



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-2021 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Industry

AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Hearing: Wednesday 3 March 2021

Answers due by: 29 March 2021

Budget Estimates secretariat
Phone 9230 2898
BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Questions from the Hon Emma Hurst MLC

Puppy Farming

1. Is there any provision in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA) or the Companion Animals Act which would prevent a person from opening an intensive dog breeding facility with 400 female breeder dogs in NSW?
 - a) Would such a facility be considered legal, as long as it obtained planning approval?
2. Are there any limits on the number of litters a female breeding dog can have in NSW?
3. You have stated publicly that the RSPCA puppy farm task-force has attended 84 breeding establishments since it commenced. How many of these establishments have been inspected by RSPCA NSW for the first time as part of this operation?
4. Under section 31AA of POCTA, the Minister “may, by order in writing, recognise any interstate prohibition order made against a person, for the purposes of its enforcement in New South Wales.”
 - a) How many of these orders have been made over the past 5 years?
 - b) Are these orders available to the public?
5. Under section 54(3) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic), a Council must refuse to register a domestic animal business if the Council is satisfied that the relevant person has, at any time within 10 years preceding the date of the application, been convicted of certain animal cruelty offences.
 - a) Would a person subject to such this type of restriction in Victoria be subject to any restrictions or limitations in setting up a dog or cat breeding business in NSW?
 - b) If not, are there plans to introduce restrictions for individuals found guilty of animal cruelty offences in other states on operating dog or cat breeding businesses in NSW?

Shark Management

6. During the hearing, while discussing shark management, Mr Scott Hansen referred to grants made available for “individual researchers” working in the “personal protection space”. Could you please advise:
 - a) The total dollar amount of these grants; and
 - b) Details of the research projects that were funded by these grants

Animal Welfare Action Plan

7. Will a consultation copy of the new proposed animal welfare legislation be made available to the public before it is introduced in NSW Parliament?

8. The latest Animal Welfare Action Plan consultation paper indicated that the NSW Government was considering expanding the definition of animal to include cephalopods and crustaceans. Has a decision been made about whether these animals will be included in the new animal welfare legislation?

Duck Shooting

9. Based on the most recent Native Game Bird Management Program report, the number of rice growers had dropped dramatically since 2014 to just 96. In this same period, the number of Native Game Bird Management licensed properties has grown dramatically to 1317. Can you please explain the discrepancy in these figures?
10. In the same period, the number of NSW Game Hunting Licence holders has increased to over 3030. Why are more licenses to shot ducks being issued while rice grower numbers decline?
11. What is the definition of an “active” game hunter?
12. A total of 1,554 birds were killed across NSW during the 2018-19 harvest period. How are these numbers of deaths calculated, and is there any verification of these numbers by DPI?
13. On the DPI website, it states that “The DPI Game Licensing Unit undertakes regular compliance monitoring and enforcement operations” of duck hunters- can you please explain what these operations are?
14. Please provide statistics on compliance and enforcement action taken against duck hunters over the past 5 years.
15. Are landholders required to attempt non-lethal methods to manage ducks (for example, using lights and sirens to deter birds) before they engage shooters to attend their property?
 - a) If so, what checks are undertaken to ensure genuine attempts have been made to utilise non-lethal methods?
16. When will the report on the 2019-20 season be published on the DPI website?

Exhibited Animals

17. Are there limits on the total number of animals an exhibitor can have at any one time - if so, what is that limit?
18. Please provide a list of all individuals and/or businesses who have had their exhibited animals authority either suspended, cancelled or disqualified in the past 3 years.
19. Please advise the number of authorities under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act that have been suspended and/or cancelled in the past 3 years
20. Please advise the number of persons who have been disqualified from holding an authority under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act in the past 3 years.

Questions from the Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Coopers Is Road

21. Are you aware of the public concern (on the south coast) regarding access to fishing waters involving Coopers Is road?"
22. Why did NSW Fisheries advise Crown Lands to resolve this issue by itself to prevent this from escalation to where it is today involving all the Counsellors, press reports and a frustrated community?

Talmalmo Road

23. Has your department since my letter last year outlining the access issue at Talmalmo road sought a meeting with crown lands, the owner, and SWAA to address this issue?
24. Has the land swap proposal been discussed with crown lands?

Access concerns

25. As you would know the culture of recreational fishing in the western regions of NSW is largely based on camping along the riverbanks.
Has your office received concerns regarding the reduction in fishing and camping access in TSRs and National Parks.
26. If so, what representations have you made to the Minister responsible for National Parks about reduction or restriction of recreational access.
27. As you would know the sale of Crown or paper roads is occurring at an alarming rate and many of those roads lead to our waterways and this is creating a permanent loss of access to waterways not only for today's recreational fishers but for future generations. How are you intending to deal with these losses and guarantee more access for future generations?

Dollar for dollar restocking

28. How many applications have been made for the Trust Funded Dollar for Dollar Stocking program in the last 2 years?
29. How does this compare to joint stocking programs from 5 and 10 years ago?
30. Are you aware that clubs who participate are asked to pay for all the stocking up front and claim back the money from DPI?

31. Do think this burden on smaller cash strapped clubs would explain the low uptake in joint restocking programs?

Thermal control curtains

32. Regarding the second failure in a few years of the thermal control curtain at Burrendong? What is the plan for could you explain what measures are being undertaken across the state to alleviate the impacts of cold water on our native fish?
33. How many juvenile Murray Cod died due to this failure?

Screens for streams

34. Are you aware that \$148,000.00 was allocated by the Freshwater Trust Fund to host a “Screens for Streams” Forum.
Who put forward this application?
35. Was the decision resolved unanimously?
36. How was using recreational fishers funds to contribute to resolving a problem that they had no part in creating justified?
37. What other user groups or parties contributed to this forum and what were their individual contributions in dollars?

Recreational fishing trust projects

38. Can you provide an updated list of every Recreational Fishing Licence Fresh and Saltwater Trust Funded project DPI is involved in at this point in time?
39. For each project can you list the following details against each project;
- a) The current DPI staffers / contractors in that role?
 - b) How long have they been in this role?
 - c) Their qualifications as part of that role?
 - d) Is this a full time equivalent role?
 - e) If it is a part time equivalent role, how much time has been allocated to this role?
 - f) Who was in that role previously?
 - g) If it is a long term role (2 years plus), how long has that person been involved in that project?
40. Can you advise how many projects / roles DPI has currently applied for under the Trust Funds prior to the October 30 2020 closing date (including grants it administers and tenders it administers) that if successful would come into operation in July 2021?
41. What is their total value?

42. Can you advise if these have projects / roles DPI has applied for were advertised internally or externally?
43. Can you advise how someone can apply for a Trust Funded Role such as a Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer?
44. Can you advise how you as Minister guarantee that the Trust Funds are used to employ the best people for the jobs to deliver the best outcomes for recreational fishing in NSW?
45. When did Mr. James Harnwell start working with DPI and what were his qualifications?
46. Can you advise what DPI roles Mr. James Harnwell currently holds and has held previously and the dates/ periods he held them?
47. Can you advise of all the funding streams (Trust Fund, Consolidated Revenue, DPI Funds, Project Funds, inter-agency funds) that have been used to pay Mr. Harnwell since he has been employed by DPI?
48. Can you advise what Mr. Harnwell is currently working and how he is being paid?
49. Mr. Bryan van der Walt is the current Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer, can you please provide the project summary, project objectives and methodology descriptions that formed part of his most recent application to the Trust Funds?
50. Can you advise if this is a full time role and if this is the only remuneration Mr. van der Walt receives from the NSW Government as part of his salary?
51. If there are other forms of remuneration for Mr. van der Walt apart from his full time role as Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer, what are these, how are these remunerated and how much remuneration is involved per role?
52. Can you advise what roles Mr. Bryan van der Walt currently holds and has held previously and the dates he held them including temporary relief roles and for example work on advisory councils, working groups, acting roles within the Department?
53. If Mr. van der Walt has received other streams of remuneration can you advise of all the funding streams (Trust Fund, Consolidated Revenue, DPI Funds, Project Funds, inter-agency funds) that have been used to pay Mr. van der Walt in the past 10 years?
54. Can you advise what Mr. van der Walt is currently working and how he is being paid?
55. Can you advise of all the external contractors DPI Fisheries has paid to do promotional (videos, logos, social media posts, stories, sponsorship, Gone Fishing Day) work on behalf of recreational anglers in NSW over the past 5 years?
56. When did Mr. Chris Cleaver start working with DPI and what were his qualifications?

57. Can you advise what roles Mr. Chris Cleaver currently holds and has held previously and the dates he held them?
58. Can you advise of all the funding streams (Trust Fund, Consolidated Revenue, DPI Funds, Project Funds, inter-agency funds) that have been used to pay Mr. Cleaver?
59. Can you advise what Mr. Cleaver is currently working and how he is being paid?
60. Can you please list the names of the DPI employees who have been funded in various roles paid for by the Trust Funds (Full or Part Time) for more 5 years and their roles?
61. Can you please list the names of the DPI employees who have been funded in various roles paid for by the Trust Funds (Full or Part Time) for more than 10 years and their roles?
62. Can you please list the names of the DPI employees who have been funded in various roles paid for by the Trust Funds (Full or Part Time) for more than 15 years and their roles?
63. Can you advise of the numbers of people who held a fishing licence in NSW in the years 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020?
64. Can you advise of how many full and part time equivalents DPI staff had jobs paid for by the Trust Funds in the years 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020?

Rock Fishing Safety Act 2016

65. Can you advise how many fines have been paid into the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust under Section 9 of the Act?
66. Can you advise how all this money will be spent?

Cockles

67. Can you advise what Harvest Strategy or any harvest/ sustainability advice that you used to reduce the bag limits on cockles in Oct 2020?

Resource sharing

68. Are you aware that the Commonwealth is consulting with recreational and commercial fishers about a resource sharing framework?
69. If yes, then what will be the impact on NSW fisheries and what is the NSW government's position?
70. If no, then given the potential impact on NSW fisheries surely this is dereliction of duty and when will you consult NSW fishers to get an agreed position that protects their future?

71. What fish species and what fisheries would NSW propose to surrender to the Commonwealth under their proposed new resource sharing framework arrangements?
72. Are you aware that the proposed changes to resource sharing of fisheries between the Commonwealth and the states will require changes to the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?
73. Does NSW propose to change the OCS or agree to an MOU?
74. Why have you not consulted stakeholders regarding this?

Stock Assessments

75. Are you aware that on the 2nd of November 2020 a letter was sent to commercial and charter fisherman outlining the consultation process for scientific fish stock assessment reports?
76. If yes, can you advise when and to whom in the recreational sector it was sent to?
77. If no, then given the potential impact on NSW recreational fisheries do you consider this dereliction of duty and when will you consult NSW recreational fishers to get an agreed position that protects their future?

Batemans Bay Marine Park

78. Were you aware that Dr Natalie Moltschaniwskyj held a meeting in Narooma on 22 October 2020 with Batemans Bay MP Advisory Committee representatives and have you been briefed and if not why?
79. What was discussed at this meeting and are there publicly available minutes?
80. Who was invited to this meeting?
81. From the invitation list, who attended?
82. It has been reported that certain members of the BBMP advisory council were excluded by the DPI representative at this meeting, why did this exclusion occur?
83. Were any objections raised by the participants at this meetings as why Dr Natalie Moltschaniwskyj excluded other members of the BBMP Advisory Council ?
84. In what official capacity was Dr Natalie Moltschaniwskyj attending this meeting with regards to the ongoing role of the BBMP Advisory Council?
85. Are you confident that the independence of the BBMP advisory council has not been compromised by holding such selective meetings?
86. Are you aware that during the recent meeting in Narooma 22nd October, Dr Moltschaniwskyj stated NSW DPI Fisheries are making their decisions regarding kelp / urchin barrens entirely on the Glasby & Gibson paper.

87. It was reported that those attending the meeting strongly objected to this, stating a government position cannot be decided upon using one research paper alone and that many in the scientific community described the paper as being given incentives for tidy results. Will you confirm that NSW DPI fisheries will not be making decisions on narrow and questionable research?
88. If you won't confirm the above, can you advise is this selective use of evidence the new way you will be making evidence based decisions in NSW Marine Parks?

Marine Parks

89. Can you advise of all the meetings DPI staff have held with any members of all the NSW Marine Park advisory committees in the past 12 months outside of the recognised and minuted meetings that are published and if not why?
90. Can you advise who attended these meetings and what was discussed and if not why?
91. How much money is being used to pay for the current marine park reviews and if not why?
92. How much money is being used for research in each NSW marine parks for the past 2 years?

Local Land services Aerial Pest Control

93. What is the total number of hours flying time by Local Land Services to undertake vertebrate pest control in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?
94. For the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March) what was the total cost for aerial shooting undertaken by Local Land Services?
95. For the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March):
 - a) What was the cost per hour for operating the helicopters?
 - b) What was the total fuel cost?
 - c) What was the total labour cost?
 - d) What were the total travel and accommodation costs?
 - e) What was the total cost of ammunition?
96. What were the vertebrate species targeted?
97. How many animals of each targeted species were shot in calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?
 - a) What became of the animals that were shot – were they utilised or disposed of in any way?
98. Were any other pest species targeted?

- a) How many of those species were shot in calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?
99. Has a review of aerial pest control ever been undertaken to assess whether private contractors may offer better efficiencies and cost savings than Local Land Services?
100. Has a review of ground based pest control on public land, looking at effectiveness, costs and efficiencies, ever been undertaken?
- a) Is a report available?
 - b) Does Local Land Services tender out pest control on public land to private contractors?
 - c) If so, where are the tender notices published?
101. What firearms are used by Local Land Services for aerial pest control?
- a) How many Category D firearms does Local Land Services own?
 - b) What are the makes, models and calibres of Category D firearms used by Local Land Services?
 - c) In what year were the Category D firearms used by Local Land Services purchased?
 - d) In what year were the Category D firearms used by Local Land Services manufactured?

Aerial Pest Control Consent Form


102. I refer the Minister to the attached Local Land Services 'Aerial Shoot Consent Form' distributed by Central Tablelands Local Land Services at Bathurst.
- a) How many feral cats were shot from a helicopter by Local Land Services in in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?
 - b) How many foxes were shot from a helicopter by Local Land Services in in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?
 - c) How many wild dogs were shot from a helicopter by Local Land Services in in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?

Local Land Services - Secondary Employment

103. How many Local Land Services employees had approval to undertake secondary employment as Vertebrate Pest Animal Controllers in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?

104. How many Local Lands Services employees, who are holders of a Vertebrate Pest Animal Control licence, submitted a conflict of interest declaration in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (to 1 March)?

Attachment for Question 102



Local Land Services

Consent/Approval to carry out aerial pest control

Please tick appropriate box:

I give permission for the Central Tablelands Local Land Services to carry out aerial control of pest animals on land below occupied /or owned by me between the dates of 18 /1 / 2021 - 30 /06 / 2021. I will notify neighbouring properties of the intended shooting dates at least three days prior.

Feral deer, feral pigs, foxes, feral cats and wild dogs will be specifically targeted.

Please tick box if you consent other animals to be controlled:

Feral Goats

I do not give permission to the Central Tablelands Local Land Services to carry out Aerial control of pest animals on my land.

Property Name

Holding Number (if known) #

UHF No.

Phone

Mobile

Email

Signed: (Owner/ Manager/Occupier)

Print name:

Date:

Please return completed form to:

Dean Taylor
Central Tablelands Local Land Services, 66 Corporation Ave (PO Box 20) Bathurst NSW 2795
dean.taylor@lls.nsw.gov.au
M: 0437 466 250

Enquiries to: Dean Taylor, Biosecurity Officer, Mobile: 0437 466 250

Breeding Code of Practice

Currently there is a great deal of confusion and anger with the enforcement of the Breeding Code of Practice 2009 on non-business pet dog breeders.

105. a) Minister do you think it is right that the RSPCA do not view hobbyist breeders as being different to commercial breeders and accordingly having the right to enter a non-business property without evidence of a crime or animal cruelty?

b) Minister do you support ensuring the definition of an animal trade is clearly redefined within the Act to separate animal businesses from non-animal businesses?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Animal rescue and rehoming grants

106. The Victorian Government currently allocates the following through their Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program:

- \$1 million for animal shelters and foster carers to purchase equipment or upgrade or expand their services
- \$2 million for not-for profit and community vet clinics to maintain and expand their services, and allow new low cost clinics to be set up in areas of need around Victoria.

Does NSW have any plans to implement a similar program which allocates grants for volunteer animal rescue and rehoming organisations to support rescue and rehoming of various animal species?

Lethal Animal Control

107. What is the total expended amount of public money across NSW over the last three years for lethal control programs?

108. What is the anticipated and proposed budget for legal control programs for the next three year period?

109. Has the NSW State Government proposed or budgeted public money towards non-lethal programs including evidenced-based research and development into contraceptive programs or “co-existence” in line with overseas countries and public expectations?

African Swine Fever Virus

110. In the event of an outbreak of African Swine Fever Virus in NSW, have you and/or the Department approved specific culling and/or depopulation methods? If yes, what are these methods?

111. How will the infected and diseased animal carcasses be disposed of?

112. What is the estimated cost associated with an outbreak of African Swine Fever Virus in NSW?

113. Has the Department and/or Treasury provisioned an amount of money in the event of an outbreak?

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

Baaka Cultural Centre, Wilcannia

114. Of the \$3.5 million dollars announced in 2019 for the Baaka Cultural Centre in Wilcannia how much has been spent on the centre to date?
115. How many local jobs have been created through the construction of the centre?
116. Has the material for construction been sourced locally?
 - a) If not, where is it from?
117. Has the Minister been to visit the Baaka Cultural Centre in Wilcannia?
118. When was the last time the Minister went to Wilcannia?
119. Does the Minister have plans to visit Wilcannia in the next 6 months?

Mental Health in Western NSW

120. Has the Minister made any written representations about mental health funding for Western NSW since March 2019?
 - a) If yes, how many representations in 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
121. Has the Minister had any meetings to discuss mental health service provision in Western NSW?
 - a) If yes, how many meetings in 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
122. Is the Minister aware if funding for the Community Living Supports Program run by the Far West Local Health District will be extended past 2021?
 - a) Has the Minister made any representations about this program in his capacity as Minister for Western NSW?
123. Has the Minister attended any briefings about mental health services in Western NSW?
 - a) If yes, when?

Better public transport for isolated communities

124. Has the Minister made any written representations about public transport funding for Western NSW since March 2019?
- a) If yes, how many representations in 2019?
 - b) 2020?
 - c) 2021?
125. Does the Minister receive correspondence about insufficient public transport in Western NSW from constituents living in Western NSW?

Monaro Grasslands

126. Have any changes been made to either the legal or working definitions for protected grasslands in the Monaro?
- a) If yes, what are those changes?
 - b) What is the effect of those changes for landholders?
127. The Craik review of interactions between the EPBC Act and agriculture recommended a pilot of a non-statutory approach to regional planning be undertaken in the Monaro region. In hearings, you have made reference to a pilot program in the Monaro.
- a) What is this pilot program? Please outline in specific detail what is being trialled and what work is being done.
 - b) Has the pilot commenced?
 - i. If yes, when?
 - c) Has it concluded?
 - d) How much did this pilot cost?
 - e) Who funded it?
 - f) Who proposed this pilot program?
128. In hearings of the federal senate inquiry into faunal extinctions, chair of the EPBC agriculture review, Wendy Craik, told the committee the NSW government had offered 11 staff members at no cost to the Commonwealth for this pilot program (see transcript page 48 <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/mo190049.pdf>).
- a) Who in the NSW government made this offer?
 - b) Was it a department or a Minister? Please specify which Minister.

- c) In what agency do these staff members work and was this work on the pilot program ultimately undertaken?
- d) What did this cost the state government?
- e) What were the outcomes of the pilot program?

Employees

129. Minister, for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your portfolio:
- a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
 - b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - f) What is the lowest pay received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
 - i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - m) What is the lowest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - p) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - q) What is the average number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - r) What is the highest number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?

- s) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
 - v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
 - w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?
130. Cluster Secretary- for each department, agency, State-owned corporation or other body, and for each division of those bodies, if any, in your Cluster:
- a) What is the gender pay gap, both generally and across those employees in SEB or SEB-equivalent bands?
 - b) What is the highest remuneration for female employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - c) What is the lowest pay received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - d) What is the average remuneration received by female employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - e) What is the highest remuneration for male employees– both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - f) What is the lowest pay received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - g) What is the average remuneration received by male employees – both generally and for SEB/SEB-equivalent employees?
 - h) How many female and how many male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees are there?
 - i) What is the highest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - j) What is the lowest number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - k) What is the average number of direct reports to female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - l) What is the highest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - m) What is the lowest number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - n) What is the average number of direct reports to male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - o) What is the highest number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - p) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - q) What is the average number of number of staff managed by female SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
 - r) What is the highest number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?

- s) What is the lowest number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- t) What is the average number of number of staff managed by male SEB or SEB-equivalent employees?
- u) In providing answers to questions (a) to (t), please provide the information for each SEB band or band equivalent.
- v) What steps are you taking to eliminate the gender pay gap?
- w) What timeframe have you set to eliminate the gender pay gap?

Agriculture Commissioner

131. When the former Minister for Agriculture announced the Agriculture Commissioner Election commitment he said “we will get onto it straight away”. Why did it take 18 months for the Government to appoint an Agriculture Commissioner?
132. Mr Quinlivan’s contract commenced on 1 August 2020 and expires on 30 July 2022. Why has he only been appointed for 2 years?
- a) Is there a clause in his contract that allows for an extension?
 - b) What support and assistance will be available to primary producers after 30 July 2022?
133. The Government’s 2019 \$2 million election commitment that was submitted to the Parliamentary Budget Office said “The Agriculture Commissioner will be empowered through legislative and regulatory means to implement and enforce the 2015 Right to Farm Policy’. Has the Commissioner been given these powers?
- a) If not, why not?
134. The cost of the Agriculture Commissioner in the Government’s pre-election commitment advised that it would be \$2 million over 4 years capped at \$500,000 each year. In information obtained in a GIPA shows the Agriculture Commissioners fees as;
- a) \$2,000 per day for the first 100 days of work then \$1,000 per day thereafter for a maximum of 50 days (total of maximum 150 days’ work) per year. Max total = \$250,000 per year. And also the Agriculture Commissioner contract is based off the Dairy Advocate contract – (Dairy Advocate is paid \$800 per day). Why is the Agriculture Commissioner only able to work 150 days per year?
 - b) What assistance is available to primary producers for the remaining 215 days?
 - c) How many days a week does the Agriculture Commissioner work?
 - d) Are they set days?
 - e) How many days has he worked to date?
135. What are the types of issues that the Agriculture Commissioner is currently or have previously dealt with?
136. A number of key stakeholders have had difficulties accessing the Agriculture Commissioner and documents under a GIPA request showed that emails were sent by several DPI staff seeking the

process of how stakeholder can contact the Agriculture. Why isn't the Agriculture Commissioner contactable by phone?

137. Previously, Members of Parliament have been able to pick up the phone and contact commissioners for example the Small Business Commissioner? Why can't Members of Parliament contact the Agriculture Commissioner?
138. On 7 August 2020 DPI's Director of Insights and Industry Analysis Darren Budworth emailed Brooke Noorbergen, Principal Policy Officer, Strategy and Policy and advised that 'we will not have \$2 million for the Ag Commissioner'. Does the Department have the \$2 million that was promised available for the Ag Commissioner role? If not, why not?
139. How much has been allocated for the Agriculture Commissioner role?
140. Mr Budworth's email also said 'The Ag Commissioner funding is approximately \$550,000pa, which cover his employment/contract costs, the salary and wage of 7/8 (Kate Gibson) plus approx. \$100,000 in operational costs for him'. If the approximate annual funding is \$550,000 - Ag Commissioner's wage is capped at \$250,000, operational costs are \$100,000, and a 7/8 of a DPI employee's wage. What other costs are involved to bring the cost to \$550,000?
141. Will the Agricultural Commissioner's role be extended to deal with the interaction of linear infrastructure (power grid lines/ inland rail/ gas pipeline) and CSG? If it does already, what outcomes have been achieved?
142. What representations have been made to the Minister about the Hunter Gas Pipeline and its route through farming or other rural and regional properties?
 - a) What is the Government doing to ensure that their concerns are heard?
143. Has the Agriculture Commissioner consulted or met with the Office of Small Business Commissioner on Competition issues?
 - a) If so, when did these consultations or meetings take place and how many occasions (Please provide the dates and locations)?
144. Has the Agriculture Commissioner met with the Dairy Commissioner?
 - a) If so, when and on how many occasions?
 - b) Please provide the dates and locations
145. How many meetings has the Agriculture Commissioner had with the Minister for Agriculture since commencing the role?
146. How many meetings has the Agriculture Commissioner had with the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture since commencing the role?
147. How many meetings has the Agriculture Commissioner had with the Department of Primary Industries since commencing?

148. Has the Agriculture Commissioner met with any other NSW State Government Ministers since commencing?
- a) If so, who has he met with and how many times?
149. NSW Farmers is still pushing for a legislated Agriculture Commission to be an independent champion for the sector. A properly constructed Agriculture Commission has a critical role in enabling this growth. They believe a proper Ag Commission could address systemic issues and barriers by identifying specific obstacles and influencing meaningful change. How can the Agriculture Commissioner be expected to do this when he is a part time contractor reporting to the Department of Primary Industries who can't be contacted by Members of Parliament?

Dairy & Fresh Milk Advocate and Sustainability Inquiry

150. A recommendation from Mr Zandstra and his panel was to “develop a targeted set of materials for dairy farmers to be able to just pick and lift everything that they need to do and how they need to go about doing it”.
- a) Has this been developed?
- i. If so, is it publically available?
 - ii. If so, where?
 - iii. Have materials been sent to dairy farmers?
 - iv. If so, how many dairy farmers have received them?
 - v. How were they distributed to dairy farmers?
151. Please provide a copy of the role description for the NSW Fresh Milk and Dairy Advocate?
152. How many times has the Dairy Advocate and Agricultural Commissioner met?
- a) Please list the dates of each meeting held?
 - b) Where were the meetings held?
 - c) How many meetings were held in person?
 - d) How many were held via video link or telephone?

Cutting Energy Costs for NSW Farmers

153. The Victorian Government has just extended its Agriculture Energy Investment Plan, which has provided almost 800 free on-farm energy assessments to farmers (valued at \$7 million and over 450 grants totalling \$22 million awarded), why hasn't the NSW Government undertaken a similar program of grants?

Agricultural Labour and Seasonal Workforce Shortages

154. According to the National Lost Crop Register as at the beginning of last month, NSW's berry and cherry farmers had lost crops value totally nearly \$8 million (\$7,817,030) due to lack of workers. Considering that NSW is the highest cost state for hotel quarantine, why has NSW not reduced the cost of quarantine for essential horticultural and ag workers?

155. The \$3,000 cost is a particular disincentive for farms in the Seasonal Worker Scheme as the workers coming in on this visa can only stay for a maximum of 9 months, has there been any consideration to discounting the quarantine costs for this group of workers, subject to certain health requirements?
156. Other states have implemented a range of assistance programs including on-farm quarantine, room sharing or direct subsidies to assist reducing the cost for industry. With the inaction in NSW, this has drawn away the pool of available workers from NSW. When will the Government provide some assistance to our struggling farmers in this area?
157. Queensland has undertaken a number of intakes through on farm quarantine already, when will the NSW Government undertake a trial of on-farm quarantine?
158. Even if inflows of international workers started to flow again, this would only deliver part of the solution to significant labour shortages due to visa processing times and the limitation on numbers under the arrivals cap, so the attraction of domestic workforce remains a priority, how many domestic workers have taken up the call to help out farmers?
- a) How is the NSW government helping to get information out to young people who might be interested in having a gap year in the country?
159. The Pacific Labour Scheme is estimated to only provide about 40,000 workers if it reaches its maximum, yet pre COVID we would have expected 200,000 working holiday maker visa holders in Australia. The numbers have declined, and we have had about 1,000 backpackers leaving Australia every week, why hasn't the NSW Government introduced a better quarantine scheme for agriculture workers?
160. In Budget estimates, the Minister advised that there was a draft agriculture workers code to deal with the movement of workers across state borders. Please provide a copy of the document.
- a) When the NSW closed the border with Victoria, why didn't the Government implement the draft code for assisting agricultural workers to move across the border quickly?
161. Queensland has a program where farms can be pre-approved for on-farm quarantine. They have to be approved employers through the Commonwealth scheme, loan the workers mobile phones, have dedicated accommodation facilities to be separated and identified from locals and other farm workers while they serve their quarantine. This is run by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries who have someone from the Office of Industrial Relations, Police and Health. I think they are up to their 4th quarantine, although one (Solomon Islands) had to have been changed at the last minute so that they had to go into hotel quarantine due to health advice. Why hasn't the NSW Government introduced such a scheme in NSW?
162. The Queensland Government is not just relying on the international and Commonwealth schemes, they have a \$1,500 state funded scheme, where if domestic workers stay somewhere for two weeks they get \$500, in addition to another \$1,000 if they stay another 8 weeks. Why won't the NSW government provide that level of incentive to NSW farmers?

Proposed Land Tax

163. Minister, were you taken by surprise by the Treasurer's announcements around Land Tax and Stamp Duty reform in the budget?
164. Why did the Treasurer fail to negotiate with the NSW Nationals on this important issue which is of vital importance to farmers?
165. Under the Nationals and Liberals in Government, farmers have had to contemplate a whole raft of rising fixed costs, including the replacement of stamp duty and an increase in council rates as part of the harmonisation process after your government's botched mergers. When will the Nationals start taking these fights up to Cabinet and stand up for farmers?
166. According to the Rural Bank's annual report, the value of Australian farmland increases by 7.5% per annum over a 20 year period meaning that at the 10 year point the farmer will have paid more in land tax than they would have paid in stamp duty on the property in question. How is this fair to farmers, when farming land is more likely to stay in the one pair of hands for generations?
167. Do you agree that land in farming is a primary asset, and there wouldn't be a lot of other small to medium enterprises where they have to pay tax on their prime asset?
168. Won't this measure will increase the price but not the value of agricultural land and put additional pressure on farmers to sustain a positive cash flow in their farming businesses?
169. Isn't this going to be an intergenerational kick for farmers with some trying to reduce the upfront cost of stamp duty, but taking them into a system where after ten years they are going to be paying much more?
170. Were you embarrassed when the Deputy Premier told Parliament that farmers wouldn't be hurt by the Treasurer's tax plan, but then the next day had to admit that they would be affected?
171. Doesn't this mean that being in coalition with the farmers means nothing for the nationals if your leader doesn't even know what is going on within the Government on such a major piece of economic reform?
172. Isn't this an example of the Nationals being rolled by the Liberals again?
 - a) On budget day, the Deputy Premier said that farmers wouldn't be paying any kind of land tax, then the next day he welcomed it?
173. How is it fair that farmers, who have been struggling with trying to find workers, are yet again going to have the long arm of this government reaching into their pockets to shore up their crumbling revenue base?
174. The Treasurer and the Deputy Premier have talked about this being an "option" for land owners. Will that continue to be an option once the legislation is introduced?
175. Will the rate be capped at 0.3% or will it rise?
176. What do you say about concerns that while the argument for the introduction is to stimulate turnover in the residential sector – the farming sector in the main looks for longer term ownership – so if it is a perpetual tax will the long-term owner end up with a greater liability?

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA)

177. Given the Government's Animal Welfare Plan is three years behind schedule, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979) is more than forty years old, how much longer will the community have to wait in order to have modern, fit for purpose legislation, regulations and codes around animal welfare in this state?
178. The second reading speech on the recent POCTA Amendment Bill to increase penalties for animal welfare breaches, highlighted the urgency of increasing penalties in the context of the age of the POCTA Act and to take into consideration the change in community expectations, when will the legislative definitions about what constitutes animal cruelty be updated to reflect community expectations?
179. The Minister for Agriculture chaired the Select Committee into Companion Animal Breeding legislation back in 2015, so six years later, why has the Government still be unable to finalise these reforms started by the former Minister for Primary Industries?
180. Other jurisdictions have a clear delineation of what constitutes a commercial breeder and what is a hobby breeder, however there has been substantial feedback from hobby breeders saying they have been unfairly targeted by the Government as part of the Government's so-called crack down on puppy farms. Will the Government provide a definition of hobby breeders in the new legislation?
181. Why didn't the Government change the legislation in accordance with the animal welfare plan prior to implementing a crackdown on puppy farmers?
182. Does the Minister think that people who are following international best practice vaccination schedules should be penalised for being in breach of a code, because potentially that is what we are told can happen at the moment due to the legislation?
183. We have had reports that breeders of small dogs such as Chihuahuas have received warnings because they don't have a 1.8 metre fence in place. When they have queried that they have been told it was for biosecurity, but farms don't have 1.8 metre fences. Is this going to be part of the Government's new legislation under the Animal Welfare Plan?
 - a) Will farms have to install 1.8 metre fences?

New interim disqualification orders in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

184. Minister in the recent bill, you put in place a mechanism whereby a Court may make an interim disqualification order to prevent a person from acquiring additional animals, but you have specifically excluded existing animals from that requirement. Can you please say why you have made that particular exemption, as on the face of it, if a court is satisfied that an individual is likely to commit animal cruelty again to the extent that they would ban them from acquiring more animals during the proceedings, then it seems odd, that it cannot order their removal from that individual's care at the same time?

Agricultural Land Use Planning Strategy

185. There has been a lot of discussion in recent times about land use strategies for agricultural land, and biodiversity conservation frameworks etc. As the managers of a substantial portion of Australia's land mass, farmers are key stakeholders in the environmental legislation and policy. NSW Farmers has long advocated for reform of the land management and biodiversity conservation framework to establish farmer-led schemes for stewardship and fair compensation for the public good delivered by farmers through environmental management of their land. Will the Government include such a scheme in their agricultural land use planning strategy?
186. At the moment DPI is looking into an Agricultural Land Use Planning Strategy, the Minister for Local Government is looking at rate harmonisation, the Treasurer is looking at introducing a land tax on farm land for the first time ever, and farmers from the Hunter to the Queensland border are dealing with the installation of the Hunter Gas Pipeline, the installation of energy infrastructure. How are you making sure that primary industries are effectively represented in all of these portfolios?

Right to Farm Policy Review

187. Farmers had until 28 February 2021 to provide feedback to the DPI on a recent review of the state's Right to Farm Policy from 2015 by the Agriculture Commissioner to help guide the development of an Agricultural Land Use Planning (ALUP) Strategy. How many completed Survey Monkey surveys were received? How many submissions to the review of the Right to Farm Policy have been received?
188. How many people attended each of the webinars that were held in early February regarding the review of the 2015 Right to Farm Policy and the planning of the Agriculture Land Use Planning (ALUP) Strategy?

Biosecurity Risk Management & Response to 2019 Audit Report

189. Does the Department of Primary Industries have formal agreements with state partner agencies to deliver effective biosecurity compliance activities and emergency responses?
- a) If so, which agencies?
 - b) NSW Health,
 - c) NSW Environment Protection Authority,
 - d) Local Land Services and
 - e) Local Control Authorities
 - i. If so, in what way?
 - ii. If not, why not?
190. Who coordinates these agreements?
191. Does the Department of Primary Industries apply cost benefit analyses and formal post-action reviews after any biosecurity event?
- a) If so, are these reported?
 - b) Are these reports disseminated?

- c) If so, to whom, and in what format?
192. Does the Department collect and share data with key state partners to allow them to better target their biosecurity compliance activities?
- If so, what data is collected?
 - How is it stored?
 - How is it shared?
 - To whom is it shared?
193. Have any of the practices relating to questions two, three and four above changed since 18 June 2019?
- If so, why?
 - If so, in what way?
 - If not, why not?
 - Is DPI responsible for biosecurity or not?
194. Over the last year, we have had two detections of khapra beetle in overseas goods consignments, the continuing spread of African swine fever and the detection of the Fall army worm in Northern NSW in September, as well as Serpentine Leaf miner. Have you increased funding for Local Land Services to enable them to assist farmers in combatting these biosecurity risks? If so, what is the quantum that the funding has increased by?
195. What has LLS been doing to assist farmers in preparedness, and how much extra resourcing has this taken, particularly with the cancellation of many of the Country Shows around the state?
196. The intergovernmental agreement on Biosecurity sets out obligations for the Commonwealth and the state, and I am wondering whether or not you have raised your concerns about whether the Commonwealth is meeting its obligations, particularly with the Onshore Biosecurity Container Levy being abandoned this year?
197. When will the Minister for Primary Industries reconstitute the NSW Biosecurity Advisory Committee that has not met since 2018 and all members' terms have expired?
- If not, why not?
198. Can the Minister for Primary Industries confirm when the second NSW State of Biosecurity Report will be prepared?
199. Who will be given responsibility for preparing the second NSW State of Biosecurity Report?

Travelling Stock Reserves available for grazing permits

200. How does the Government coordinate the leasing of travelling stock reserves (TSRs)?
201. Is the leasing organised by each of the 11 Local Land Services individually or is there an agency which has oversight of all TSR's?

202. In NSW there are 323 TSRs covering approximately 8,464 hectares of land area. Of these, 206 TSRs are rated to carry stock. How many hectares of land area does this cover?
203. What kind of stock are put on TSRs?
204. Do you have an estimate of the numbers of each species that are on the 206 stock rated TSRs at any given time?
- What, if any, other activities are permitted on TSRs?
205. From 2016 to the current time, were all 206 TSRs which are rated to carry stock in NSW under lease?
- If not, how many TSRs were not under lease?
 - If not, why were some TSRs not under lease?
 - Was it due to poor pasture due to the drought or bushfires, or another reason?
 - If so, what were any other reasons?
206. Had these leases been relinquished by a leaseholder or had the lease run out?
- If they had been relinquished by a leaseholder, what was the reason given?
 - If this data is not collected, why not?
 - Wouldn't that be useful to know why a lease is being relinquished – eg during a drought, flood, bushfire or other natural disaster?
207. If these relinquishments were due to the drought, bushfire, flood or other natural disaster, did any such leaseholders receive a refund of the monies they had paid under the tender for the time that the land was not being stocked and the lease had been relinquished?
- If not, why not?
208. If the government collected money from farmers and other primary producers for travelling stock routes which were essentially unused. Was there any capacity for primary producers to cancel their lease?
209. From 2016 to the current time, were all 206 TSRs which are rated to carry stock left vacant?
- If so, how long were they left vacant (this might be detailed information that the Minister and Department would have to give us on notice)?
 - Was this for multiple periods?
210. Approximately what percentage of TSRs with stock carrying ratings were left vacant each year from 2016?
211. How many hectares of land approximately does that equate to?
212. Why were TSRs left vacant at different times?
213. Is there a condition that a TSR leaseholder who leaves the land vacant of stock, must relinquish their lease?
214. Was there any fee relief for any TSR's that were being leased during the drought, or after the bushfires that had been vacant?
- If so, how was that calculated?

215. What is the average term of a TSR lease?
216. What is the average cost of a TSR lease – and how is it calculated (per hectare, or per stock level, or revenue)?
217. Does the calculation method differ between tenderers?
218. How much do Grazing Stock Permits on TSRs cost?
219. What is the average value of these permits?
220. How are Primary Producers' LLS fees calculated? Per hectare or on stocking levels, or on revenue?
221. Are Primary Producers' LLS fees increased automatically if they have grazing permits on TSRs?
222. On 6 March 2020, five TSRs were offered for tender in the North Coast LLS, with a closure date of 20 March 2020. Have all these tenders been resolved?
 - a) How many tenders were received for each TSR?
 - b) Were any of the successful tenderers previously leasing these TSRs?
 - c) Did the overall revenue for these sites increase?
 - d) If so, by how much?
 - e) If not, why not?

Biosecurity – Cane Toads

223. How many cane toads are in NSW?
224. What locations have they been found in?
225. What is the government doing to address the issue?

Barclay Report

226. On 4 November 2020 you were interviewed on the ABC Country program. In the interview you referred to 'winners and losers' regarding the Commercial Fishing Business Adjustment Program, and in an answer to a question on notice you clarified that you used the 'winners and losers' expression to highlight the varied the feedback from stakeholders. How many 'losers' were there from the Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program?
227. How is the Government assisting and supporting the 'losers'?

Young Farmer Business Program

228. The 4 year funding allocation for the Young Farmer Business Program is due to cease at the end of this financial year. This has been an exceptionally well received initiative to build the business skills of those entering the industry. Will you commit an additional 4 year allocation to continue this initiative?

229. On the DPI website there are Survey Results for 2016, 2017 and 2018. Were surveys conducted in 2019, 2020?
- a) If not why not?
230. Why aren't they publically available?
231. The most recent Report Card on the DPI website for the program is dated 2017/18. Has a report card been published since then?
- a) If not why not?
232. Why aren't later year report cards publically available?
233. The program is for young farmers to build business skills and provide key events and workshops to help develop their networking and skills to enhance their businesses.
234. The most recent media release on the DPI website is dated 16 March 2018. Have you distributed a release over the past 3 years in relation to the program and what it offers?
- a) If not why not?
235. How much of the \$6 million announced by former Minister Blair has been awarded?
236. Will the Government increase funding for the program in the 2021/22 budget?

Dairy Industry Fund

237. Is the Dairy Industry Fund Advisory Committee still an active committee?
- a) If not, when did it cease to be an active Committee?
238. If the Committee is still active, who are the Committee Members and are they still active?
- a) If there are any vacancies, when will they be filled?
239. It appears from media articles that this fund was \$1 million, has all the money been spent?
- a) If not, how much is left?
240. If the fund is exhausted, what is the future of the fund?
241. What was the fund used for?
- a) Can you please table a list of the projects?

NSW Shark Management Strategy

242. In reply to answers provided to questions on notice regarding the \$8 million Shark Mitigation Strategy in which you advised that the details were in Outcome Statement Chapter 6 Regional NSW, why is the word 'shark' not listed anywhere in the paper?

243. You also advised that the \$315,000 listed in Budget Paper No.3 was for a capital allocation to upgrade the existing network of 21 VR4D tagged shark listening stations, and that this was part of the \$8 million Shark Strategy. So what is the remaining \$7,685,000?
- a) Where is this listed in the Budget papers?
244. The DPI website lists details for the annual \$200,000 Shark Observation Program. Is this program included in the \$8 million funding?
245. Applications for the program closed on 11 December, how many applications were received and how many were granted?
246. Can you provide a list of the successful organisations?
247. Who is on the Technical Assessment Panel that reviews the applications and make recommendations to the Minister?
248. Why were the 10 SMART drumlines removed from Newcastle and replaced with 1 drone?
249. Why were the 20 SMART drumlines removed from the Northern Beaches and replaced with 2 drones?
250. Are there any plans to phase out shark meshing programs with the implementation of non-lethal shark mitigation and deterrent measures?
251. Does the government plan on implementing the recommendations from the Shark Sentiment Report produced for The Department of Primary Industries (DPI)?
- a) Will SMART Drums replace shark nets?
- b) Will the government boost the funding for the Drone program?
252. Why was helicopter use reduced in a variety of locations compared to their use in 2019-20?
253. With the government continuing to monitor the “efficiency” of the shark mitigation program according to a statement by a spokesman for Minister Marshall to the Sydney Morning Herald in August 2020, why are the shark nets still being used if the past 10 years of evidence shows that shark nets only caught the targeted sharks 6.68% of the time as oppose to all the other animals caught in the shark?

Local Government

254. Primary producers typically require large areas of land to operate their business, and when coupled with skyrocketing land values, farmers face ever-increasing local government rates bills. What is NSW Government doing to ensure that the rating system is fair and equitable, and that farmers do not bear a disproportionate amount of rate increases, particularly where councils have recently amalgamated?
255. Farmers commonly contribute a higher proportion of local government rates than other ratepayers, despite often deriving less benefit from council services. What is NSW Government doing to ensure that all landholders appropriately contribute to council costs, considering high impact landholders such as State Authorities and State Owned Corporations are currently exempt from paying local government rates?

256. Following the 2019-20 bushfires will there be an increase in the Emergency Services and Fire Levy to either insurance premiums and/or Local Government rates?
257. What is the estimated percentage increase and how will you ensure minimum cost imposts on regional areas and farm businesses?

Aboriginal Fishing Trusts

258. Were projects funded in 2018/19 and 2019/20 from the Aboriginal fishing trust fund?
- a) If so, why aren't they listed on the DPI website?
 - b) Is a list publicly available? If so where?
259. What was the total amount allocated from the aboriginal fishing trust for 2018-19?
260. What was the total amount allocated from the aboriginal fishing trust for 2019-20?
261. Did the Aboriginal fishing Expenditure Trust Fund Committee assess and rank applications for both 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years?
- a) Please disaggregate the number of applications and the amount for each financial year.
262. Why aren't minutes of the aboriginal fishing advisory council on the DPI website?
263. Has the Aboriginal fishing advisory council met since November 2020?
- a) If not, when is the next meeting scheduled for?

Commfish

264. Has CommFish met since 2 October 2020?
- a) If so, why are the minutes not available on the DPI website?
265. The chairman's summary from 2 October 2020 advises that the terms for several members of CommFish will be expiring at the end of November. How many members' terms have expired?
- a) When do they expire?
 - b) Are there any positions currently vacant?
 - c) Have expressions of interest been advertised or distributed?
 - d) If not, why not and when will they?

Cockles

266. Have any of the prosecutions from 4 and 5 January 2021 gone to court yet?
267. Compliance rate is only 81%, and Shellharbour locals believe that the bag limits reduction is not having an effect, and that compliance needs more resourcing. Will the Government increase resourcing for compliance activities?
268. When the Government announced the changes to bag limits, what extra community information was disseminated?

Commonwealth Future Drought Funding & Farm Business Resilience Program

269. The Commonwealth Future Drought Funding requires a co-contribution from the States and Territories to deliver the Farm Business Resilience Program. What is planned?
- a) What funding will be allocated?
270. Where is this being coordinated from?

Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate

271. The Australian Government has committed new funding to extend this program subject to matching by the NSW Government. Will this funding will be committed in the 2012-22 NSW Government's budget?
272. There are a significant number of stranded applications with the Rural Assistance Authority made before the current round closed. What is the status of these applications and when will they will be processed?

Stray Cats on the Stockton Breakwall

273. What investigations have been carried out in relation to the shooting on the Stockton Breakwall by a licenced contractor in December 2020 by the NSW Government or other agencies?
274. Have there been any prosecutions or any other penalties due to those actions?

Agribusiness and Tourism

275. What input has the Department of Primary Industries had into the new tourism agribusiness project that is being undertaken by the NSW Small Business Commissioner?
276. How much financial support has been allocated from the Department of Primary Industries to the program?

RSPCA Additional Funding

277. There were reports on 3 March 2021 that the RSPCA in NSW is set for a \$10.5 million funding boost to improve facilities and conditions for animals, staff and volunteers. When will the RSPCA receive the funding?
278. Will this be a one off \$10.5 million funding boost?
279. Is this a 2021-22 pre-budget announcement?
280. Will recurrent funding be increased for the RSPCA?
281. Will the Animal Welfare League also receive a funding boost?
- a) If not why not?

Biosecurity - Vicious and invasive red-eared slider turtles

282. When did the Department first become aware of the invasion of the red-eared slider turtles?
283. Where have they been identified?
284. How many red eared slider turtles are in NSW?
285. What locations have they been found in?
286. On how many occasions has a scent detector dog been deployed?
287. How many dogs does the team consist of?
288. Are the dogs kept and trained as part of the Department of Primary Industries?
 - a) If not, who provides the dogs?
289. How much had been spent in this financial year to date deploying scent detector dogs?
290. Are the scent detector dogs trained to identified just the red eared slider turtles?
291. How many other species do the dogs identify?
 - a) What are they?
292. When a dog identifies a red eared turtle, what steps are then taken to ensure there is no further biosecurity threat to other native turtles?
293. Are the red eared turtles destroyed?
 - a) If so, where is this done?
294. What monitoring is being conducted in known red eared turtle locations?
 - a) How often is monitoring being conducted?

Marine Estate Knowledge Panel

295. How many expressions of interest were received for each of the member positions?
296. Who considers the expressions of interest?
297. How many members will form the Marine Estate Knowledge Panel?
298. When will members be appointed?
299. When will the first meeting occur for 2021?

300. On the Marine NSW website the most recent advice from the Marine Estate Management Authority (Authority) and Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel (Expert Knowledge Panel) is listed as 13 November 2015. Has the Expert Knowledge Panel provided advice since then?
301. Why has it been over five years since the Expert Knowledge Panel has provided advice?
302. Are members of the Expert Knowledge Panel remunerated?
- If so, how much do they receive?
 - Do they receive a set meeting fee? If so, how much?
 - Are they reimbursed for travel?
 - When did the panel last meet?
 - When were members last paid?

Irrigation Pumps & Recreational Fishers

303. As a Minister who oversees the Fisheries Management Act 1994, can you explain how is it possible that we allow fish and other aquatic animals to be killed as part of irrigation water extraction when the various legislations listed above contain objectives that include the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment and protection of fish and other aquatic animals?
304. Why are funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust Fund being used to try and solve problems with irrigators' impacts on fish populations—problems that are the responsibility of the NSW Government, other government agencies such as WaterNSW, and irrigators, and that should be managed under numerous existing legislation?
305. A total of \$148,000 was recently approved from the Recreational Fishing Trust for a stakeholder workshop/forum to discuss fish screening technology, address the barriers and fast track the adoption of fast track fish screening on irrigation intake pipes. \$148,000 is an absorbent amount for the hosting of a stakeholder workshop/forum. Can you please provide a breakdown of the \$148,000?
306. Has the workshop/forum been held?
- If not, when will it?
307. Where will it be hosted?
308. Will the workshop/forum be invitation only or a public event?
309. Please provide the dates and locations of all workshop/forums?

Animal Welfare and Companion Animal Breeding

310. Do animal welfare enforcement agencies have a right of entry to a residential property where there is no evidence of criminal activity or animal cruelty?

- a) If so, for what purpose?
311. Does the Government support the definition of an animal trade within the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979) to separate animal businesses from non-animal businesses?
312. Is the Government intending to support the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1979) regarding the definition of an animal trade?

Deer control in the Illawarra

313. In relation to the decision by the Government to double the pest eradication fund in NSW as part of the 2020/21 budget;
- a) Has there been any increase in the funding allocated to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program as a result of this decision?
 - b) How much money has the Government contributed to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management program this financial year?
 - c) Has there been any increase in feral deer culling programs in the Illawarra as a result of this decision?
 - d) Will the Minister commit to funding trial feral deer culling programs in the Illawarra this financial year?
314. In response to advocacy by Wollongong City Council and major landholders claiming the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program urgently requires a doubling of funding to stem the increasing populations of feral deer in the Illawarra:
- a) Will the Government commit to matching the current funding provided by partner organisations, and allocate a further \$200,000 to the Program to fund culling and collaborative research projects in the Illawarra?

AGRICULTURE

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

Marine Estate Management Plan Process

315. In regards to the Minister's response (refer to page 18 of the transcript) to questions regarding the status of a regulation to revoke a number of sanctuary zones in the Batemans Marine Park, will the Minister confirm the statutory role of the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) in the processes of considering a draft regulation and in conducting consultation about such a regulation?
316. Will the MEMA "report/recommendation" referred to by the Minister (refer to page 18 of the transcript) be made public before the public consultation that is required under the Marine Estate Management Act?
317. Regarding the "advice" referred to by Mr Hansen (refer to page 19 of the transcript) described by him as: "advice that was given with regard to the amnesty provided around ocean beaches and headlands", will the Minister provide that advice?
- a) If not, was that advice legal advice?
 - i. If yes,
 - 1) was it internal legal advice within the Department?
 - 2) was it Crown Solicitors advice?
 - 3) was it external legal advice?
 - ii. If no,
 - 1) who provided the advice?
 - 2) in what form was the advice provided?
318. Please outline the likely timeline for the finalisation and consultation of management plans for:
- a) Batemans Marine Park
 - b) Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park
319. Are the Batemans and Port Stephens-Great Lakes marine park management plans an independent process, with separate consultation, to the development of a network plan as mentioned by Mr Sloan (refer to page 19 of transcript)?
320. What is the process and proposed timeline for the development of the network plan, including the likely time frame for public consultation?

321. How will the network plan process affect, if at all, the development of management plans for Batemans Marine Park and Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park?
322. Is the regulation, referred to in question 1, to rezone sanctuary zones in Batemans Marine Park going to be exhibited independent of:
- a) The development of the management plan
 - b) The development of a network plan
323. Will the network plan process include a review of spatial management/zoning in each of the following marine parks:
- a) Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park
 - b) Batemans Marine Park
 - c) Jervis Bay Marine Park
 - d) Solitary Islands Marine Park
 - e) Cape Byron Marine Park?
324. If yes to the above question,
- a) how will the consultation of spatial management/zoning be undertaken as part of the network plan?
 - b) Will a separate spatial management/zoning consultation be undertake for each of the following marine parks:
 - i. Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park
 - ii. Batemans Marine Park
 - iii. Jervis Bay Marine Park
 - iv. Solitary Islands Marine Park
 - v. Cape Byron Marine Park?
 - c) If no, will there be a review of spatial management as a result of the network plan and when would this occur in each of the following marine parks:
 - i. Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park
 - ii. Batemans Marine Park
 - iii. Jervis Bay Marine Park

- iv. Solitary Islands Marine Park
- v. Cape Byron Marine Park?
- vi. Batemans Marine Park fishing amnesty

325. Since December 2019, has any correspondence been received in the Ministers Office or DPI Fisheries from the Australian Department of Environment and Energy or the International Union for Conservation of Nature (or subordinate Expert Assessment Group), in regards to the IUCN Green Listing of Montague Island?
- a) If so, what was the nature of that correspondence?
326. Are you aware that the IUCN Green Listing has been given a “precautionary” trigger status as a result of the fishing amnesty?
327. What is the Government doing to ensure that the fishing amnesty does not lead to the IUCN Green Listing status being removed?
328. Has there been any assessment or scientific studies on the impacts of the fishing amnesty on:
- a) Brou Lake South sanctuary zone
 - b) Montague Island South and East sanctuary zones
 - c) Clarks Bay – Freshwater Bay and Forsters Bay sanctuary zones
 - d) Nangudga Lake sanctuary zone
329. Has there been any specific assessment or scientific studies on the impacts of the fishing amnesty on the Grey Nurse Shark population at Montague Island?
330. What is the Government doing to ensure that the amnesty has no impact on the Grey Nurse Shark population at Montague Island when the fishing amnesty is in place from 30 April to 1 November?
331. How many compliance patrols have occurred since the December 2019 fishing amnesty decision to ensure that fishing in Montague Island South and East sanctuary zones has not occurred between 1 November and 30 April?
- a) Please list number of patrols and dates.
332. Has there been any local community consultation or feedback requested in regards to the fishing amnesty decision in:
- a) Brou Lake South sanctuary zone
 - b) Montague Island South and East sanctuary zones
 - c) Clarks Bay – Freshwater Bay and Forsters Bay sanctuary zones

d) Nangudga Lake sanctuary zone.

333. In Answers to Supplementary Questions from the March 2020 Agriculture and Western NSW budget estimates hearing, a response was given to a question regarding what scientific advice was relied upon to put in place the fishing amnesty in sanctuary zones (question no. 84) that said the “proposed changes have been informed by Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) document”. Please provide a specific reference, with page numbers, in the TARA document.

Private Native Forestry reporting

334. In relation to the PNF annual reports referred to by Mr Witherdin that were received by LLS in this financial year and in the last financial year (refer to transcript page 75, para 7), were those reports forwarded to the EPA?

335. For each reporting year (ending 31 March), what was the total volume of timber products harvested and the total land area on which PNF operations were reported to LLS? Please provide this information split into the following forestry regions:

a) Northern NSW

b) Southern NSW

c) River red gum

d) Cypress and western

336. What information/data about PNF operations does LLS currently provide to the following organisations? (please provide information about the nature of the data/information provided, how that information is provided and the timing/regularity of reporting - for example is it routine on a specific timeline or as requested):

a) Department of Primary Industries

b) Environment Protection Authority

c) Environment, Energy and Science

d) Other

337. What information/data about PNF operations does LLS currently receive from the following organisations? (please provide information about the nature of the data/information provided, how that information is provided and the timing/regularity of reporting - for example is it routine on a specific timeline or as requested):

a) Department of Primary Industries

b) Environment Protection Authority

c) Environment, Energy and Science

d) Other

338. What information/data about PNF operations does the DPI currently provide to the following organisations? (please provide information about the nature of the data/information provided, how that information is provided and the timing/regularity of reporting (for example is it routine on a specific timeline or as requested):

a) Environment Protection Authority

b) Local Land Services

c) Environment, Energy and Science

d) Other

339. What information/data about PNF operations does the DPI currently receive from the following organisations? (please provide information about the nature of the data/information provided, how that information is provided and the timing/regularity of reporting - for example is it routine on a specific timeline or as requested):

a) Environment Protection Authority

b) Local Land Services

c) Environment, Energy and Science

d) Other

340. What communication protocols exist, if any, between the EPA and LLS in regards to PNF approval?

341. Before issuing new PNF approvals, does the LLS seek any advice from the EPA about active or proposed PNF operations in the local area?

342. Does either LLS or DPI receive any reporting or have any awareness of where timber products harvested by PNF operations are sold to?

Land clearing code review

343. Who are the members of the Land Management Biodiversity Conservation Board (refer to page 38 of the transcript)?

344. What functions does/will the Land Management Biodiversity Conservation Board perform?

a) Does it have terms of reference and are they publicly available?

b) Will their decisions be made public?

345. Will the terms of reference for the review into the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018 be made public?

346. Will the findings of the review of the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018 be made public?
347. Will set asides required under the Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018 be considered as part of this review?

North West clearing code

348. Who are the members of the landholder reference group (referred to on page 50 of the transcript) that was consulted in regards to a “North West or large area code”?
- a) What are they from and how were they decided upon?
349. Is the report developed as a result of consultation with the landholder reference group in regards to a “North West or large area code” (referred to on page 50 of the transcript) publicly available?
- a) If so, where?
 - b) If not, can this be made publicly available?