



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions**

**Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and Customer Service**

**TRANSPORT AND ROADS**

Hearing: Tuesday 2 November 2021

**Answers due by: 30 November 2021**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**  
Phone 9230 2898  
[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## TRANSPORT AND ROADS

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

#### MAINTENANCE

1. What is the total maintenance budget for the Sydney Trains Network from 2020-2021?
2. What is the total maintenance budget for the NSW Trains Network from 2020-2021?
3. What is the total maintenance budget for the Sydney Ferry Network from 2020-2021?
4. What is the total maintenance budget for STA buses from 2020-2021?
5. What is the total maintenance budget for the Sydney Metro Network from 2020-2021?
6. What is the total maintenance budget for the Sydney and Newcastle Light Rail Networks from 2020 - 2021?

#### POST COVID ACTIVE TRANSPORT

7. How many passengers does Transport for NSW anticipate will use the transport network across Greater Sydney over the coming months?
  - (a) Does Transport for NSW have plans to promote forms of active transport including walking and riding to ease capacity constraints across the network as people return to work in greater numbers?
  - (b) Will there be more pop up cycleways?
  - (c) Will public land be set aside for temporary car-parks as was the case in 2020?
  - (d) What are measures Transport for NSW has implemented recently to increase the amount of commuters who ride or walk as we emerge from lockdown?
8. Why were the 2021 – 2022 Walking and Cycling Program grants cancelled?
9. Does the Government still support the use of the Principal Bike Network?
  - (a) How much has the Government spent on developing the PBN so far?
  - (b) Does the Department have advice as to why the implementation of the PBN has not been progressed?
  - (c) If the Government is not using the PBN to plan the rollout of cycling infrastructure then how is the delivery of such infrastructure being planned by the Department?

10. What is the total amount spent on active transport infrastructure in the most recent budget?
  - (a) How much of that is already accounted for in the budgets of existing major infrastructure projects?
  - (b) How does that compare to the spend on active transport infrastructure in the 2020 budget?

### **TfNSW CORPORATE REVIEW**

11. Will the Transport Secretary sit down with Unions and negotiate conditions for former Sydney Trains and NSW Trains employees now employed at TfNSW affected by the Corporate Functions/Property and Commercial Services Reviews?
12. Why isn't the Transport Minister/Secretary supporting essential transport workers by ensuring that they are able to perform their roles across different transport agencies without loss of conditions?
13. What is the cost to NSW Taxpayers of retention, redeployment and redundancy benefits for those Sydney Trains and NSW Trains employees affected by the Corporate Functions/Property and Commercial Services Reviews?
14. How can the Transport Minister/Secretary justify these expenses in the middle of a Global Pandemic which is costing the economy billions of dollars?
15. Can the Transport Secretary rule out further restructuring and job losses in TfNSW with respect to corporate functions and property and commercial services?
16. Can the Transport Minister rule out privatisation of some or all of the Sydney Trains and/or NSW Trains rail network?

### **UNFAIR DISMISSAL OF TfNSW EMPLOYEE THOMAS WOOD**

17. Can Transport confirm the amount paid in damages to former Forensic Investigator Thomas Wood after he successfully filed against TfNSW for unfair dismissal in the Supreme Court of NSW?
18. What was the act committed by Mr Wood considered to be 'Serious and wilful misconduct' by TfNSW?
19. Why did the Department take 9 months to provide the Police with information about the suspect in the relevant investigation, the late Dennis Pietrobon who was also a TfNSW employee?
20. Why did the Department tell the Police that there were 'nil complaints' recorded in its employee Mr Pietrobon's file?

21. Was the Minister at the time briefed either in writing or verbally?
22. Does Transport have any plans to change or amend their internal policies so as to allow employees to co-operate with Police without them being dismissed for serious and wilful misconduct?

### **CYCLIST AND DELIVERY DRIVER SAFETY**

23. Currently there is a tender underway for light rail track inserts that will be essential to improving the safety of bicycle riders, wheelchair users, people who use prams and wheeled mobility assistance where tyres can become trapped at crossing points across tracks. How is this tender progressing?
24. How much has been spent on testing these technologies?
25. What has been spent on making the Parramatta Light Rail project safe for bike riders when 78% of crossings of the tracks are at dangerous angles?
26. The proposed regulation of the Food Delivery sector includes the regulation of clothing, footwear and training for riders, but we know from the evidence that in most cases when a motor vehicle hits a bike rider, the driver was at fault. How much has the government invested in educating drivers about close passing and safe behaviour around bike riders?
27. Does Transport have plans to roll out a driver education campaign regarding the times that riders are most vulnerable, including dawn, dusk, inclement weather, etc.?
28. Faced with a lack of education for drivers about the close passing laws or ways to protect bike riders by the Centre for Road Safety, Bicycle NSW developed their own resources and campaign and launched it in October 2020. This absorbed a substantial proportion of the non-profit organisation's budget. This year the Motorcycle Council of NSW has delivered their own safety campaign during October. How much has the Centre for Road Safety spent on engaging with, and supporting, expert road user stakeholders who are working so hard to fill the gaps and make our roads safer?

### **MANLY FERRY SERVICE**

29. Given the Freshwater Class Manly Ferries are displacement vessels with a great deal of hull space, they can easily be electrified in line with the Minister and the Department's stated aims. Does the replacement Emerald Class catamaran fleet have the hull space to be electrified?
30. Naval Architects and Marine Engineers across the globe agree that the future of commuter ferries is in electric powered, thruster propulsion. Why was the decision taken to purchase diesel powered, propeller based ferries?

31. Is it correct that the defects in the new River Class Ferries include but aren't limited to, the presence of asbestos, sub-standard fit and finish, sub-standard electrical equipment and cabling, engines stalling and wheelhouse window angles that make night operations dangerous because of reflection?

### **PARRAMATTA RIVER FERRY SERVICE**

32. Have any other defects in the River Class Ferries been found?

### **COVID-19**

33. Can the Department confirm that Transport for NSW has not sought or received advice regarding the use of QR codes on all train, bus, ferry and light rail services?
34. How many positive COVID-19 cases have been reported to date on NSW public transport involving passengers?
35. How many COVID-19 cases have been reported on public transport since NSW hit 70% double vaccination and began to reopen?
36. Given we know public transport has additional risks (confined spaces, large numbers of people, poor ventilation), why didn't Transport for NSW at least seek advice about the use of QR codes on all forms of public transport?
37. Why are small businesses being asked to ensure customers register using QR codes but Transport for NSW isn't?

### **LEVEL CROSSINGS ON THE SOUTH COAST LINE**

38. When will level crossings be removed in the Illawarra for pedestrians?
39. When will level crossings be removed in the Illawarra for vehicles?
40. What work is planned by TfNSW and when will it commence?
41. When will level crossings be removed in the Shoalhaven and South Coast of NSW for pedestrians?
42. When will level crossings be removed in the Shoalhaven and South Coast of NSW for vehicles?
43. What work is planned by TfNSW and when will it commence?
44. Is it Government policy to reduce the number of level crossings on the South Coast Line?
45. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport plan refers to C-ITS technology research that could be applied across the region to improve safety at level crossings (pg38-39).

- (a) What is the work that is planned to improve safety at Illawarra Shoalhaven level crossing using C-ITS technology?
- (b) When will the work commence and be complete?

### **LAWRENCE HARGRAVE DRIVE/PRINCES HIGHWAY BULLI AND THIRROUL IMPROVEMENTS**

46. In relation to the reserved corridor for the proposed extension of Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass:
- (a) Why isn't the extension of Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass listed as an "initiative for investigation" in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan?
  - (b) Is the reserved corridor connecting Memorial Drive to Bulli Pass considered the most appropriate connection to bypass Bulli and Thirroul Villages?
  - (c) What are the other options is Transport for NSW considering to resolve traffic congestion through the northern suburbs of Wollongong that are more appropriate than the extension of Memorial Drive?
  - (d) Is there another connection/corridor being considered to bypass Bulli and Thirroul Villages?

### **COAL TRAINS TRAVELLING ON SOUTH COAST RAIL LINE**

47. Is the Department aware of public concern regarding coal dust being spread across residential homes as a result of coals trains travelling on the South Coast Rail Line?
48. Are coverings placed on coal containers that travel by rail through the Hunter region?
49. Will the Department look into requiring coverings to be used on coal containers on trains using the South Coast rail line?
- (a) If so, when will this action be implemented?
  - (b) If not, why not?

### **NEW INTERCITY FLEET**

50. Will the Government commit to funding a strategic business plan for a passenger and freight orbital connecting south west Sydney to Wollongong such as the South West Illawarra Rail Link (SWIRL)?
51. How much has been spent on modifying the tracks, stations and stabling facilities for the New InterCity Fleet?

52. How much has been spent on the New Intercity Fleet project team, including contractors, consultants and admin staff?

### **Sydney toll burden**

53. What does the Government expect the aggregate amount of tolls paid on Sydney tollways this financial year to be?
54. Has anyone in Transport for NSW or the Minister's office calculated the aggregate amount Sydneysiders pay in tolls this financial year?
- (a) If yes, what is the approximate figure?
55. Has anyone in Transport for NSW or the Minister's office calculated the aggregate amount that Western Sydney drivers will pay in tolls this financial year?
- (a) If yes, what is the approximate figure?
56. What does the Government expect to be the aggregate amount of toll paid by drivers over the life of the Westconnex contract to 2060?
57. What does the Government expect to be the aggregate amount of tolls paid by all NSW drivers between now and 2060?

### **Commuter Car Parks**

58. What work has been completed to date on the proposed commuter car park in Gosford?
- (a) What locations have been considered (please list)?
- (b) What is the estimated cost per car space for each of the locations considered?
- (c) Have Transport NSW narrowed this down to a final location?
- (d) Have any meetings between Transport NSW and the office of the Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks, occurred to discuss this project?
- i. If so, can the minutes for this meeting(s) be provided?
59. What work has been completed to date on the proposed commuter car park in Woy Woy
- (a) What locations have been considered (please list)?
- (b) What is the estimated cost per car space for each of the locations considered?
- (c) Have Transport NSW narrowed this down to a final location?

- (d) Have any meetings between Transport NSW and the office of the Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks, occurred to discuss this carpark?
  - i. If so, can the minutes for this meeting(s) be provided?

## Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

### **Kamay Ferry Wharf**

- 60. What is the overall budget for this project?

### **Western Harbour Tunnel / Beaches Link**

- 61. We have heard testimony during the Inquiry into the Impacts of the Western Harbour and Beaches Link tunnel that no substantive alternatives were assessed and in fact only a toll road option has been considered. Are you confident that these projects represent the best option and the best value for money for this corridor?
- 62. We have heard testimony during the Inquiry into the Impacts of the Western Harbour and Beaches Link tunnel that the risks to Sydney Harbour are severe and toxins such as a PFAS have been detected. Are you confident that the benefits of this project outweigh the risks? Are you confident that with a BCR of only 1.2 that there is sufficient allowance to manage the risks to our Harbour, waterways and communities well?
- 63. At least 3500 trees will be removed for the sake of these projects. Do you think a replacement value of only 2:1 is sufficient? Given the large number of schools in the area and high levels of pollution that already exists, do you think removing this many mature trees in densely populated urban areas is wise?
- 64. How long will it be before the replacement trees are able to capture the same amount of emissions/pollution as the existing trees?
- 65. Infrastructure NSW originally quoted the cost of the projects within the “State Infrastructure Strategy Update 2014” as costing up to \$4.5 billion for Western Harbour Tunnel and \$2.4 billion to \$3.1 billion for Beaches Link; they also reported that project toll revenues are unlikely to fully offset the cost. Why are these projects proceeding when the costs are now thought to be more than double and up to triple the original cost estimate?
- 66. Has the risk to health of high rise residents and the conditions needed over planned development in the area been costed?
- 67. With the health order to keep children safe during COVID by keeping windows open, how do you plan to keep children safe with up to 10,000 diesel construction vehicles daily hauling



potentially contaminated spoil through Sydney's highest density of schools (between Rozelle and Balgowlah).

68. Why has TfNSW refused to consider any realignments or substantive solutions proposed by the community (i.e. undergrounding facilities at the Golf Course and realignment of the tunnels to avoid the tip site at Flat Rock)?
69. When was the early works contract for the Warringah Freeway tendered?
70. Can details be provided of the tender process for the early works contract for the Warringah Freeway?
71. Has a security assessment been done with regards to awarding an overseas State owned company a contract that involves widespread relocation of utilities as part of the Sydney Program Alliance works?
72. Given that the SouthWest Metro Business Case summary stated that an immersed tube was not suitable to cross the Harbour due to unacceptable environmental risks, why is it now considered safe to use an immersed tube in an area that is further west and recognised to be even more contaminated?
73. Can you provide more information about the land swap deal being proposed via North Sydney Council between Berry's Bay and Crown Land at Cammeray Park/Golf Course?
74. Over 22ha of green space will be lost as a result of both projects in areas with little green space. Both Berry's Bay and the return of land to the Community at the Golf Course were previously promised - why is the community suddenly now being short changed with one site exchanged for another?
75. How many times since INSW first announced scoping solutions for this corridor has the Department of Transport met with toll road related lobby groups or industry (eg Infrastructure Partners Australia, Transurban or tunnelling construction companies)?
76. Infrastructure Australia recommended a review of all major Infrastructure Projects due to the acknowledged impacts of COVID-19. Why have the changes to work and travel habits and the impact on the BCR not been assessed given the location of this proposal in the heart of the knowledge economy zone?
77. Have you calculated what the economic costs of damage to the environment are as a result of these projects?
78. How does creating an extra 1 million vehicle kms travelled per day fit with the governments climate change targets?
79. Where will the thousands of tonnes of contaminated spoil mentioned in the EIS be dried out and disposed of?