



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Premier

Hearing: Wednesday 21 February 2024

Answers due by: Tuesday 19 March 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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

PREMIER

Local Small Commitments Allocation

- (1) Where the full \$400,000 for an electorate was not allocated to projects nominated before the election is there any provision in the guidelines for the Local Small Commitments Allocation grants program for allocating the funds to specific new nominated projects rather than being distributed on a pro-rata basis to local councils for parks and playground projects?
 - (a) If so, who is authorised to make the nomination?
- (2) Were each of the projects list for the Castle Hill and Kellyville electorates on the master list emailed from the Premier's Office to the Premier's Department nominated prior to the election or not?
- (3) Who in the Premier's Office was responsible for confirming to the Premier's Department that the projects listed on the master spreadsheet emailed on 28 July 2023 were election commitments?

Asbestos

- (4) Under Premier's Memorandum *M2023-02 Christmas Closedown for the years 2023-2026* it appears that reduced staff levels at Transport for NSW contributed to a six-day delay in anyone responding to the first report of asbestos contaminated mulch which was made by an alert member of the public on 2 January 2024. What steps are you taking to ensure that environmental emergencies reported during the Christmas closedown are responded to promptly?
- (5) From sites identified to date as having asbestos in contaminated mulch what is the earliest date at which the contaminated mulch was placed on site?
 - (a) What is the earliest date at which asbestos contaminated mulch was placed on a site which is at a school?
 - (b) What is the earliest date at which asbestos contaminated mulch was placed on a site which is at a Government school?

- (c) When was the contaminated mulch placed on site at Liverpool West Public School?
- (d) When was the contaminated mulch placed on site at Allambie Heights Public School?

Rosehill

- (6) Noting the Premier's Diary Disclosure describes the purpose of the meeting held on 30 October 2023 with the Australian Turf Club as "Meet and greet", was the proposal to develop Rosehill known to you or your staff prior to the meeting?
 - (a) Was this proposal discussed at this meeting?
 - (b) Apart from this meeting, did you have any other meetings with anyone from the Australian Turf Club prior to the media release issued on 7 December 2023?
- (7) Who signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Turf Club on behalf of the NSW Government?
- (8) Which ministers were consulted about the content of the Memorandum of Understanding before it was signed?

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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PREMIER

EPA Regulation

- (9) What entities will be involved in the discussions between EPA and Government about the contaminated products issue?
 - (a) What process will be followed for Government entities to engage with the discussions?
 - (b) What process will be followed to allow for non-Government entities to engage with the discussions?
 - (c) What process will be followed to allow for community individuals to engage with the discussions?
 - (d) What weighting will be given to the various stakeholder contributions?
 - (e) What weighting will be given to public security including public confidence in circular waste regulations?
 - (f) Will the scope of discussions include all waste streams?

- i. Identify the waste streams that will be subject to discussions.
- (10) What evidence is the Government relying on to prioritise increased fines for non compliance with existing regulations?
 - (a) Are increased fines an effective method to ensure greater compliance with EPA regulations?
 - (b) Will increased fines be considered for other industries that regularly breach regulations?
 - i. Why?
 - ii. Why not?
 - (c) Will the Government release the full report from 2022 into the EPA's proposed changes to the rules governing how skip bin residue is processed and used?
 - i. Is the Government considering whether the recommendations contained in that report should be implemented now?
- (11) List the names of the laboratories that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2013 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
- (12) List the names of the facilities that produce recovered fines that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2013 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
- (13) List the names of the laboratories that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2019 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
- (14) List the names of the facilities that produce recovered fines that were found to be re-testing samples in the 2019 EPA investigation into recovered fines.
- (15) Which facilities were found not to be compliant with EPA sampling requirements in 2013?
 - (a) Which facilities were found not to be compliant with EPA sampling requirements in 2019?
- (16) Which facilities were found to have contaminants other than asbestos in their recovered fines in 2013?
 - (a) Which facilities were found to have contaminants other than asbestos in their recovered fines in 2019?
- (17) Which facilities were found to have asbestos in their recovered fines in 2013?

- (a) Which facilities were found to have asbestos in their recovered fines in 2019?
- (18) List the locations where contaminated or potentially contaminated recovered fines were used?
- (19) Is the EPA testing samples of mulch taken as part of its investigation for other contaminants?
 - (a) List the other contaminants?
- (20) How many samples taken as part of the mulch investigation have returned positive results for contaminants other than asbestos?
- (21) How many samples taken as part of the mulch investigation contained construction and demolition waste?

Carbon Credits

- (22) Has the Government undertaken any cross-department work to assess existing stored carbon in NSW?
 - (a) If no, why not?
 - (b) Has there been any economic assessment of potential carbon credits from existing sources?
 - (c) What is the best estimate for stored carbon in NSW?
 - i. What is the best estimate for stored carbon in native vegetation?
 - ii. What is the best estimate for public native forests?
- (23) Has the Government undertaken any cross-department work to assess potential sites or industries for carbon storage?
 - (a) If no, why not?
 - (b) Has there been any economic assessment of potential carbon credits that could be stored in NSW?
 - (c) What is the best estimate for how much additional carbon could be stored in NSW?
 - i. What is the best estimate for the potential to store carbon through land use changes that regenerate native vegetation?
 - (d) What industries have been considered by the NSW Government as likely contributors for carbon storage?

- (24) Has any cross-government assessment been undertaken to understand carbon markets?
- (a) If yes, what are the terms of reference for the assessment?
 - (b) If no, why not?
- (25) Is the NSW Government discussing carbon storage with the Federal Government?
- (a) Have any agreements been reached so far?
 - i. When were those agreements made?
 - (b) Have any reports been produced so far?
 - i. What are the names of those reports?
- (26) Is the NSW Government discussing carbon credits with the Federal Government?
- (a) Have any agreements been reached so far?
 - i. When were those agreements made?
 - (b) Have any reports been produced so far?
 - i. What are the names of those reports?