



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education

**Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education**  
**(Whan)**

Hearing: Tuesday, 5 March 2024

**Answers due by:** Monday, 1 April 2024

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**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

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

**SKILLS, TAFE & TERTIARY EDUCATION**

**\$300 Million TAFE investment**

- (1) In relation to the announcement by the government of 6 March 2024 of an investment of \$300 million in TAFE NSW:
  - (a) Is this new funding?
  - (b) If not, was any of this funding included in the 2023-2024 NSW Budget?
  - (c) Is the funding provided wholly or in part by the NSW government or the federal government?
  - (d) If in part, what is the proportion, expressed as a percentage of the total funding, supplied by the NSW Government and the percentage supplied by the federal government?
- (2) What is the timeframe for the spending of this \$300 million in funding on TAFE?
  - (a) For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?
  - (b) For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025?
  - (c) For the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026?
  - (d) For the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027?
- (3) Where this funding includes maintenance on TAFE assets, including property, fittings and equipment, is this in addition to the current maintenance budget for TAFE as provided in the NSW 2023-2024 budget?
- (4) Which regional TAFE campuses will receive improved digital connectivity though the announced \$36 million being provided for this purpose?
  - (a) With regards to each of these locations, how many new digital devices will be provided through this funding?
  - (b) What is the timeframe for delivery of these new digital devices?
    - i. For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?

- ii. For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025?
- iii. For the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026?
- iv. For the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027?

### **Bankstown TAFE**

- (5) Can the department outline the total relocation costs associated with the Government's announced plans to dismantle Bankstown TAFE?
- (6) What information was provided by the Department of Skills, TAFE, and Tertiary Education to the previous Government regarding relocation costs?
- (7) Do the estimated relocation costs account for moving all state-of-the-art facilities currently at Bankstown TAFE, considering it's one of the largest TAFE facilities in NSW?
- (8) What are the projected infrastructure costs associated with the relocation of Bankstown Hospital to the TAFE site, particularly in relation to the expected increase in traffic?
- (9) Can the department disclose any information provided to the previous Government regarding infrastructure costs for this relocation?
- (10) What are the costs associated with the announced state-of-the-art refit of the Bankstown TAFE facility on the existing campus post-hospital relocation?
- (11) Can the department assure that the relocation costs will not impact the \$1.3 billion allocated for the new Bankstown Hospital?
- (12) Similarly, can it be confirmed that infrastructure costs will not diminish the funds committed to the new Bankstown Hospital?
- (13) When is Bankstown TAFE expected to cease operations at its current campus?
- (14) What impacts on students and staff in the South West are anticipated during the TAFE's closure?
- (15) Is it possible to guarantee that there will be no job losses among TAFE teachers and staff?
- (16) Can the department ensure that no current TAFE courses will be cut during the relocation process?
- (17) What plans are in place to minimise disruption to student studies during this period?
- (18) Could the department provide details on the proposed relocation sites for Bankstown TAFE?

- (19) What leases or arrangements have been made for these relocation sites, including:
  - (a) With whom?
  - (b) For how long?
  - (c) At what cost?
- (20) What impacts on students and staff regarding transport and accessibility are anticipated with the relocation?
- (21) For how long will Bankstown TAFE operations be suspended at the current site?
- (22) Can the department dispel concerns regarding a potential skills gap in the Southwest due to the TAFE's dismantling?
- (23) Are there any measures planned to address the expected skills gap, projected to last a minimum of 5 years?
- (24) What standard consultation framework or protocol is followed when dismantling a NSW TAFE institution?
- (25) What was the most recent NSW TAFE dismantled, and what were the costs associated with its relocation?
- (26) Are there any learnings from previous TAFE relocations that will be applied to the Bankstown TAFE situation?
- (27) Can details be provided regarding consultations with the community about plans to dismantle Bankstown TAFE?
  - (a) What dates did these occur?
  - (b) What was the type/method of communication?
- (28) Can the department provide copies of all public and community communications regarding the dismantling of Bankstown TAFE?
- (29) When did discussions between TAFE NSW and NSW Health begin regarding the TAFE's dismantling for the new hospital?
- (30) Can details of meetings and discussions with relevant unions about the dismantling be listed?
- (31) Have discussions occurred between TAFE NSW and Canterbury Bankstown Council regarding this plan?

- (32) Has the Minister or their office participated in any discussions or meetings about these plans?
- (33) What communications have been provided to relevant unions regarding the TAFE's dismantling?
- (34) Why was there no mention by NSW Labor during the 2023 State Election campaign about these plans?
- (35) What will happen to the TAFE's relocation site once it returns to the original Bankstown location?
- (36) What assurances can be provided that Bankstown TAFE will be reinstated at its original campus?
- (37) Are there any concerns regarding asbestos soil contamination at the Bankstown TAFE site, and what remediation plans are in place?
- (a) Have you conducted testing?
  - (b) Is there a budget for remediation if needed?
- (38) How many times has the Minister visited Bankstown TAFE in:
- (a) 2023?
  - (b) 2024?
- (39) How many times has the Minister visited the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra in:
- (a) 2023?
  - (b) 2024?

### **Milperra High School**

- (40) In a 2020 Facebook post Ms Car said: "Any new development on the Western Sydney University campus at Milperra must include a new high school. Time to get it right for once." What is the status of the announced school?
- (41) Any committed budget provisions for the announced new school?
- (42) Has there been any past, current or planned community consultation relating to the announced high school?
- (43) Is there a time frame for construction, including commencement and completion?

- (44) Minister how do you respond to comments from local parents who report - “Every high school and primary school are at capacity and the demand is only being met through the use of demountable classrooms?”
- (45) What schools are within close proximity to WSU Milperra site and the number of enrolled students at the respective schools?

<b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>
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## **SKILLS, TAFE & TERTIARY EDUCATION**

### **Procurement**

- (46) How much money has the Department and its agencies spent on products purchased from Hewlett Packard (inclusive of HP Enterprise businesses, HP end-user businesses, and any other businesses representing the Hewlett Packard brand) (HP):
- (a) Please provide this information for each financial year since 2018/19 including 2023/24 to 31 December 2023, divided by agency, and include a short description of the kinds of products purchased for each agency each year, including whether any money has been spent since 7 October 2023.
- (47) What policies and procedures does the Department and its agencies use to ensure that procurement is ethical and meets community standards?
- (48) If the Department or any of its agencies procure products from Hewlett Packard (meaning any business representing the Hewlett Packard brand), what probity checks have been done to investigate whether HP is involved in the ‘plausible genocide’ taking place in Gaza?
- (49) How many contractors currently work within the Department?
- (50) How many contractors have been on contracts longer than
- (a) 3 months
- (b) 6 months
- (c) 12 month
- (d) 18 months
- (e) 24 months
- (f) 36 months

(51) What is the longest period of continuous employment for a contractor employed by the Department or its agencies?