c) Fifteen related to areas east of the Divide (Central Coast – 1; Mid North Coast – 5; Sydney Metropolitan – 1; South Coast – 8). Eight related to west of the Divide (South West – 2; Central West – 4; North West – 2). One application was not relevant to an area and one covered multiple areas.

110. Of the above applications, how many have been assessed and how many have been successful?

**Answer:**

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.

111. When and how will the successful recipients to the 2018 round of applications to the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund be publicly advertised?

**Answer:**

Details will be provided on the DPI website once successful applicants have been notified and confirmation of acceptance of funding is finalised.

112. Has the Government allocated any resources to support Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal fishing business to prepare and submit applications to the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund?

**Answer:**

A 'Guidelines for Applicants' document was made available on the DPI website to any prospective applicant. As well as providing this electronically, hard copies were provided upon request.

These guidelines aim to provide helpful information on applying for funds from the Trust and included a 'more information and assistance section'. This section included contact details for staff dedicated to the administration of the Trust as well as detail of other groups that may be of assistance.

**DPI Fisheries Staffing**

113. In regards to DPI Fisheries staff:

- (a) How many Full Time Equivalent staff were/will be employed from:
  - i. 2016-17?
  - ii. 2017-18?
  - iii. 2018-19?

- (b) How many contractors were/will be employed from:
- i. 2016-17?
  - ii. 2017-18?
  - iii. 2018-19?
- (c) How many compliance officers were/will be employed from:
- i. 2016-17?
  - ii. 2017-18?
  - iv. 2018-19?

**Answer:**

- (a) The Fisheries branch contains the Game Licensing Unit and in 2017/18 Forestry. The FTE figures are displayed in the table below.

Unit	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Fisheries	379.18	378.34	381.37
Game Licensing	27.46	28.5	32.94
Forestry	0	30.84	31.17
Total	406.64	437.68	445.48*

\*Please note that for 2018/19 the figure is taken from 24 August 2018.

- (b) Fisheries did not acquire any payroll contractors in 2016/17 and only sought two payroll contractors in 2017/18. As of the end of August 2018 Fisheries had not acquired any payroll contractors for 2018/19.

- (c)
- i. 93
  - ii. 87
  - iii. 100

114. Please provide the breakdown of compliance officers per region.

**Answer:**

Zone	Total
Far North Coast Zone	15
North Coast Zone	14
Central Coast / Metropolitan Zone	15
Statewide Operations & Investigations Group	12
Illawarra/Shoalhaven Zone	8
Conservation & Aquaculture Group	4
South Coast Zone	12
North West Zone	9
South West Zone	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## DPI Fisheries Compliance

115. In regards to fisheries compliance in 2017-18:

- (a) How many written warnings were issued?
- (b) How many penalty notices were issued?
- (c) How many matters were prosecuted?
- (d) How many prosecutions were against an Aboriginal person?

**Answer:**

- (a) 4,008
- (b) 2,268
- (c) \*231
- (d) \*79

\* Includes matters yet to be finalised through court processes.

116. How much funding will be put into on the water compliance activities by DPI Fisheries to manage the marine protected areas across the state?

- (a) How many compliance officers will this provide to each marine park, including the proposed new marine park for the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion?

**Answer:**

- (a) There are 10 fisheries officers dedicated to NSW marine parks (see Table 2 below). The funding for 10 fisheries officers equates to approximately \$1.4M.

Table 2. Number of fisheries officers provide to each marine park, including the Hawkesbury Shelf bioregion.

Marine Park	No of fisheries officers
Cape Byron	2
Solitary Islands	2
Port Stephens – Great Lakes	2
Jervis Bay	2
Batemans	2
Total	10
<i>Hawkesbury Shelf</i>	3

117. Will any of the \$45.7 million proposed allocation as part of the NSW Marine Estate Strategy be directed to compliance?

**Answer:**

Yes.

## Ocean Trap and Line Fishery

118. In regards to the Ocean Trap and Line Fishery:

- (a) How many tonnes of shark was caught in this fishery in 2017-18?
- (b) How many grey nurse, hammerhead and white sharks died in this fishery in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

- (a) As at 11 Sep 2018 the gross recorded landing of sharks in the Ocean Trap and Line fishery was 45.6 tonnes.

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(b) As at 11 Sep 2018 there were no Grey Nurse sharks, Great hammerhead, Scalloped hammerhead or Great white sharks taken in the fishery.

There was a total of 250kg (gross recorded weight) of the Smooth hammerhead caught. The Smooth hammerhead are not a listed Threatened Endangered or Protected Species (TEPS).

119. In regards to the Ocean Trawl Fishery:

(a) How many tonnes of shark were caught in this fishery in 2017-18?

(b) How many grey nurse, hammerhead and white sharks died in this fishery in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

(a) As at 11 Sep 2018 the gross recorded landing of shark in the Ocean Trawl fishery was 36.5 tonnes.

(b) As at 11 Sep 2018 there were no Grey Nurse sharks, Great hammerhead, Scalloped hammerhead or Great white sharks taken in the fishery.

There was a total of 99kg (gross recorded weight) of the Smooth hammerhead caught. The Smooth hammerhead are not a listed Threatened Endangered or Protected Species (TEPS).

**Fish aggregating devices**

120. Have there been any reports of marine mammals caught in fishing aggregating devices in NSW in the past 12 months?

(a) If so, please list the animal type and location

**Answer:**

DPI has not received any reports of marine mammals entangled in any of DPI's 30 fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the past 12 months.

**Crab traps**

121. In regards to the use of hoop nets or witches hats for trapping crabs:

(a) Has there been any research or monitoring of the impacts on bycatch from these traps?

(b) What evidence has been provided to the Government that these kinds of traps capture turtles?

**Answer:**

Yes. Modifications were required to witches hats traps in the Port Stephens estuary in response to monitoring of reported turtle deaths.

122. Considering hoop nets and witches hats are banned in other jurisdictions, will the Government consider banning these methods in NSW?

(a) If not, will the Government consider banning these methods in marine parks in NSW?

**Answer:**

Regulations requiring modifications to witches hats were implemented in the Port Stephens estuary in response to documented turtle deaths and the changes appear to have been successful (see:

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/614509/Recreational-Fishing-Guide-Port-Stephens.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/614509/Recreational-Fishing-Guide-Port-Stephens.pdf)) and [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/695698/Section-8-Notification-Fishing-Closure-Hoop-or-lift-nets-modified-collapsible-crab-traps-February-2017.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/695698/Section-8-Notification-Fishing-Closure-Hoop-or-lift-nets-modified-collapsible-crab-traps-February-2017.pdf)

**PFAS Pollution**

123. In regards to the increased incidents of per-and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in NSW rivers and estuaries:

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- (a) How many rivers, creeks and estuaries have been identified as being polluted by PFAS?
  - i. Please list every location
- (b) What programs are in place to reduce the impacts and levels of PFAS pollution?
  - i. Is there any timeline provided to affected communities?

**Answer:**

- (a) NSW Environment Protection Authority is leading the NSW Government's response into PFAS contamination and is best placed to answer this question.
- (b) NSW Environment Protection Authority, as lead of the Government's response to PFAS contamination, is best placed to answer.

**Food Authority – reusable plastic container**

124. Is there anything in the Food Standards Code that provides guidance to retailers around accepting reusable containers from customers?
- (a) If not, will the Government look to providing guidance in this area, especially in light of the public push to phase out single-use plastics?

**Answer:**

- (a) No.

The Food Authority website and facebook page both provide guidance on this issue see -

<http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/foodsafetyandyou/food-at-home/shopping/shopping-trolleys-and-baskets>  
and  
<https://www.facebook.com/nswfoodauthority/photos/a.117314315086643.23635.117020395116035/1044445462373519/?type=3&theater>

**Seismic testing in NSW**

125. Has any testing occurred in NSW into the impacts of seismic testing for gas or oil reserves on:
- (a) Commercial fishing operations?
  - (b) Whale migration patterns and health?

**Answer:**

- (a) Studies on the potential impact of seismic testing on commercial fishing have been conducted worldwide. Assessment and approval of exploration activities outside NSW are the decision of the Commonwealth Regulator, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).
- (b) This matter falls within the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP.

**Marine plastic pollution**

126. Has the Government undertaken any research into the impacts of marine plastic pollution on:
- (a) Water quality?
  - (b) Edible seafood consumed in NSW?

**Answer:**

- (a) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP.
- (b) The NSW Food Authority has not undertaken any research into the impacts of marine plastics pollution on edible seafood consumed in NSW.

127. Will the Government advocate for a change to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code that

introduces a level of plastic in seafood that is considered safe for human consumption?

**Answer:**

Not at this stage.

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmana MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

**Commercial fishing**

128. Minister, how many fishers have left the industry since your reforms

(a) Is this a positive thing?

**Answer:**

There were 881 shareholding entities (fishing businesses) in the reforming fisheries as at June 2016 (just after Government announcement of program). It is important to note in the 7 years prior the number of fishers declined 36%. In September 2018 the equivalent number was 704 shareholding entities.

(a) Much of this reduction is amalgamation of fishing businesses as a result of the new opportunities for flexible and relevant business structures.

129. Minister – are you aware that many in the commercial fishing sector believe you and your Department are waging a war on their livelihoods?

(a) What do you have against commercial fishers?

**Answer:**

(a) The government has made every effort to assist the commercial fishing industry adjust so that it is viable and economically sustainable for the future and has gone to considerable lengths and expense to ensure that fishers have assistance measures available to them, such as government subsidies, throughout the reforms.

130. How many fishers have exited the industry under your reforms?

**Answer:**

See question 128.

131. Do you believe the rules around commercial fishing are clear, transparent, easily to follow and easy to enforce?

**Answer:**

We have been clear that a key element of this reform has been to move to output controls (ie monitoring catch and effort levels) because of the complex and challenging rules that commercial fishers had been governed by. Our reforms to date assist us to simplify or remove those outdated regulations and we expect that work to continue.

132. Why are you proposing to link shares with this demerit scheme?

**Answer:**

Industry and independent experts have called for a penalty demerit scheme for a number of years to protect the majority of fishers who follow the rules, and to protect the integrity of the industry.

Several of the current Fisheries Management Strategies state that a penalty points scheme be developed, linking points to endorsement suspension and share forfeiture provisions.

The recent bipartisan parliamentary inquiry into commercial fishing was told that some businesses repeatedly advise the fishers they employ to commit offences because the financial benefits outweigh any potential penalty for the business owner.

CommFish NSW will be providing further advice to me, following their consideration of issues raised during the consultation phase.

133. What do you think a 10 year suspension would do to the average fishing business?

**Answer:**

The industry consultation paper suggested that a share suspension would apply to a share class that accrued 200 or more demerit points, not the fishing business.

134. Will you allow groups like Commfish to have a look?

**Answer:**

Yes.

135. Have you shown draft legislation to the industry?

(a) If not why not?

**Answer:**

Draft legislation was provided to members of CommFish NSW and to other industry members who requested a copy during the consultation period. A discussion paper summary of the draft legislation was also provided during the consultation.

(a) N/A

136. Why has your Department released draft legislation marked cabinet in confidence to some fishers?

**Answer:**

Cabinet approved targeted consultation with the fishing industry regarding the penalty demerit scheme. DPI received advice from the Department of Premier and Cabinet that the draft legislation should only be provided to industry members subject to confidence and was not for further distribution. The legislation was provided to members of CommFish NSW and to other fishing industry members subject to Cabinet confidence during the consultation process.

137. Have you already made your mind up?

**Answer:**

No. The industry-wide consultation process was an opportunity for the fishing industry to share their views and assist in informing development of any final demerit scheme. CommFish NSW has also had an additional opportunity to provide advice following public consultation.

## **Recreational fishing**



138. Minister – why is your Department receiving a large share of money sitting with the Recreational Fishing Trust?

**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 me. Funding is subsequently approved, or not, by me.

Surveys of recreational fishing fee licence holders are regularly undertaken to determine priority areas for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. In many cases, DPI has the necessary capacity and experience to undertake priority recreational fishing projects. DPI regularly receives requests from the community to undertake project activities using funds from the trust. Each year many projects are also undertaken by proponents external to DPI, which have the necessary capacity and expertise.

139. From last year's revenue – how much went back to funding DPI program, including DPI managed and partnered programs and projects?

**Answer:**

A total of \$10.3 million was approved from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for 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.

140. Is this covering cuts you have made in your Department?

**Answer:**

No

141. Are you aware of concerns amongst rec fishers that you are raiding their funds to make up for your own cuts?

**Answer:**

No, please refer to answer to 139 above.

142. How much went towards administration costs of the Recreational Fishing Trust?

**Answer:**

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.

143. Has the Recreational Fishing Trust been exercising the statutory annual reporting obligations?

- (a) Does it publish an annual report?
- (b) If not why not?

**Answer:**

(a) 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. This information is *Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

also published, in more detail, on the DPI website on the Recreational Fishing Trust webpage  
(b) N/A see (a) above.

### **Eurobodalla rural lands strategy**

144. Minister, given concerns from a number of your agencies, including Fisheries and Local Land Services, over the draft Rural Lands Strategy prepared by Eurobodalla Shire Council, what have you done to defend the interests of the local oyster industry?

#### **Answer:**

Protecting water quality in the NSW Marine Estate is a priority for not only the Eurobodalla Shire but along the whole coast line. In developing a Rural Lands Strategy, the Eurobodalla Shire Council must take into consideration all matters that may impact the Batemans Marine Park and water quality objectives in the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy. In addition, it should take on board the recommendations of the recently published NSW DPI *Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters Guidelines*.

NSW DPI staff are in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment to promote water quality protection in the development of this Strategy.

### **Wild Deer**

145. How many deer were culled in the Illawarra in 2017-2018 financial year?

#### **Answer:**

476

146. What are the estimated numbers of deer in the Illawarra at present, indicated by the Autumn 2018 deer survey?

#### **Answer:**

Numbers and trends from the 2018 survey are still required to be peer reviewed.

147. By how much have deer numbers in the Illawarra increased since the last survey of deer was conducted in 2015?

#### **Answer:**

Numbers and trends from the 2018 survey are still required to be peer reviewed. However, monitoring population trends in the Wollongong Local Government Area have been conducted since 2012. Monitoring shows that the Rusa deer are increasing at a much slower rate of  $r=0.22$  over the 2015-2018 period due to the current deer control program.

148. How much money was spent on the control of deer in the Illawarra in the 2017-2018 financial year?

#### **Answer:**

\$187,000.

149. What funding has been committed to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program for the control of wild deer in the Illawarra in:
- (a) 2018-2019;
  - (b) 2019-2020?

**Answer:**

- (a) \$180,000;
- (b) \$60,000.

150. When will the South East Local Land Services Regional Pest Animal Committee deliver the plan to outline pest animal management priorities for the South East, which was promised to be delivered in July 2018?

**Answer:**

The Plan was released on 1 July 2018 and is available at [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/pestplan](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/pestplan)

151. What funding has been committed to control wild deer in the Illawarra under this plan developed by the South East Local Land Services Regional Pest Animal Committee to identify pest animal management priorities in:

- (a) 2018-2019;
- (c) 2019-2020?

**Answer:** South East Local Land Services fund pest animal activities from a number of sources. The recently re purposed Pest Animal Levy will provide funding to deliver outcomes from the Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan, of which deer are included and will be administered by the South East Regional Pest Animal Committee.

**Efficiency dividends**

152. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?

**Answer:**

Savings from the NSW Government's efficiency dividend are outlined in the Budget Papers.

153. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 152.

154. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 152.

155. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 152.

156. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 152.

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### **Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance**

157. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?
158. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2017-18 period?
159. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?
160. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

#### **Answer:**

157-160. In 2017/18, total expenditure by the Ministry on domestic travel was \$676,372 – compared with \$852,187 in 2009/10 under Labor. This is 20 per cent less than under Labor.

### **Office Administration**

161. How many staff are in your ministerial office?
  - (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
  - (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

#### **Answer:**

Ministers' Office staff numbers and salary bands are available on the DPC website. Refer to:

<https://www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/publications/premiers-and-ministers-staff-numbers>

162. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
  - (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
  - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
    - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

#### **Answer:**

There were 303 smart phones allocated across the Ministers' IT Network in 2017-18. The total usage cost of these smart phones and other mobile devices (including iPads) was \$236,984, a 46% per cent reduction on the 2009-10 expenditure of \$434,854. There were 3 devices lost/stolen across the Ministerial Offices during the 2017/2018. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Corporate and Ministerial Services.

163. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
  - (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2017-18?
  - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

#### **Answer:**

There were 135 iPads in use across the Ministers' IT network in 2017-18. The cost of replacing any lost or stolen devices is claimed through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund. Repairs are funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Corporate and Ministerial Services.

164. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

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- (a) What is the cost of this?

**Answer:**

Artwork in the Ministerial office includes art donated at no cost.

165. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?  
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

No.

166. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?  
(a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

See 165

167. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?  
(a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?  
i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**Answer:**

The Ministerial office subscribes to a modest number of publications, the costs of which are managed within the office's budget.

168. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?  
(a) What were the gifts purchased?  
i. Who were they gifted to?

**Answer:**

Gifts are presented to dignitaries during overseas missions and to dignitaries visiting NSW.

169. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?  
(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**Answer:**

No.

170. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?  
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**Answer:**

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. During 2017-18 all costs associated with these vehicles were paid from the relevant office's budget.

171. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:

- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

**Answer:**

Expenditure on taxis, hire cars and ride share services in 2017-18 across the Ministry was \$89,496. This compares with 2009-10 expenditure of \$175,776.

172. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?

- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**Answer:**

Expenditure on charter flights for the Ministry totalled \$18,695 in 2017-18. This compares with expenditure in 2009-10 of \$281,567.

**Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking**

173. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?

- (a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19?

**Answer:**

Yes.

- (a) N/A

174. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

**Answer:**

Provision of IT equipment is based on the operational needs of the business and the role being performed by employees and the Department of Industry does not maintain data relating to expenditure specific to components specifically required to support agile working environments. The move to agile working environments has allowed better utilisation and greater efficiency of the Departments leased premises.

**Hospitality**

175. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Expenditure on hospitality across the Ministry totalled \$25,350 in 2017-18 – which includes catering for stakeholder meetings and courtesy calls with visiting dignitaries.

176. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Costs are managed within each agency's recurrent budget.

**Labour Hire Firms**

177. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms? If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:
- (a) The names of the firms utilised
  - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
  - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company

**Answer:**

The Industry Cluster uses Labour Hire firms in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required. There are no central records maintained, with operations authorised to make such arrangements, subject to their overall labour expense cap.

**Media and Public Relations**

178. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

**Answer:**

Department of Industry staff numbers are included in the Annual Report.

179. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**Answer:**

Industry staff numbers undertaking media or public relations activities are commensurate with need and can go down or up as required.

180. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**Answer:**

The NSW Government purchases all commercial media monitoring centrally through the Department of Premier and Cabinet which delivers significant savings through aggregated procurement.

181. Have you had media training or speech training?
- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
  - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

No.

**Facebook**

182. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-  
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18?

**Answer:**

No taxpayer money has been spent on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts.

183. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Where appropriate social media is used by agencies alongside other forms of advertising as a cost effective medium of communication. The Department of Industry spent \$3,212.27 with Facebook on marketing and advertising including sponsored posts.

**Overseas Trips**

184. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?  
(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
185. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?  
(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?  
(b) Who paid for these trips?

**Answer:**

184-185: Details of overseas travel including costs are published on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website.

**Department/Agency Travel**

186. What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:  
(a) Taxi hire  
(b) Limousine/private car hire  
(c) Hire car rental  
(d) Ridesharing services

**Answer:**

All Department of Industry travel in 2017-18 was in accordance with NSW Travel and Transport Policy and the Department of Industry internal travel policies. Department of Industry travel costs for 2017-18 were:

- (a) \$655,409  
(b) \$2,570  
(c) \$365,575  
(d) \$19,471

**Drivers**

187. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant Department provided drivers?  
(a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?  
(b) In total, how many drivers are used by senior executives in the Department?  
(c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the Department?

**Answer:**

No

**Consulting**

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188. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2017-18?

- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**Answer:**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

189. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2017-18:

- (a) Social media  
i. And the cost of these services
- (b) Photography  
i. And the cost of these services
- (c) Acting training  
i. And the cost of these services
- (d) Ergonomics  
i. And the cost of these services

**Answer:**

Financial statements, including expenditure on consultants, are available in agency annual reports.

### **Department/Agency Staffing**

190. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2017-18?

- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:  
i. Voluntary  
ii. Forced
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**Answer:**

- (a) 70 redundancies were processed for Department of Industry, excluding Local Land Services and TAFE NSW, during 2017/18.  
i.66  
ii.4
- (b) \$6,455,933

191. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?

- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?  
(b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

**Answer:**

Yes, 8 former staff were rehired.

(a)-(b)

Employee 1: rehired 28 November 2016 on an ongoing basis in a managerial role in Crown Lands and Water. Annual salary \$140,996.

Employee 2: rehired 16 December 2016 on a contractor basis in a research role in Department of Primary Industries.

Employee 3: rehired 6 October 2017 on a contractor basis in a research role in Department of Primary Industries.

Employee 4: rehired 13 November 2017 on a casual basis in an analyst role in Department of Primary Industries. Hourly rate: \$63.60.

Employee 5: rehired 31 December 2017 on a contractor basis in a professional role in Department of Primary Industries.

Employee 6: rehired 22 January 2018 on a temporary basis in a managerial role in Corporate Service Partners. Annual salary \$140,996.

Employee 7: rehired 14 March 2018 on a casual basis in a policy role in Crown Lands and Water. Hourly Rate: \$63.60.

Employee 8: rehired 26 June 2018 on a casual basis in a professional role in Department of Primary Industries. Hourly rate: \$68.08

192. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**Answer:**

Staffing decisions made within individual agencies are a matter for that agency.

193. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2017-18?

- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**Answer:**

A total of 3 staff were dismissed from Department of Industry in 2017-18.

- (a) 1 dismissal for misuse of departmental resources, 1 dismissal for inappropriate behavior in the workplace and 1 dismissal for unsatisfactory performance.

### Smart Phone Accounts

194. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on iTunes?

- i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**Answer:**

IT costs are managed within each agency's budget and in accordance with NSW Government's ICT and procurement policies and frameworks.

195. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on Android?

- i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**Answer:**

No

### Merchant fees

196. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

The Department of Industry invoices include alternative payment options of Bpay and cheque, which don't have a surcharge for customers. All NSW Government agencies are required to impose surcharges to recoup their merchant interchange fees, pursuant to Treasury Circular TC12/13. The Department of Industry charged customers *Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

a surcharge on payments made via credit and debit cards through the Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diners schemes. Payments made on credit and debit cards using the Department of Industry's internet payment pages, via the phone using the 1300 number listed on invoices, and at counters with physical merchant terminals attract the surcharge.

197. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

The Department of Industry's charges are as follows: Visa 0.4 per cent, Mastercard 0.4 percent, American Express 1.5 per cent, and Diners 2.4 per cent.

198. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

The Department of Industry received \$39,827 in surcharge from customers payments. Westpac applied merchant fee charges totalling \$21,975 for facilities administered directly by the Department of Industry. This does not include TAFE NSW and Office of Sport.

**Probity Auditor**

199. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

**Answer:**

In accordance with the NSW Procurement Board's Direction (PBD-2013-05), the Department of Industry has internal mechanisms in place to ensure that probity considerations are routinely taken into account in its procurement decisions, and the use of external probity advisers and auditors is the exception rather than the rule. The Department's Annual Report includes all consultancies including those involving probity advisors valued more than \$50,000.

**Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage**

200. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;
  - (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
  - (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
  - (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
  - (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
  - (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

**Answer:**

- (a) Section 6.18 of the Public Service Industrial Relations Guide provides guidance to staff and management on appropriate strategies for supporting a staff member experiencing domestic violence. This guidance further references Section 84A of the Award (leave for matters arising from domestic

violence) and Treasury Circular 14-16 Support for Employees Experiencing Domestic Violence.

- (b) Section 84A was added to the Award in 2011.
- (c) All staff members employed under the Award in a cluster agency are entitled to be absent from the workplace due to an incident of domestic violence if required. Similar clauses apply to agencies covered by their own negotiated agreements.
- (d) It is not a separate leave type.
- (e) In accordance with the Award, staff may utilise all available Family and Community Service Leave, Sick Leave and Carer's Leave to assist with managing domestic violence circumstances. If this leave is unavailable special leave maybe granted up to five days per calendar year.
- (f) Refer to Question 200 (e)
- (g) Refer to Question 200 (e)
- (h) All staff, their families and contractors have access to the Employee Assistance Program..

201. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?

- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
- (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required

**Answer:**

- (a) Management of privacy and information relates to all employees as part of the Department of Industry Code of Conduct.
- (b) The Department of Industry provides access to EAP for employees and their direct family

202. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

**Answer:**

The Department of Industry provides a range of training resources including resources for individuals for resilience, people leaders including content covering employee wellbeing and dealing with issues their staff are experiencing, privacy training and conduct training covering dealing with personal information. A specific training course on domestic violence is not provided.

203. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

**Answer:**

Refer to Question 202.

204. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

**Answer:**

Sensitive information and systems within Department of Industry have levels of security to restrict access. Misuse of the systems and information resources will result in disciplinary action.

### **Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs**

205. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

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- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs and a copy of such documentation.
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
  - i. How?
- (g) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?
  - i. How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:
  - ii. Sexual harassment
  - iii. Bullying
  - iv. Workplace violence

**Answer:**

- (a) The Department of Industry bullying policy has been in place since 17 July 2014. Online training in the prevention of workplace bullying and harassment has been available since the introduction of the policy however recording of attendance has only been available since the introduction of the departments learning library in July 2017.
- (b) All employees and contractors under department supervision have been required to complete the online training.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The training is online and self-paced. The sessions vary depending on the employees ability to retain the learning.
- (e) The training is online and accessible via the intranet.
- (f) There is no tailored program for these risk groups however the code of conduct training covers the need to respect employees individual differences and sexual orientation.
  - (i) EEO training is currently under development.
- (g) It is not possible to report the exact numbers as training delivered prior to the introduction of the human capital management system in July 2017 was not recorded. Since July 2017 approximately 49% of staff have undertaken bullying training and 31% have completed a new online code of conduct course.
  - (i) 0
  - (ii) 10 formal
  - (iii) 0

**Participation of women in Government**

206. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister’s portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the agency?

- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?
- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?
- (g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

**Answer:**

- (a) The Department of Industry as at 30 June 2018 employs 2,344 women (53% of workforce).
- (b) As at 30 June 2018 the Department of Industry employs 639 (45%) women in management level roles (Clerk Grade 9/10 and 11/12 equivalent roles, and senior executives).
- (c) The Department of Industry as at 30 June 2018 employs women in the following senior executive bands:

Women in Senior Executive Roles		
Band 1	73	46%
Band 2	12	44%
Band 3	2	33%
TOTAL	87	45%

- (d) Workforce data is reported annually to the Public Service Commission using the Workforce Profile Report. Also reported in the Department of Industry Annual Report 2017/18.
- (e) The Department has a Leadership Development Pathway program, that is openly marketed to new and emerging women in leadership roles.
- (f) Excluding casuals:

Male	Female	Gap
\$108,760	\$99,627	\$9,133

- (g) We report participation rates to the PSC and in our Annual Report which is publicly available to Women NSW and other government agencies.

**Energy**

207. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:

- (a) 2014-15?
- (b) 2015-16?
- (c) 2016-17?
- (d) 2017-18?

**Answer:**

NSW Government Agencies procure their energy supplies under whole of government Contracts 776 (small sites under 100,000 kwh per annum) and 777.

Under these contracts the following suppliers are mandated:

- 776 – Origin Energy Electricity Limited
- 777 - ERMPower Retail Pty Ltd.
- The NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy was introduced in 2014 to reduce the NSW Government’s operating costs and lead by example in increasing the efficiency of the resources it uses.

This policy ensures NSW Government agencies:

- meet the challenge of rising costs for energy, water, clean air and waste management

- use purchasing power to drive down the cost of resource-efficient technologies and services
- show leadership by incorporating resource efficiency in decision-making.

The Policy's energy measures, targets and standards include:

- E1: Targets to undertake energy efficiency projects
- E2: Minimum NABERS Energy ratings for offices and data centres
- E3: Minimum standards for new electrical appliances and equipment
- E4: Minimum standards for new buildings
- E5: Identify and enable solar leasing opportunities
- E6: Minimum fuel efficiency standards for new light vehicles
- E7: Purchase 6% GreenPower

NSW Government agencies are required to report on energy use under the Government Resource Efficiency Policy. The Office of Environment and Heritage publishes progress reports on compliance with the policy..

- (a) See response provided for Question 207.
- (b) See response provided for Question 207.
- (c) See response provided for Question 207.
- (d) See response provided for Question 207.

208. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

209. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

210. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

211. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in:

- (a) 2018-19?
- (b) 2019-20?
- (c) 2020-21?
- (d) 2021-22?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

212. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

213. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

214. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:
- (a) 2018-19?
  - (b) 2019-20?
  - (c) 2020-21?
  - (d) 2021-22?

**Answer:**

See response provided for Question 207.

**REGIONAL WATER**

**Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

**Monaro Water**

215. In March 2018 the Member for Monaro announced that \$15 million out of the reserve fund will be allocated to resolving the issues of water quality in Bombala and Delegate
- (a) How much of the \$15 million commitment has been allocated to the Snowy Monaro Regional Council?
  - (b) Does the Department of Primary Industries have a 'Works' plan for the expenditure of the \$15 million commitment?

**Answer:**

- (a) I understand that a funding reservation has been made under the Regional Development Fund.
- (b) Snowy Monaro Regional Council is the local water utility responsible for water services in the communities of Bombala and Delegate. The Department of Industry provides a range of technical and financial assistance to regional NSW's local water utilities.

216. Has the Department of Primary Industries been involved in the consultation on Delegate's long term water solution?

**Answer:**

Snowy Monaro Regional Council is the local water utility responsible for water services in the community of Delegate. This responsibility extends to consultation on potential long term water solutions and levels of service.



The Department of Industry has been in contact with and provided technical assistance to Snowy Monaro Regional Council.

### **The Barwon-Darling River**

217. Regarding water storage works in the Bourke Shire:
- (a) How many authorised works took place in 2016?
  - (b) How many unauthorised works took place in 2016?

**Answer:**

- (a) Nil.
  - (b) The information held by the Department of Industry only indicates if someone makes a formal complaint about an unauthorised work. There were 3 cases recorded that related to unauthorised works in the Bourke Shire area in 2016.
218. Regarding the dams referenced in the article 'Dam Shame' in the Barrier Daily Truth in February 2016, to which the NSW Dept of Primary Industry (DPI) provided a response to the Barrier Daily Truth:
- (a) What is the storage volume capacity (ML) of the Dam(s)?
  - (b) How many channels, regulators, pipes, or pumps are associated with these dams?
    - i. What is the length (km or m) of each of the channels?
    - ii. What is the size (mm) of each of the pumps?
  - (c) How many on-site compliance inspections has DPI conducted regarding these dams?
    - i. What is the date of the last inspection that a DPI officer conducted?
    - ii. How many inspection were carried out between 1 August 2015 and 28 February 2016?
    - iii. Did the inspection(s) result in any enforcement or compliance action
  - (d) How many on-site compliance inspections has DPI conducted on the property where these dams are located?
    - i. What is the date of the last inspection that a DPI officer conducted?
    - ii. How many inspection were carried out between 1 August 2015 and 28 February 2016?
    - iii. Did the inspection(s) result in any enforcement or compliance action
  - (e) What is the name of the property on which these dams were located?

**Answer:**

The Barrier Daily Truth article 'Dam Shame' does not identify the referenced dams.

219. What is the status of the Budvalt Pty Ltd application for retrospective approval of an existing work using the provision of the Flood Plain Management Plan?
- (a) What are the works on that Budvalt Pty Ltd has applied to have retrospectively approved?
  - (b) What is the storage volume capacity of any water storage works relating to this application for approval?

**Answer:**

This application is pending. It has not been granted.

- (a) 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.
- (b) Refer (a)

220. On how many occasion has a representative or associated individual of Webster, Bengenang or Budvalt contacted your office in the past 12 months?

**Answer:**

As you would expect, constituents contact my office on a regular basis through a variety of mediums. This is not centrally recorded or collated.

221. Have you meet with any representative/employee of Webster Ltd or Bengenang Ltd between 1 July 2017 and 1 April 2018, whether or not they were meeting with you in their capacity as a representative of said entity or some other capacity?

**Answer:**

Ministerial diaries are publicly available in accordance with the Premier's circular.

222. Did you speak to a Mr Rob McBride at the MIMCo meeting on 18 December 2018?

**Answer:**

Yes

223. Have you ever said to a Mr Rob McBride that you are "watching", "monitoring", or receiving "reports" about him, or any words to those effect?

**Answer:**

No.

## **Compliance**

224. Regarding breach reports by the Compliance, Investigation Reporting and Management (CIRAM) in 2017-18:
- (a) How many were there?
  - (b) How many were allocated for investigation?
  - (c) How many had no action taken?
  - (d) How many resulted in penalty notices?
  - (e) How many resulted in prosecutions?

**Answer:**

- (a) 649 alleged breach notifications were recorded in CIRAM in 2017/2018, 131 of these were received by NRAR.
- (b) 646 of the 649 alleged breach notifications received in 2017/2018 have been allocated for investigation at 11/09/2018. 355 of the 646 cases allocated for investigation were allocated or re-allocated by NRAR.
- (c) During the 2017/2018 financial year, 240 cases were closed with no action by Water NSW or DOI water. NRAR since its inception on 30 April 2018 to 11 September 2018 has closed 148 cases with no action taken.
- (d) During the 2017/2018 financial year, 13 cases were endorsed with penalty notices by Water NSW or DOI water. From 30 April 2018 to 11 September 2018 NRAR endorsed 9 cases with penalty notices.
- (e) During the 2017/2018 financial year, Water NSW or DOI Water have lodged 2 cases to prosecution and since the 30th of April, NRAR has lodged 4 cases to prosecution.

225. Regarding compliance staff in 2017-18:

- (a) How many compliance and enforcement staff are currently employed by DPI Water?
- (b) How many compliance and enforcement staff hold a Certification IV in Government Investigations?

- (c) How many specialist investigators have been recruited?
- (d) How many specialist investigator were contracted for specific investigations?

**Answer:**

- (a) NRAR currently has 24 staff employed in compliance and enforcement functions, and contracts an external firm to supply an additional 10 specialist investigators.
- (b) At 30 June 2018, 32 NRAR staff held a Certificate IV in Government Investigations. As of 12 September 2018 an additional seven staff that have joined NRAR with a Certificate IV in Government Investigations.
- (c) NRAR has completed recruitment actions bringing on board 10 specialist investigators, and is currently recruiting for 19 further positions.
- (d) NRAR currently contracts a specialist investigative firm to provide 10 resources to NRAR.

**Efficiency dividends**

226. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 152.

227. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 153.

228. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 154.

229. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 155.

230. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 156.

**Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance**

231. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 157.

232. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2017-18 period?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 158.

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233. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 159.

234. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 160.

**Office Administration**

235. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 161.

236. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?

- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
  - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 162.

237. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?

- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2017-18?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
  - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 163.

238. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

- (a) What is the cost of this?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 164.

239. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?

- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

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Refer to answer given for Question 165.

240. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 166.

241. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
- i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 167.

242. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
- i. Who were they gifted to?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 168.

243. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?
- (a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 169.

244. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 170.

245. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:
- (a) Taxi hire
- (b) Limousine hire
- (c) Private hire care
- (d) Hire car rental
- (e) Ridesharing services

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 171.

246. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?
- (a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**Answer:**

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Refer to answer given for Question 172.

### **Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking**

247. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?

(a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19? **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 173.

248. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

### **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 174.

### **Hospitality**

249. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

### **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 175.

250. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

### **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 176.

### **Labour Hire Firms**

251. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

### **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 177.

252. If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

### **Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 178.

### **Media and Public Relations**

253. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 179.

254. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 180.

255. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 181.

256. Have you had media training or speech training?

(a) If yes, who paid for it?

(b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 182.

**Facebook**

257. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 183.

258. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 184.

**Overseas Trips**

259. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?

(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 185.

260. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?

(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?

(b) Who paid for these trips?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 186.

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### **Department/Agency Travel**

261. What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:
- (a) Taxi hire
  - (b) Limousine/private car hire
  - (c) Hire car rental
  - (d) Ridesharing services

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 187.

### **Drivers**

262. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant Department provided drivers?
- (a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?
  - (b) In total, how many drivers are used by senior executives in the Department?
  - (c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the Department?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 188.

### **Consulting**

263. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2017-18?
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 189.

264. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2017-18:
- (a) Social media
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - (b) Photography
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - (c) Acting training
    - i. And the cost of these services
  - (d) Ergonomics
    - i. And the cost of these services.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 190.

### **Department/Agency Staffing**

265. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2017-18?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*



- i. Voluntary
  - ii. Forced
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 191.

266. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
  - (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 192.

267. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 193.

268. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2017-18?
- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 194.

**Smart Phone Accounts**

269. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on iTunes?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 195.

270. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?
- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on Android?
    - i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 196.

**Merchant fees**

271. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

Refer to answer given for Question 197.

272. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 198.

273. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 199.

**Probity Auditor**

274. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 200.

**Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage**

275. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;
  - (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
  - (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
  - (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
  - (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
  - (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 201.

276. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
  - (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 202.

277. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 203.

278. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 204.

279. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 205.

**Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs**

280. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs and a copy of such documentation.
- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
  - i. How?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 206.

281. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?

- (a) How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:
  - i. Sexual harassment
  - ii. Bullying
  - iii. Workplace violence.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 207.

**Participation of women in Government**

282. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the

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agency?

- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?
- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?
- (g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 208.

**Energy**

283. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:

- (a) 2014-15?
- (b) 2015-16?
- (c) 2016-17?
- (d) 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 209.

284. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 210.

285. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 211.

286. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 212.

287. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in:

- (a) 2018-19?
- (b) 2019-20?
- (c) 2020-21?
- (e) 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 213.

288. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

Refer to answer given for Question 214.

289. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 215.

290. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:
- (a) 2018-19?
  - (b) 2019-20?
  - (c) 2020-21?
  - (d) 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 216.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

<b>Questions from the Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>
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**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment**

291. How many staff currently employed by the Department of Industry identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

**Answer:**

42

292. How many staff in total are employed by Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

4398

293. How many staff currently employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

**Answer:**

28

294. How many staff in total are employed by Department of Industry in regional offices?

**Answer:**

2800

295. How many staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are currently employed at the executive level in Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

0

296. How many staff in total are currently employed at the executive level in Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

193 (including 1 Statutory Officer)

297. What is the average remuneration for staff who do not identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

**Answer:**

\$103,989 ex casuals

298. What is the average remuneration for staff who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

**Answer:**

\$93,870

299. What is Department of Industry doing to meet the Council of Australian Governments agreement to a target of 2.6% indigenous employment in the public sector by 2015 as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation?

**Answer:**

The Department of Industry is committed to ensuring we meet the targets outlined in the Premier Priorities. The Department of Industry has an Aboriginal Support Network Committee that represents the needs and interests of our indigenous employees, including delivering cultural awareness programs, raising awareness of indigenous culture and the profile of indigenous recruitment. We are also committed to participating in the PSC Aboriginal Employment and Development Program (AEDP) which will help support our employment targets. The Department of Industry also collaborating with the DPC and PSC through the Behavioural Insights recruitment project that is intended to support increasing the number of indigenous staff in senior leadership roles.

### **Employment of Women**

300. How many women are currently employed by Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

2344

301. How many staff in total are employed by Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

4398

302. How many women are currently employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

1407

303. How many staff in total are employed by Department of Industry in regional offices?

**Answer:**

2800

304. How many women are currently employed at the executive level in Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

88 (including 1 Statutory Officer)

305. How many staff in total are currently employed at the executive level in Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

193 (including 1 Statutory Officer)

306. What is the average remuneration for male staff?

**Answer:**

\$108,760 (ex casuals)

307. What is the average remuneration for female staff?

**Answer:**

\$99,627 (ex casuals)

308. Does Department of Industry record gender diverse identities for their employees?
- (a) If yes, how many staff employed by Department of Industry are gender diverse?
  - (b) If not, why not?

**Answer:**

Yes (a) 0

(b) Refer to Question 308 (a)

309. Does Department of Industry have any targets regarding employment and remuneration of women?

- (a) If so, what are they and what is being done to meet them?
- (b) If not, why not and are there any plans to introduce targets?

**Answer:**

- (a) The Department of Industry is committed to ensuring we meet the targets outlined in the Premier Priorities. We will continue to do this by partnering with the DPC and PSC in participating a Behavioural Insights recruitment project they are running that is intended to support increasing the number of women in senior leadership roles. The Department of Industry will also continue to partner and participate with the PSC on gender equality research and reviews that will enable us to increase the number of women in senior leadership roles.
- (b) Refer to Question 309 (a)

**Employment of people with a disability**

310. How many people with a disability are currently employed by the Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

42

311. How many people with a disability are currently employed in the regional offices of the Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

30

312. How many people with a disability are currently employed at the executive level in the Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

1

313. How many staff in total are currently employed at the executive level in the Department of Industry?

**Answer:**

193 (including 1 Statutory Officer)

314. What is the average remuneration for staff with a disability?

**Answer:** \$99,682 (ex casuals)

315. Does the Department of Industry have any targets regarding employment and remuneration of people with a disability?

- (a) If so, what are they and what is being done to meet them?
- (b) If not, why not and are there any plans to introduce targets?

**Answer**

- (a) The Department is committed to ensuring we meet the targets outlined in the Premier Priorities. We will do this by participating in the Australian Network on Disability, Access and Inclusion Index to help us benchmark our maturity and identify areas for improvement.
- (b) Refer to Question 315 (a)

<b>Questions from the Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)</b>
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**Efficiency dividends**

316. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2018-19?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 152.

317. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2019-20?

**Answer:**

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Refer to answer given for Question 153.

318. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2020-21?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 154.

319. What is the forecast efficiency dividend saving for each agency within your portfolio in 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 155.

320. What was the total efficiency dividend that was achieved for each agency within your portfolio between 2011-12 and 2017-18 inclusively?

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 156.

**Ministerial Travel/Meal Allowance**

321. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister during the 2017-18 period?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 157.

322. How many nights' travel were claimed by the Minister's spouse during the 2017-18 period?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 158.

323. What was the total amount of travel allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 159.

324. What is the total amount of meal allowances claimed by the Minister and their spouse (if applicable) during 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 160.

**Office Administration**

325. How many staff are in your ministerial office?

- (a) What was the average salary for staff members in your office during 2017-18?
- (b) What is the estimated average salary for a ministerial staffer in your office in 2018-19 based on current appointments?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 161.

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

326. How many blackberries/iPhone/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2017-18?
  - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
    - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 162.

327. How many iPads or tablets has DPC assigned to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your Ministerial Office in 2017-18?
  - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2017-18?
    - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 163.

328. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?
- (a) What is the cost of this?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 164.

329. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 165.

330. Have any floral displays or indoor plants or pot plants been purchased for display in your ministerial office in 2017-18?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 166.

331. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals in 2017-18?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
    - i. Who is the subscriber for each of these?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 167.

332. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office in 2017-18?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
    - i. Who were they gifted to?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 168.

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

333. Do you purchase bottled water or provide water coolers for your office?  
(a) What is the monthly cost of this?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 169.

334. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?  
(a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 170.

335. What was the total bill for your office in 2017-18 for:  
(a) Taxi hire  
(b) Limousine hire  
(c) Private hire care  
(d) Hire car rental  
(e) Ridesharing services.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 171.

336. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money in 2017-18?  
(a) If yes, will you please detail each trip, the method of transport and the cost?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 172.

**Agile Workspaces/Activity Based Working/Hot-desking**

337. Has your department adopted “agile working environment/activity based working” practices – e.g. hot-desking?  
(a) If not, are there plans to introduce activity based working practices in 2018-19?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 173.

338. How much has your department spent in the roll-out of the agile working environment Including laptops, furniture, lockers and other equipment?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 174.

**Hospitality**

339. How much did your ministerial office spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

Refer to answer given for Question 175.

340. How much did your Department/agency spend on hospitality, including catering and beverages, in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 176.

**Labour Hire Firms**

341. Do any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 177.

342. If yes, please advise in table form for 2017-18:
- (a) The names of the firms utilised
  - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
  - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
  - (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company
  - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 178.

**Media and Public Relations**

343. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 179.

344. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 180.

345. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 181.

346. Have you had media training or speech training?
- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
  - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

Refer to answer given for Question 182.

### **Facebook**

347. How much did your ministerial office spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 183.

348. How much did your Department/agency spend on Facebook advertising or sponsored posts in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 184.

### **Overseas Trips**

349. Were any of your overseas trips in the last financial year paid for in part or in full by using public money?  
(a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 185.

350. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded?  
(a) If so, what was the nature of these trips?  
(b) Who paid for these trips?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 186.

### **Department/Agency Travel**

351. What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 by Departments/agencies within your portfolio on:  
(a) Taxi hire  
(b) Limousine/private car hire  
(c) Hire car rental  
(d) Ridesharing services.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 187.

### **Drivers**

352. Are any of the senior executives in the relevant Department provided drivers?  
(a) If so, can you please specify which positions are provided drivers?  
(b) In total, how many drivers are used by senior executives in the Department?  
(c) What is the total cost of drivers for senior executives in the Department?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 188.

### **Consulting**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

353. How much did the Department/agencies under your portfolio responsibility spend in legal costs in 2017-18?
- (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 189.

354. Have Department/agencies under your portfolio engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice in 2017-18:
- (a) Social media  
i. And the cost of these services
- (b) Photography  
i. And the cost of these services
- (c) Acting training  
i. And the cost of these services
- (d) Ergonomics  
i. And the cost of these services.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 190.

**Department/Agency Staffing**

355. How many redundancies were processed by Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities during 2017-18?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
- i. Voluntary  
ii. Forced
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 191.

356. Have any staff who received a redundancy in the last two years undertaken any paid work or provided any paid services for the agency with which they were formerly employed?
- (a) What was the nature of these works/services?
- (b) What was the total cost of these works or services?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 192.

357. Are any staff formerly employed by your ministerial office now employed by Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibility?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 193.

358. How many staff were dismissed from Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities in 2017-18?

- (a) What were the reason/s for each dismissal?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 194.

**Smart Phone Accounts**

359. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an iTunes account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on iTunes?  
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through iTunes?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 195.

360. Do the Departments/agencies within your portfolio have an Android account?

- (a) What was the total expenditure in 2017-18 on Android?  
i. What applications/subscriptions/services were purchased through Android?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 196.

**Merchant fees**

361. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 197.

362. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions in your Department/agency.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 198.

363. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments in your Department/agency in 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 199.

**Probity Auditor**

364. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, in the past five years? If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 200.

## **Domestic Violence Leave Policies, Awareness and Usage**

365. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) A copy of the entity's policy or web link to the entity's domestic violence leave policy;
  - (b) Date of introduction of domestic violence leave into enterprise agreements/contracts of employment, awards as applicable;
  - (c) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors are eligible for domestic violence leave;
  - (d) Number of days of domestic violence leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of such leave;
  - (e) Number of days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (f) Number of other personal days of leave that have been taken in each financial year since the introduction of domestic violence leave;
  - (g) Number of sick days available for eligible staff to access domestic violence leave in each financial year;
  - (h) Whether or not all staff and/or contractors have access to Employee Assistance Programs?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 201.

366. What training has been undertaken with management and administration for those involved in approving and/or processing domestic violence leave on issues such as?
- (a) Privacy and confidentiality of information about domestic violence
  - (b) Access to emotional, psychological, financial and medical support which may be required.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 202.

367. Who has provided training on domestic violence in the workplace?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 203.

368. What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken domestic violence training?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 204.

369. What efforts have been made to ensure that perpetrators (or their accomplices) within the staffing profile are not able to access personal information of victims in order to identify their location, or other information which may assist in committing domestic violence against them, including changing or accessing records in such a way as to disadvantage them financially or legally?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 205.

## **Sexual harassment and Anti-bullying training and awareness programs**

370. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) Date of introduction of sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*



programs and a copy of such documentation.

- (b) Whether or not all employees and/or contractors have received such training?
- (c) Is this course mandatory for all employees/ contractors?
- (d) How long for each session, how many sessions?
- (e) Who delivers it?
- (f) Is the program tailored to take into consideration specific needs of LGBTQIA, ATSI and CALD or other at risk groups?
  - i. How?
- (g) What percentage of staff in each agency has undertaken sexual harassment and anti-bullying training and awareness programs?
  - i. How many complaints have been initiated in relation to:
  - ii. Sexual harassment
  - iii. Bullying
  - iv. Workplace violence.

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 206.

**Participation of women in Government**

371. For each department, statutory agency and/or other bodies in the Minister's portfolio please report:

- (a) What number and percentage of women are employed within the agency?
- (b) What number and percentage of women are employed within the management levels of the agency?
- (c) What number and percentage of women are employed in the top ten leadership positions of the agency?
- (d) How is this data publicly reported on a regular basis?
- (e) What strategies does the agency use to encourage women in to management and leadership positions?
- (f) What is the gender pay gap within your agency?
- (g) Does the agency report participation of women figures to Women NSW on a regular basis?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 207.

**Energy**

372. For each agency in your portfolio by name, how much electricity did it consume for each of:

- (a) 2014-15?
- (b) 2015-16?
- (c) 2016-17?
- (d) 2017-18?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 208.

373. What proportion of the electricity consumed by each agency in your portfolio by name for those years came from renewable sources? Please name each source of energy (coal, solar, wind, etc.) and the proportion of the total electricity used.

**Answer:**

*Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry*

Refer to answer given for Question 209.

374. How much money was spent on electricity for each agency in your portfolio by name in each of the above financial years?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 210.

375. What was the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio by name for those financial years?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 211.

376. How much electricity is it estimated that each agency in your portfolio will consume in: (a) 2018-19?  
(b) 2019-20?  
(c) 2020-21?  
(d) 2021-22?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 212.

377. What proportion of that electricity is it estimated will come from renewable sources, for each year?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 213.

378. For each agency in your portfolio by name, please provide the estimated proportion of energy to be used from each kind of energy (coal, gas, solar, wind etc.)?

**Answer:**

Refer to answer given for Question 214.

379. What is the name of the energy supplier to each agency in your portfolio for each of:  
(a) 2018-19?  
(b) 2019-20?  
(c) 2020-21?  
(d) 2021-22?

**Answer:** Refer to answer given for Question 215.