



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural
Resources**
(Houssos)

Hearing: Thursday, 7 March 2024

Answers due by: Wednesday, 3 April 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat
Phone (02) 9230 2809
BudgetEstimates@parliament.nsw.gov.au

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

NATURAL RESOURCES

Inquiry in into current and potential impacts of gold, silver and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in NSW - report

- (1) In relation to the report of the inquiry into current and potential impacts of gold, silver and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in NSW:
 - (a) Who in the minister's office or department saw any part of the draft report?
 - (b) Who in the minister's office or department had any role in providing feedback or directions on findings or recommendation/s in the draft report?
 - (c) With respect to which specific findings or recommendation/s were feedback or directions sought from the minister's office or department?
 - (d) Who requested this feedback or direction on findings and recommendation/s in the draft report?
- (2) Did the NSW Minerals Council at any stage:
 - (a) View any part of the draft report?
 - (b) Provide feedback on any part of the draft report
- (3) In specific relation to Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) and to the report of the inquiry into current and potential impacts of gold, silver and zinc mining on human health, land, air and water quality in NSW:
 - (a) Who in MEG saw any part of the draft report?
 - (b) Who in MEG had any role in providing feedback or directions on findings or recommendation/s in the draft report?
 - (c) With respect to which specific findings or recommendation/s were feedback or directions sought from MEG?
 - (d) Who directed these people at MEG to give feedback and directions on findings and recommendation/s in the draft report?

- i. To whom were the above mentioned feedback and directions addressed?

Lung Bus

- (4) Is screening by the lung bus visiting Cadia mine compulsory for every Cadia employee?
 - (a) If not, why not? Under what circumstances, if any, is lung bus screening not required of an employee?
 - (b) How is Cadia's compliance with lung bus screening audited and how often?
- (5) How many lung bus visits have been made to each of the metal mines in NSW since the start of 2016?
 - (a) In total for each site, for each visit occasion, how many workers were screened?

Silicosis

- (6) How many notifications has the Resource Regulator received for exposure to respiratory crystalline silica in the last 3 years?
 - (a) What is the breakdown of these notifications by year and region?
 - (b) How many of these notifications received an on-site inspection by the Resource Regulator?
 - i. How soon after notification did these on-site inspections occur?
- (7) Since 2016, how many suspected and confirmed cases of silicosis have there been in workers who have worked at Cadia at some stage in their career?

Forward coal demand modelling

- (8) Demand projections displayed in the Strategic Statement on Coal cite IHS Markit 2020 as the source and show only a 25% decline in seaborne thermal coal trade in Asia out to 2050. Can you confirm the source of this demand projection
- (9) Has expected coal demand modelling been updated since the Government took office in March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, does this modelling situate coal demand scenarios within climate change and net zero energy modelling such as those developed by the IPCC and the IEA?

- (10) What is the NSW Government’s expectation for thermal coal demand, consistent with achieving the purpose of the Net Zero Future Act, holding global average temperature increases to the goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement

Strategic statement on coal exploration and mining

- (11) Minister Houssos stated that the ‘Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW’ may not be “fit for purpose” and therefore a review will be conducted of this policy in this term of government.
- (a) Has any work on a review of the ‘Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW’ begun?
 - (b) Who has or will have responsibility within the Government for conducting this review?
 - (c) Will a review of this policy commence in 2024?
 - (d) In relation to Minister Houssos’ statement ‘we want to make sure that it's fit for purpose, that it's updated, that it's in line with our Government's aims and objectives,’ what are these aims and objectives as they pertain to coal?
 - (e) Has the Government given any assurances to the NSW coal industry, NSW Minerals Council or proponents of coal-mine-expansions currently in the NSW planning system, that any review of the ‘Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW’ policy will not be completed until after large coal-mine expansion projects currently being assessed by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, have been determined?

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

FINANCE

GP Payroll Tax

- (12) Since the *Daily Telegraph* article published on 7 February 2024 titled “We’re just sick of it”:
- (a) how many meeting requests from General Practitioners and relevant stakeholders has your office received to meet to discuss your “GP Tax”?
 - (b) of those requests, how many meetings have you taken?

- (c) of those requests, how many have you declined?
- (13) What is the average tax bill that is going to be issued to a medical practice in New South Wales?
- (14) What is the average tax bill that has been issued to medical practices in New South Wales, as a result of audits undertaken before the pause on audits?
- (15) What is the highest tax bill that will be issued to a medical practice?
- (16) What was the highest tax bill that was issued to a medical practice, as a result of audits undertaken before the pause on audits?
- (17) How many GPs do you expect to take to court if they face insolvency?
- (18) In response to supplementary question 45 as a part of last year's Budget Estimates you stated that "43,012 businesses are required to lodge an annual reconciliation of their payroll tax in NSW". How many businesses do you expect to undergo an audit in the coming financial year?

COVID-19 Debt Recovery

- (19) Have you had contact with any members of the Queensland Government or officials regarding the \$105 million owed to NSW taxpayers from hotel quarantines during the Covid-19 Pandemic?
- (20) In total, what is total interjurisdictional debt owed to NSW?
- (21) When do you expect the interjurisdictional debts owed to New South Wales to be recovered?

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING & GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

30% local content commitment

- (22) Have you or your office read the Independent Commission Against Corruption's submission as it relates to your the 30% local content election?
- (23) What steps have been you and your office taken to avoid the risk of "unnecessary" lobbying and conflicts of interests as a result of your 30% local content commitment in light of the Independent Commission Against Corruption's concerns?
- (24) Could you please define the term "domestic" as it relates to the Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement portfolio?

- (a) Does this definition solely refer to New South Wales or does it refer to other states and territories?
 - (b) Is New Zealand considered as a domestic location under this definition?
- (25) If a definition for domestic has not been agreed upon, when can we expect a definition as it relates to the Domestic Manufacturing portfolio?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Revenue NSW - Disability employment

- (26) How many people with disability are employed in Revenue NSW?
- (a) Does Revenue NSW have disaggregated data in relation to disability employment?
- (27) Can Revenue NSW share details of how its hiring process has successfully recruited people with disability?
- (a) Are there particular initiatives that could be shared with other government departments to improve their hiring and retention of people with disability?
- (28) Can you provide some detail on employee retention at Revenue NSW?
- (a) Do you have retention rates, for all employees?
 - (b) Do you have retention rates, for employees with disability?