

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Minister, through you to Ms Havilah, with your agreement, Ms Havilah, you wrote to all the staff on 22 March in a group email at 11.34. You wished everyone well and you hoped that they stayed dry and safe. You go through and you talk about the Parramatta Powerhouse and you talk about the flood information provided by ARUP. Do you stand by that report?

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, I do.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Have you read the report?

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, I have. I am not sure exactly what report you are referring to. If you are referring to the graph, the details of the recent—are you referring to this graph?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I am referring to the flood risk and stormwater management report.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Can you cite the date for the benefit of Hansard so that Hansard knows exactly what you are talking about?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Okay. It is entitled *Appendix J Flood Risk and Stormwater Management Addendum*, dated 16 September 2020.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** It was an appendix to the DA.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Yes.

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, I would have read it, but not recently.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Are you familiar with the fact that it makes certain claims about the possibility of a one-in-1,000-year flood and how it would impact on the site?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take that on notice because I cannot remember all the details of that flood report.

**ANSWER:**

All questions relating to *Appendix J Flood Risk and Stormwater Management Addendum*, dated 16 September 2020 should be referred to Infrastructure NSW.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** The Ultimo Powerhouse Museum is saved, we were told. Surely there is \$500 million to be spent on that project.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Can you confirm that that is the amount and what is going to be done?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** The budget commitment is \$480 million to \$500 million. The renewal of the Powerhouse represents a significant investment in New South Wales' cultural infrastructure. It secures the future of that museum, which will provide, along with Powerhouse Parramatta, a significant boost to the cultural and tourism sectors in this State. It will also provide a significant infrastructure stimulus in New South Wales, alongside obviously the provision of cultural and creative industry employment. It creates the opportunity in Ultimo for a significant new build across the site, which will expand and extend the museum's exhibition capabilities. It will increase the museum's footprint and presence within the city, and it will extend the historic architecture and integrate the museum with the Creative Industries Precinct.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Is it actually going to be a museum along the lines of what it was before in terms of displaying technology?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes. I will throw to Ms Havilah shortly, but there will be exhibition spaces, theatres, learning spaces, libraries and archives, creative industry co-working and studio spaces. Obviously there will be staff administration amenity, but there will also be digital studios, meeting rooms, back-of-house security, workshops, retail, and food and beverage. This is a significant offering and a genuine, real and substantial museum. Ms Havilah, would you like to speak to that a little more?

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes. Thank you, Minister. I think the really important thing to note is that the museum's infrastructure is over 30 years old and it is not currently world class. Unfortunately, we have leaks in our roof and it does need a very significant upgrade to present—

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** With respect, Ms Havilah, leaks in the roof do not justify the spending of \$500 million, does it? I do not think that is an answer, is it?

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** You're getting the wrong roofer.

**LISA HAVILAH:** That is a component of what the renewal is.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** That is just a lack of repairs and maintenance in the past 11 years under this Government, isn't it?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** The previous Minister.

**LISA HAVILAH:** The upgrade of the exhibition spaces is part of the renewal. As the Minister referred to, one of the really significant abilities that we will have in the renewed museum is to change the exhibitions and give increased access to our communities to our incredible collection of over 500,000 objects. In the past 30 years we have only been able to show 10 per cent of our collection, so the expansion of gallery spaces and the ability to produce and present exhibitions that engage communities and young people with learning around science and technology and the applied arts will make a significant contribution not only to industry development but to the profile of the creative industries in New South Wales.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Perhaps through you, Minister, is there a business case underpinning the expenditure of this \$500 million?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Ms Havilah?

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes. There was a business case that was developed and considered by government last year which led to the investment decision.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Has that business case been made public?

**LISA HAVILAH:** No, it has not.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Minister, can I ask you to table it?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Perhaps we might have this discussion on Thursday as well at the—

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** We will have it on Thursday as well.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I am happy to take that on notice, Mr Borsak.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** We could table it before Thursday, Minister.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** We could, but I will take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The Ultimo Creative Industries Precinct Final Business Case is Cabinet in Confidence.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** What about a conservation plan for the site, Minister?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** The Ultimo conservation management plan is being updated to inform the renewal of the museum and to ensure that the museum's heritage fabric is appropriately celebrated, integrated and conserved. Staff consultation on the draft of that conservation management plan—

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** With due respect, it is not really a plan if you are doing it in motion while you are doing the job.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** We are not actually doing the job yet; we are doing the plan first. We are consulting more widely to ensure that the process is inclusive and collaborative. Now that we have finished the staff consultation, there will be an open weekend for the public held this weekend on 19 and 20 March. There is also a dedicated First Nations consultation next week on the twenty-first. It is being updated to capture the history of the museum alongside the 1988 design principles for the Powerhouse Museum, informed by Lionel Glendenning.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** When do you expect to finish the conservation plan and make it public?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Ms Havilah?

**LISA HAVILAH:** We plan to complete the plan at the end of April this year.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** And it will go on public display then?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** It will.

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, it will be integrated into the two-stage planning process.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** How long are you going to be open for comment and consultation?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I can take that on notice and we can give you the full time frame shortly.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** We will give you the full time line.

**ANSWER:**

To inform the renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo, an open weekend was held at the museum on 19 and 20 March 2022. Consultation has also been undertaken with staff, volunteers and affiliated societies.

The open weekend program included 5 public consultation sessions and a digital survey to obtain community input into the development of the new Conservation Management Plan.

The Conservation Management Plan will be lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) as part of the Concept Development Application for the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal.

The Development Application will be put on public exhibition by DPIE for a minimum of 30 days.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Minister, I will return to the Powerhouse Parramatta for a few more questions. Ms Havilah has confirmed there has been no revision or reassessing of the flood management plans since the three major incidents of 2020, 2021 and 2022. Is the Powerhouse management still adhering to the shelter-in-place strategy—that, in fact, if floodwaters rise too high at the museum site, are they adhering to the shelter-in-place strategy?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I will hand to Ms Havilah.

**LISA HAVILAH:** As part of the final stages before we occupy the museum, there will be a whole range of operational management plans in place, and that will include how to respond to any localised flood event.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Previously, when asked, you maintained that the shelter-in-place strategy is the approach that the museum would take at Parramatta in case of a flood. Are you telling me that that is now under review?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Condition E31 of the Powerhouse Parramatta Development Consent, states that prior to occupation and commencement of the use of the development, INSW and the Powerhouse must develop and submit to the Certifier an Operational Flood Emergency Management Plan that:

- (a) is to be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s);
- (b) addresses the provisions of the *Floodplain Risk Management Guidelines* (EESG);
- (c) includes details of:
  - (i) the flood emergency responses for operational phase of the development;
  - (ii) predicted flood levels;
  - (iii) flood warning time and flood notification;
  - (iv) assembly points and evacuation routes for:
    - all staff and visitors to the site
    - occupants of the on-site accommodation to travel from accommodation areas to designated refuge areas within the building, all of which should be above the PMF level;

Evacuation and refuge protocols (including any shelter in place strategies) and awareness training for employees would be informed by the Operational Flood and Emergency Management Plan.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Sorry, but, with respect, that is not what she said; what she said was that, obviously, the strategy before the museum opens will be determined and that will be part of that strategy.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Are you aware that the SES advises, as part of its official policy, that you should not shelter in place with large structures like this?

**LISA HAVILAH:** All operational plans that we will develop for the museum will align with localised policies, so I am sure it will adhere.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Are you also aware that the SES has expressed concern that it is impossible to evacuate 5,000 people from the museum within nine minutes, as required?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Condition E31 of the Powerhouse Parramatta Development Consent, states that prior to occupation and commencement of the use of the development, INSW and the Powerhouse must develop and submit to the Certifier an Operational Flood Emergency Management Plan that will involve input from a range of specialists and agencies including the SES, that:

- (a) is to be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s);
- (b) addresses the provisions of the *Floodplain Risk Management Guidelines* (EESG);
- (c) includes details of:
  - (i) the flood emergency responses for operational phase of the development;
  - (ii) predicted flood levels;
  - (iii) flood warning time and flood notification;
  - (iv) assembly points and evacuation routes for:
    - all staff and visitors to the site
    - occupants of the on-site accommodation to travel from accommodation areas to designated refuge areas within the building, all of which should be above the PMF level;
  - (v) evacuation and refuge protocols; and awareness training for employees and any relevant persons associated with the development.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Ms Havilah, how does insurance work for the Powerhouse Museum? Who pays for insurance? How is it determined? How does it occur?

**LISA HAVILAH:** We pay for insurance through our operating budgets, and things like our collection have regular valuations.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** What is the value of the collection?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take that on notice.

#### ANSWER:

The Museum's Collection was last valued in March 2020 at \$327,897,000. The Valuation was based on independent assessment.

Accounting for new acquisitions, the Museum's Collection is currently valued at \$329,294,000 (30 June 2021).

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** But you would understand that most cultural institutions, from memory, are actually insured by the Treasury Managed Fund, and then there is reinsurance that could be—through the Minister to Mr Coutts-Trotter, are you familiar with how insurance works for major cultural institutions?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** No, I am not. I made the mistake of looking as if I did.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** My understanding is Insurance for NSW manages it through the Treasury Managed Fund, which is ultimately paid by taxpayers.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** That is right, but the details of how risk is quantified and paid for I would have to take on notice.

#### ANSWER:

Both the Powerhouse Parramatta and Powerhouse Ultimo are covered by the Treasury managed Fund under the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Agency.

Re-insurance is purchased to protect the balance sheet of the NSW Treasury Managed Fund and the NSW Government. This includes Catastrophe Reinsurance to cover large losses from a natural peril (e.g. bushfire, floods, storms, and earthquake) as well as specific protection of cultural assets which are part of a collection or exhibit at both the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo and Parramatta sites. The construction insurance for the project is also reinsured through a separate program.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Ms Havilah, how many staff have departed the Powerhouse since you have become CEO?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take the exact numbers on notice, but I can tell you that it is 3 per cent of our staff over three years. Normal staff turnover is around 10 per cent, so it is a lot less than that.

#### ANSWER:

The total staff turnover for the three year period from Jan 2019 to Dec 2021 was 46.

I am advised the average Powerhouse staff turnover rate over the past three financial years to 31 December 31 2021 was 3.75%.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** When you say that you want to have the best people in those positions, did those individuals leave themselves or did you encourage them to leave?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to—it is a combination of changes of requirement in terms of the delivery of the project. Some people have moved on to other roles, so it would be a combination of those things. I would be happy to detail each one.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** If you could take that on notice, thank you. You used the figure 3 per cent of the organisation. However, that 3 per cent is actually disproportionate in the director level. Would that be, in fact, a complete cleaning out or replacement of the senior levels of your organisation?

**LISA HAVILAH:** No.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** How does that 3 per cent translate into the directorships? Is that half of the directors? Is it all of the directors? Is it just one or two?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I think, Mr Secord, Ms Havilah has said—

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** You know where I am trying to go with this here.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes, we understand. I guess I would jump in and say that Ms Havilah has already made clear she is happy to detail the specifics of these questions and take them on notice. I would have thought that is the logical thing to do.

#### ANSWER:

Since 7 January 2019 to December 2021, 3 Band 1 Senior Executives have resigned from the Museum.

The Powerhouse currently has 5 Directors employed to support the organisational structure, and 4 employed on a project basis to deliver the Powerhouse Renewal (not including the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive).

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Minister, thank you. I just want to go back to the flooding issue and just try to get a bit more specific information. You gave us some general information in the last round of questioning. For example, the 120 motorhomes that are going north, do you know how they are going to be allocated? Is Cabbage Tree, for example, going to get any of them? I do accept that this is a very big problem, but we get a lot of announcements about the 120 motorhomes. Who is going to get them? Who is eligible for them? How do people, if they really need one, get one?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I understand. I obviously do not know the specifics of the details of the motorhome allocation, since it is not in my portfolio. I am happy to take that on notice, Ms Sharpe, unless Ms Gordon has anything further to add, but I do have some further information which I have been provided about support, which I would like to give you, if that is okay?

#### ANSWER:

Questions regarding the provision of motorhomes as temporary accommodation for flood affected communities in Northern NSW would be best directed to the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Services.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** You have recently re-announced the money for the New South Wales Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery initiative.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That is \$10.3 million. Is that correct?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That was originally announced in September last year, but the funding round has just opened now. Is that correct?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** The funding round has opened, that is correct. It opened on 9 February and will stay open until 31 December this year or until funds are fully expended, and it will leverage the work of the regional youth community coordinators and will partner with a range of other organisations, like councils, joint organisations, government agencies, not-for-profits, Aboriginal land councils and so on, to fund projects that improve the wellbeing and health of young people. I am happy to go into this in detail if you would like me to, but—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I have got the criteria, I am just trying to understand some of the breakdowns.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Sure. Basically eligible projects could include community events or social activities, sport and recreational programs with a focus on improving mental health and wellbeing, training, cultural and connection programs, particularly for Aboriginal people, digital resources and so forth. Particularly now, after what we have experienced on the North Coast but

also in other regions, the Central Coast and so forth, through the flood, this is actually the perfect time to have this sort of program. In terms of the announcement, I do not know, I will throw to Julia—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** No, that is okay.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Okay. The answer is that it was announced that we were going to do it in September and then when it actually opened, that is when I announced that it was—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** You re-announced it, that is okay.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Well, I announced that it was open and encouraged people to apply.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** You re-announced it, but that is fine.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** You want to shine a light on it.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Given the grants record of this Government, I am quite happy that it has even been announced, so that is quite good. Congratulations, Minister, on that.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Thank you.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Fund transparency, that is excellent. So there are three streams of grants. There are large grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 for regional New South Wales, there are smaller grants of \$10,000; and then there are larger grants for flood and impacted regions. Is that correct?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** My understanding is that there are two streams of grants. There are smaller grants up to \$10,000 and larger grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000, but I might throw to Ms Ryan to give you some details.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** The reason I am asking is because some of these are actually metropolitan LGAs, hence the questions about your role in Regional Youth.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Understood.

**JULIA RYAN:** Just in terms of the large grants, which are for storm- and flood-affected areas, the funding we received for that was through the 2021 storm and flood recovery funding package. So we have made eligible any storm- and flood-affected LGAs, and some of those were in fact in greater metro Sydney. So we are definitely open and encouraging those councils to apply for the wellbeing funds in the storm allocation of the funding.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** What proportion of the \$10.3 million funding is it?

**JULIA RYAN:** Sorry, that is for metro, or that is for storm and flood?

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** For both.

**JULIA RYAN:** The \$3.6 million was allocated for flood and storm.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Over two years.

**JULIA RYAN:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That is for all of New South Wales that is flood affected. I am just trying to get a breakdown of how much is going to go to metro and how much is going to regional in the first instance.

**CHRIS HANGER:** I would jump in and just say the grants are still open, but what we will do is we will take it on notice with feedback on grants that have been approved to date.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Great.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes, so there is not an allocation for metro and for regional. I presume that the assessments come in as the applications come in, and then each application is assessed.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Is it more Government, Opposition, crossbench? Is that more the categories?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** No, no, of course not.

**JULIA RYAN:** There is a cap, a maximum amount, for each LGA, but there is no minimum amount.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** But we can get you more information on that, Ms Sharpe. It is a very valid question.

**ANSWER:**

The \$10.3 million Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative opened on the 9 February 2022. \$3.6 million is provided through the State and Commonwealth's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement for LGAs declared a natural disaster following the March 2021 storm and flood event (Government Reference Number: AGRN 954 and 960). This includes 21 metropolitan LGAs. An additional \$6.7 million is available through the NSW Government's COVID 19 Economic Recovery Package for regional LGAs. The Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative includes three separate grant programs;

1. Small grants up to \$10,000 (All Regional LGAs and Sydney Metro Storm and Flood impacted communities under Natural Disaster Declarations with the Australian Government Reference Number AGRN 954 and 960).
2. Large grants for storm and flood impacted LGAs \$10,000 - \$50,000 (All Storm and Flood impacted LGAs under Natural Disaster Declarations with the Australian Government Reference Number AGRN 954 and 960).
3. Large grants for regional NSW \$10,000 - \$50,000 (All Regional LGAs are eligible).

To ensure grant funds are distributed across NSW, a maximum funding amount has been allocated to each LGA.

1. Small grants – a maximum of \$50,000 is available per LGA
2. Large grants for storm and flood impacted LGAs – a maximum of \$100,000 per LGA
3. Large grants for regional NSW – a maximum of \$100,000 per LGA

It is recognised that not all eligible LGAs will receive the maximum amount of funding. The guidelines and website clearly state that the grants will be open to 30 December 2022 or until the funds are fully expended.

As of 29 March 2022, 16 small grants have been approved to a total value \$120,563. No large grants have been approved, but 78 Requests for Assistance have been received.

**QUESTION**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Minister, your portfolio capacity as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, there are only really two Acts: the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the Aboriginal Languages Act.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Could I ask you in the last 12 months, and maybe you have the figures for calendar year 2021, how many Aboriginal land claims were made—sorry, were successfully concluded—in those 12 months?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Right. So I do not know that I have the numbers for the last 12 months but I can tell you as at 28 February this year how many have been granted, refused and are incomplete.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** That is in total—

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** In total.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** —over the history of the Act?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** In total over the history. Is that helpful, or would you like me to drill down to—

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Well, why don't we start there?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** All right, and I might ask if we can get that specific information, if we are able to, for the year—the calendar year—which I do not think I have in front of me. So there have been 54,045 land claims made, 3,609 have been granted, 10,079 have been refused, and 39,435 are incomplete and undetermined at this point.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Can anybody—there are only these two Acts in the department so it was pretty obvious—

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes, but you—

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** No.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** You have been asking about a range of things that are not anything to do with the Act so I do not think it is fair to say these are the only things I need to know about. I am not trying—

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Minister, I am not pointing to you—

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Okay.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** —because these are detailed figures that you probably should know in the broad, but I am not going to expect you to have them in the back of your head. But somebody here at the table should be able to tell me how many land claims were finalised last year.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Somebody must actually know this portfolio.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes, I mean, obviously—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** No, but he should know.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Okay.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes, but you know that Aboriginal land claims are determined jointly by the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Lands and Water, and not by me. But, nonetheless, we are endeavouring to get that information for you. So, Mr Shoebidge, we will take that on notice and we will try to get that information for this afternoon.

**ANSWER:**

This is a matter for Crown Lands and the question is best directed to the Minister for Lands and Water for a response.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Minister, Mr Brand mentioned—or maybe you did—that construction would finish and hopefully doors will be open at the end of the year.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** At the end of the year, yes.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Which brings me to your earlier comments where you said that the Powerhouse Museum Parramatta was done and dusted at that site. We know that former Premier Mike Baird announced the project in 2014, which is almost eight years ago now.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Sorry, back to the Powerhouse?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Yes, back to the Powerhouse. Taking in the point that it is now eight years later, when will construction begin on Powerhouse Parramatta?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Two months ago.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Pardon?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** It started in January.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Get out there, Walt.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** When will it be completed?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** The completion date? Good question. I will throw to probably Ms Pitman would be a more appropriate person, or Ms Havilah. Ms Pitman, as you would be aware, headed Create Infrastructure and is now the interim head of both Create NSW and Create Infrastructure, brought together under one body, so she is intimately familiar with all the time lines and so forth. In terms of the current completion date, I will throw to Ms Pitman.

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** Lendlease was appointed as the main builder in September of last year. It is responsible for the detailed design and construction of Powerhouse Parramatta. As you know, Lendlease is a well-established, Australian-based company. It took possession of the site in January and commenced its work. It will progress its construction work through the next year and a bit, and our target for completion of the project is by the end of 2024.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** So construction began in January 2022. What actually began at that stage?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** Lendlease has been doing some of its site establishment works and preparing the site, getting everything settled, and it has been doing its tendering internally et cetera and progressing the design at the same time.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Because it obviously needs to start with bulk excavation and earthworks because it starts putting pillars and bricks in the ground.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Did the recent flooding incident impact on the construction work that began in January 2022?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** The recent flooding incident?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** The recent incident.

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** I believe Lendlease did request its staff to stay out of the area, but I would have to take the details of the impact of that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The recent extensive rain has limited site activities. The contractor's design development and procurement activities are continuing to enable the forecast construction activities later in 2022 to be achieved.

Like all major infrastructure projects, the contractor has made allowances for the effects of wet weather within its delivery program, and the project remains on track for completion by end of 2024.

During February and March 2022, the Contractor progressed with site establishment activities such as site accommodation and site hoardings, demolition of residual structures, temporary service diversion works for sewer, bulk earthworks and piling platform works.

**QUESTION**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Have you read the Auditor-General's review into how the cultural funding grants program worked last time?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Yes.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** You know that the Auditor-General made a series of critical recommendations. Have you implemented those recommendations for this grants round?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I will make a few points. The work that the Public Accountability Committee did was important, and I am absolutely committed to the integrity, efficacy and value for money for all New South Wales grants, including those which are administered under agencies that fall within my portfolio areas. I would expect that all agencies have the highest appropriate standards of integrity when it comes to those grant processes, but I have not spoken specifically to the Office for Regional Youth about this program with regard to the Auditor-General's findings. My integrity is paramount to me and I would always ensure that those processes are done with openness and transparency.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** We make systems not for angels but for ordinary human beings, Minister. Do you accept that?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I appreciate the implied complement.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** I am just reflecting back at you what I heard. There are two recommendations that I will take you to from the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General should be part of all grants programs in New South Wales. The first is including:

... minimum mandatory administration and documentation standards including for interactions between ministers, ministerial staff and public servants.

Are those arrangements in place for this grants program?

... minimum mandatory administration and documentation standards including for interactions between ministers, ministerial staff and public servants.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I would hope so. I will ask Ms Ryan if she can comment further. Of course I would hope so.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** You would hope so, but the reason the Auditor-General put this in was because it did not exist at the time the Auditor-General completed her report in February this year.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I understand. Ms Ryan, do you have any comments to make?

**JULIA RYAN:** We have had probity advice on the process and we have been part of the Auditor-General's review and our departmental systems for grants administration follow the Auditor-General's advice.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Sorry, does the probity review say that the recommendations of the Auditor-General as recently as February this year have been incorporated into this grants program?

**JULIA RYAN:** I would have to look at our probity adviser's advice specifically to that point, but we have had recent probity advice in the last few weeks.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Did you ask for that advice to include a review of the recommendations of the Auditor-General?

**JULIA RYAN:** I would have to take—

**CHRIS HANGER:** We will take that specifically on notice, but it is fair to say that programs' design clearly take into account good practice guide, take into account audit reports in regards to how these programs—

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** I am not interested in generic statements. I am going to take you to another very specific recommendation of the Auditor-General. Given her caustic findings about how previous grants rounds have happened, I would have thought, Minister, it would be at the front and centre of your work here to ensure that in this grants program—it is just \$1.5 million of public money—those recommendations have been implemented. To be honest, I am not satisfied from the answers that they have been.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Understood. I guess I would say two things. The first is that the Office for Regional Youth has made clear that they will take the specifics on notice. It is clear from Ms Ryan's answer and Mr Hanger's answer that they have considered the Auditor-General's report. Now, I understand—

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** You must have heard different answers to me because I heard there was a probity report and I know the previous round of funding, that was deeply criticised by the Auditor-General, also had a probity report. So the probity report is not comfort, given what the Auditor-General found, Minister.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** Understood. They will take the specifics of the question on notice and provide that information to you. The second point I would make is that I am very conscious, in terms of setting up appropriate structures within my office, to ensure that those sorts of structures referred to are in place.

**ANSWER:**

- The NSW Auditor General's Report found that the assessment process that Create NSW used for the Regional Cultural Fund (RCF) was robust and produced transparent and defensible recommendations to the then Minister for the Arts.
- Recommendations about Ministerial discretion in decision making for future grant programs will be considered by DPC and the Productivity Commissioner as part of the NSW Government Grant Review.
- In November 2021, the Premier asked the Department of Premier and Cabinet, in partnership with the Productivity Commissioner, to lead a review into the administration of grants programs in NSW to ensure that public money is spent fairly, effectively and transparently (the **NSW Government Grants Review**). The NSW Government Grants Review will also update the 2010 Good Practice Guide to Grants Administration (the **Guide**).
- The NSW Government Grants Review report and any recommendations will be delivered to the Premier and Treasurer in April 2022 and will consider the recommendations made

by NSW Parliamentary, integrity and oversight bodies, including the Final Report of the Inquiry into *Integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grants programs*.

- As part of the current NSW Government Grants Review and update to the Guide, DPC is:
  - Updating the Guide to address these best practice recommendations
  - Considering which elements of the Guide should be mandatory.
- DRNSW is actively supporting the NSW Government Grants Review and update of the Guide.
- The Audit Office of NSW prepared a report on the integrity of grant program administration. This report was released on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, one day prior to the Minister announcing that the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative was open to applicants.
- An independent probity advisor has been engaged in the early design of the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative to ensure it is a fair, equitable and transparent process.

Since October 2021, eight meetings have been held with the Probity Advisor to develop this grant initiative. Information about the grants is also publicly available on the website and staff from the Office for Regional Youth are available to support applicants with the application process.

#### QUESTION

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Minister, do you have in place specific requirements that require—again, it is another recommendation of the Auditor-General:

... any ministerial override of recommendations to be documented, with transparent consideration of probity and conflict of interest.

Is that part of the grants scheme?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** That is my expectation. I do not think that that recommendation is an unreasonable recommendation.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** Is it part of the guidelines? Is it in the documentation that the department has about how this grants scheme will be administered?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** In terms of those specifics, they have taken that question on notice

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE:** No, not this question. They have not taken this question on notice.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** That is fine. I would ask them to do that.

#### ANSWER:

Grants are administered in accordance with the Good Practice Guide and this includes considerations of probity and management of conflicts of interest.

The NSW Government is currently reviewing the recommendations of the Auditor-Generals report and will be updating the NSW Government Good Practice Guide to Grants Administration later this year.

The Minister approved the guidelines for the Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Initiative which included the assessment process.

Assessment methodologies were developed to meet the Guidelines. Small grants (less than \$10,000) are assessed and approved by the Office for Regional Youth according to the Assessment Methodology.

Large grants are assessed by an independent assessment panel, with representatives from Regional NSW, Resilience NSW and Ministry for Health.

The assessment panel meets monthly and recommends in writing, suitable projects to the Minister, who has final approval for the large grants. The Minister provides the decision in writing back to the Department of Regional NSW.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Minister, I have one last question. You would be familiar that at the Federal level there is discussion about bringing in 20 per cent local content involving streaming services, involving support for the New South Wales and Australian drama documentary, children's content, co-productions and that. Has Create NSW or the New South Wales Government made any representations on the 20 per cent content suggested?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** I might throw to my colleague Kate Foy on this matter, who was complaining to me earlier that this is the quietest budget estimates that she has experienced.

**KATE FOY:** And I am going to take that on notice.

#### ANSWER:

In November 2020, the Australian Government released a discussion paper on modernising television regulation in Australia, the discussion paper posed the question about streaming services (video on demand) "Would a rate of investment of five per cent of Australian revenue be reasonable? Is there an alternative rate that is more appropriate?"

Create NSW responded to the initial discussion paper noting that:

"As the Green Paper notes, most Australian consumers value quality Australian content, and 58 per cent of those who have a subscription to an SVOD service don't believe these services have enough Australian content.

We note the Green Paper states that five per cent is intended to be indicative. It is not a level likely to generate significant new original content and is well below formulas applied or under discussion in other jurisdictions.

Under the European Directive, streaming services must offer a 30 per cent quota of European content to European subscribers starting in 2021. On top of that, EU countries can introduce nationally tailored legislation to directly require streaming services to reinvest a percentage of their revenues within each European territory where they operate.

France has now approved a firm legislative framework under which the government will require such services to invest up to 25 per cent of their local revenues in French-language content. In Italy the plan is for a similar investment quota, requiring 25 per cent of revenues to be spent on local content

We therefore suggest that an investment obligation set at a minimum of 20 per cent of the VOD's total Australian revenue would be reasonable.

Again, we encourage the Australian Government to undertake modelling to determine the volume and type of production activity likely to be generated by the new investment obligation on VODs."

Following this initial consultation, a further discussion paper was released on 7 February 2022, “Streaming Services Reporting and Investment Scheme Discussion Paper”. This paper proposes a two tier system, with an initial 5% local content threshold applied.

If a Tier 1 service were to invest less than 5 per cent of their gross Australian revenues in new Australian commissions, the legislation would enable the Minister to designate the service as a Tier 2. Tier 2 services would face a formal investment obligation of an amount to be determined in the designation instrument, in addition to reporting requirements.

The consultation period closes on **24 April 2022**.

Create NSW is working with industry stakeholders to understand the impacts/concerns and benefits of the approach set out in the second discussion paper, and it intends to make a submission in due course.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** I think you have answered that part of the question. Just turning now to local community engagement in relation to the CAPO organisations, I see on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website that you currently engaged with those organisations in or around March 2022. When can we expect to see a result from those engagements in terms of the priorities of those organisations for this year and perhaps next?

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** You are talking about the implementation plan for Closing the Gap?

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Yes. I am basically talking about the current consultation around it.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN:** No, I get that. CAPO, the Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations, are holding face-to-face community engagements in, I think, 30 locations across New South Wales. This is in order to finalise our next implementation plan, which we envisage being released by July 2022, in answer to your question of a specific date. I do not know if Mr Coutts-Trotter or Ms Gordon would like to add to that. Actually Mr Ireland might be appropriate as well. Ms Foy, did you want to say something?

**KATE FOY:** Consultations are undertaken as a really integral part of all of the Closing the Gap activities, certainly at the State level. They have been held over the last couple of years and have been a key input into the Closing the Gap strategy and implementation plan and to help us adjust the way we work. That consultation document becomes, as I said, an input to the June and July 2022 implementation plan, which is an update from the previous year. In terms of it being available, I am happy to take that on notice as to the status. CAPO commission the work and CAPO do the work; it is CAPO's document. I would want to respect whatever views they have about how they want that document treated. But I am happy to go back to them and come back to you, Mr Borsak, on that.

#### ANSWER:

The NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) had planned to hold community engagements across NSW from 28 February 2022 to 31 March 2022. While most consultations have occurred, recent floods have delayed consultations in the North Coast.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW understands that NSW CAPO intends to publicly release its report on the community consultations at the same time as the 2022-24 Implementation Plan is released (July 2022).

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I have a couple of very basic questions first. What is the total EFT for Aboriginal Affairs at the moment?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I might go to either Kate or Lil for that one.

**KATE FOY:** I am sure Lil can fill in on any further detail, but as at December 2021 the EFT was 134.2 for Aboriginal Affairs. That is across a number of sites, including the head office in Mascot as well as Batemans Bay, Bourke, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Newcastle and Tamworth.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Thank you. Some of this, I think, will be in the annual budget, but if you can give me an update: the total annual staffing budget, not including contractors or consultants?

**KATE FOY:** Sure thing. Lil, do you want to handle that one?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** The total staffing budget is 28.6.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Are you able to give us the most up-to-date figures in terms of the amount spent on consultants?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I do not currently have that at hand. I am happy to take that on notice.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** And for contractors as well?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Thank you. If you can take that on notice, would you be able to provide that for the last four financial years, please?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Sure.

**KATE FOY:** Year on year?

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Sorry?

**KATE FOY:** Year on year, I am assuming?

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Yes, thank you. That would be good. Is Aboriginal Affairs subject to any efficiency asks from Treasury?

**KATE FOY:** I think the secretary is probably best placed to answer that.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** That is a false assumption! I think the short story is yes, along with every other government agency that had to absorb efficiency savings. There are efficiency savings locked into Aboriginal Affairs' budget but there were no additional savings in the 2021-22 financial year.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** There were existing ones but no extra ones.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** How much was that?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** We can get it for you on notice if we do not have it to hand. That is no problem.

**ANSWER:**

	March YTD*	2021	2020	2019	2018*
Consultancy	\$314k	\$62k	\$63k	NIL	\$188k

\*The surge in March YTD and 2018 consultancy spend relates to OCHRE Evaluation Stages 1 and 2 respectively.

	March YTD	2021	2020	2019*	2018
Contractors	\$377k	\$719K	\$3,174k	\$12,160k	\$4,149k

\*The surge in contractor expense between 2018-2020 is in relation to the Kimberwalli project, which was transferred to the Department of Education in FY2020.

The efficiency dividend for the 2021-22 financial year is \$2.4M.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Yes, that is fine. I want to ask about the Local Decision Making evaluation, which is done by the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research; is that correct?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** That is one of the evaluations, yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Do they do an annual evaluation? How does that work?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I think they are doing one evaluation. There are evaluations that different alliances will enact for themselves and there are evaluations that we do from an Aboriginal Affairs perspective.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** The ones that they are responsible for—sorry, the information I have got is they have been doing them since 2015.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Are you able to tell us how much money has been paid for these?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Again, I will take that one on notice. Thank you.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** No worries. Can you do a breakdown for each financial year?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Sure.

## ANSWER:

The Stage One Evaluation of *OCHRE* was completed by researchers at the University of NSW in 2018. In 2019 The NSW Government continued its commitment to *OCHRE* by engaging the Australian National University's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) to undertake the Stage Two Evaluation of Local Decision Making, which is one of the key *OCHRE* initiatives. This includes evaluations of the accord negotiation phases, with final reports for the latter drafted. The broader evaluation is due for completion in the second half of 2023, noting the contract was paused for several months in 2020 due to the pandemic preventing in-person consultations and workshops.

By working closely with communities, CAEPR's evaluation team developed robust evaluation plans with the participating Alliances and the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA). The NSW Government acknowledges and greatly appreciates the on-going commitment of the Alliances, NCARA, community members and the adaptability of the research team in progressing the evaluation of Local Decision Making during some very difficult times in 2021. The NSW Government also greatly values the oversight and guidance provided by the independent [OCHRE Evaluation Steering Committee](#) throughout.

With this contract, the NSW Government is making an important investment into evaluating Local Decision Making. With the permission of the participating Aboriginal Alliances and community members, publication of findings and recommendations from the Stage Two Evaluation will continually inform and strengthen community led decision making policy and practice across NSW.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That would be great. We touched on some of the Closing the Gap stuff earlier this morning, but I am particularly interested in the work for redirection of funding to Aboriginal community controlled organisations. Can you explain what work Aboriginal Affairs is doing and how that is coming together?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Lil, I will let you start on that if you like.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes, sure. Currently there has been some mapping that has been completed in terms of the draft Indigenous Expenditure Report that looks at what the spend has been out there, programs that have been evaluated and so on.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I will just stop you there. The mapping—are you lead for that? Who is doing the mapping?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** We work with Treasury, clearly. Treasury is the lead.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** And is this part of their—

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Indigenous expenditure review or report.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Is it all part of the same thing or is it a separate thing?

**KATE FOY:** It was something that I understand was agreed to in the national agreement to do this work. Treasury leads it but we have a senior—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Sorry, you need to talk into the microphone, Kate.

**KATE FOY:** Beg your pardon. It is a requirement under the national agreement. Treasury leads the work but very much in partnership with ourselves and the senior officials group that oversees and works together with CAPO on Closing the Gap. It is a piece of work sponsored through that particular group and we report to the NSW Joint Council, which is co-chaired, I think the Minister explained this morning, between himself and the CAPO. We also report, as I suggested this morning, to the Secretaries Board on that particular work. That will be refined and developed as we go along, but certainly the expenditure review report had a look at what expenditure goes to and is specific to specific First Nations programs. It does not reflect what might be expenditure in general things, for example, a hospital that provides a broad level of service to the community. It will not capture, say, what benefit is derived specifically for Aboriginal people.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** That report was the one that found that 45 per cent of programs had not been evaluated. We are talking about the same thing?

**KATE FOY:** That is correct.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** So there is mapping being done and Treasury is doing that. Sorry, can you just take me through which departments are on the senior officials group?

**KATE FOY:** Tim might be able to fill in. It is chaired by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. I have been chairing it and handing that chairpersonship to Lil Gordon, co-chaired with the chief executive of NSW Aboriginal Land Council, who represents CAPO. The clusters that are involved in it are really from all of the clusters: Transport, Planning, Justice, Education, and Family and Community Services people as well. All of the clusters are engaged in that—also Treasury, and the Customer Services department.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I might get you just to take on notice specifically who comes to those.

**KATE FOY:** Sure.

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Government members on the NSW Partnership Working Group (as at March 2022)

Cluster	Member name	Position title
Premier and Cabinet	Kate Foy	Deputy Secretary
	Lil Gordon	Head of Aboriginal Affairs
	Tim Ireland	Executive Director, Closing the Gap
Treasury	Jenny Merkley	Executive Director, Premier, Education and Customer Service
Communities and Justice	Brendan Thomas	Deputy Secretary, Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes
Planning and Environment	Mark DeWeerd	Executive Director, Aboriginal Strategy & Outcomes.
Health	Dr Nigel Lyons	Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning
Education	Lisa Alonso Love	Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform
Transport	Gina Bass	Director Inclusion and Diversity
Regional NSW	Chris Hanger	Deputy Secretary Public Works Advisory and Regional Development
Customer Service	Lauryn Bae Brokate	Executive Director, Office of the Secretary
Police	Greg Moore	Acting Assistant Commissioner
NSW Aboriginal Languages Trust	Clare McHugh	Executive Director

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I think that is right. I want to ask some questions about Solution Brokerage. Are you able to give me the current status of the Bowraville Solution Brokerage project?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** That is one I will take further on notice. In terms of Bowraville, we continue to work with Bowraville particularly around their healing from that perspective and working with them around memorials and so on that they want to put in place and the healing that is happening in Bowraville. That is where we are at this stage. Any further detail I will provide on notice.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** In that case, could you also provide for me how much has been spent—this is the brokerage project specifically—on that project to date and information about the key performance indicators, all the monitoring of the outcomes?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Sure.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** This is a similar one and you might have to take this on notice as well. What is the current status of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council land and economic participation accord?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes. Same again, I will take that on notice and provide you with that detail.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Okay. It finished in September 2019, but there is very little information about the outcomes of that.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Sure.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** One of the agreed actions was that was to progress the title transfer of an area of the national park adjacent to Davidson Whaling Station. Can you provide an update on what the status of that is and whether the transfer has occurred?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Thank you. This is all to do with the Eden participation accord. Essentially, the issue is that there were a lot of things signed up to. There is very little information about whether they have been delivered and we are just trying to find out. There was also a collaboration to develop a planning and assessment tool for Eden LALC's land holdings, primarily focusing on the realisation of specific parcels to generate capital and support activities identified in the community, land and business plan. Can you give us an update on where that is up to too?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** We will take those on notice. We will aim to try and get you some information before the end of the day.

**ANSWER:**

The Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) Land and Economic Participation Accord was negotiated under Solution Brokerage. Aboriginal Affairs NSW continues its role supporting the Eden LALC and key NSW government partners to deliver on important outcomes for the Aboriginal community of Eden. The Accord references details which include reporting, performance measurement and evaluation.

A copy of the Accord can be found here:

[https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/media/website\\_pages/working-differently/solution-brokerage/eden-accord/DGS17-1559-SIGNED-ACCORD.pdf](https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/media/website_pages/working-differently/solution-brokerage/eden-accord/DGS17-1559-SIGNED-ACCORD.pdf)

Crown Lands continues to navigate the legal instruments required for the finalisation of the Aboriginal Land Agreement with the Eden LALC and NSW Aboriginal Land Council. In early March Crown Lands briefed the NSW Aboriginal Land Council on the status of the agreement: current advice is that most of the major obstacles have been addressed and Crown Lands anticipates that the agreement will be finalised this year.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service expect the title transfer for the land adjacent to Davidson Whaling Station to be completed in late May 2022, pending processing times.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW originally provided a grant of \$60,000 for capacity support in 2016 to the Eden LALC for the development of the land assessment tool and other important land management activities. This project has been managed by the Eden LALC to ensure it meets the needs of the LALC as it is developed.

Through capacity support funding from Aboriginal Affairs, Eden LALC have developed a land management and decision-making tool. This long-term aspiration of the Land Council is close to being realised. Eden LALC are expecting to launch the Land Management tool by the end of April 2022.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Are you aware of the Ngurang-gu Yalbilinya program at Orange?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I am not but perhaps one of my colleagues is.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** It is a culture-based and an intensive Indigenous education program tailored to re-engage students, with a focus on holistic development of high school age Indigenous boys.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Yes, that does ring a bell. I know I have previously spoken to the local land council about that program in its instigation phase.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** I might continue then. Given the Orange-based initiative is relatively new but is already showing positive outcomes, Tim Bennett and his team are passionate educators from the Canobolas Rural Technology High School who have been critical to the program's growing success and have hopes of developing the program into an Indigenous centre of excellence and to roll the program out across rural and regional New South Wales. The question is: Can you provide advice if funding for the Ngurang-gu Yalbilinya program will be extended after 2022 and, if so, what resources will be provided to ensure the ongoing success of the program?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I think we will take that question on notice and respond as soon as we can to you, Mr Borsak.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** All right. Once you have the answer, you might also look at whether it would be considered to be available to be extended to other regions of New South Wales.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** All right. We will take all that in the response on notice as well.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Thank you. I refer to discussions that my colleague the member for Barwon has had with your Minister regarding the repatriation and secure storage of culturally significant scar trees to the community of Collarenebri. While this work is being led by the local Aboriginal council, the member for Barwon, on behalf of the local Aboriginal council, has asked the Minister for his support and is seeking funds for the construction of a secure, suitable facility at Collarenebri to house these assets. Specifications and locations should be in consultation with the local Aboriginal land council. What representations have been made by the

Minister to the department on this matter, and will the department agree to pursue funding or to commit funding to house these assets for the community?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I will take that on notice unless we can provide any information here and now. No?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** No, we will take it on notice.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** We will take that on notice. There are various elements of it.

## ANSWER:

The Ngurang-gu Yalbilinya program is a Canobolas Rural Technology High School initiative targeted at young Aboriginal males and is conducted off site within the Lake Canobolas precinct 11 kilometres from the city of Orange. There is currently a total of 14 male students in the program and it is staffed by two teachers from Canobolas Rural Technology High School using the schools staffing entitlement along with one Student Support Officer (SSO). The program is run five days a week during normal school operational hours.

The local Aboriginal community has expressed a desire to expand the initiative to accommodate an additional 14 males as well as include an additional program for 14 female Aboriginal students. The school has committed to provide funding for the teaching staff under the current arrangement of 14 male students until the end of 2022. Additional staff required for the expanded program would include four teachers and two Student Support Officers. Further infrastructure improvements would be required on the site to accommodate the extra students and staff.

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) have stated they will not be able to provide funding for the employment of the Student Support Officer as initially indicated at the beginning of the program however, they have committed to in principle support for the program. The Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations have also committed in kind support for the program at a state and local level. The Local Aboriginal Lands Council provides two buses to assist with transport to and from the program each day with school staff driving the buses.

A meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding and Operational Guidelines for the program was held on 16 September 2021, with the President of the NSW AECG. The Department of Education is waiting on ratification of the MOU and guidelines from NSW AECG.

The Deputy Secretary School Performance South has approved the funding of two teachers for the 2023 and 2024 school years.

## QUESTION

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** All right. Thank you. Has the department had discussions with the Minister about the significant cultural values among our Indigenous people regarding fishing?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Yes. Lil, do you want to elaborate?

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** You have? Okay. Well, then—

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Sorry, Mr Borsak, you keep going.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Sorry, that is just the opening shot. Is the Minister or your department aware that the non-commencement of section 21AA of the Fisheries Management Act has caused serious issues for Indigenous people in New South Wales?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Yes. Would it be helpful to provide something of a response to the question of what has delayed the commencement of the Act?

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** That is where I am going, yes.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** All right. Kate, do you have that to hand?

**KATE FOY:** Yes, certainly. I think Lil will be able to fill in quite a bit of detail. Sorry, Mr Borsak, I won't be a second. I know there are currently two pilots for cultural fishing underway.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Tweed and Hastings.

**KATE FOY:** In Tweed and Hastings. I might get—actually, Lil, you better pick this up because you have the detail in front of you.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Who is running those pilots? Are they coming out of Ag or is it run in conjunction with Aboriginal Affairs? Where are we going with this?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** In terms of Aboriginal Affairs, we are alongside that work, ultimately. The Minister for Agriculture obviously has carriage of that work. From our perspective, what we are doing is making sure that, in terms of that Act, obviously it has not commenced so the pilots are in place in terms of local management plans around those two pilots for Hastings and Tweed. It will be trialled over the coming two years, commencement in early 2022—obviously that is this year—the Hastings local management plan to inform best model to take forward, including potential commencement of section 21AA. Obviously there is the parliamentary inquiry into the commencement of the Fisheries Management Amendment Act, and it was announced by the New South Wales Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 4 on 25 November last year. Obviously we would welcome that inquiry.

Currently, what we are doing is that—it is clear any cultural fishing, given that I come from a little town out west called Brewarrina with the fish traps that are out there, is incredibly important for our communities, ultimately. Our aim is to continue to work alongside our communities, particularly around the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council, which has both NSWALC and NTSCORP—so the native title services corporation and NSWALC is the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council—representatives on that committee to be able to keep working through that with them.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** So you think it will take a couple of years to work through that process, do you?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I do not have a time frame in front of me but happy to come back to you, yes.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** If you could, please. It would be good to get something. What representations has your Minister made regarding prosecutions against Indigenous fishermen that have been fined and/or prosecuted for their cultural practices because of the Government's failure to implement section 21AA of the Fisheries Management Act?

**KATE FOY:** I think the Minister's representations are probably best directed to the Minister, but I am happy to go back and check what representations may have been made.

**ANSWER:**

The Ministers discuss relevant policy issues however, appropriately, do not discuss individual prosecution matters. The Minister has been briefed on court outcomes for Aboriginal people in fisheries-related matters since 2009 and intends to continue to discuss cultural fishing policy matters with the Minister for Primary Industries, as well as with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Thank you. In the *2021-22 NSW Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap*, "Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations" states that "Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and knowledge in school learning in NSW" should be a priority. Given that cultural fishing is as much about the catch as it is about understanding our rivers, estuaries and oceans, what representations has the Minister or your department made to the education department regarding the importance of cultural fishing being included in the school curriculum and as recommended in the Closing the Gap implementation plan?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Lil, over to you.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I am happy to take that on notice. When we talk about cultural fishing, it is the element of—part of the bigger cultural enterprise, I guess, in terms of Aboriginal cultural knowledge. So we could need to take that on notice specifically for any schools that have been teaching that.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Is there any particular reason why it has taken so long—maybe this is a question for the Minister or through to the Minister—for proper recognition of cultural fishing for Aboriginal and Indigenous people to actually occur?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** Not that we can readily answer. We will take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The Sea Country School Education program is a project activity delivered under the NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy - Initiative 4: Protecting the Aboriginal cultural values of the marine estate. This program is led by DPI Fisheries. The program's objective is to work with Aboriginal communities to identify the cultural values of Sea Country to improve the incorporation of values into decision-making for the marine estate.

Learning about Sea Country helps school students discover Australia's Aboriginal heritage and cultures. It teaches students to respect the environment and each other by giving them a better understanding of the strong connection between people and the world in which they live.

The program resources are designed for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in upper primary school (Year 5 and 6) and aligns with NSW Stage 3 syllabus and outcomes of the Australian curriculum. Content can be used either to improve learning through a school excursion or as a replacement for a field trip. These materials are made freely available to schools across NSW. The Sea Country School Education Program first commenced in 2019 with approximately 200 students in the South Coast region who have participated in the field excursion component of the program with Aboriginal educators.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic the program has gone to an on-line activity for all primary schools across NSW with online teacher worksheets and accompanied videos available on the NSW DPI website - featuring prominent Aboriginal educators from the Yuin and Jerrinja communities.

Since the inception of the online Sea Country Schools Education Program in 2020, there have been 3,257 views with a substantial uptake during 2021 NAIDOC week, featuring 2,145 hits for this activity. See: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/school-resources/sea-country>.

Expanding the curriculum activities to include other Aboriginal nations is underway, with consultation having commenced with Yaegl and Worimi communities in the North and Central coastal regions to include their cultural stories to the education program in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The program is also supported via a funding partnership between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Commonwealth Parks Australia.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Through Mr Coutts-Trotter to Ms Havilah, this morning I asked about staff departures from the Powerhouse and I think you said there was a 3 per cent departure rate.

**LISA HAVILAH:** Over the three years that I have been there, yes.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Three per cent?

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I just wanted to make sure my memory served me well.

**LISA HAVILAH:** I am very happy to provide the exact figures.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Okay. You said around a 3 per cent departure rate. The response to a question in the Parliament where we asked the number of MAAS staff that had left in the period between January 2019 and November 2021 was 41 staff members—and I have the material provided to the question in the Chamber. Forty-one staff members is not a 3 per cent departure

rate. Are these part-time positions? Is there an explanation behind the figure and the discrepancy between your data and what was received on notice?

**LISA HAVILAH:** The material that you were given—

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I will give it to the secretary to provide to you.

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I think that would be helpful, thank you.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I will also seek leave to table that. It was actually a question to Minister Harwin, which was taken as a written question at the end of question time, and it was provided by your office.

**LISA HAVILAH:** I am no expert on mathematics, but I think that calculation is the total over three years and the percentage is per year. I can very happily take it on notice and give you further detail.

**ANSWER:**

The total staff turnover for the three year period from Jan 2019 to Dec 2021 was 46.

I am advised the average Powerhouse staff turnover rate over the past three financial years to 31 December 31 2021 was 3.75%.

#### QUESTION

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** My question went to morale at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, that there is a problem with morale at that institution and departure at a senior level. Would you dispute that claim?

**LISA HAVILAH:** We have an incredible team of staff at the Powerhouse and they have gone through a lot of change. With the renewal of the museum there was some uncertainty, but we have moved through that and everyone is very excited and engaged with the renewal of the Powerhouse. In reference to the executive team, it is a big project that we are delivering and it is my job to make sure we have the absolute best and appropriately skilled staff. As the project changes, I need to make sure that the team has the ability to deliver what the Government expects us to deliver, so of course there are going to be changes within that team.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** There is a second page to the document, so I will table a second page, which is the covering page, but please excuse my scribbles.

**KATE FOY:** May I make a point with respect to morale?

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Yes.

**KATE FOY:** One of the things that is quite important to us is staff engagement. That is why every year, through the Public Service Commission, we conduct the People Matter Employee Survey and, given that the cultural institutions are part of my family, if you like, that I care for, we do look at the results of all the PME surveys to see what the issues are, what is making people happy at work and what are the things that we might need to focus on. Certainly I have had a look at their PMES results and—

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** What were those?

**KATE FOY:** I cannot remember off the top of my head. They are publicly available I think, in a general sense, but Lisa Havilah might want to pick up on that.

**LISA HAVILAH:** I can say that staff engagement has increased 6 per cent in the last 12 months, so with the confirmation of the renewal and the scope of the renewal there is a much higher level of engagement in the future of the Powerhouse within the staff.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** What are your observations involving staff morale at the Powerhouse?

**LISA HAVILAH:** My observations are that we have incredibly skilled and engaged staff that are excited about the future of the museum, not only the renewal of Ultimo but the creation of Castle Hill and the creation of our new flagship in Parramatta. They are engaged in that project in a whole range of different ways, from the digitisation to the relocation of the collection to the conservation. We have been able to undertake extraordinary levels of conservation on the collections part of this project. So we have a highly engaged professional team that are really committed to the museum and I am very proud to work alongside them.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I do not expect you to have this on hand, although if you do that would be fantastic, but I will understand if you have to take this on notice. The period that is part of that written question without notice where 41 staff departed, from January 2019 to 1 November 2021, can you provide the total remuneration package for the departure of those staff? There would be, I guess, the usual entitlements and things like that that occur at the end. You do not need to break it down individually, but just a global figure.

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, very happy to provide that.

**ANSWER:**

Since January 2019 to December 2021 the following resignations have occurred, totalling \$340,152.

- 9 Grade 1/2
- 2 Grade 3/4
- 6 Grade 5/6
- 11 Grade 7/8
- 6 Grade 9/10
- 7 Grade 11/12
- 2 Curator/Registrar Grade 1
- 3 Band 1 Senior Executives

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** What is the current status of OCHRE?

**MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:** I might pass to Lil, if that is okay.

**LILLIAN GORDON:** In terms of OCHRE at the moment, it is still progressing, so LDM is part of OCHRE—Local Decision Making is part of OCHRE—and there are a number of other programs that are part of OCHRE, which include Connected Communities, the Aboriginal Language and Culture Nest, the Opportunity Hubs, and a few others in that which I will get to shortly. They have gone to the various departments that they are attached to—mostly Education, from that perspective—and continue through that realm—

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Just to be clear, they have devolved to those departments?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes, to continue that work.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** So what role do you have?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** We ultimately have a monitoring role in terms of how they are going. Obviously they will then embed into Close the Gap, so that work will then contribute to the outcomes in Close the Gap for those particular realms.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** When the programs were devolved to the other agencies, was that funding protected and did it go with them?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes, so the agencies that they have gone to, the clusters they have gone to, provide the funding for those programs, yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** They were funded previously out of a separate bucket of money? What I am asking is: Has that money gone across to the departments or have the departments had to pick up the funding for these projects within their existing budgets?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I will take that on notice, but I believe that they were part of their existing budgets already.

**ANSWER:**

The NSW Department of Education now has carriage of the Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests, Opportunity Hubs and Connected Communities Strategy.

NSW Treasury has advised these initiatives will be funded through to the 23/24 financial year, with Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests receiving \$1.679m annually.

Opportunity Hubs were allocated \$2.327m in 21/22.

Late last year, the Minister for Education approved an increase of the 22/23 allocation from \$2.379m to \$4.478m with \$2.1m of this to support the establishment of a Greater Western Sydney Opportunity Hub. \$2.405m is allocated in 23/24.

The Connected Communities Strategy funding is allocated:

- \$25.7m in 21/22
- \$38.8m in 22/23
- \$39.7m in 23/24

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Sorry, I should know the answer to this, but I do not. Is the OCHRE evaluation 2019 a public document?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** So the response to that—

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I tabled it, didn't I?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes. We did table it, yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I was not sure. I was just checking. All right. What happens after you have responded to the 2019 evaluation?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I will take that on notice. It is work that we are doing at the moment to understand how two different policy realms—well, not two different ones—or two policy realms where we are working with Aboriginal communities can actually come together in alignment ultimately.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I am sure you are far more familiar with this than I am, given the amount of time you spend out in communities, but the greatest frustration I get when I met with Aboriginal people—it does not matter where they are across New South Wales—is the amount of time they are expected to be involved in consultation—

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Yes.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** —the number of times they are expected to be in consultation, the various different agencies that they are required to be in consultation with over every single thing that the Government is doing. I had thought that OCHRE was supposed to address this. Closing the Gap clearly is a slightly different process because it is about trying to meet targets. Maybe it is a question for the Minister, but I am concerned about this over consultation. That is, as I said, the biggest issue that is raised with me about how Government interacts. I am concerned that OCHRE seems to have stopped. Is there going to be another OCHRE plan? How is this going to be resolved?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Again, I will take that on notice because it is work that we are currently doing, ultimately, to have a look at the alignment so that we have not got a heap of different things happening at any one time, particularly for community. Ultimately, place based is very much what we are looking towards and some of that has been local decision-making; in other places, that has been other mechanisms. So it is entirely up to communities how they want to organise themselves. But every single person in community is an authority in terms of their own voice.

So how communities might organise themselves, some of that has been through local decision-making alliances, some of it has been through things like land councils, some of it has been through a range of other elements, and that is up to community to be able to do that. I absolutely appreciate what you are saying in terms of consultation. That is a big part of that. So OCHRE was working towards how can that be best where community works with government and how can that best align. I cannot say it is perfect. In various places it works incredibly well; in other places there is room for improvement, absolutely.

**ANSWER:**

The full Government response to the Stage 1 independent evaluation of OCHRE recommendations is currently being finalised. In its December 2018 report "["OCHRE: Five Years On"](#)", the Government published its interim response to the independent evaluation of OCHRE, broadly accepting all of the findings and the recommendations from the evaluation that the Aboriginal leaders presented.

The Government also continues to work closely with the Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs), and has provided its response to the Deputy Ombudsman on the recommendations contained in the NSW Ombudsman's 2019 "["OCHRE Review Report"](#)".

The timing of the full combined response to the Stage One independent evaluation, recommendations from the evaluation and the Ombudsman's Report has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions and the inability to directly engage with community.

Aboriginal Affairs is also seeking to review OCHRE given the clear alignment with the Closing the Gap priority reforms. Work is currently underway to align OCHRE and Closing the Gap commitments.

Closing the Gap is establishing an ambitious reform agenda through its five priority reform areas and 17 socio-economic targets. The work and evaluations as part of OCHRE will assist in providing the principles – the how – to strengthen the ongoing partnership between the NSW Government and Aboriginal peak bodies and Aboriginal community-controlled sector, that will see us achieve these priorities. Similarly, Local Decision Making will be one of the mechanisms for delivering the place-based partnerships that will be critical for delivering on our commitments under Closing the Gap, particularly at the regional and local level.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Thank you, Ms Foy. Ms Pitman, when were you appointed head of Create NSW?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** I was appointed 17 days ago.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** Welcome.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Welcome.

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** Thank you.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Were you in an acting position prior to that?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** I was the head of Create Infrastructure prior to that.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Did you, in fact, see the departure of senior officials in Create or Create Infrastructure under your time?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** There inevitably is turnover in all levels of the organisation, as you would expect in, frankly, a hot job market and a growing team with plenty of opportunities outside of government. So, yes, I mean, there has been turnover in my leadership team, absolutely.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Ms Havilah said there was a 3 per cent turnover at the Powerhouse. What was the turnover of your workforce and how many people are FTEs in Create NSW?

**ANNETTE PITMAN:** The short answer is that I do not have all that information in front of me, and I do not want to give you the wrong information. So I am happy to take that on notice. But there have been a number of staff at many levels of the organisation that have turned over over the 2½ years that I was in that role.

**ANSWER:**

The turnover rate for Create NSW was 14 per cent for the past year (from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022).

The Full Time Equivalent for Create NSW as of 24 March 2022 is: 93.6. Of this total number, 59.8 represents Create Infrastructure.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I just want to come back to OCHRE responding to the evaluation. Again, where is the strategic plan for Aboriginal Affairs up to? Is there a new one coming?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** Yes, currently in the context of OCHRE and then Closing the Gap in terms of the national agreement, yes, we are working towards the new strategy for Aboriginal Affairs.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** What is the ballpark time frame on that?

**LILLIAN GORDON:** I would have to come back to you on that and take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

It is anticipated that Aboriginal Affairs NSW will have a draft Strategic Plan developed by June 2022 and finalised as soon as possible post NSW Budget 2022/2023.

**QUESTION**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:** I just wanted to ask a question specifically—there was an issue of the Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund, the Youpla Group. Basically it was a funeral fund. You may have to take it on notice, if anyone could let me know what the current status of that is. My understanding is that basically people had paid up to \$10,000.

<p><b>MICHAEL COUTTS-TROTTER:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:</b> You are nodding.</p> <p><b>LILLIAN GORDON:</b> Yes, we are aware of it, but we would absolutely take it on notice to provide you with more information.</p> <p><b>The Hon. PENNY SHARPE:</b> They were Queensland-based but basically signed up a bunch of New South Wales people. Are you able to tell me anything in terms of what has happened as a result of this coming to your attention and what needs to happen next?</p> <p><b>LILLIAN GORDON:</b> It has more recently come to our attention. We are certainly looking into that now. We will be able to provide that on notice.</p>
<p><b>ANSWER:</b></p> <p>Aboriginal Affairs NSW are regularly liaising with colleagues in other NSW and Commonwealth government agencies to ensure that we can provide up to date information to people in contact with Aboriginal Affairs who have been impacted by the liquidation of Youpla.</p>
<p><b>QUESTION</b></p>
<p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> Madam Chair, I have a few more questions. I want to end with Ms Havilah. Ms Havilah, are you familiar with the NSW Creative Industries Residency Program at the Powerhouse?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> I am, yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> How does it operate and how do you determine who gets a residency?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> The way that it operates is that we do a public expression of interest. It also depends on the space that is available at any given time. We do public EOIs, we do a call-out and then we put a panel together that includes an external and members of the Powerhouse team. We have criteria to that assessment process and then we negotiate and finalise a lease, a licence, a partnership agreement.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> So it is a subsidised or reduced rent?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> Providing space?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> That is correct.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> I understand there are about 21 groups, organisations or individuals who, in fact, are current Powerhouse NSW Creative Industries Residency Program participants. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> Yes, I can take you through some of them. We have the Australian Graphic Design Association; we have Queer Screen, which is a really great Sydney-based New South Wales organisation; and Romance Was Born, a renowned fashion design company.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> Is that a commercial activity?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> Do you have the full list of 21 there?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> Yes, I do.</p> <p><b>The Hon. WALT SECORD:</b> Can you read the full list, please?</p> <p><b>LISA HAVILAH:</b> Yes. The Australian Graphic Design Association, Ainslie Murray, Anna Tregloan, Cat Jones, Counter Magazine, Department of Homo Affairs, Dinalie Dabarera, Electronic Music Conference, FBI Radio, Filmmaking Collective, Julian Wessels, Kelly Doley, MAPA, Nell, Queer</p>

Screen, Romance Was Born, Rosy Deacon, Jordan Gogos, Studio KaaKi, Amanda Williams and First Nations Fashion and Design.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Putting it into a market perspective, what would be the equivalent of the rental space that you are providing to these organisations?

**LISA HAVILAH:** How much and how many square metres? It depends.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** You would have to, as part of your reporting requirements.

**LISA HAVILAH:** Yes, we did a formal commercial evaluation and then we apply a 50 per cent subsidy.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** What is the value of the space you are providing?

**LISA HAVILAH:** I would have to take that on notice. I am very happy to provide it, though.

**ANSWER:**

The Powerhouse Creative Industries Residency Program does not provide any funding or grants to participants.

The program provides workspace for creative industries. The space is offered at approximately 50% of the commercial value taking into account location, amenity, size and condition. In exchange for the subsidy creative residents contribute to the Powerhouse Program.

As an example, the total value of the approximately 1,285m<sup>2</sup> of space provided equates to \$16,954 paid by residents for one month (March 2022).