



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-2022 Supplementary Questions

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Environment and Heritage

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Hearing: 1 March 2022

Answers due by: 29 March 2022

Budget Estimates secretariat

Phone 9230 2112

BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

ENVIRONMENT

Questions from Mr Justin Field MLC

NRC: Review of Private Native Forestry Codes

Regarding the Natural Resource Commission's review of the Private Native Forestry Codes as mentioned by Mr Wilde on page 37 of the transcript,

1. Did EES make a submission to the review?
 - a) If yes, will you provide a copy of that submission?
 - b) If no, what input did EES have into the review process?
2. Did the EPA make a submission to the review?
 - a) If yes, will you provide a copy of that submission?
 - b) If no, what input did the EPA have into the review process?

EPA: Forestry Corporation NSW harvesting operations under the CIFOA

3. Does the EPA maintain the view outlined in the letter dated 22nd September 2020 from Ms Mackey to Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary Department of Regional NSW, and Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Acting CEO Forestry Corporation of NSW (available here: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/forestry/letter-of-response-to-regional-nsw-and-forestry-corporation---22-september-2020.pdf?la=en&hash=3F169E7F230BCF36076591AACCF246C8DCB0EC96>) that:

“Subsequent timber harvesting in areas impacted by fire pose a major environmental risk to the extent that ecologically sustainable forest management (ESFM), as required under the NSW Forestry Act 2012, is unlikely to be achievable under a business-as-usual approach.”

4. Regarding the following statement contained in the letter dated 22nd September 2020 from Ms Mackey to Mr Gary Barnes, Secretary Department of Regional NSW, and Mr Anshul Chaudhary, Acting CEO Forestry Corporation of NSW (available here: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/forestry/letter-of-response-to-regional-nsw-and-forestry-corporation---22-september-2020.pdf?la=en&hash=3F169E7F230BCF36076591AACCF246C8DCB0EC96>) that:

“The EPA has a statutory objective to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment in NSW having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development. In this context I am currently considering regulatory options to ensure the risk to the environment continues to be appropriately addressed.”

5. What 'regulatory options' have been considered by the EPA since 22 September 2020?
6. What 'regulatory options' have the EPA successfully implemented above those contained within the CFIOA or voluntarily implemented by FCNSW?

7. Has legal advice been sought on the question of the FCNSW's compliance with ESFM requirements under the NSW Forestry Act 2012 since 22 September 2020 in relation to the requirement for ESFM under the NSW Forestry Act 2012?
 - a) If so, when was this advice sought?
 - b) Was it internal or external legal advice?
 - c) What was the outcome of this legal advice?

8. Is there any ongoing work by the EPA to monitor and evaluate the question of FCNSW's compliance with ESFM requirements under the NSW Forestry Act 2012 outside of normal compliance actions?
 - a) If so, what is the nature of this work?

9. Is the EPA currently engaging with FCNSW on any protective measures for native forest harvesting operations additional to those in the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals? If so, what is the nature of this engagement?

EPA: Crown forestry inspections

10. In relation to the information displayed in the crown forestry table on the EPA web page titled *Inspections of forestry operations*, (<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/native-forestry/the-epas-role-in-forestry-operations/inspections-of-forestry-operations>) is this a comprehensive list of approved, active and completed harvesting operations by Forestry Corporation NSW for harvesting which was completed after 31 August 2021?
 - a) On what basis was a completion date of 31 August 2021 chosen for the display of this information?

11. In relation to the information displayed in the crown forestry table on the EPA web page titled *Inspections of forestry operations* , for each of the compartments where it is noted an inspection took place, did that inspection take place, before, during or after harvesting operations?

12. In relation to the information displayed in the crown forestry table on the EPA web page titled *Inspections of forestry operations*, the EPA identifies planned and commenced logging operations as 'high risk' where no inspection has taken place.
 - a) What policy or operational procedures are in place to determine which sites are inspected before and during harvesting operations?
 - b) Are high risk sites treated differently from non-high risk sites in terms of inspections?
 - c) Will the EPA inspect all currently approved state forests that are identified as 'high risk' before harvesting commences?
 - i. If not, why not?

13. For each of the forestry regions in NSW, how many compartments were subject to pre-harvest inspections by the EPA in each of the following calendar years?
 - a) 2019
 - b) 2020
 - c) 2021

- d) January-March 2022?
14. For each of the forestry regions in NSW, how many compartments were subject to inspections during harvest by the EPA in each of the following calendar years?
- a) 2019
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - b) 2020
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - c) 2021
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - d) January-March 2022?
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
15. For each of the forestry regions in NSW, how many compartments were subject to post-harvest inspections during harvest by the EPA in each of the following calendar years?
- a) 2019
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - b) 2020
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - c) 2021
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?
 - d) January-March 2022?
 - i. How many of these were a result of a complaint/report of a breach?

EPA: South Brooman State Forest investigation

16. What is the status of the investigation into alleged breaches by Forestry Corporation in South Brooman State Forest Compartment 58A?
- a) South Brooman State Forest Compartment 58A - Part 1
 - b) South Brooman State Forest Compartment 58A - Part 2
17. When will a decision be made about the outcome of the investigation into alleged breaches by Forestry Corporation in South Brooman State Forest Compartment 58A - Parts 1 and 2?

EPA: Mogo State Forest compartments 161, 173A, 174

18. In relation to the three penalty notices issued for breaches in Mogo State Forest compartments 161, 173A, 174:
- a) Who was each notice issued to?
 - b) What was the specific breach confirmed for each penalty notice?
 - c) How much was the penalty issued for each notice?
 - d) Have the penalty notices been complied with and any fines paid?

EPA: Alleged breaches in Mogo State Forest and Currowan State Forest

19. Are alleged breaches in Mogo State Forest compartment 146, reported on December 31st 2021 (Reference ID 01036112), being investigated by the EPA?
 - a) If so, why does this investigation not appear on the *Register of Crown forestry investigations* page on the EPA's website?
20. Are alleged breaches in Currowan State Forest compartment 502, reported on January 1st 2022 (Reference ID 01036142), being investigated by the EPA?
 - a) If so, why does this investigation not appear on the *Register of Crown forestry investigations* page on the EPA's website?

EES: Native Vegetation Regulatory Map

21. When will the Transitional Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) Map be removed and a complete NVR Map be released?
22. What are the remaining incomplete components of the final Native Vegetation Regulatory Map?
23. When an updated NVR Map is released, will it include all land that must be identified as Category 2 regulated land under Part 5A, Division 2, Section 60I of the LLS Act?
24. Is there an ongoing program of work to improve the NRV map over time? If so, what does this program of work involve, over what expected timeframes?

BCT: Reforms to the charge framework for payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme

25. What is the status of the reforms to replace the Biodiversity Offset Payment Calculator with a new more accurate charge framework for payments to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust instead of securing offsets?
26. What are the expected steps and timeframes to achieve implementation of the new charge framework?
27. What officials and/or Minister/Ministers have the authority to approve proposed changes to the charge framework?

BCT: Outstanding offset obligations held by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust

28. In an answer received in August 2021 to Question on Notice 7032, asked by The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, the BCT reported four offset obligations that it had held unfulfilled for more than three years. For each of these four obligations:
 - a) Is the offset obligation still unfulfilled?
 - b) Who was the proponent who made the payment to the BCT to discharge their offset obligation?
 - c) What was the project and development application number for which the offsets were required?
 - d) What biodiversity offset credit types were the payments made for?
 - e) How much did they pay?

EES: Climate change adaptation

29. When will the updated NARClIM climate projections for NSW, funded under the 2017-2022 tranche of the Climate Change Fund, be published?
30. How will EES effectively educate NSW government agencies on how to use the updated climate projections to assess climate risk?
31. How will the updated NARClIM climate change projections be integrated into decision making across government?
32. When will the NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, mentioned on the AdaptNSW website (<https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government-action-climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20change%20adaptation%20strategy&text=It%20will%20provide%20a%20vision,%E2%80%93%20not%20eroding%20%E2%80%93%20their%20prosperity>), be published?
33. What program of work is being undertaken to develop and finalise the NSW Climate Change Adaptation Strategy?
34. How is the NSW Government responding to recommendations in the September 2021 NSW Audit Office report titled 'Managing climate risks to assets and services'?

EPA: Biomass for energy generation guidelines

35. When will the EPA biomass for energy generation guidelines, clarifying what constitutes 'higher value use' under the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Native Forest Bio-material) Regulation 2020, be made public?
36. Will they be available on the EPA website?
 - a) If so, where?
37. What will the legal status of the guidelines be?

EPA: Private Native Forestry reporting requirements

38. What steps will the EPA take to ensure comprehensive compliance with reporting requirements under Section 2.2 of the PNF Codes of Practice, ahead of the March 31 2022 reporting deadline?
39. Does the EPA work with EES to identify potential breaches of PNF reporting requirements and other requirements under the PNF Codes of Practice from the SLATS program
 - a) If yes, what is the nature of this relationship and information sharing?
 - b) How many compliance actions in relation to PNF activities have been initiated as a result of information arising through SLATs reporting?

EPA: Private Native Forestry monitoring and compliance

40. Answers to Questions on Notice 8207 on monitoring and compliance of PNF harvesting activities in the 2021/22 financial year stated that for Southern NSW, the Riverina Red Gum and the Cypress and Western Hardwood forest regions when there has only been one, one and zero inspections, respectively, in these regions. Given this low level of inspections, what other

work has the EPA undertaken in the 21/22 financial year to ensure compliance with PNF Codes of Practice in these regions?

41. Answers to Questions on Notice 8207 on monitoring and compliance of PNF harvesting activities in the 2021/22 financial year stated there had been 13 advisory letters, 7 formal warnings and 1 official caution issued as a result of investigations. For each of these 21 compliance actions:
- a) What activity, breach or potential breach was discovered by EPA that led to the stated compliance action?
 - b) What forest region did the compliance action take place (Northern NSW, Southern NSW, the Riverina Red Gum and the Cypress and Western Hardwood)?

EES: Native vegetation clearing compliance activities

42. What is the framework, guideline, or internal policy, specific to vegetation clearing, used by EES to consistently determine when a potential land clearing breach warrants the various compliance actions available (advisory letters, warning letters, official cautions, penalty notices, remedial orders, prosecutions)?
- a) What is the trigger/decision making process to determine if a matter should be referred to the Special Investigations Branch?
43. For the 35 remedial orders that are currently being implemented, as mentioned on page 59 of the transcript, please provide the following details:
- a) Time frames for completing remediation
 - b) Specific remediation activities ordered
 - c) Oversight by EES to ensure remediation orders are being complied with
 - d) Resources within EES to oversight of implementation of remediation orders.

EES: Detection of clearing under Rural Boundary Clearing Code

44. In the March 2nd Budget Estimates hearing, an EES official noted that the Science Division was detecting clearing along boundary lines in their early change monitoring, indicating application of the Rural Boundary Clearing Code. Has EES quantified the extent of clearing that can reasonably be assumed to be clearing done under the Rural Boundary Clearing Code since it was introduced in August 2021?
- a) If so, what is the quantity of clearing detected?
45. Will vegetation clearing which can reasonably be assumed to have been done under the Rural Boundary Clearing Code be systematically monitored and reported by EES, in the annual woody vegetation change reporting or elsewhere?

NPWS: Infrastructure spending

46. In the 2021-22 budget, the NSW Government committed '\$257 million to 170 'new and improved community infrastructure projects'. For each of the 170 projects, can NPWS list the project name, location and funds allocated?

47. How many new hut-to-hut walks are currently proposed or being built in NSW National Parks?
48. Does the NSW Government have a policy on the construction or leasing of accommodation or infrastructure in national parks and protected areas for exclusive use by private tourism operators?

NPWS: Light to Light track upgrade and accommodation construction

49. In relation to the proposed accommodation being built on the Light to Light track, have environmental impacts been re-evaluated in light of the impacts from the 2019-20 bushfires?
 - a) Has a new Review of Environmental Factors (REF) been completed?
 - b) If so, is the updated REF public?
50. How can NPWS justify vegetation clearing for accommodation construction at Mowarry Point, when it is one of the few areas in Ben Boyd National Park that did not burn in the bushfires?
51. How is a direct impact of 2.9ha and indirect impact of 2.83ha, as identified in the REF, consistent with the objects of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1979?
52. What is the estimated cost per night for staying at the proposed new accommodation on the new light to light track?
53. How has community feedback been taken into account in finalising the proposal for the light to light walk?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Air quality

54. When will the review of the load-based licencing scheme be finalised and published?
55. The Clean Air Strategy proposes Government “Continue to better manage the impacts of mining - Support the improved management of air impacts from coal mining, as required under the *Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW*’. Through the department and EPA, work with the coal mining and extraction industries to further reduce dust emissions.” Will this recommendation inform the EPA’s decision on whether or not to include coal mining emissions in its LBL review?
56. What is the EPA’s plan for public consultation on the Clean Air Regulations review?
57. Will the EPA do another round of public consultation on the load based licensing review?

Coal ash

58. When was the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and Dams Safety NSW, in relation to the management and remediation of coal ash dams, signed and finalised?
 - a) Please provide a copy of the MOU.
 - b) Is this MOU publicly available?
59. What does the EPA consider to be adequate remediation of a coal fired power station, specifically with regards to coal ash dams?
60. Will the EPA require sites former and decommissioning coal fired power stations to remediate and rehabilitate coal ash dams prior to embarking on any new development project, and include enforceable conditions in relevant EPA administered licences or approvals?
61. Generator Property Management (GPM) requested extensions on their Munmorah remedial action plan, initially required to be presented 60 days after demolition of the power station (which was demolished in October 2018) to August 2020, then extended again to October 2020. Has GPM presented a remedial action plan?
 - a) Please provide a copy of the agreed remedial action plan.

Greenhouse gas emissions

62. Does the EPA have a policy that will ensure NSW methane emissions are not increasing and starting to fall?
63. Will the EPA place enforceable greenhouse gas emissions intensity limits in the EPL’s of coal mines?
64. The Department of Planning and Environment recommends approval of the Narrabri Underground Mine Stage 3 Extension project based on economic benefits, but finds these

benefits reduce “significantly” if greenhouse emissions are properly accounted for. Why did the Department not quantify the significant reduction?

65. Will the EPA place enforceable greenhouse gas emissions intensity limits in the EPL’s of minerals mines?

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

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

Waverley War Memorial Hospital

66. Heritage NSW has come back to Waverley Council several times saying that while the full site of the War Memorial Hospital Waverley meets the threshold for State heritage significance, it was not considered a priority for state heritage listing nomination. Please list the reasons why the site was not prioritised for listing?
67. Correspondence dated 23 February 2022 from Waverley's mayor, Paula Masselos, formally asked you to reconsider previous determinations that the site was not prioritised for heritage listing. What is your response to that request?
68. What information has Heritage NSW requested from Waverley Council in order for Heritage NSW to reconsider its prioritisation of state heritage listing for the site?
69. Will you commit to reconsidering Heritage NSW's full nomination of the entire site for heritage listing?

Beaches Link tollway destroying Aboriginal heritage

70. How many Aboriginal sites are within the path and environs of the Beaches Link tollway and impacted by the project?
71. Can you please list the sites?
72. How much has been allocated in the State budget to protecting the Aboriginal sites around and in the path of the Beaches Link tollway?
73. How many staff are employed to work on protecting the Aboriginal sites around and in the path of the Beaches Link tollway?
74. What is the current plan for protecting and preserving heritage sites around the Beaches Link tollway?
75. A 2016 blueprint listed dozens of major heritage impacts that will be caused by the Beaches Link tollway. Will you release this blueprint?
76. What steps have been taken to ensure that blasting associated with the roadworks will not cause any damage to these precious sites?

Royal National Park coastal cabin communities

77. What is the total number of coastal cabins in the Royal National Park?
78. How much does the NSW government allocate to administering and overseeing the management of the coastal cabin communities in the national park?

79. Will you commit to ensuring the heritage protection of the cabins is included in the final Plan of Management for the Royal National Park?
80. Will you commit to starting discussions with the Royal National Park Protection League regarding the extension of the licensing arrangements that are due to expire in March 2027?
81. When do you intend for these discussions to commence and when will they finish?

Regent Theatre Mudgee

82. Do you agree with the Hon. Dugald Saunders and the Hon. Don Harwin about the importance of preserving the Regent Theatre in Mudgee following its state heritage listing?
83. Mr Saunders gave an interview on 2GB on January 20 of this year suggesting that the new owners of the building might build accommodation on the site and simply retain the façade. Would that be in line with the current heritage listing?
84. Mr Saunders, in that same 2GB interview on January 20, said that government could not be involved in bringing such a theatre back to life.
 - a) Do you agree?
 - b) If so, do you think local and/or state government should remove their support from fully council-owned and operated theatres across the State?
85. Will you commit to acquiring and restoring the Regent Theatre and bringing it back to life as a live performance venue?
86. Do you agree with Mr Saunders that art deco theatres like this are “a bit of a tinderbox?”
87. Would it be possible, under the current heritage listing, to redevelop the site into accommodation?
88. Is the theatre fully protected as a theatre?
89. If the current heritage listing does not fully protect the Regent as a theatre, will you promise to strengthen the Regent Theatre’s heritage listing to ensure the entire structure is protected?
90. Is there any intention whatsoever of weakening the heritage listing of the Regent Theatre in Mudgee?
91. Will you promise that the Regent’s state heritage listing will not be weakened?

Fernhill Estate

92. When will Fernhill Estate open to the public?
93. The Fernhill Estate Foundation Plan of Management to 2026 refers to “land use opportunities” such as “glamping,” boutique accommodation, food and beverage, and “health spa and wellness.” How will your government protect the heritage of Fernhill with all of these plans for development appearing on the planning brochure?

94. Most of the estate is on the State Heritage Register, according to page 29 of the plan of management. “The remainder is listed as a place of local heritage significance by Penrith Council.” When will you put these remaining areas of Fernhill on the State Heritage Register?

Signal Hill Battery

95. What is the heritage status of Signal Hill Battery at Watsons Bay?
96. Has the NSW Government taken any steps or measures to protect the Signal Hill Battery site?
97. Has the NSW Government considered formal heritage protection?
98. If yes, when? Or if no, why not?
99. As the site is in a dilapidated state, what actions are you taking to restore and protect Signal Hill Battery – in the long-term?
100. Has the government taken any steps to open the underground complex to the public, after restoring it?

Appointments to Heritage Council

101. Applications for appointments to the Heritage Council of NSW closed on October 13, 2021. How many applications were received?
102. How many applications have thus far been considered?
103. Have any of the three appointments been made?
104. Who will make the appointments?
105. Will you personally make these appointments?
106. Is there any independent consultative panel to advise you on the suitability of appointments?
107. What safeguards exist to ensure that the appointments are appropriate – and free of conflicts of interest?
108. Will you exclude property developers and real estate agents from the council?

Glenlee

109. Have you met with the local community and the Georges River Council regarding this project?
110. In response to a petition with more than 2000 signatures requesting that your government acquire and preserve Glenlee, the previous Planning Minister said that “there is no funding available to acquire the site.” What is your response to community calls for the state to purchase the site?

111. Will you commit to purchasing the site?
112. What work has taken place since the interim heritage listing to protect the site?
113. When does the date of the interim heritage order expire?
114. Will you extend the interim heritage order to beyond the next State election?
115. Will you place this site on the State Heritage Register?

Loftus Junction Signal Box

116. How many heritage listings were removed last year?
117. How many heritage listings were removed in 2011-12?
118. How many heritage listings were removed in 2012-13?
119. How many heritage listings were removed in 2013-14?
120. How many heritage listings were removed in 2014-15?
121. How many heritage listings were removed in 2015-16?
122. How many heritage listings were removed in 2016-17?
123. How many heritage listings were removed in 2017-18?
124. How many heritage listings were removed in 2018-19?
125. How many heritage listings were removed in 2019-20?
126. How many heritage listings were removed in 2020-21?
127. What were the formal reasons for the removal of the Loftus Junction Signal Box for the State Heritage Register?
 - a) What will be built in its place – if the approval is granted and it is removed?
128. What will happen to the box if heritage protection is removed?

Aboriginal Heritage

129. Given your predecessor declared that one of his “key projects” was to “overhaul Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation,” labelling the current “legislative position... wholly unsatisfactory”, does your government plan to create specific legislation for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage?
130. Will you adopt recommendations from the Inquiry into the Heritage Act which states that:

- a) Recommendation 7: “two members of the Heritage Council of NSW must be an Aboriginal man and an Aboriginal woman, with expertise in Aboriginal cultural heritage;” and
- b) Recommendation 16: “That, as a matter of priority, the NSW Government progress the reform of Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation in tandem with the review of the Heritage Act 1977.”

Massacre sites

- 131. What massacre sites are under consideration for heritage listing?
- 132. How many Aboriginal massacre sites are officially protected in NSW? Please list them.
- 133. How many Aboriginal massacre sites are under consideration for protection?
- 134. What is the status of the Appin massacre site near Campbelltown and does it have any protection?

Blue Plaques

- 135. How many nominations for blue plaques have you received?
- 136. How many have been rejected?
- 137. Who determines whether a blue plaque will be approved?
- 138. How many of the nominations have been rejected by the Minister and his office?
- 139. Is there an independent panel?
- 140. What are the historical and heritage credentials of the individual or group of individuals involved in determining whether a blue plaque will be approved?
- 141. What is the timetable for the initial round of blue plaques to be approved and then installed?
- 142. Do you plan to hire any more staff in addition to the three you have currently working on this program?

Minerva Theatre and Roxy Theatre

- 143. Is the NSW Government still planning to acquire the Minerva Theatre?
- 144. Are you planning to acquire the Roxy Theatre?
- 145. What steps has the government taken to protect the Roxy Theatre?
 - a) Does the Roxy Theatre have any heritage protection at the moment?
 - i. If yes, what level?

ii. If no, why not?

146. What is known about the historic colonial site beneath the Minerva Theatre?
147. Is there an Aboriginal site or convict or colonial site beneath the Minerva theatre?
a) What is known about it?
148. What steps have been taken to preserve any historic sites beneath the Minerva Theatre?
149. Will this impact on the planned renovations of the Minerva Theatre?

Jenolan Caves

150. What steps are being taken to preserve and restore the Jenolan Caves historic site and its buildings?

Bushfires

151. How many historic sites have been damaged or destroyed by the recent bushfires?
152. What did your government do about heritage sites destroyed by bushfires?
153. How much funding have you allocated to restore heritage sites damaged by bushfires?
154. How much funding have you allocated to protect heritage sites from future bushfires?
155. What advice did you receive about best practices in terms of heritage following the 2019/20 bushfires?

Heritage staffing and budget

156. What is the total annual budget of Heritage NSW?
a) How many staff are employed at Heritage NSW?
157. For all of the other bodies and agencies within your portfolio:
a) What is the total annual budget for each of them?
b) How many staff are employed by each of them?

Walking tracks in the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area

158. How much of the \$80 million committed to establishing the Great Southern Walk is allocated to the Illawarra Escarpment in 2021/22 financial year?
a) What are the details of this work?
b) How much of the work has been completed?
159. How much of the \$149.5 million committed over four years announced by the Government in June 2019 for improving NSW National Parks has been spent on improving national parks and walking trails in the Illawarra in the 2021/22 budget?

160. What are the details of the work the Government has completed to maintain, upgrade and improve walking trails and visitor facilities in the Illawarra this financial year?
161. Given that work is scheduled to commence on the Illawarra Escarpment Mountain Bike Network in 2022, what resources has the government allocated to fund environmental conservation work to support the new network this financial year including:
- a) resourcing for increased staffing such as Rangers;
 - b) remediation of impacted areas from unsanctioned trails;
 - c) environmental conservation activities to address the impact of invasive species such as weeds and feral deer;
 - d) ongoing management of the environmental values of the Escarpment?

Deer control in the Illawarra

162. 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 National Parks and Wildlife Service for deer management in the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area as a result of this decision?
 - b) Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service increased its contribution to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program as a result of this decision?
 - c) How much money has the National Parks and Wildlife Service spent on wild deer management in the Illawarra this financial year?
 - d) What resources has the National Parks and Wildlife Service contributed to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management program this financial year?

Food and Garden Organics

163. The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 mandates that all households must have a separate collection of food and garden organics by 2030. Will the \$65 million set aside to achieve this target be sufficient?

Disability Employment

164. How many employees who identify with having a disability are employed by:
- a) Department of Planning and Environment
 - b) Natural Resources Commission
 - c) Environment Protection Authority
 - d) Independent Planning Commission
 - e) Water NSW
 - f) Essential Energy

- g) Hunter Water
- h) Sydney Water
- i) Landcom

165. How many senior managers who identify with having a disability are employed by:

- a) Natural Resources Commission
- b) Environment Protection Authority
- c) Independent Planning Commission
- d) Water NSW
- e) Essential Energy
- f) Hunter Water
- g) Sydney Water
- h) Landcom

ENVIRONMENT

Questions from the Hon Mark Pearson MLC

Grey-headed Flying Foxes

166. Given that grey-headed flying foxes are a keystone species and night-time pollinators vital to the existence of our eucalyptus forests and native fruit trees, how much NSW government funding has gone into protecting grey-headed flying foxes in NSW over the last ten years?
167. How many “mass death” events of flying-foxes have occurred in NSW in the past 20 years and
- (a) which years did these take place in, and
 - (b) what were the reasons for these deaths?

Wombats

168. Given that the Minister claims to support a “national approach” to combatting mange in wombats, can the Minister clarify what he sees as the role of the NSW government in combatting mange?
169. Given that the Minister has stated that bare-nosed wombats are not threatened in NSW and that the National Parks and Wildlife Service “actively manages threats to their populations, can the Department provide
- (a) their best estimate as to the percentage of wombats in NSW that are affected by mange in NSW and
 - (b) how was this estimated?
170. How much funding has the Department provided the University of Sydney and University of Tasmania, respectively, over the last 5 years to conduct research on mange?
171. Has the Department provided funding to wildlife charities to treat mange in wombats over the last 5 years and in particular, can the Department advise:
- (a) which wildlife charities received funding and
 - (b) how much funding each charity received?
172. Given that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is working with the University of Sydney to assess mange in wombats using 10 years of data, can the Minister give an indication of when final study results will be made public?
173. Given that the National Parks and Wildlife Service is working on a Bravecto trial in the Bents Basin area, and taking into consideration that several wildlife carers I have spoken to say Bravecto is not a “magic bullet” and that funding must be spread across several avenues, can the Minister advise:
- (a) how much funding is going toward Bravecto
 - (b) how much funding is going toward Cydectin (moxidectin)?

174. Given the Minister says the Government has dedicated \$6.25 million toward its Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Strategy, can the Minister state how much of this funding will be dedicated to mange and
- (a) which wildlife rescue groups will receive what amount of funding
 - (b) which wombat-focused rescue groups will receive what amount of this funding?
175. In a letter dated 28th February 2022, the Minister mentioned meeting with wombat wildlife carers on the 8th February 2022. To which group(s) did these wildlife carers belong?
176. Given the APVMA has allowed “persons general”, such as landholders, to treat wombat mange:
- (a) why does the National Parks and Wildlife Service continue to restrict mange treatment activities to trained wildlife carers?
 - (b) will this be the case going forward?
177. Given the spot-on treatment Fluralaner and its potential utility as a treatment for mange in free-living wombats is at initial experimental stage and requires handling of wombats to apply, and given there is no minor permit for its use provided by the APVMA:
- (a) will the National Parks and Wildlife Service support the higher dose minor permit held by the Wombat Protection Society of Australia with the APVMA using pour-on moxidectin until appropriate efficacy, application and dose rates of Fluralaner are established?
 - (b) If not, why not?
178. Given many wombat carers say that the treatment options that work in the field are different to the treatment methods that academic sample studies promote, can the NPWS advise how many wombat carers or groups NPWS has consulted with in formulating policies on the treatment of mange in wombats?
179. Has the Depart undertaken any study of the wombat’s role in maintaining biodiversity in NSW, and if not, why not?
180. How many licenses to harm wombats did the Depart provide to landholders each year over the last 10 years?
181. In cases where the Department has given landholders licenses to harm wombats over the last 10 years, does the Department record the justifications landholders give, and if so, what was the most common justification used to obtain a license to harm wombats?
182. Under what circumstances is it lawful for landholders in NSW to fill in wombat burrows, and what precautions, if any, must be taken to avoid burying wombats alive?
183. What does the NSW Government advise concerned residents to do when their neighbours are known to be filling in wombat burrows?
184. Did the NSW Government receive a complaint about wombats being buried alive at an Exeter

property in December 2021, and

(a) did the Department investigate this incident?

(b) if not, why not?

(c) if so, what did the investigation find?

Dingoes

185. How many dingoes did National Parks and Wildlife Service kill in 2021, and what methods were used?

186. How many licenses to harm dingoes did National Parks and Wildlife Service issue to councils and landholders in 2021?

187. Were any dingoes killed in 2021 and:

(a) was there analysis post-death to determine their dingo ancestry and if so,

(b) what did the results show?

Magpies

188. How many licenses to harm magpies did the Department issue to landholders in 2021?

189. In regard to National Parks and Wildlife Service's 2003 policy "Management of Native Birds That Show Aggression to People" which Minister Griffin said the Department is working on, can the Department provide an estimate as to when this new policy will be published and come into effect?

Wildlife Rescue

190. Many experienced and trained wildlife carers find themselves unable to legally rescue or care for wildlife in their region after leaving their local wildlife rescue group due to bullying or conflict with management or other members:

(a) has NPWS considered relaxing boundaries between wildlife rescue groups to enable wildlife rescuers to have a MOU with neighbouring groups and therefore be licensed by their neighbouring wildlife rescue group?

(b) if not, why not?

191. Has the Department considered a wildlife care licensing program similar to South Australia which allows individuals to care for wildlife conditional upon training being undertaken by the carer?

192. What is the Department's position on:

a) multiple wildlife rescue organisations operating in an overlapping area, and

b) what is the rationale for that position?

193. Has the NSW Government received any complaints regarding bushfire donations and:
 - a) how charitable organisations have handled donations from the bushfire response?
 - b) what is the government doing to investigate this issue?
194. How many wildlife rescue organisations and individually licensed wildlife carers are currently licensed in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area?
195. Over the last five years, how many applications were made by members of the Blue Mountains Local Government Area to become individually licensed wildlife carers, and how many of these were accepted?
196. Of the rejected applications of individuals in the Blue Mountains seeking to become individually licensed wildlife carers, what was the most common justification for rejection?
197. Over the last five years, how many applications were made by members of the NSW public to become individually licensed wildlife carers, and how many of these were accepted?
198. Of the rejected applications of individuals in NSW seeking to become individually licensed wildlife carers, what was the most common justification for rejection?
199. How many complaints of bullying or related misconduct within the wildlife care sector has the Department received each year over the last 20 years?
200. How many complaints of funds misappropriation within the wildlife care sector has the Department received each year over the last 20 years?
201. How many licensed wildlife rescue groups or individuals are currently licensed to rescue and care for macropods in the Central West of NSW?
202. Can the NSW Government confirm if a trained and experienced wildlife carer in the Central West of NSW has attempted to obtain a wildlife rescue license from NPWS, and was refused and if so, why was their application refused?
203. How much funding has the Department dedicated toward financially supporting wildlife carers each year over the last 20 years?
204. Given wildlife rescue organisations often do not fund the immediate costs of caring for wildlife, such as food and medicine, which the carers pay themselves, would the NSW Government consider allocating each licensed wildlife carer in the state with needs-based funding? If not, why not?
205. Given that large wildlife rescue organisations such as WIRES have received a large influx in public donations since the Black Summer bushfires, does the government intend to audit the use of large amounts of donations (for example, over \$1 million per organisation)? If not, why not?
206. Can the Minister advise as to

(a) how many millions of dollars in donations were received by wildlife rescue organisations in NSW

(b) how much of this went to wildlife carers directly and the immediate care of wildlife in direct response to the bushfires?

207. How much funding has the Department dedicated toward supporting the mental health of wildlife carers each year over the last 20 years?

208. I understand the NSW Government is funding a bushfire relief program for wildlife rehabilitators, with the National Parks and Wildlife Service managing the program which aims to support wildlife rehabilitators and the veterinary sector to recover from the 2019–20 bushfire season and prepare for future extreme events.

(a) how much of this funding has gone to mental health services specific to wildlife carers?

(b) how many hours of counselling has this provided to wildlife carers?

209. How much of the bushfire relief program funding was given to WildTalk, a charity providing mental healthcare to wildlife carers that has provided of 800 hours of counselling to wildlife volunteers in the last year?

Wildlife and veterinary practices

210. What training or informational services, if any, does the NPWS provide to veterinary science students that study at universities, TAFE, or other teaching institutions?

211. Can the Department provide details regarding the wildlife training course they are working on with Taronga Zoo to provide training to vets?

212. Has the NSW Government considered subsidising veterinary practices to treat and care for wildlife? If not, why not?

213. Given the increasing incidence of natural disasters such as floods, bushfires, and drought, and the increasing impact of urbanisation and development on wildlife, has the NSW Government and NPWS considered establishing and funding dedicated wildlife hospitals in NSW? If not, why not?

Developments impacting wildlife

214. Regarding the Kamay Ferry Wharf proposal at La Perouse,

(a) is the Department aware of any endangered species that would be impacted by the development and

(b) if so, how is the Department ensuring their protection?

215. Given Frensham School's proposed development would see 249 koala trees cleared along with the destruction of habitat belonging to wombats, platypus and at least 50 other species, can the Department explain:
- (a) how such a project is allowed to proceed in a critically endangered ecological community
 - (b) explain if the Department has become involved in the issue and what action it intends to take?
216. Has the NSW Government received any complaints of expansive tree clearing at Gidleigh Station near Bungendore? If so, has the Department investigated, and if so what was found?
217. Given koalas are now an endangered species and are found in the Bungendore region, are environmental impact studies necessary for approval of tree-clearing at Gidleigh Station? If not, why not?
218. Did the NSW Government fund or subsidise the erection of exclusion fencing at Gidleigh Station?
219. Can the government confirm whether Lendlease have promised to build the two koala underpasses on Appin Rd, saving the NSW Government the cost?
220. What is the delay with the NSW Department of Transport approving the Appin Road underpasses?

Captive breeding programs

221. For which species of animals has the NSW Government funded captive breeding programs for over the last ten years?
222. Can the NSW Government confirm if a number of southern corroboree frogs bred from a captive breeding program:
- a) were released into Kosciuszko National Park and if so
 - b) how many frogs were released and
 - c) how many died of fungal disease?
223. What evidence-based science is the NSW Government using to establish its captive breeding programs in regards to the Booroolong frog?
224. Over the last ten years, how much money per annum has the NSW Government spent on captive breeding programs?
225. Over the last ten years, how much money per annum has the NSW Government spent on purchasing and protecting native habitat from development?

Exclusion Fencing

226. How much money did the NSW Government give in grants to landholders to construct exclusion or cluster fencing in each year from 2015 to 2021?
227. How many kilometres of exclusion and cluster fencing have been funded by NSW Government grants or subsidies?
228. How many incidents of wildlife or other animals becoming trapped or tangled in/on exclusion/ cluster fencing has been reported to NPWS in the last five years?

Kangaroos

Approval Process for Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan

229. Can the Minister please advise the of the exact date on which the previous Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Matt Kean approved and/or signed the 2022-2026 Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan?
230. What is the distinction and difference between a Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan and a Wildlife Trade Agreement?
231. Can the Minister advise whether the Minister for Agriculture or the NSW Department of Primary Industries have any decision-making or veto power over any aspect of the drafting of or approval process for the 2022-2026 Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan?
232. Can the Minister explain the role and tasks required of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in the drafting, consultation and approval process for the 2022-2026 Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan?
233. Can the Minister explain the role of the Federal Minister for the Environment in the approval process for the 2022-2026 Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan?
234. Can the Minister advise whether a NSW Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan submitted to the Federal Minister for the Environment requires the Federal Minister's signature and approval before the Plan can become operational?

Questions in Regards to the Commercial Kangaroo Management Program's Confidential Audit Compliance Documents provided to the Legislative Council under an SO52 Call for Papers

235. A confidential document cited as DPIE.KHMP.0027 Kangaroo Management Compliance Audit Report 2018-19, referenced a state-wide compliance audit of the Kangaroo Management Program including surveys of animal and skin dealers, desktop audits of compliance records and surveys of harvesters, processing plant workers and compliance officers. The key findings of the report identified a significant number of concerns.
236. In 21 recorded incidents of non-compliance, 55% related to unsubmitted returns from

harvesters and dealers. Would the Minister agree that with such a high rate of unsubmitted returns, the public cannot have confidence in the accuracy of the industry's figures in regards to the exploitation of kangaroos?

237. Given that one of the recommendations from the audit was to improve the monitoring of kangaroo populations, which was also a key concern of the recent Legislative Council Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos – what has been done to address this recommendation?

238. Can the Minister explain why your Departmental staff at the aforementioned Inquiry dismissed witnesses' concerns about the accuracy of population estimates despite the fact that there was an internal departmental audit recommendation to improve the monitoring of kangaroo populations?

239. Can the Minister able to provide more details of those incidents where industry harvesters and dealers failed to provide returns, including whether the auditor was still able to make an assessment as to the:

- a) numbers of macropods slaughtered
- b) their species and
- c) management zones

240. Of further concern was a finding that 9.5% of incidents involving a non-head shot (NHS) and illegal commercial trading being the Illegal consignment of protected fauna and kangaroo skin containing possible bullet wound in the body. Would the Minister agree that this raises concerns that NHS are more of a compliance risk than the public has been previously advised the Department?

241. The audit found a discrepancy between the claimed number of the NHS incidents by animal dealers (1-2 incident per year) and the number of federal NHS reports (23) received by the Department in 2018.

242. Can the Minister provide more details in regards to the incidents, in particular

- a) was an investigation conducted into the illegal consignment of skins with possible bullet holes
- b) has the Department considered how to address this compliance risk of NHS for example, more inspections of carcasses and skins?

243. One of the recommendations from the audit was that there be an increase in focus on regulation of humane harvesting. Can the Minister advise what progress has been made on this recommendation?

244. Minister, in 70% of received NHS reports sampled by the audit, the Department did not take further compliance action. Minister what are you doing to increase compliance action?

245. Given that you are the Minister with oversight for both the commercial industry as

well as non-commercial slaughter- are you satisfied that reports relating to the non-commercial killing of kangaroos were referred to and investigated by either the NPWS or the RSPCA?

246. Minister, the audit found that there was a lack of general awareness among the skin dealers about humane and sustainable practices due to the absence of regular compliance interactions and inspections. Do you commit to providing the resources to ensure more frequent compliance inspections?
247. Minister, the audit found that common issues for all animal and skin dealers were lack of formal training, access to standard operational procedures and a clear process for reporting NHS, underweight and untagged carcasses. Can the Minister explain how a program that has been running for 40 years has such fundamental compliance failures?
248. Minister, the audit found that 35% of harvesters admitted disregarding the rule to tag NHS and underweight carcasses and to leave them in the field, which would have a significant impact on the accuracy of records. Does this figure concern you?
249. The audit report noted a 51-58% misalignment of data between animal dealers and chillers records on the number of carcasses and weight. Minister would you agree that these data misalignments are unacceptably high, to such an extent that the public cannot have any confidence in knowing:
- a) the accuracy of recordings of kangaroos killed
 - b) the accuracy of records of carcass weights
250. Minister, in a previous Budget Estimates hearing I raised concerns that the industry was wanting to reduce minimum carcass weight restrictions due to harvesters finding it increasingly difficult to source large, mature kangaroos due to years of over-harvesting, especially with the targeting of large males. Can the Minister assure me that in the most recent audits the Department has full confidence in the accuracy of recorded carcass weights and numbers of kangaroos killed?
251. Another of the recommendations from the audit was to move to mandatory reporting for NHS and underweights. Can the Minister advise whether this has been implemented or whether there is work in progress to fulfil this recommendation?

Kangaroo Management Program

In the NSW 2021 quota report on p.15, DPIE announced the expansion of two commercial harvest zones being the Griffith zone and the South East zone. The Griffith Commercial zone was expanded to include the non-commercial zone of Wagga Wagga. In 2018 the eastern grey kangaroo figure for the Griffith zone was 919,282. After expansion, the 2019 figure for eastern greys increased to 1,689,268 which was roughly an increase of 45%. {CGI}

252. Why did the Department make the decision to expand this zone?

253. Does the Department acknowledge that
- a) by including an additional sqKm to the zone it will make inaccurate any population estimate and subsequent quota calculation based on the previous data?
 - b) this population increase was due to the inclusion of the additional 24,480 sqKm?
 - c) it gives the false impression that the kangaroo population in that zone has remained stable or appeared to increase?
254. Does the Department acknowledge that the quota report which included this new expanded zone, was last surveyed in 2019 and does not take into account the drought that persisted until 2020?
255. At the Inquiry into the Health and Well- Being of Kangaroos and other Macropods, Departmental staff acknowledged that the new zones and zone expansions had significantly changes the population base of the KMP. Ms Errington took a question on notice regarding the impact on population estimates stating that she would provide an explanation but none has been forthcoming. Has Ms Errington prepared a response and can it be made available to PC7?
256. In 2020 the eastern grey kangaroo figure for both north and south Griffith zones had plummeted to 792,957 which is a decrease of 46%. How does the Department explain this massive population fluctuation in such a short period of time and despite the expansion of the zone?
257. I have been advised of at least one instance where NPWS refused to grant a landholder a licence to harm kangaroos due to the low number of kangaroos and the landholder then contracted a commercial harvester to kill kangaroos on their property.
- a) is the Department concerned that landholders can so easily circumvent the protections for kangaroos under the Biodiversity Conservation Act?
 - b) is there any formal liaison or protocols between the NPWS and the commercial industry that would prevent such flouting of protections?
258. Why haven't the minutes of the November 2021 minutes of the Kangaroo Management Program (KMP) been published?
259. In the minutes of the KMP 14th April 2021 a request was made by the Kangaroo Management Taskforce (KMT) to introduce 'skin only' harvesting; what was the explanation for that request?
260. How much is the kangaroo harvesting industry worth to the NSW economy in terms of dollars, for skins, meat and value-added products such as skin gloves and boots, excluding any calculations based on assumptions about improved agricultural yields due to the killing.

261. Can the Department explain how risk factors for climate change (such as increase prevalence of drought and bushfires) were applied in the development of the 2022-2026 Kangaroo Management Plan. that research?
262. When was the last time that the Department commissioned independent research into the health, wellbeing and sustainability of kangaroos and what was that research?
263. The KMP Annual Report 2020 states that 68% of slaughtered kangaroos were male. That leaves 38% being female of which the vast majority would have a joey in pouch or at foot. On a conservative figure of 65% of females having joeys, that means approximately 100,000 joeys were either killed or left to die.
- (a) why is this figure not recorded in the annual reports, or taken into account for the purposes of reporting on quotas?
- (b) is there likely to be a change in how the Department records the fate of joeys?
264. On a review of the last three KMP annual reports, the slaughter of females has increased from 10% in 2018 up to 32% in 2020. Is the Department concerned about this rise in female deaths especially as we know that their joeys will die as well, seriously undermining sustainability of future populations? Does the Department have concerns about this rise and the loss of subsequent generations of kangaroos?
265. The 2022-2026 KMP cites research indicating male red kangaroos can reach 90kg, females 40kg, and with eastern greys; 70kg and 35kg respectively. Given the 2022 KMP lists average carcass weights at 27.3kg for males and 18.25 for females, have all the large mature kangaroos been killed and the industry must now resort to killing juveniles?
266. Has the Department reviewed the wallaroo population data in response to the recent Legislative Council Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods where evidence given by an independent biostatistician resulted in a recommendation for a moratorium on the killing wallaroos?
267. Evidence was presented to the recent Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods that the biological reproductive rate for kangaroos does not exceed 10%, but there has been a cull rate set at 17% of the kangaroo populations since 1982. Can the Department show how this is sustainable?
268. How much revenue is made from harvester's tags?
269. Are any staff funded through the revenue received from tags?
270. How much does it cost to administer the KMP annually?
271. There is a statement by Mr. Jason Wilson included in the forward to the 2022-2026 KMP.
- a) Is Mr Wilson an employee of the NSW Government

- b) In what capacity does he represent First nations people?
- c) On behalf of what First nations community does he speak?
- d) What Aboriginal Corporation or which Traditional Custodians does he represent?

272. In the 2022-2026 KMP the four species commercially harvested in NSW have been listed plus 'other species as per any relevant licence issued under the Biodiversity Conservation Act subsequent to the commencement of this plan.'

- a) why has this been included?
- b) is the department considering adding a new species to the commercial harvest?
- c) If so, which species?

In the NSW 2021 quota report on p.15, DPIE announced the expansion of two commercial harvest zones being the Griffith zone and the South East zone. The Griffith Commercial zone was expanded to include the non-commercial zone of Wagga Wagga. In 2018 the eastern grey kangaroo figure for the Griffith zone was 919,282. After expansion, the 2019 figure for eastern greys increased to 1,689,268 which was roughly an increase of 45%.

273. Why did the Department make the decision to expand this zone?

274. Does the Department acknowledge that

- (a) by including an additional sqKm to the zone it will make inaccurate any population estimate and subsequent quota calculation based on the previous data?
- (b) this population increase was due to the inclusion of the additional 24,480 sqKm?
- (c) it gives the false impression that the kangaroo population in that zone has remained stable or appeared to increase?

275. Does the Department acknowledge that the quota report which included this new expanded zone, was last surveyed in 2019 and does not take into account the drought that persisted until 2020?

276. At the Inquiry into the Health and Well- Being of Kangaroos and other Macropods, Departmental staff acknowledged that the new zones and zone expansions had significantly changes the population base of the KMP. Ms Errington took a question on notice regarding the impact on population estimates stating that she would provide an explanation but none has been forthcoming. Has Ms Errington prepared a response and can it be made available to PC7.

277. In 2020 the eastern grey kangaroo figure for both north and south Griffith zones had plummeted to 792,957 which is a decrease of 46%. How does the Department explain this massive population fluctuation in such a short period of time and despite the expansion of the zone?

278. I have been advised of at least one instance where NPWS refused to grant a landholder a licence to harm kangaroos due to the low number of kangaroos and the landholder then contracted a commercial harvester to kill kangaroos on their property.
- (a) is the Department concerned that landholders can so easily circumvent the protections for kangaroos under the Biodiversity Conservation Act?
- (b) Is there any formal liaison or protocols between the NPWS and the commercial industry that would prevent such flouting of protections?
279. Why haven't the minutes of the November 2021 minutes of the Kangaroo Management Program (KMP) been published?
280. In the minutes of the KMP 14th April 2021 a request was made by the Kangaroo Management Taskforce (KMT) to introduce 'skin only' harvesting; what was the explanation for that request?
281. How much is the kangaroo harvesting industry worth to the NSW economy in terms of dollars, for skins, meat and value added products such as skin gloves and boots, excluding any calculations based on assumptions about improved agricultural yields due to the killing.
282. Can the Department explain how risk factors for climate change (such as increase prevalence of drought and bushfires) were applied in the development of the 2022-2026 Kangaroo Management Plan. that research?
283. When was the last time that the Department commissioned independent research into the health, wellbeing and sustainability of kangaroos and what was that research?
284. The KMP Annual Report 2020 states that 68% of slaughtered kangaroos were male. That leaves 32% being female of which the vast majority would have a joey in pouch or at foot. On a conservative figure of 65% of females having joeys, that means approximately 100,000 joeys were either killed or left to die.
- a) why is this figure not recorded in the annual reports, or taken into account for the purposes of reporting on quotas?
- b) is there likely to be a change in how the Department records the fate of joeys?
285. On a review of the last three KMP annual reports, the slaughter of females has increased from 10% in 2018 up to 32% in 2020. Is the Department concerned about this rise in female deaths especially as we know that their joeys will die as well, seriously undermining sustainability of future populations? Does the Department have concerns about this rise and the loss of subsequent generations of kangaroos?
286. The 2022-2026 KMP cites research indicating make red kangaroos can reach 90kg, females 40kg, and with eastern greys; 70kg and 35kg respectively. Given the 2022 KMP lists average carcass weights at 27.3kg for males and 18.25 for females, have all the large mature kangaroos been killed and the industry must now resort to killing juveniles?

287. Has the Department reviewed the wallaroo population data in response to the recent Legislative Council Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods where evidence given by an independent biostatistician resulted in a recommendation for a moratorium on the killing wallaroos?
288. Evidence was presented to the recent Inquiry into the Health and Wellbeing of Kangaroos and Other Macropods that the biological reproductive rate for kangaroos does not exceed 10%, but there has been a cull rate set at 17% of the kangaroo populations since 1982. Can the Department show how this is sustainable?
289. How much revenue is made from harvester's tags?
290. Are any staff funded through the revenue received from tags?
291. How much does it cost to administer the KMP annually?
292. In the 2022-2026 KMP the four species commercially harvested in NSW have been listed plus 'other species as per any relevant licence issued under the Biodiversity Conservation Act subsequent to the commencement of this plan.'
- a) why has this been included?
 - b) is the department considering adding a new species to the plan?
 - c) If so, which species?

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Barrington tops

293. What is the number of feral horses within the Barrington tops world heritage area?

LLS Rates

294. Does the Special Purpose Pest Management rate cover flora as well as fauna?

295. Does the Special Purpose Pest Management rate pay for the use of 1080?

a) If so what is the total amount collected between 2018 to now?

296. What is the total revenue collected by the NSW Government for LLS rates annually?

Woodfire Heaters

297. What information does the Government provide on real-life emissions or health costs of brand new wood heaters installed in Australia?

298. Has the NSW Government issued any guidelines or recommendations about consulting neighbours before new wood heaters are installed?

299. Has the NSW Government issued any guidelines or recommendations on how to assist residents suffering ill health or other problems for other people's wood heater smoke?

a) If so, where can it be located?

300. Will the NSW Government work with health representatives such as CAR and Asthma Australia, and independent wood heater experts to develop a standard for wood heaters based on health costs?

301. Is the NSW Government aware of the 2021 position paper by the Centre for Air Pollution, Energy and Health Research (CAR) 'Reducing the health impacts of wood heaters in Australia: Policy implications' stating that "there is no evidence that educational campaigns have led to reduced community-wide air pollution unless they have been conducted in conjunction with programs that also reduce wood heater numbers in the community."?

Clean Air Strategy

302. Does the NSW Government expect the measures outlined in the Clean Air Strategy to reverse the increasing trend in PM2.5 pollution and achieve the 2025 National Air Quality

annual and daily standards for all residents of NSW by 2025, and also achieve the WHO Air Quality Guidelines as soon as practical thereafter?

303. Does the NSW Government have a plan to achieve the National Air Quality Standards or 7 ug/m³ PM_{2.5} (annual average) and 20 ug/m³ (maximum 24 hour average) by 2025 for all residents of NSW?

a) If so, what is the plan?

Mt Canobolas

304. What is the status of the application to declare Mt Canobolas an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity?

Sale of Ausgrid

305. What were the previous annual operations costs associated to the Ausgrid Environment Services of the Central Coast Region?

306. Were the Ausgrid Environment Service Units in the Sydney and Hunter Regions also closed prior to the sale of Ausgrid in 2016?

a) If so, please provide the annual operational costs for environmental services of each region.

307. What systems are in place in the Central Coast Region to ensure the continuity of:

- a) On-ground surveys and assessment reports of threatened flora & fauna prior to maintenance works in utility easements and access roads particularly within the National Parks & Wildlife Service estate and other areas of high conservation value.
- b) Consultation with representatives of Local Aboriginal Land Councils & indigenous groups in regard to the protection of Aboriginal sites within utility easements and along the road networks prior to and during maintenance and development works.
- c) Field supervision of Ausgrid staff and contract workers whilst working amongst threatened species, Aboriginal & cultural heritage sites in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- d) Funding & monitoring of field restoration works associated to threatened species, endangered ecological communities, and Aboriginal sites during and after the completion of Ausgrid works.

Chief Scientists Reports on Campbelltown's Koalas

308. Does the recommended average width of 390 to 425 metres for the koala corridors in the chief scientists report include the 30 meter buffer either side or is the 30 meter buffer in addition to that figure?

309. Is there a minimum width for those koala corridors?

a) If so, what is the minimum width?