

# Department of Finance, Services and Innovation

Estimates Committee hearing, Thursday 6 September 2018

## Responses to Questions taken on Notice

### Licenses (page 3)

#### 1. QUESTION:

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Before you go on, Ms Lauriola has gone on the public record as saying that in the meeting she had with you, which took place on Tuesday before 28 August—so probably last week—you gave her an assurance that they would not be included. I am asking you—and I need a simple yes or no answer—whether you gave her such an assurance? She is saying that you did. You went onto the public record and said no, you had a constructive discussion. Given the level of anxiety being experienced by Ms Lauriola and her members—and this a straightforward question—did you say to them that their licence was going to continue or did you give them an assurance that you were going to scrap this proposal?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I gave them an assurance that we would work closely with them and that we would not do anything before we canvassed it with them. I make it very clear that this Government believes in proper process. We put out a discussion paper. We have had feedback from the community. We are going through the feedback from the community and then we will take it through the appropriate government processes. We will take it through the proper Cabinet process. My view is that we will do nothing that will undermine worker safety. We have heard from the master painters association that the licensing is important for the work that they do and I have taken that on board. I will be taking a package to Cabinet and once Cabinet makes a decision—we are a Cabinet Government; we do not believe in making policy on the run, unlike the Labor Party—

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Or The Nationals.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** —we will take it to Cabinet and then we will make an announcement as is proper government process

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Indeed. Of the 400 submissions that you have received, how many of them are in favour of abolishing the licences?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I will have to take that question on notice. We are still going through all the detail.

#### ANSWER:

Seven

## No-grounds evictions (page 7)

### 2. QUESTION:

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Minister, how many residents in New South Wales were issued with a no-grounds eviction last year?

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

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Does the department maintain data on this?

**Mr HOFFMAN:** I do not think we do, Mr Mookhey. Again, I am happy to confirm that on notice to you.

### **ANSWER:**

NSW Fair Trading does not collect data on the reasons for termination of leases under the Residential Tenancies Act 2010.

3. QUESTION:

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Minister, thank you for being here today. On 6 November last year your diary shows that you met with ClubsNSW to discuss the memorandum of understanding [MOU] between the Liberal-Nationals Government and ClubsNSW. Can you tell me who was at that meeting?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** All my meetings are disclosed in line with the ministerial guidelines. I cannot remember exactly who was in the meeting at that time. I am happy to take that on notice, obviously. All my meetings are disclosed in line with ministerial guidelines, as is required.

**ANSWER:**

All my meetings are disclosed in line with Premier's Memorandum M2015-05- Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information. Per my disclosure record I met with Clubs NSW on 6 November 2017 and with the purpose of the meeting 'MOU Clubs NSW'

## Special Resolutions (Pages 10 and 11)

### 4. QUESTION:

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Given that in June 2016 CoreLogic reported that 49 per cent of the units in Sydney's metropolitan area are owned by investors, do you not accept that it will be almost impossible for any unit block or any strata to make that decision?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Not at all. That is the threshold for any special resolution required to be passed by an owners' corporation. It is no different to any requirements for any special resolution.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** Why was it not an opt-in rather than an opt-out?

**The CHAIR:** The Minister can take that question on notice.

### ANSWER:

As is the case for all by-laws, changing a by-law or making a new by-law requires the support of a special resolution at a general meeting of the owners' corporation, which is 75 per cent of votes cast in favour. This process has been in strata scheme management laws since they began in 1961, and allows owners' corporations to tailor their by-laws to suit the individual needs of the strata scheme.

**E10 Departmental Usage (Page 13)**

**5. QUESTION:**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Before you do, when was the secretary asked to undertake this review and when is the secretary meant to complete this review?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I cannot recall the exact date. I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I received the breakdown of Cluster usage of E10, in comparison to their use of other petroleum, in August 2018. I immediately asked the Secretary to conduct a review of the decline in E10 usage.

6. QUESTION:

**The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE:** How much did your department spend on contractors or labour hire last financial year?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I do not have those numbers readily available. I am happy to take that on notice but I might hand over to my secretary to answer that question if that is all right.

**Mr HOFFMAN:** I apologise. We had this for the cluster lead Minister on Monday for the cluster as a whole rather than the part that Minister Kean administers and is responsible for. I am not trying to avoid the question at all but—

**The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE:** I appreciate that. Could you please take that on notice?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** We will table that, yes.

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required subject to their overall labour expense cap

## Labour Hire Firms (Page 15)

### 7. QUESTION:

**The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE:** You may wish to take this on notice: What percentage of those full-time equivalent employees are contractors or labour hire?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I do not have those numbers readily at hand but I will take that on notice and table it for you.

### ANSWER:

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation cluster uses Labour Hire firms, in accordance with NSW Public Service policies to cover temporary vacancies as required subject to their overall labour expense cap

8. QUESTION:

**The CHAIR:** We all agree with that. Just a brief question on small business matters: Can you update the Committee on strategies designed to foster business in New South Wales? Some general points?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** Where do I begin, Mr Chair?

**The CHAIR:** Unfortunately, our time has expired. Can you take that on notice?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** I will present a detailed report to you, Mr Chair.

**ANSWER:**

To create a business-friendly environment for NSW businesses, the government is focusing on reducing or removing barriers, costs and complexity and making regulatory obligations easier to understand and implement.

The 'Easy and Transparent Trading' package of reforms is designed to both make it easier for businesses to operate in the NSW marketplace, at the same time as improving transparency for consumers. Proposed reforms include establishing an online portal holding information about all NSW Fair Trading licensees, better transparency and choice for consumers entering into contracts, reducing unnecessary or duplicated regulations, and simplifying or repealing outdated laws.

The establishment of Service NSW by this Government has made it much easier to open a business and remain in business by delivering improved one-stop services for government customers.

There are more than 20 projects across Government contributing to the realisation of the State Priority, 'Make NSW the Easiest State to Start a Business'. Significant progress has been made on a number of these projects in the last 12 months.

Service NSW's Easy to do Business program is expanding its successful cafés and small bars project to more local councils. 128 councils in NSW have now been informed about the Program and 51 councils have signed up, while another 15 councils are in the process of finalising enrolment.



My Business Navigator provides an online one-stop shop and free-of-charge business concierge service. The online tool assists business owners transact with government to get approvals and licences in a timely manner.

Jobs NSW's Sydney Startup Hub has opened in Wynyard and will provide a collaborative workplace for up to 2,500 people to start-up.

Small Business Engagement's Business Connect platform began in 2017 and has already assisted over 5,200 small businesses across NSW in its first six months of operation.

These are just some of the myriad ways in which the NSW Government is working hard to make it easier for people to start and remain in business in NSW.