



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Industry

AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Hearing: 1 November 2021

Answers due by: 29 November 2021

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AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

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

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

1. Given its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy, has the Department of Primary Industries reviewed the report titled “Hurlstone Agricultural High School Environmental Assessment May 2021” that was completed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
2. Was the Department of Primary Industries involved in determining the scope of the environmental assessment at Hurlstone Agricultural High School?
 - (a) If so, what involvement did the Department have?
 - (b) If not, did the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment inform the Department an environmental assessment was being carried out at Hurlstone Agricultural High School?
 - i. If so, when was the Department informed?
 - ii. If so, was the Department given the chance to assist in determining the scope of the environmental assessment?
3. In what way does the “Hurlstone Agricultural High School Environmental Assessment May 2021” address the concerns raised by the Department in its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy:
 - (a) Land use conflicts between new residential development and agricultural activities at Hurlstone;
 - (b) Noise;
 - (c) Odour;
 - (d) Inadequate buffer zones between dairies and sensitive land uses (residential);
 - (e) Lack of alternative measures to mitigate potential land use conflict;
 - (f) Relocation of public recreation areas;
 - (g) The close proximity of the piggery to Roy Watts Road which is the main access road for the school;
 - (h) The co-location of pigs and poultry and potential biosecurity issues arising from this arrangement; and

- (i) The operational use of the facilities and the management of animal waste products to avoid contamination and biosecurity risks.
4. Does the Department endorse the “recommended mitigation measures” outlined in the report in relation to the design of the Farm Hub at Hurlstone?
- (a) If not, why not?
5. Is the Department satisfied the “recommended mitigation measures” will be effective in addressing concerns raised in its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy?
- (a) If not, what extra mitigation measures does the Department consider necessary to address concerns raised in its submission on the Draft Glenfield Place Strategy?
6. Is the Department being consulted by School Infrastructure NSW or the Department of Education as the development application process for the Farm Hub upgrade at Hurlstone progresses?
- (a) If so, what advice has the Department given in relation to the design of the Farm Hub?

Wild Deer Management in the Illawarra

7. In relation to the decision by the Government to double the pest eradication fund in NSW as part of the 2020/21 budget;
- (a) Was there an increase in the funding for the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program as a result of this decision in:
 - i. The 2020/21 financial year?
 - ii. The 2021/22 financial year?
 - (b) How much money has the Government contributed to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management program in the 2021/22 financial year?
 - (c) Has there been any increase in feral deer culling programs in the Illawarra as a result of the increase in pest eradication fund in NSW?
 - (d) Will the Minister commit to funding additional trial feral deer culling programs in the Illawarra in the 2021/22 financial year?
8. In response to advocacy by Wollongong City Council and major landholders claiming the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program urgently requires a doubling of annual funding to stem the increasing population numbers 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 Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Eggs

9. During the hearing you advised that NSW had provided feedback in response to the draft Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. Please provide a copy of this feedback.
10. In 2016 the Hilltops free range egg farm was issued a licence by the NSW Food Authority. It is my understanding that the local Hilltops council was not aware of the existence of this egg farm within its LGA until it received a formal complaint from Animal Liberation relating to serious animal welfare, biosecurity and environmental concerns. Since that time, the egg farm has been issued with dozens of corrective action notices noted as 'defects', some of which involve serious implications regarding public health, biosecurity, animal welfare and environmental considerations.

How was a licence for a large-scale animal agri-business issued without ensuring the local government council authority is advised to ensure necessary adherence to planning requirements?

Animal Welfare Reforms

11. Will the Department be publishing the results of the online survey that accompanied the Animal Welfare Reform discussion paper?
12. Proposal 13 of the discussion paper asked for comments on enforcement arrangements of animal welfare laws. How many of the survey responses which responded directly to this question supported establishing an independent enforcement body such as an Independent Office of Animal Protection, and how many explicitly did not support the establishment of an independent enforcement body?