



DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

D20/11374

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2019-2020 THE LEGISLATURE**

### **Supplementary Questions**

Hearing: Monday, 16 March 2020

**Answers due to Committee by: Monday, 13 April 2020**

#### **THE LEGISLATURE**

**Questions from the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC (on behalf of the NSW Labor Opposition)**

## **Accessibility / Disability**

### **1. When is the DPS Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) expected to be completed?**

The first draft of the DPS Disability Inclusion Action Plan is planned to be submitted to the Parliaments SMG August 2020.

### **2. Why did DPS not create a DIAP following the enactment of the Disability Inclusion Act (2015)?**

While the Parliament was not considered part of the Government Agencies included with the enactment of the Disability Inclusion Act, the Parliament has decided to voluntarily work on developing a DIAP as a priority this calendar year.

### **3. Will the DPS DIAP include provisions for a disability advisory body which includes staff and/or elected members with disability?**

As part of developing the DIAP, key stakeholders including staff and/or elected members with disability will be consulted.

### **4. Is there any current consultative mechanism for staff or elected members with disability to advise or be consulted on accessibility measures in NSW Parliament and electorate offices?**

Members and Staff can request assistance at any time from any team across DPS, including most particularly the Human Services, Facilities and IT teams. Existing consultation mechanisms, including the Joint Consultative Committee with union representation and the WHS Committee, can also be used to raise issues relating to accessibility measures.

**5. Has the department consulted with any peak bodies or organisations with a specialisation for low vision and blindness regarding the lighting in NSW Parliament House?**

Consultation with peak bodies will occur as part of the Disability Inclusion Strategy work that is underway. For newly completed projects lighting levels have been checked for compliance to relevant Australian Standards.

**6. There have been a number of accessibility upgrades and improvements completed by DPS over the last four years, what percentage involved consultation with staff or elected members with disability?**

The following accessibility projects have been discussed with an elected member with disability:

- Automated door openers to the door from LA Reception into the Wentworth Room
- Modifications to the LA Chamber including splitting of benches on either side and relocation on brass balustrades to improve circulation on the floor of the chamber

Future project which are in discussions with an elected member with disability:

- Hospital Road access ramp – funded to be completed before the end of the calendar year
- Accessibility solutions for the Speaker’s Garden and main public entrance to the Rum Hospital and Public galleries of both chambers.

7. **What is the timeframe from construction to completion for the following projects:**

**(a) Installation of an accessible shower and toilet in the gym area**

This work is not currently funded, the proposal was included in the Physical Asset Replacement Business Case submitted to Treasury. Creating accessible shower and toilet facilities in female and male bathrooms would take 6 months to construct.

**(b) Construction of an external access lift from the Macquarie Street forecourt to the Rum Hospital front veranda as well as access to both Chambers public galleries**

This work is not currently funded, the proposal was included in Infrastructure Upgrade Business Case submitted to Treasury. Accessibility upgrades to the Rum Hospital Veranda and both Chambers public galleries may take 24 months to construct, pending heritage approvals

**(c) Installation of a permanent ramp between the Wentworth Room and Legislative Assembly Chamber**

This is scheduled for a minor works project over the next 12 months.

**(d) Replacement of the lift allowing wheelchair access to the Speaker's Garden**

Once the funding required is provided 6 months construction we will be proceeding with a ramp as solution to provide disabled access. There will be no lift replacement.

8. **What plans are in place to improve staff knowledge of information accessibility, including easy read and low vision accessibility?**

The staff in the IT Services team who are involved in web and intranet content design, and in advising parliamentary colleagues in these areas, already have significant knowledge of information accessibility requirements. They maintain that knowledge, and keep up to date with new developments in accessibility standards and design principles, through self-learning supplemented by formal training if and when required.

9. **Has the department included consultation with people with intellectual disability and low vision or blindness as part of the Digital Parliament major capital project proposal?**

Not at this stage. The proposal is a high level business case and funding submission which has not involved consultation with specific groups such as these. However in the business case we have made a commitment to adopt the World Wide Web Consortium’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.0 (WCAG 2.0) as good practice in designing interfaces for people with low vision or blindness.

**(a) If so, at what point/s of the process is that consultation proposed to occur?**

A stakeholder consultation plan will be developed if and when funding is made available for the Digital Parliament proposal. This will include consideration of which groups should be consulted on accessibility issues, especially to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.0.

10. **What percentage of departmental staff have disability?**

The Parliament of NSW has 2.2% of employees with disability. We continually strive to improve our facilities and services to attract an increasing number of employees living with disability. As indicated in the below table, whilst we have a large number of people without any disability there is still 38.1% undisclosed.

	<b>Staff Numbers</b>	<b>%</b>
Disability requiring adjustment work	5	0.5
Disability requiring no adjustment	17	1.7
No information	377	38.1
No disability	590	59.7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>100</b>

Whilst, the current headcount is low, more data is being generated for each advertised position, to identify the particular categories of applicants and their diversity and inclusion needs. The collation of this data is intended to identify any gaps in our efforts to attract and accommodate people with disability to our organisation.

**11. Please provide the number of reasonable adjustment requests that have been approved, partially approved and rejected for workers with disability or injury for the years:**

- (a) 2018-19 - Approved: 20, Partially: 0, Rejected: 0
- (b) 2017-18 - Approved: 15, Partially: 0, Rejected: 0
- (c) 2016-17 - Approved: 10, Partially: 0, Rejected: 0
- (d) 2015-16 - Approved: 12, Partially: 0, Rejected: 0

**12. Please provide a list of the 3 most common types of reasonable adjustments staff have requested from 2018-19.**

- Dual monitor/screen
- Task or suitable chair
- Sit/stand desk

**13. What initiatives are currently proposed or in place to attract people with disability to work in the department?**

- All job advertisements include a statement of our commitment to diversity in the workplace including gender equity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTI+, people with disability, mature-age persons and people from culturally diverse backgrounds. In addition the Parliament's commitment to offering flexible work hours and arrangements is intended to appeal to people with disability as well as other individual needs.

**14. What initiatives are currently proposed or in place to support people with disability who work in the department?**

- Option of flexible working arrangements
- Increasing communication via the intranet or email etc. to enhance people's awareness and understanding at certain times of the year to coincide with recognised community events on people with a disability.
- Be vigilant with communications that are sent to ensure that the messaging is inclusive.
- Information events held at Parliament House to commemorate relevant days of significance i.e. International Day of People with Disability, Safe Work Week and Month with external guest speakers
- Reasonable adjustments including workplace modifications are made in and around Parliament House to maximise access and comfort as needed as well as other enhancements subject to Treasury funding. Existing facilities such as widened access points and parking, and ramp access to allow for wheelchairs, elderly people and people with physical disability, including improved signage and information ensure everyone including visitors to Parliament are aware of the accessibility points to get around the precinct.
- Ongoing education of the Parliamentary leadership group about their responsibilities in supporting employees with disability which is then cascaded through various committees and is resulting in amended policies and procedures.
- The creation and maintenance of relationships with external charities and other organisations to allow opportunities for people with disability to engage with the Parliament.

## Funding of the House

### 15. What progress has been made to establish a cross party working group that will discuss and advocate for better funding for The Parliament?

The Public Accountability Committee of the Legislative Council, which contains representation from five political parties, has a current reference to inquire into the budget process for independent oversight bodies “and the Parliament of New South Wales”. A detailed submission to the inquiry was made by the Departments of the Legislative Council and Parliamentary Services, and the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Chief Executive Officer gave evidence at a public hearing in December last year. The committee has tabled its First Report which contained recommendations for better funding of the Parliament.

### 16. Have you sought additional funding to adequately resource the Parliament?

The Parliament has sought additional funding of \$212.219 million over four years in the 2020-21 State budget process. This is made up of nineteen separate proposals, nine related to capital expenditure and ten for recurrent expenses. The table below summarises this.

Capital/ Recurrent	Budget	Forward Est 2	Forward Est 3	Forward Est 4	
	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>Total</u>
Capital	34,162,884	48,126,447	31,015,904	8,913,859	<b>122,219,094</b>
Recurrent	19,467,239	21,830,827	25,657,255	23,044,435	<b>89,999,755</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,630,123</b>	<b>69,957,274</b>	<b>56,673,159</b>	<b>31,958,294</b>	<b>212,218,849</b>

### Have you costed what it would take to adequately fund the Parliament?

Yes.

#### (a) What amount of money do we need as a permanent recurring amount each year to achieve this?

Capital Funding

The NSW Parliament’s Capital Investment Plan for 2020-21 identified the requirement for a total investment of \$447.971 million over 10 years aligning with its



Master Plan. Approximately half of the proposed capital expenditure relates to the maintenance of our existing asset base. The remaining money is divided between modernisation endeavours and catching up on the significant backlog of work that has built up due to the persistent underinvestment that has occurred over the last four decades.

#### Recurrent Funding

Additional recurrent investment of \$90 million over 4 years is required, with an initial \$19.467 million in the first year and \$70.532 million over the following three years. As the Parliament is committed to a rolling 10-year Master Plan, these figures will be reviewed and amended on a regular basis.

Recurrent funding includes budget for more proactive maintenance programs, the support of new capability in audio-visual management, more effective electorate office management, a significantly enhanced outreach, engagement and education service and risk mitigation, especially around key person issues and organisational fragility.

## DPS Staffing

17. **Why has it been deemed necessary to advertise for a PR assistant (as advertised on the iworkforNSW website, Communications and Media Advisor job ID 00007NBZ)?**

DPS has not advertised for a PR assistant. The Communications Advisor job advertised is an existing position focused on generating internal communications for the Parliament, including supporting capital work programs, communicating about issues impacting Members and staff and participating in engagement activities. One of New South Wales Parliament's strategic priorities is to strengthen engagement with the public and enhance trust in Parliament as an institution. This includes access to the institution, its engagement models, institutional integrity initiatives and the perceived independence of Parliament. To give effect to this priority, the Parliament will produce a variety of engagement initiatives, which the communications role will be helping deliver.

18. **At the last Estimates (hearing date 10 September 2019), we were told that in order to find savings of some \$870,000 this year at DPS, there would be cuts to Library hours, the casualization of cleaning staff, President Ajaka said "everything is on the table". Now we learn there is almost 15% of that amount available to provide a PR assistant to the DPS CEO. Why are these funds not directed to staff such as cleaners instead of a PR assistant?**

See answer to question 17.

19. **The proposed PR Assistant will be paid up to \$107,541 pa. This is more than what a Secretary/Research Assistant or a Senior Electorate Officer working for an MP or MLC. Is the media and crisis communications workload greater or more complex than the workload for Members of Parliament?**

See answer to question 17.

Further, the Communications Officer role was evaluated independently using the standard public sector evaluation methodology.

20. **If there is a need to pay a PR assistant to the DPS CEO at Clerk Grade 7/8, why are all MPs and MLCs staff not paid against the Clerk Grade system?**

See answer to question 17.

21. **How many unfilled vacancies exist in the Library?**

There is currently one unfilled vacancy in the Library – Reference Librarian

**(a) How long have they been vacant?**

The position has been vacant since October 2019 when the position holder took a 12 month secondment to IT Services

**(b) Why?**

The position was left vacant for a few months in an attempt to balance the budget given the efficiency dividends.

22. **Will the funding be provided to fill them?**

With the refund of the Efficiency dividend for this current financial year, recruitment had begun to temporarily fill this position. Due to COVID-19 situation this has currently been suspended. Beyond the current financial year, future funding is dependent on Parliament's overall funding appropriation.

**23. Will these roles be filled in advance of the PR role?**

See answer to question 17.

Further, recruitment action for both the Library position and the Communications role have been placed on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It cannot be determined at this stage which positions will be filled first.

## MoPS Staffing

### 24. **Do the employment arrangements for Members of Parliament Staff comply with the National Employment Standards?**

The employment of Members' staff is not a matter covered by s14 of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth), and Members (as the employer of Members' staff) are not National System Employers. The employment of Members' staff is provided for in the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013*.

Most National Employment Standards (NES), as established under the *Fair Work Act*, are met or exceeded by the *Members' Staff Conditions of Employment – Determination of the Presiding Officers (the Determination)*.

NES standards are exceeded by the Determination provisions in relation to Maximum Hours, Parental Leave, Personal Carers/Compassionate/Family and Domestic Violence leave, Community Service Leave, and Notice of Termination and Redundancy provisions.

In relation to Annual Leave and Flexibility the provisions of the NES and Determination are similar.

The Determination does not however provide for a Fair Work Information Statement (or similar), however all Members' staff are provided with a copy of the Determination on commencement, or this is readily available on the Parliament's intranet.

### 25. **Are you aware that Members' staff often work up to 12 or 15 hours a day on sitting days?**

As the employer, Members are directly responsible for the day to day management of their staff, and therefore the parliamentary departments do not monitor the the hours that Members' staff are working. Nevertheless, the Parliament's executive team with working with the PSA through the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) in reviewing Members' staff conditions of employment, including working hours.

**(a) Does DPS pay members staff for these extra hours?**

Members' Staff are paid an All Incidence of Employment Allowance in lieu of overtime, rostered days off or flex time.

**(b) How many hours of overtime does the All Incidences of Employment Allowance cover?**

The allowance has been in place since the late 1990s and has been adjusted consistently with other salary increases the original amount took into consideration the average number of sitting nights per year and expected levels of reasonable overtime to be worked.

## Ceiling works

26. **With the delay of the completion of works of the ceiling in the Strangers Lounge, there were no lights in that area for at least the first 2 sitting weeks. Temporary flood lights were in place, but did not fully light the room.**

**(a) How many functions were reserved for that area?**

Seven (7) functions used the space during this period.

**(b) How many functions were cancelled by clients due to the area not being properly lit?**

No functions were cancelled during this period.

**(c) Were clients given any discounts for using the room with this issue?**

No clients asked or were given a discount.

**27. What is the current projected timetable for the ceiling works project for Level 11?**

Level 11 ceiling works programmed to start in July, with completion in February 2021, however due to the current pandemic works might commence earlier while the building is not so populated.

**(a) Where will Members and Members staff be relocated to during these works?**

Temporary Members offices will be provided on Level 8, this requirement is being reviewed given the current pandemic. All member's offices will be consulted.



## **Weir Report**

### **28. How many recommendations from the Weir Consulting report into WHS issues with Parliamentary Reporting Services (Hansard) have been fully implemented?**

The three most acute WHS-related recommendations from the Weir report have been fully implemented. These related to providing minimum eight-hour breaks between shifts, a maximum of 55 hours of work per week and greater access to recreation leave during periods of peak workloads (for instance, Mondays and Fridays of sitting weeks).

### **29. What is the timeframe for implementation?**

The five outstanding WHS recommendations related to the physical working environment of Hansard staff. DPS had committed in April 2019 to conducting detailed inspections of the Hansard offices by August 2019 to assess the suitability of the workstations, the cleanliness of the rooms and the risks of staff sleeping in the office.

After making this commitment and in response to the lack of funding for the broad-ranging accommodation review envisaged by the Parliament's 10 year Master Plan, DPS decided to prioritise the Hansard offices as part of the ceiling replacement project and fold the issues about the physical working environment into that project.

However, as there is insufficient funding for that project to proceed, DPS is currently exploring options for how those recommendations can be met within the 2019-20 budget, including replacement of existing workstations with modern, more ergonomic designs.

### **30. Which recommendations have not been implemented by DPS?**

The recommendations relating to the physical workspaces of staff have not yet been implemented, for the reasons outlined in question No. 29.

**31. When is the full report being presented to Parliament?**

DPS does not intend to present the report to Parliament. The report was largely based upon confidential one-on-one interviews with Hansard staff. Although the report itself does not refer to any particular staff members by name, given the small size of the Hansard team the report contains references that could easily identify individual staff members. To preserve the confidentiality of the information provided by staff, the Chief Executive of DPS determined that it was inappropriate to distribute the report beyond those responsible for formulating a response to it.

A summary of the report's findings and recommendations, as well as the response of DPS to each issue, was provided to staff in April 2019 during a meeting with the Chief Executive. The Presiding Officers were briefed on the substance of the report by the Chief Executive of DPS.

## Hansard

32. **Recent Estimates hearings have shown that there is a backlog with getting transcripts from Hansard as there are not sufficient staff – with the increase in committee work. Are new Hansard staff being recruited? Are they permanent part-time or fulltime staff?**

Hansard is staffed to cover two parallel sitting events, which is sufficient for the overwhelming majority of bookings received. Recent Estimates hearings were scheduled when the Legislative Assembly was sitting. The usual turnaround time for Hansard transcripts was met on Monday 2 March as only two estimates committees sat simultaneously that day.

However, from Tuesday 3 March until Thursday 5 March two estimates committees and the Legislative Assembly sat concurrently. As Hansard staff do not have the capacity to report three simultaneous events, the report of the Legislative Assembly was given priority and the remaining staff were split between the two estimates committees hearings. As anticipated, Hansard staff immediately got behind with transcription and continued to work on the backlog.

When the Legislative Council voted to schedule the sittings of Estimates Committees in a week that the Legislative Assembly was also sitting – therefore immediately impacting on Hansard's capacity to produce daily transcripts – DPS consulted with the Committee Secretariat to advice of the consequences. As a result, the Clerk informed members that there would be a delay in transcript delivery times before the Estimates Committee hearings commenced.

Maintaining the usual service level during the recent concurrent sittings of the Legislative Assembly and Estimates Committees would have resulted in unwarranted strain on Hansard staff, including weekend work, which would have breached the 55-hour cap recommended in the Weir report.

As this volume of work is a rare occurrence, DPS has no plans to increase Hansard staff to cover three scheduled sitting days. To provide the usual level of service during the March 2020 estimates would have required a 50 per cent increase in the staffing numbers for the three days on which the Legislative Assembly sat, with normal staffing levels being sufficient for all subsequent days.

**33. Will you retain the existing performance benchmarks for the turnaround of Hansard transcripts?**

Hansard has a performance benchmark of publishing House transcripts within three hours of the adjournment of the last House, which has not changed except in the event of exceptionally late sittings. There is not an equivalent benchmark for committee transcripts—the turnaround times are negotiated with the committee secretariat for each hearing. From time to time, the volume of committee hearings and staff accessing leave impacts on service delivery and results in delayed transcripts. In such circumstances, Hansard continues to produce transcripts as quickly as possible, including establishing transcript delivery priorities with the committee secretariat.

**(a) If meeting these benchmarks require more staff, will you hire them?**

Hansard management monitors the committee workload and transcript delivery times. It will make recommendations to DPS to increase staff if deemed necessary. For the estimates hearings in March 2020, it would not have been possible to hire competent additional staff for the three days that they would have been needed to maintain service levels.

**34. Have you made any progress towards improving or overhauling the chamber footage recording and collection process?**

The Parliament's entire audiovisual system, from the configuration of microphones in the Chambers through to the video services for members and the public, was the subject of a full, Gateway-reviewed business case submitted to Treasury in February 2020. Meaningful progress on the Parliament's video services will depend upon securing the necessary funding.

**35. Will you implement a system similar to the Federal Parliament's ParlView?**

A major component of the audiovisual services business case was the introduction of a video-on-demand service for NSW Parliament. If funding is secured, DPS will

implement such a system as soon as possible for the Parliament, with improvements added to the system as further system upgrades are rolled out.

36. **Will you allow the Parliamentary Library, once such a system is implemented, to return to its core role of running a first-class research service once they no longer have to spend significant amounts of time editing chamber footage?**

The team responsible for producing chamber footage do not have any research responsibilities. Once the system is implemented this team will be able to return to their core duties and project work in the library which in turn will support the teams whose main functions are reference and research.

37. **Will you commit right to retaining the standards and provisioning of Hansard services, and associated staffing levels, in the event that a ParlView type system is implemented?**

Yes. A video-on-demand system for NSW Parliament would simply bring us into line with other comparable jurisdictions, none of which have resulted in reductions in Hansard service levels. In the absence of any changes to standing orders, a video record of Parliament does not constitute an official record of any kind and could not substitute for the traditional Hansard service.

- (a) Can you confirm that an improved chamber footage collection system will not be used to justify cutting Hansard?**

Yes. As outlined in response to question No. 38, a video record is not a substitute for a Hansard transcript, so improvements in video services are strictly independent of Hansard.

## Rain Damage

38. **Since the mass rain event in February 2020, the Parkes Room, Members Lounge and the Legislative Council Chambers have a distinct musty/mouldy smell.**

**(a) What damage has the front ‘heritage’ building of the Parliament sustained as a result of the rain event?**

There was no significant rain damage to the Heritage Building as a result of the mass rain event in February. Two water leaks were detected:

- On level 8 at the top of the stairs outside of the LA Clerk’s office, this was a result of an overflow of the roof drain. This resulted in water falling on a power board which tripped an RCD circuit breaker. The drain has been checked and cleared by our plumbing contractor. The power board has been mounted to the wall to prevent water spilling into the outlets.
- An external drain on the wall of the LC Chamber overflowing and water dripping into the upper public gallery. The drain was cleared and the wet carpet cleaned and dried.

**(b) Has mould been found in the ‘heritage’ building since the rain event?**

Air quality and surface testing was carried out across the Heritage building and throughout the Parliament precinct by Trinitas Air Quality group. Mould was detected in most areas of the Heritage building including the LC Chamber, adjacent Members’ Room and LC Reception.

**i. If yes – what has been done to remove it?**

Remediation of the mould was arranged and carried out from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March until Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The results of testing these areas post cleaning returned nil detection of mould.

**(c) What is being done to ensure that these rooms has the odour removed?**

At the conclusion of the mould remediation the surfaces and carpets were successfully treated to remove the musty odour.

During the testing process it was identified that the humidity in the chamber was too high. An Air Conditioning contractor has been engaged to install a de-humidifier to the Air Conditioning unit to reduce the humidity. This is currently in the design phase and will be installed as a priority.

## CCTV

**39. How many DPS staff have access to the CCTV system?**

5 DPS staff. Facilities admin and management team along with the Special Constables on duty have access to system. The LC and LA front desk staff can only view the footage in real time, they cannot access the footage afterwards. Additionally Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council front desk have very limited view of only live footage from the chambers and Macquarie St.

**40. What are their position titles?**

Director Facilities

Security Manager

1x Security Administration Support

2x Facilities Administration support

Special Constables (while on duty)

Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council attendants (have very limited cameras and can only view live footage)

**41. When CCTV records are accessed, is what was accessed, and the reasons why logged or recorded somewhere? Is there an access log?**

Any saving of CCTV footage is logged into the system. Views are not logged.

**42. Have CCTV records ever been provided to Members under any circumstances?**

Not to members. Only to Presiding Officers as part of investigations into potential criminal behaviour.

**43. Can you guarantee that your Department has never allowed CCTV records to be leaked?**

We are not aware of any leaks being reported. All parties must abide by CCTV policy.



**A number of years ago, DPS IT Services' records were used against Members of the LA and the LC in political attacks that threatened their careers. In neither instance had either Member done anything illegal; they were merely victims of a public smear. What protections exist to prevent similar misuse of CCTV records against Members and Ministers?**

All parties must abide by CCTV policy which is available on the intranet

## **The People's House video**

**44. How much was spent on the production of "The People's House"?**

The production cost \$8,500.

**45. Who paid for the video and which budget did it come out of and did it exceed the cost originally budgeted?**

The People's House video costs were split equally between all three Parliamentary departments. The original cost was \$5,000, the additional costs related to additional shooting and editing. The Parliament has retained a library of additional footage that can be used in future engagement activities.

**46. Which production company was used to produce the video?**

BOHDEE MEDIA.

**47. Was the production put out to tender, what process was followed?**

The Parliament utilises the NSW public sector procurement framework as a best practice guide. Under that framework, tenders are not required for a project of this low dollar value. Single sourcing practices applied, as per the framework.

## **Crockery and expenditure on plates**

48. **How much did DPS spend on plates and crockery, were they recently updated? What was the total cost of this update?**

\$94,992.00. Plates are regularly replaced due to wear and tear, with this larger than usual purchase primarily focused on large scale functions of 250 people or more.

49. **Whose decision was it to update the crockery?**

Ultimately, all purchasing decisions made within DPS in the \$20,000 to \$500,000 range are authorised by the Chief Executive, in this case on advice from the Catering team.

- (a) Were quotes requested from a local manufacturer? Which ones?**

No.

50. **Did you consider an interstate Australian manufacturer?**

Prior to this order, Wedgewood plates sourced from the UK had been the standard purchase for Parliamentary crockery. The Catering team undertook a desktop review to determine which organisations to seek quotes from. No Australian manufacturers were identified that could meet the quality and cost parameters required.

- (a) Which ones?**

See above.

## **The Gatehouse (Traffic Box)**

### **51. How much was spent on the upgrade to the gatehouse on hospital road?**

The total cost of the recent work to the construction of the Traffic Box was \$600,000, it includes the installation of new security road wedges.

### **52. Was the design of the gatehouse a security risk for the constables? Who determined this risk? Did the constables raise this with you?**

The original Traffic Box design proved effective from officer safety perspective. NSW Police Force have ultimate veto over the safety of their personnel and they raise no objection to this design or operation.

The general terrorism threat level was raised by NTAC in 2014 (to where it remains today). Discussion with NSWPF Protection Operations Unit, NSWPF Security Management Unit and ASIO T4 (protective security section) were entered into regarding options to reduce PH vulnerability to vehicle mounted threats. The changes to the design and operation of the Traffic Box centred around allowing officers greater visibility of and accessibility to vehicles. The installation of ballistic glass and panels as part of the upgrade was to bring our specifications in line with NSWPF sites (e.g. Sydney Police Centre) and not in response to any specific threat or heightened risk of ballistic attack.

### **53. How much did it cost to fix this security issue? When was it fixed?**

There were no specific security risk or officer safety concerns raised prior to the equipment upgrade process, but Special Constables and their commanders within NSWPF were consulted throughout the design and implementation period of new layout.

**54. Who made the decision to upgrade the gate house? Why was it needed when the security was worse after the upgrade?**

The decision was made to enhance Parliament's Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures in line with NSWPF and ASIO advice, similar to activities at other Australian parliaments. The Traffic Box upgrades were part of our enhancement response. Security in the rear of the building has been significantly enhanced as a result of the works.

**55. What are the security implications of the boom gates regularly being left open at the rear of the building? Clearly it is to make egress quicker at peak times, but there is nothing stopping a car from driving quickly through the open boom gate and into the carpark. Has this been risk-assessed?**

Boom arms are not regularly left open.

Occasionally boom sensors do not pick up the passage of vehicle passing them, and arm will remain open. When this is noticed, the officers can remotely lower the arm(s) from the Traffic Box

Inbound boom gate is to bring vehicles to a halt while driver and vehicle bone fides are checked.

Outbound boom at top of exit ramp is to allow checking of departing credentials and to slow vehicles entering the manoeuvring/marshalling space. This second is a safety feature.

## **Office of The Speaker**

56. **What is the travel budget for The Speaker? How much has the Speaker spent on travel since his election as Speaker?**

Questions regarding the Legislative Assembly, including the Office of the Speaker, are outside the scope of questions for the Budget Estimates hearing for the Legislature.

57. **How many staff are employed in the Office of The Speaker? How many of these are media advisors? How does this compare to previous Speakers office structure?**

Questions regarding the Legislative Assembly, including the Office of the Speaker, are outside the scope of questions for the Budget Estimates hearing for the Legislature.