



28 September 2018

Rev the Hon Fred Nile (Chair)
Portfolio Committee No. 1
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear ~~Rev Nile~~, *Fred*,

With regards to the Budget Estimates hearing on The Legislature held on 6 September 2018, I enclose the answers to Questions taken on Notice during the hearing.

Should you require any further information, please contact my office on (02) 9230 2300 or president@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,


John Ajaka MLC
President

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

THE LEGISLATURE

1. *The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: What was the cost of the tender?*

Mr WEBB: I do not have those figures with me at the moment. I will have to take that on notice.

The PRESIDENT: I understand, from memory, it is approximately \$25,000, give or take, but we will take it on notice and come back to you. It is either \$24,000 or \$25,000, or thereabouts.

Answer:

I am advised that the approximate total cost to Parliament for our dairy supply as of last financial year was \$26,243.01. As per NSW Procurement guidelines, a tender process was not required.

2. *Mr WEBB: Yes. We looked across the State for producers who were based in New South Wales and using New South Wales farmers for their milk. The three that came up were three that we could gather information on that met that criteria and who, on first glance, seemed to have the right cost structures. Then we engaged with them in more detail.*

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: Were there any that you chose not to look at? How many were excluded? You indicated that nothing was advertised about this.

Mr WEBB: That is right.

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: Who was excluded from your consideration?

Mr WEBB: I would have to take on notice the ones that we looked at that did not go through to the next stage. We were very open to look at any milk provider across New South Wales that could meet the supply.

Answer:

The catering branch recognised the need for milk sourced wholly from within NSW. The main criteria were origin of milk, price and logistics, and as a result three suppliers were located that met the requirements through a review.

No supplier or dairy was deliberately excluded in the pursuit for a NSW based product. The Catering branch then engaged with these suppliers in more detail to ascertain if they could fulfil the exact specifications. Two suppliers were not selected due to supply and to labelling (the product label featured a QLD address which might have raised confusion as to origin) issues.

After a diligent process, Parliamentary Catering came to the decision to supply the Parliament of NSW with milk sourced from the Riverina region. The supplier was able to provide timely delivery of the product, pick up of empty packaging, and proved to be the best price. The new price of \$2.30 for 2L is a saving of 10c for the tax payer against the previous supplier.

3. *Mr WEBB: We moved to cleaning the car park after hours so that we were not disturbing users of the car park. As you would imagine, it is a little hard to clean when there are a lot of cars in the car park, so that is why you wouldn't see it any more. The cleaning team has raised with us that the machine that we have been using is probably heading towards end of life, so we are—*

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: Still working?

Mr WEBB: I believe so. I will take it on notice. If you know any different, please let me know.

Answer:

I am advised that currently the car park maintenance includes dust control through the use of a walk-behind battery powered sweeper and wet-wiping of the light boxes at each parking space. Until recently the floor was also scrubbed with a large format walk-behind battery powered floor scrubber. These tasks are carried out periodically based on need. The floor scrubber is currently off line and is being assessed for replacement or repair as it is close to end of life and requires a significant investment in new batteries and other spare parts. Spot cleans for oil spills and stains are currently being dealt with using a small format electric powered rotary floor scrubber and mopping.

4. *Mr JUSTIN FIELD: I appreciate that. Can I raise one other specific item? As much as I enjoy seeing the Parliament branding itself in every possible way—it is a fantastic institution; it serves the public well—I do wonder whether or not we need those plastic stickers with the Parliament logo on the majority of the products sold within the cafe. Can I just ask whether or not they will continue to be used on the bioplastic alternatives?*

The PRESIDENT: Can I take that on notice? It is a good point you raise. I will have a look at it. I had not thought of that before and this is the first time you have mentioned it. It is a good point to mention. We will look at it and I will take the question on notice.

Answer:

I am advised by the department that the plastic stickers will no longer be used.

5. *The CHAIR: I know the pressures of space. You have made extensions and so on for your Legislative Council staff. I often wonder as to whether there is any plan in the future to transfer some of the public library, the Mitchell Library, to Parliament and the Mitchell Library or the library could be shifted to another building—*

The PRESIDENT: That would not be a decision that the Presiding Officers could make. That would clearly be a matter for the government of the day to determine if anything—

The CHAIR: I mean a recommendation by you to the Government?

The PRESIDENT: I have not thought of it in that respect. I know—and forgive me if I get dates wrong—there was a time, I believe, when Greg Pearce was the finance Minister that attention or detail was looked at in relation to adding to this Parliament and moving Ministers to this Parliament to space next-door or behind but the cost just could not be justified in relation to that so that did not occur. We are still trying to secure sufficient funding just to continue to meet the renovations of this building that we need to meet. That is my priority at the moment. That is the fight that I have with Treasury: getting sufficient funds and replacing membranes and other aspects, occupational health and safety matters when it comes to mould and other aspects in the air-conditioning where quite a bit of work has been done. I am happy to look at the suggestion, as you have indicated, and take it on notice.

Answer:

As a part of a ten year planning exercise, the Department of Parliamentary Services is in the process of developing a funding proposal for a needs based analysis and accommodation strategy for Parliament House. This will include investigative work into the current and future accommodation needs of Parliament members and their staff. Additionally, the strategy will look at a range of issues such as modern working styles, and compliance with today's Australian Standards and accessibility requirements.