



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

**Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales**

Hearing: Wednesday 25 October 2023

**Answers due by:** Wednesday 22 November 2023

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

Phone (02) 9230 2778

[BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Questions from the Hon Chris Rath *(on behalf of the Opposition)***

**Biosecurity Funding**

1.

- (a) Last year the former government announced \$5.8 million to fast-track development of mRNA vaccines for Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot And Mouth Disease. How much of this funding has been spent?
- (b) Is there additional funding available once the \$5.8 million has been fully exhausted?
- (c) Does the government have an aspirational timeline for development of these vaccines?
- (d) What is the current situation in relation to the threat posed to Australia by Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot And Mouth Disease?
- (e) Is NSW in a position to respond to an incursion of these diseases?

**Drought Preparedness**

2.

- (a) At the peak of the last drought, how much funding was being drawn out of the Farm Innovation Fund on a monthly basis?
- (b) What will be the difference between the former Farm Innovation Fund and the incoming Drought Infrastructure Fund?
- (c) What will be the interest rate charged to farmers who access loans through the Drought Infrastructure Fund?
- (d) From an agriculture industry perspective, is it more beneficial for farmers to be able to build drought resilience prior to a drought or be providing with subsidies and fee waivers during a drought?
- (e) From a financial perspective, is it more beneficial for government to provide resilience building programs prior to a drought, freight subsidies during a drought, or waiving rates and fees during a drought?
- (f) What was the dollar-for-dollar breakdown of resilience-building, freight subsidies and rates and fees waiving during the last drought?

### **Hudson Pear**

3. In December 2022, \$2.6 million was allocated to a Hudson Pear program in the Walgett and Lightning Ridge area;
- (a) How much of the \$2.6 million was spent between March 25, 2023 and June 30, 2023?
  - (b) How many staff have been employed as part of this program?
  - (c)
    - i. How much of the \$2.6 million is budgeted to be spent this financial year?
    - ii. How much of the \$2.6 million is budgeted to be spent in the 2024/25 financial year?
    - iii. How much of the \$2.6 million is budgeted to be spent in the 2025/26 financial year?
    - iv. How much of the \$2.6 million is budgeted to be spent in the 2026/27 financial year?

### **Forestry**

- 4.
- (a) Was any consultation done with the timber industry before announcing a halt to harvesting operations in 8400 hectares of State Forest on September 12?
  - (b)
    - i. How many illegal protests have been held in State Forests in the seven months post March 25, 2023, in comparison to the seven months prior to March 25, 2023?
    - ii. What impact have these protests had on timber harvesting operations in terms of output?
    - iii. What, if any, mental health services are you providing to timber workers impacted by protests, harassment from activists and the uncertainty that has been created about the future of the native hardwood industry?
    - iv. Has Forestry Corporation been required to delay harvesting operations in State Forests due to a lack of security to keep workers safe?

### **Red Fire Ants**

- 5.
- (a) On October 21, 2023, the Federal Government announced funding of \$268 million to combat Red Fire Ants. Did the NSW Government discuss this figure with the Federal Government prior to the announcement?
  - (b) The Invasive Species Council described this figure as a “significant downpayment but not enough”. Will the NSW Government lobby other states to contribute to the funding required to provide a national approach to this issue?

- (c)
  - i. The most recent update provided by the NSW Government stated fire ants had been detected in Queensland 5km from the NSW/Qld border. Is this still the most accurate information?
  - ii. If not, what is the most accurate information in relation to detections of fire ants in Queensland.
  - iii. Have there been any reports of fire ant infestations in NSW?
  - iv. If so, were these reports investigated and found to be false?

### **Sheep and Goat Electronic Identification**

6.

- (a)
  - i. Is the timeline for NSW's roll out of mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification the same as the timeline announced by the former government in December 2022?
  - ii. Has there been any discussions with Ministers or departments from other states seeking NSW to fall into line with the timeline established by those states?
- (b)
  - i. How much funding is available in the program announced on August 29, 2023, which allows for producers to apply for funding for EID readers, software, auto drafters and goat-handling equipment?
  - ii. How much of this funding has already been allocated?
  - iii. Where is this funding being sourced from?
- (c)
  - i. What, if any, stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in relation to the roll-out of mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification since March 25, 2023?
  - ii. How much of this has been done by the Department of Primary Industries, and how much has been undertaken in person by the Minister?

### **Varroa Mite**

7.

- (a) You announced a plan to transition from eradication to management on Sept 20. When was the actual decision made?

- (b) What information have you been given in relation to an investigation being undertaken as to how Varroa Mite got into Australia?
- (c) What is the value of the bee pollination industry to agriculture in NSW?
- (d) How many hives had been exterminated between March and when you made the decision to move to a management program in September?
- (e)
  - i. Why did a beekeeper, Jon Lockwood from near Orange, have to send his own team of people to a property near Balranald to euthanise the 2500 hives he had pollinating an almond crop?
  - ii. A report on the ABC website outlined that Mr Lockwood's bees were some of the last ones to be euthanised before the removal of the eradication program. They didn't have varroa mite. Will you provide any level of compensation to Mr Lockwood?

### **Feral Pig Management**

8.

- (a) Can you provide an update on what programs are being rolled out in relation to feral pig management, and how much of the \$13 million being spent this financial year has been allocated to each program?
- (b) Riverina, Western NSW and the North-West have been identified as "hot spots". Why hasn't the Upper Hunter region, which has a significant pig problem also been singled out for significant investment?
- (c) Will additional staff be employed by Local Land Services as part of the \$13 million program, or will staff be redirected from other projects?
- (d) Is there any funding available to deal with the feral pig issue beyond the 2023/24 financial year?

### **DRNSW Budget**

9.

- (a) Why has the Department of Regional NSW's budget for grants and subsidies decreased from \$2,166,121,000 in the 2022/23 financial year to \$1,348,142,000 in the 2023/24 financial year, according to p10-2 of Budget Paper 2?
- (b) On Page A5-10 of Budget Paper 1, under the heading "Material Measures" it is noted that the Regional Growth Fund will be redirected to fund other government priorities and election commitments;

- i. How much funding was remaining in the Regional Growth Fund on March 25, 2023?
- ii. What specific government priorities and election commitments will this funding be redirected towards?

(c)

- i. When was the decision made not to proceed with Round 3 of the Regional Job Creation Fund?
- ii. What specific date/s were applicants notified the program had been cancelled and their applications for funding would not be proceeding?
- iii. Will the government be replacing the Regional Job Creation fund with a similar program aimed at specifically creating employment opportunities in regional NSW?

(d)

- i. What was the travel budget for DRNSW staff in the 2022/23 financial year?
- ii. What is the travel budget for DRNSW staff in the 2023/24 financial year?

### **Farms Of The Future Program**

10. On the Department of Primary Industries website, it states the Farms Of The Future grant program closed on August 31, 2023. Has this program been discontinued?

### **Agricultural Drains Coordinator**

11.

- (a) Has John Cullerton handed down a report he was commissioned to do in relation to finding solutions to drains in the norther parts of NSW, in the wake of flooding?
- (b) Is John Cullerton still employed as the Agricultural Drains Coordinator?
- (c) If not, why not?

### **Regional Events Acceleration Fund**

12. Will there be any future rounds of the Regional Events Acceleration Fund?
13. If not, please outline the NSW Government's plan to attract these events in the regions.
14. What is your plan to bring sporting matches like the Women's International Rugby Tens Tournament to regional NSW?

### **Regional Tourism Activation Fund**

15. Are you committed to attracting domestic and international tourism to regional NSW?
16. The Regional Tourism Activation Fund was delivering new and enhanced tourism infrastructure; a significant part of this program was to improve accessibility to attractions.
  - (a) Is this another example of infrastructure you are stripping from the regions to fund metro-based projects?
17. Can you please outline your plan to deliver these projects, especially those that improve accessibility?

### **Stronger Country Communities Fund**

18. How much correspondence has your office received regarding the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 6?
19. How much correspondence has the Department of Regional NSW received regarding the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 6?

### **Minister for the Western NSW**

20. What are your primary responsibilities as the Minister for Western NSW?
21. What Department supports these responsibilities?
22. How many departmental staff are allocated to the Western NSW portfolio?
23. How many staff in your office are dedicated to the Western NSW portfolio?
24. Do these staff have other portfolio responsibilities?
25. Do you have any staff solely responsible for the portfolio of Western NSW?
26. How many hours per week would you spend on the Western NSW portfolio?
27. How many briefs as Minister for Western NSW would your office receive per week, on average?

### **Regional Job Creation Fund**

28. When was the decision made to axe the \$100 million Regional Job Creation Fund (RJCF) Round **Three** even though applications had already been received?
29. Had the Department provided successful project recommendations to the Ministerial Office?
30. Why has the number of rejected businesses not been published?
31. When will the Department of Regional NSW website be updated to reflect the discontinuation of the RJCF Round Three?
32. Have applicants for RJCF Round Three been made aware of the program's discontinuation rather than just being informed they were unsuccessful?

33. Where has the money been redirected to?
34. Why did it take the Minister more than five months to make this decision and notify applicants?
35. What are the risks in holding notifications of success for several months?
36. Please outline the reasons why you cut this funding from the regions.

## **OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS**

### **Agency Invoices**

37. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
38. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
39. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
  - (a) What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

### **Car/Driver**

40. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?
  - (a) If so, please provide details of each fine?
  - (b) Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
  - (c) Who paid any of the fines?
41. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?
  - (a) If so, who was driving the car?

### **Complaints**

42. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

### **Consultants**

43. How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?
  - (a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?
44. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:
  - (a) Social media?



- i. What were the cost of these services?
  - (a) Photography?
    - i. What were the cost of these services?
  - (a) Videography?
    - i. What were the cost of these services?
  - (a) Acting training?
    - i. What were the cost of these services?
  - (a) Ergonomics?
    - i. What were the cost of these services?
45. Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
  - (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
  - (c) Who was the contract with?
  - (d) Did the contract go to a competitive tender?

### **Departmental Credit Cards**

46. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
    - i. Please provide a break-down of this information by grade.
  - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
  - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
  - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period and what was the card holder's employment grade?
  - (e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
    - i. What was the cost to replace them?
  - (f) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
    - i. What was the total value of those purchases?
    - ii. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
    - iii. Were all those amounts repaid?
    - iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
  - (g) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?

- i. What amount was repaid, in full?
  - ii. What amount was left unpaid?
- (h) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
- i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (i) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

### **Department/Agency Staffing**

47. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) 28 March 2023?
  - (b) 23 October 2023?
48. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
49. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) 28 March 2023?
  - (b) 23 October 2023?
50. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?
51. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - i. Voluntary
    - ii. Forced
  - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
52. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
53. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal?
54. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?

55. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?
56. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
57. What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
  - (a) Taxi hire?
  - (b) Ridesharing services?
  - (c) Limousine/private car hire?
  - (d) Hire car rental?
58. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?
  - (a) If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
  - (b) How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023?
59. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
60. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
  - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
  - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
61. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
  - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
  - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

### **Efficiency Dividends**

62. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
  - (a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
  - (b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

## **GIPA Applications**

63. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
  - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
  - (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
  - (d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
  - (e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
  - (f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
    - i. Date received.
    - ii. Date acknowledged.
    - iii. Date responded.
    - iv. The description provided for the information sought.
64. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
  - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
    - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
  - (c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
  - (d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
  - (e) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
    - i. Date received.
    - ii. Date acknowledged.
    - iii. Date responded.
    - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

## **Hospitality**

65. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
66. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
67. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
68. Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

- (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared publicly?
- (c) Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

### **Labour Hire Firms**

69. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:
- (a) The names of the firms utilised.
  - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged.
  - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
  - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
  - (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company.
  - (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.
  - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

### **Media and Public Relations**

70. How much has your ministerial office spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
  - (b) Instagram
  - (c) LinkedIn
  - (d) TikTok
  - (e) YouTube
  - (f) WhatsApp
  - (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)
71. How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:
- (a) Facebook
  - (b) Instagram
  - (c) LinkedIn
  - (d) TikTok
  - (e) YouTube
  - (f) WhatsApp
  - (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

72. Have you had media training or public speaking training?
  - (a) If yes, who paid for it?
  - (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?
73. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?
74. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?
75. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

### **Merchant fees**

76. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.
77. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.
78. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

### **Ministerial disclosures**

79. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?
  - (a) If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

### **Office Administration**

80. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:
  - (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October

81. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October
82. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October
83. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October
84. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August

- (f) September
  - (g) October
85. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October
86. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
87. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:
- (a) April
  - (b) May
  - (c) June
  - (d) July
  - (e) August
  - (f) September
  - (g) October
88. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
89. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
90. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?
91. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?
92. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?
93. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?
94. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?
- (a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
  - (b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?



- (c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?
95. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?
- (a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.
96. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?
- (a) How much of this budget is allocated to staff?
97. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
- (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
- i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
98. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
- (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
- i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
99. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
- (b) How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
- i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
100. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
101. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
102. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
103. What brand of paper is used in your office?
- (a) Is it recycled paper?
- (b) Is it Australian made paper?
104. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?

105. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
    - i. Who were they gifted to?
106. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
- (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
107. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:
- (a) Taxi hire?
  - (b) Ridesharing services?
  - (c) Hire car rental?
  - (d) Limousine/private car hire?
108. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?

### **Overseas Trips**

109. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
110. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, what was the nature of these trips?
  - (b) Who paid for these trips?

### **Parliamentary Secretary**

111. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
112. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
113. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?
114. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?
- (a) Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.
115. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
116. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
  - (b) If so, what was the cost of:
    - i. Airfares?

- ii. Accommodation?
- iii. Food and beverage?
- iv. Transportation?
- v. Entertainment?

117. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so, when, and where?
- (b) If so, what was the cost of:
  - i. Airfares?
  - ii. Accommodation?
  - iii. Food and beverage?
  - iv. Transportation?
  - v. Entertainment?

118. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?

- (a) If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?
  - i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?

### **Probity Auditor**

119. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?

- (a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

### **Qantas**

120. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?

- (a) Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member?
- (b) When did you initially become a member?
- (c) When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

### **Training**

121. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?

- (a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.

122. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?

- (a) If so, what was the cost?
- (b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

### **Website Usage**

123. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
124. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

## Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

### Animal Welfare Action Plan

125. According to the 2018 Animal Welfare Action Plan, what progress is the Department making on:
- (a) Introducing revised standards and guidelines for animals in pet shops and breeding dogs and cats?
  - (b) Reviewing the adequacy of penalties for non-compliance under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?
  - (c) amending legislation to improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement activities?
  - (d) supporting the development and implementation of evidence based national standards and guidelines for medical research by representing the NSW Government on the Animal Welfare Task Group?

### Mulesing

126. In both Victoria and Tasmania pain relief when mulesing is now mandatory. How will NSW be responding?
- (a) Will the Department be increasing producer awareness and promoting the use of pain relief while mulesing lambs?
127. Do you consider mulesing without pain relief to meet the objectives of the *Prevention to Cruelty to Animals Act*?
128. If pain relief is readily available and affordable but is not used, how is the department making sure landholders are compliant?

### Election Commitments

129. What is the timeline for the implementation of the Independent Office of Animal Welfare?
130. What is the timeline for the review of animal welfare legislation?
131. What is the timeline to ban puppy farms in NSW?
132. What is the timeline for the implementation of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry*?

### Moruya Rodeo

133. Following the two breaches of POCTA issued by RSPCA, will the Department be instructing the Council to terminate the licence for Moruya NYD Rodeo Event, in line with their conditions?

## **Medical Research**

134. What progress is being made to implement the recommendations made by the NSW Government in response to the Inquiry into the Use of Primates and Other Animals in Medical Research, including:
- (a) the publication of an annual list of accredited animal research establishments, and the species of animals they use in medical research reporting on the total numbers of animals bred (but not ultimately used) for medical research?
  - (b) requiring the fate of all species used in research to be reported?
  - (c) the separate reporting of animals used in observational studies?
  - (d) overbreeding of animals?
  - (e) pre-registration and publication of negative results of medical research involving animals?
  - (f) issues concerning honours students undertaking medical research using animals?
  - (g) the housing and care of animals used in medical research?
  - (h) whistleblower protections?
135. What is the status of the following funding commitments made by former Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology Alister Henskens in March 2023?
- (a) Replacing Animals in Medical Research Grants - \$4.5 million to support science-based research that replaces or significantly reduces the use of animals in experimentation?
  - (b) Rehoming Animals who have been used in Medical Research Grants Program - \$2.5 million for charitable or rescue organisations who are rehoming animals who have been used in medical experimentation?
136. Will the Minister be supporting the revision of the NHRMC Code and request the National Health and Medical Research Council initiate a review?

## **Complaints at Dog Breeding Facilities**

137. For each of the financial years ended:
- (a) 30 June 2018,
  - (b) 30 June 2019,
  - (c) 30 June 2020,
  - (d) 30 June 2021,
  - (e) 30 June 2022, and
  - (f) 30 June 2023
- i. How many complaints were received regarding licensed dog breeding facilities?
  - ii. How many of those complaints related to animal cruelty?
  - iii. How many of those complaints resulted in on-site inspections taking place?

- iv. How many of those complaints resulted in investigations where no site visit was conducted?
- v. How many of those complaints resulted in action being taken against owners and/or operators and/or workers?
- vi. How many complaints were received in relation to unlicensed and/or suspected dog breeding facilities including facilities reported to be "puppy farms", "puppy mills", and the like?
- vii. How many of those complaints related to animal cruelty?
- viii. How many of those complaints resulted in on-site inspections taking place?
- ix. How many of those complaints resulted in investigations where no site visit was conducted?
- x. How many of those cases resulted in action being taken against owners and/or operators and/or workers?

### **Duck Hunting**

- 138. What is the Department doing to close the gap in allowing recreational duck hunting to occur on private land on properties that are covered by a [Native Game Bird Management \(Owner/Occupier\) Licence](#)?
- 139. What is the Department doing to ensure that hunters can correctly identify the 10 species of duck permitted to be hunted on private property, beyond the waterfowl identification test?
- 140. How does the Department monitor if hunters are targeting the correct species of duck?
- 141. What are the penalties if a hunter is found to have intentionally shot ducks not listed in the 10 species?
- 142. Is the department aware of how many ducks are being non-fatally injured or maimed?
- 143. For each of the financial years ended:
  - (a) 30 June 2018,
  - (b) 30 June 2019,
  - (c) 30 June 2020,
  - (d) 30 June 2021,
  - (e) 30 June 2022, and
  - (f) 30 June 2023
    - i. please provide the numbers of ducks shot and non-fatally injured

## **Review into Approved Charitable Organisations**

144. When will the Government be resuming the annual inquiry and reporting into the approved charitable organisations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?