



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2007-08

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 82

TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2008

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered. During any adjournment of two weeks or more a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 73 (Including Question Nos 3441 to 3463)	22 July 2008
Q & A No. 74 (Including Question Nos 3464 to 3497)	23 July 2008
Q & A No. 75 (Including Question Nos 3498 to 3552)	24 July 2008
Q & A No. 76 (Including Question Nos 3553 to 3599)	25 July 2008
Q & A No. 77 (Including Question Nos 3600 to 3617)	29 July 2008
Q & A No. 78 (Including Question Nos 3618 to 3658)	30 July 2008
Q & A No. 79 (Including Question Nos 3659 to 3737)	31 July 2008
Q & A No. 80 (Including Question Nos 3738 to 3777)	01 August 2008
Q & A No. 81 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 82 (Questions—Nil)	-

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(Paper No. 73)

*3441 CONTRACTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE TENDERS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What success have New South Wales businesses had in winning contracts for Department of Defence tenders?
- (2) What role does the State Government play in promoting New South Wales businesses to win such contracts?
- (3) How has the performance of New South Wales been in this area in comparison to other States?

Answer—

- (1) NSW businesses have a long history of winning and successfully delivering defence contracts for the Commonwealth. The Minehunter project is viewed as one of Australia's most successful defence projects. This billion dollar ship building project took place in the Hunter and was completed in 2003. During the construction period the project sustained 1800 jobs. Since that time two NSW companies ADI (now Thales Australia) and Thales Underwater Systems continue to supply through life support for the six ships.

In aerospace BAE Systems and Boeing are delivering aircraft servicing and upgrade projects for the Department of Defence at Williamtown airport. Qantas Defence Services is maintaining the C130 Hercules at Richmond airport. Since 2005 Turbomeca Australasia at Bankstown has been assembling helicopter engines for the Department of Defence.

Late last year I was proud to announce Broens Industries at Ingleburn secured an agreement to deliver tooling for the joint strike fighter aircraft creating 100 jobs. Earlier this year I announced Turbomeca's plans to set up a new helicopter engine service centre at Bankstown creating up to 100 jobs. Both of these projects deliver defence projects for the Commonwealth via the global supply chain rather than directly to the Commonwealth. Both were successful against international competition.

In 2007 the Premier strongly supported NSW based Thales Australia in its bid for the \$2 billion amphibious ships contract. This project if won would have created 600 jobs in NSW. The Commonwealth (under the previous Government) selected the opposing bidder (Tenix) that has resulted in less Australian content with reports that 70% of the work will be carried out offshore.

- (2) The State Government promotes NSW businesses to the Commonwealth and also into global defence opportunities. Some of the activities have included:
 - advocating on behalf of companies to the Commonwealth. For example I recently wrote to the Minister for Defence advocating a NSW supplier over an overseas supplier for the sonar systems on the Air Warfare Destroyers.
 - organising overseas delegations, including helping nine companies to attend the Singapore International Airshow in February 2008
 - showcasing companies at Australian exhibitions including the Australian International Airshow at Avalon in March 2007 and Pacific 2008 at Darling Harbour
 - promoting NSW capabilities to an international audience through a NSW aerospace industry portal and directory
 - funding the Industry Capability Network to link NSW businesses with defence construction opportunities such as the new joint defence headquarters in Bungendore and the redevelopment of the Mulwalla munitions factory
 - introducing NSW businesses and research organisations to global supply chain leaders including Rolls Royce, EADs and Rockwell Collins
 - providing the Australian Industry Defence Network with funding to develop a strategic marketing plan for NSW small and medium enterprises
 - My colleague Minister Kelly with his focus on regional development has held regional briefings in Sydney and the Hunter to explore ways the Government can help defence companies and recently made a commitment of \$100,000 to fund a position in the Hunter Economic Development Corporation specifically to focus on defence opportunities.
- (3) Over the long term NSW has been very successful in gaining defence projects. More recently some of the larger Commonwealth projects have gone to South Australia helping to replace part of that State's struggling manufacturing industry e.g. the Air Warfare Destroyer project.

Under the previous Government the Commonwealth sent some defence work off shore. For example the amphibious ships project won by Tenix will reportedly include 70% imported content.

No NSW based company bid for the Air Warfare Destroyer project that was won by South Australia. However NSW companies are bidding to do much of the subcontract work on this project.

The NSW Government understands the opportunities that defence projects provide and will continue to work with companies to help them win work in Australia and in global supply chains. The Department of State and Regional Development is working on six defence projects right now that have potential to bring a substantial amount of defence work to the State.

*3443 DEFIBRILLATORS AND OXYVIVA POLICY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Greater Western Area Health Service developed a policy on the storage and use of defibrillators and Oxyviva machines by community health centres?
- (2) If not, is a policy being developed and if so when will this policy be available to community health centres?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Greater Western Area Health Service that the Area Health Service has several Standards of Practices (Policies) that address resuscitation of patients. The policies relevant to Community Health Centres are:

- The use of defibrillators in emergency departments.
- Defibrillation by nurses in sudden cardiac arrest.
- Bag-value-mask resuscitation in Greater Western Area Health Service facilities.

*3444 BROULA KING GOLD MINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Why has the Minister not replied to my letter of 19 February 2008 on behalf of Mr H Howard of the Bumbaldry and District Residents Sub-Committee regarding the Department of Water and Energy's approval of the Broula King Gold Mine's bore impact management plan?

Answer—

The matters referred to in the Member's correspondence did not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and were forwarded to the appropriate Minister.

*3445 CHILD OF LIDIA ILIEVSKI AND STEPHEN NEWCOMBE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

Given that the Department of Community Services is now in possession of a sworn statement by Pathologist/Haematologist Dr Michael Innis which attributes the problems of the child of the above parents to a Vitamin K deficiency will he now review the necessity of the child remaining in the care of the Minister?

Answer—

Casework matters involve confidential details regarding children and their families that should not be made public.

A response will be provided privately to representations.

*3446 SECURITY FENCE—GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the security fence for Galston High School be commenced?
- (2) Where in the 2008-09 Budget Papers does this feature?

Answer—

Mr Greg Donnelly, Upper House MP announced in the Hornsby Advocate on Thursday 26 June 2008 that Galston High School would receive a security fence as part of the 2008/09 security fencing program.

Individual fencing projects are not itemised in State Budget Papers.

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*3447 RENAL DIALYSIS TREATMENT—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many spaces for renal dialysis will be created at Royal North Shore Hospital when Mona Vale Hospital Dialysis unit opens?
- (2) How many patients per week are currently dialysed at Royal North Shore Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) Six.
- (2) Ninety-two.

*3448 SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the cost to the NSW Health system for treating smoking-related illnesses?
- (2) What is the cost to the John Hunter and Calvary Mater hospitals for treating smoking-related illnesses?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The most recent data available indicates that the total gross cost of treating smoking-related illnesses to the health care system of NSW in the period 1998/99 is estimated at \$801.2 million. This data was derived from the Collins D.J. and Lapsley H.M report, Counting the costs of tobacco and the benefits of reducing smoking prevalence in New South Wales, 2005. This report is available on the NSW Health Website at: www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs2005/smoking_reduction.html
- (2) The information requested is not readily available. To provide the level of detail requested would be resource intensive and the diversion of public resources necessary to answer this question cannot be justified on this occasion.

*3449 HOUSING IN SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

How much additional housing is planned for Sutherland Shire until 2010?

Answer—

Housing NSW's long-term asset planning involves building or acquiring 12,000 homes across NSW over the next 10 years.

*3450 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF CRONULLA—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-15 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Cronulla?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the electorate of Cronulla and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) There is a project located within the Cronulla electorate that falls under "Various", as listed on Budget Paper 4 Page 5-15.
- (2) I am advised that the project in the Cronulla electorate is the establishment of five additional respite beds at Cook Street, Caringbah. The estimated cost of the work in 2008-09 is \$100,000.

*3451 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF CRONULLA—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-30 and 5-31 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Cronulla?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the electorate of Cronulla and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

There are eight entries listed as "Various" in the specified budget paper. Programs such as the NSW Fire Brigades Human Resources System, Computer Hardware Upgrade and Station Communications as well

as the State Emergency Service (SES) Communications Equipment, are state-wide programs. These programs will be of benefit to all electorates across New South Wales.

The establishment of Community Fire Units (CFU) is dependent on applications from the local community. There are currently no applications for the establishment of CFUs in the electorate.

Motorised cutters are supplied to SES rescue accredited units as part of this program. There is no SES accredited rescue in the electorate, as the Ambulance Service of New South Wales is responsible for providing rescue services in the area.

*3452 TREATMENT OF SHARON HEMPEL AT BATHURST BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Gerard Martin asked the Minister for Health—

Regarding the treatment of Sharon Hempel at Bathurst Base Hospital in June 2005:

- (1) Why was a minor surgical procedure carried out on Sharon Hempel despite strong objections and protests from her carer and father David Hempel?
- (2) Why was Sharon Hempel physically restrained for the procedure to be carried out?
- (3) Given that the participating anaesthetist in his statement to the HCCC admitted the use of physical restraint by himself, nurses and wardsmen on Sharon was inappropriate, what procedures are in place to ensure such treatment will not occur?
- (4) What mechanisms are in place to ensure that medical staff are accountable for their treatment of people with an intellectual disability particularly if the patient is injured by this treatment?
- (5) Given that it is a requirement under the Guardianship Act and the Department of Health's policies for substitute consent forms to be presented to patients or their carers, why did hospital authorities not use substitute consent forms which resulted in the status of the persons responsible acting on behalf of the rights and best interests of Sharon Hempel not being recognised?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Greater Western Area Health Service:

- (1) to (5) This matter was referred to and investigated by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC). The HCCC concluded that, on all the available evidence, Bathurst Base Hospital met the standards of care, skill and judgement reasonably expected in the treatment of Sharon Hempel. Medical staff are required to comply with Departmental and Professional Codes of Practice, NSW Policy Directives and Guidelines as well as legislation.

The issue surrounding consent has also been thoroughly investigated by the HCCC and the Area Health Service. The Hempel family has been informed throughout this process and the findings of the investigation have been shared with the family.

*3453 TERM LIMITS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

What consideration, if any, has the Government given to setting maximum term limits for NSW Parliamentarians and for the position of Premier?

Answer—

The Government is not currently considering setting maximum term limits for NSW Parliamentarians.

The decision as to whether or not a person will continue as a Parliamentarian after the expiry of their term is a matter for the electorate.

*3456 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that on the night of Thursday 6 June 2008, a B-double truck travelling in a 60km/h zone rolled over onto its side at the notorious Sexton Hill black spot on the Pacific Highway and an inspection of the accident site shows large amounts of loose gravel on the road:

- (1) Did this accident occur on a stretch of road that was undergoing resurfacing?
- (2) Why is the RTA undertaking re-surfacing of the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill, one of the state's busiest and most dangerous stretches of roads, on the night before the start of the Queen's Birthday long weekend, when it will be even more heavily frequented than usual?
- (3) Was the loose gravel as a result of the RTA resurfacing the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill the cause of this accident?

Answer—

I am advised:

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The crash did not occur on the stretch of road undergoing resurfacing. Work was undertaken at night to minimise impacts to traffic. Resurfacing works are a major safety initiative of the RTA.

*3457 DRINK DRIVING IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that local newspapers have reported that there were 525 drink drivers caught in the Tweed Byron LAC during the period January to May 2008, up substantially from the same period in 2007 and reaffirming the Tweed Byron LAC's status as the worst LAC for drink driving offences in NSW:

- (1) (a) Will the Minister allocate additional officers to the Tweed-Byron LAC to bring the population to police officer ratio in line with the State average of approximately 450 to 1 given that the current ratio is 700 to 1?
(b) If yes, when and how many officers?
(c) If no, why not?
- (2) When can the Tweed expect funding and commencement dates for the establishment of a police station at Tweed Heads?
- (3) (a) Given this rise in drink driving offences in what is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, will the Minister allocate additional highway patrol officers to help police drink driving in the Tweed Byron LAC?
(b) If yes, when and how many highway patrol officers?
(c) If no, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The ratio of police officers to population for the Tweed/Byron Local Area Command (LAC) is well within the average for country locations.
- (2) A new police station for Tweed Heads was committed to at the 2007 election.
- (3) An additional two Highway Patrol positions were allocated to the LAC in March 2007, along with an additional vehicle. The statistics quoted by the Member for the policing of drink driving offences in the LAC indicate that Tweed/Byron Highway Patrol officers are effectively enforcing the laws in this regard.

*3458 TWEED HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Parliamentary Secretary for Health has advised that 'Radiotherapy services are being established at Southport as part of the new Gold Coast Hospital and that the catchment area for the service includes Tweed and South East Queensland residents':

- (1) Is the NSW Government providing funding for radiotherapy services as part of the new Gold Coast Hospital?
- (2) If yes, how much funding is being provided by the NSW Government for these services, and what is the benefit of sending Tweed radiotherapy patients to the Gold Coast for treatment rather than establishing a radiotherapy unit in the Tweed?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that NSW Health is not providing direct funding for the capital or recurrent costs of the radiotherapy services of the new Gold Coast Hospital. However, NSW does have an ongoing cross-border funding agreement with Queensland for payment of outpatient and inpatient radiotherapy services provided to NSW residents in Queensland hospitals.

*3459 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) What conditions did the Sydney Catchment Authority agree to comply with in its memorandum of understanding with the Department of Water and Energy as part of its operating licence in 2005-06?
- (2) What were the reasons for Sydney Catchment Authority's low rate of compliance with the memorandum of understanding?
- (3) What conditions did the Sydney Catchment Authority agree to comply with for reporting on leakage and loss actions?
- (4) How did the Sydney Catchment Authority fail to comply with agreed reporting on leakage and loss actions?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) In 2005-06 the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) had a memorandum of understanding with the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation, administered by the then Department of Natural Resources. Compliance was reported in the Sydney Catchment Authority Operational Audit 2005/06 - Report to the Minister (the Report), tabled in this House on 30 May 2007. The Report included reasons for the SCA's compliance level.

Condition 6.4.2 of the SCA's operating licence requires a report to be prepared by 1 September each year on actions undertaken to manage leakage and losses from the SCA's infrastructure. This includes actions and compliance with timeframes in the report prepared under condition 6.4.3 of the SCA licence, actual expenditure on managing water leakage and loss activities, and estimated water savings as a result of those activities.

Condition 6.4.3 of the SCA's operating licence requires that within twelve months from the commencement date of the operating licence (that is, by April 2007), the SCA must produce a report which recommends appropriate actions and timeframes for the SCA to manage leakage and losses. The SCA has made that report available to the public.

- *3461 ABORIGINAL SERVICE PROGRAMS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

In relation to Aboriginal Service Programs in New South Wales:

- (1) (a) Considering \$29.6 million was allocated in the 2008-2009 Budget for 22 Aboriginal Community Development Programs in New South Wales, will Kempsey be one of the recipients?
(b) If so, when will the program commence?
- (2) (a) Will any other areas in the Oxley electorate be subject to this funding?
(b) If not, why?
- (3) (a) Considering \$74 million was allocated in the 2008-2009 Budget for indigenous youth programs in New South Wales, will Kempsey be one of the recipients of this funding?
(b) If so, when will the program commence?
- (4) (a) Will any other areas in the Oxley electorate be subject to this funding?
(b) If not, why?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The rollout of the Aboriginal Communities Development Program (ACDP) in Kempsey commenced in 2002. To date \$17.248M has been spent on ACDP projects in Kempsey. Of the twenty two priority communities identified under the ACDP, Kempsey is the only one in the Oxley electorate. There is no specific budget line item of \$74 million allocated for Indigenous youth programs however many Government agencies fund initiatives for both indigenous and non-indigenous youth.

- *3462 MID NORTH COAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—

In relation to the workbenches in the Officers' stations at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre:

- (1) (a) Did WorkCover inspect the workbenches following reports staff were being injured from hitting their legs on the workbench supports?
(b) If so, what action has Correctional Centre management taken to rectify the problem?
- (2) Did Correctional Centre management give WorkCover a guarantee the workbenches would be repaired even though the work has not been carried out?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that staff at the Correctional Centre are continuing to sustain injuries from the workbench supports?

Answer—

I am advised:

A WorkCover inspection was undertaken on 9 January 2008.

A risk assessment was undertaken, administrative notices were issued to staff, and design changes are currently being trialled.

WorkCover were advised that a process to address the issue was underway, and I am advised that the relevant WorkCover inspectors have indicated they are satisfied with this response.

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I am advised that there has been one injury, which subsequently required treatment, over the past year.

*3463 TRAFFIC SUPERVISOR—OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School at Kellyville currently has 650 enrolled students attending the school and given that over 100 of these students have to cross Acres Road every morning and afternoon in order to walk to school, will the Minister advise why the RTA will not allow this school to have an approved traffic supervisor to assist children to cross Acres Road in a safe manner?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has installed 40km/h school zones in the vicinity of the school to enhance pedestrian safety. The RTA will also work with Baulkham Hills Shire Council and the NSW Police Force, through Council's Local Traffic Committee, to review the parking, pickup/drop off, bus zones and general traffic issues associated with the school, in conjunction with increased enforcement during school zone times.

The RTA has recently investigated the crossing facilities on Acres Road and Diana Avenue at Kellyville to determine if they meet the RTA's guidelines for the appointment of a school crossing supervisor. The RTA's guidelines are located at the RTA's website at <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au>. The results of the RTA investigations indicated that the crossing facilities at these sites do not currently meet the guidelines. The RTA will continue to monitor the situation and both sites will be reassessed in early 2009.

18 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 74)

*3464 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many ferries are currently in service with the Sydney Ferries Corporation?
- (2) What is the average age of this fleet?
- (3) How old is the oldest ferry now in service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Information regarding Sydney Ferries vessel fleet can be found at www.sydneyferries.info

*3465 LEVEL CROSSING MONITORING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What police monitoring of railway level crossings is being undertaken in the Albury electorate as part of the current safety campaign supported by RailCorp?
- (2) Which level crossings are being monitored?
- (3) Will results from monitoring of the Tynan Road level crossing be submitted to the RTA?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

No level crossings in the Albury area are being targeted in the current Railcorp Motorist Railway Level Crossing campaign. Normal policing of level crossings in Albury is continuing.

*3466 COURT SECURITY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—

- (1) When was the walk-through metal detector and X-ray machine installed in the Albury courthouse foyer?
- (2) How many times has it been used?
- (3) Given your explanation that the equipment is for use in the event of a high-risk case, how many high-risk cases have been held in the Albury Court since 2003?
- (4) What training has been given to current court security staff to operate the equipment?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the public statements on this matter.

In addition, I am advised that officers based at Albury have extensive experience in operating the security equipment and have worked in high security courts at Parramatta and the Downing Centre.

*3468 CURFEWS FOR INNER-CITY PUBS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What measures have been taken to ensure that since the NSW Licensing Court imposed a curfew on Newcastle's inner-city pubs, anti-social behaviour will not simply be moved to other Hunter regions that do not have a curfew?
- (2) What measures has the Minister taken to combat problem drinking in suburban, rural and regional areas?

Answer—

- (1) There is no indication, at this stage, that anti-social behaviour has moved to other Hunter regions that do not have a curfew. This situation continues to be monitored.
- (2) The new Liquor Act 2007, which commenced on 1 July 2008, enhances the ability to take prompt measures. The liquor laws are complemented by a range of harm reduction and compliance strategies based on evidence and local solutions. These measures and others support the NSW State Plan initiatives to reduce alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour. Government agencies are working in partnership and are delivering positive outcomes. These strategies will continue and be enhanced into the future. The Government is also continuing to support the establishment of Liquor Accords throughout NSW and to enhance their capacity.

*3469 PORT STEPHENS LOCAL AREA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why will Port Stephens Local Area Command headquarters be housed in Beresfield, which is situated in the Lower Hunter Command, rather than in Raymond Terrace?
- (2) Will the Minister guarantee that police resources will remain in Port Stephens even though their administration and management will be based outside the command?
- (3) Given the new Raymond Terrace Police Station will not be completed until 2011, has the Minister given any thought to an alternative location for the Port Stephens Local Area Command headquarters inside the new Local Area Command boundaries?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Until the Raymond Terrace police station redevelopment is complete, it has been determined that the Beresfield police station site is the most suitable location to house Port Stephens Local Area Command (LAC) personnel.
- (2) It is expected that all operational staff now allocated to the Port Stephens LAC will continue to be located within the Command and that only the administrative and managerial functions will be housed at Beresfield.
- (3) See above.

*3470 PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND AT FAME COVE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Given that the current Development Applications lodged with Great Lakes Shire Council for Lots 101/102/103/104 in DP1049845 at Fame Cove have been called up under section 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, what studies has the Minister's Department undertaken to appraise the environmental significance of this site?
- (2) Are there any previous studies regarding the Fame Cove region pertaining to their environmental significance?
- (3) Why did the Government not honour the commitment by the former Minister for the Environment to purchase the said land to convert to national park?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change undertook studies, specifically site visits and desk-top assessments in the 1990s.
- (2) Yes. In addition to the above study, I am advised that regionally based studies and local studies have been undertaken by Great Lakes Shire Council, the proponent and previous land owners.
- (3) I am not aware of any commitments made by the former Minister for the Environment to purchase the Fame Cove site.

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*3471 DENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN PORT STEPHENS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What programs are in place to provide effective dental health care services to Port Stephens residents?
- (2) What additional funds has the NSW Government allocated to dental health care in the Port Stephens region?
- (3) Can the Minister's Department provide detailed statistics concerning the number of Port Stephens patients accessing dental health care provided by the Hunter New England Area Health Service?

Answer—

I am advised by the Hunter New England Area Health Service that:

- (1) All public dental services in NSW operate under the Priority Oral Health Program Policy framework endorsed by the New South Wales Department of Health. The focus of the Priority Oral Health Program is to ensure that people in the greatest oral health need receive the earliest attention. Eligible patients requiring dental services telephone a 1300 number where they are triaged on the basis of the severity of their dental need. Dependent on their triage category, the patient may be issued a voucher and referred to a private practitioner participating in the Oral Health Fee for Service Scheme for urgent care; an appointment made for follow-up treatment at the Nelson Bay or Newcastle Dental Clinic; or be placed on a priority public dental waiting list.
- (2) For the 2007/08 financial year approximately \$100,000 was allocated for Emergency vouchers and \$43,000 in denture vouchers for the Port Stephens region. The allocation for 2008/09 financial year is \$117,000 for Emergency and General Vouchers and \$84,000 for denture vouchers.
- (3) As at the end of June 2008, there were on average 365 episodes of care per month in Port Stephens. This is made up of 150 screenings (child and adult); 180 appointments (child and adult); and the issue of 35 vouchers per month.

*3472 LICENSING OF LEARNER DRIVERS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What studies were undertaken into the reform of learner driver licensing before the mandatory 120 hours supervised driving rules were introduced?
- (2) Which of these studies were conducted by New South Wales based researchers?
- (3) Since the introduction of the 120 hours supervised driving requirement, has the Minister's Department conducted any further research into the economic impact of increased learner driver hours with specific regard to the rising cost of fuel?
- (4) Since the introduction of the mandatory 120 hours supervised driving, have the numbers of learner drivers:
 - (a) increased;
 - (b) decreased;
 - (c) not changed?
- (5) Since the introduction of the mandatory 120 hours supervised driving, have the numbers of provisional drivers:
 - (a) increased;
 - (b) decreased;
 - (c) not changed?
- (6) Since the introduction of the mandatory 120 hours supervised driving, has the Minister's Department identified any instances of learner drivers attempting to lie about the number of hours supervised driving they've undertaken in their log books?
- (7) Which parents groups, road safety consultants and young people did the Government consult with before the introduction of the 120 hours supervised driving requirement?
- (8) Given the price of fuel at the time the Minister received this question, could the Minister's Department calculate the total cost (excluding car maintenance and possible tolls) of 120 hours driving on NSW roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

The introduction of the mandatory 120 hours of supervised driving was based on studies in Sweden and Australia. These studies identified that increasing experience as a Learner driver resulted in a 15 per cent reduction in the risk of crashes in the first two years of driving.

In 2003, the NRMA Motoring and Services, Sydney, commissioned Dr Warren Harrison to prepare a report on novice driver programs. This review identified studies which showed that road safety benefits can be achieved by increasing the number of supervised driving hours.

In 2004, a further study by the Monash University Accident Research Centre concluded that the accumulation of driving experience is essential to the development of safe driving skills.

The DRIVE Study is a long-term study of young drivers and is being conducted by The George Institute, NSW. The Study aims to investigate risk factors for car crash injury specific to young drivers and identify the size and direction of risk factors for young driver injury. The study also involves the survey of newly licensed provisional drivers concerning the number of on-road driving hours they undertake before they obtain their licence.

The tenure period for a learner driver was extended to twelve months to allow more time for supervised on-road driving experience for learner drivers. This experience includes driving in a range of traffic situations, driving environments and conditions. Supervisors of learner drivers are encouraged to take a planned approach through the free RTA Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers parent workshops.

The number of learner drivers has remained constant, and there has been a small increase in the number of provisional drivers since the introduction of these reforms.

Prior to these reforms, the NSW Government released a Discussion Paper, "Improving the safety of young drivers", which contained a number of potential initiatives to reduce the involvement of young people in road crashes. Submissions were received from the community, including parents and key road safety stakeholders.

*3473 DADHC RESTRUCTURE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) (a) Has the DADHC Community Support Team been restructured?
 - (b) If yes, has DADHC restructured any other internal department and how much is it estimated that this/these restructures will cost?
- (2) (a) Is DADHC funding DADHC staff to attend a conference in/around Parramatta?
 - (b) If yes, is it to discuss the restructure?
 - (c) If yes, how many people are being funded for accommodation for this conference?
 - (d) If yes, when will this take place and for how many days?
 - (e) How much will this conference and accommodation and expenses cost all up?
 - (f) Are people who reside in metropolitan Sydney being funded for accommodation?
 - (g) Is this cost coming from the Disability budget?
 - (h) If yes, from what component of the budget?
 - (i) If yes, does this cost take money directly from service provision for people with disabilities or their carers?
- (3) Is this restructure a return to the way things were done before the last restructure, or the one before that?
- (4) How many more restructures does the Minister believe that DADHC will need to begin to get the disability support and service system to function?
- (5) How will this restructure assist with crisis management?
- (6) How will this restructure assist with unmet need?
- (7) How will this restructure assist with service delivery of early intervention?
- (8) How will this restructure assist with physiotherapy?
- (9) How will this restructure assist with closing time frames for excessive waiting lists?
- (10) Is the restructure a result of the Community Support Team failing to deliver outcomes for cost ratios?
- (11) What was the criteria used in the interview process for 'new' management within community support teams?
- (12) Did this process consider experience or ability as the main criteria for success or was it based around a candidate's ability to give a "good" interview?

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- (13) What is the average experience within the sector of the people awarded management positions?
- (14) What was the average experience within the sector of the people who were not awarded management positions?
- (15) Is the Minister aware that families are calling their therapists and finding the phone disconnected?
- (16) Is the Minister aware that some therapists are simply closing cases without the permission of families so they can take up the new positions?
- (17) When was the Minister intending to inform the families who rely on these teams of the changes to their services?

Answer—

- (1) (a) In July 2006, the NSW Government announced "Stronger Together a new direction for disability services in NSW 2006-2016", which included an increase in funding of \$53 million over five years to recruit 100 new front line case managers providing assistance to 4,000 people with a disability and their families per year.

The purpose of the reform is to provide increased case management resources to people with a disability and their families enhancing their quality of life and assisting them to achieve their goals and chosen lifestyles. The reform also increases the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (DADHC) capacity to focus on early intervention and prevention throughout the life transition stages of a person with a disability. The Case Manager's role is to work in partnership with people with a disability to identify their strengths and develop a plan of support based on their needs.

The reform also increased the number of positions of Manager Access, Senior Manager Access and Senior Practitioner Case Management within the Community Support Teams to reduce spans of control for Case Managers and provide professional supervision and a career path.

Under "Stronger Together" in 2008, DADHC has completed recruitment to new positions, established new case management team structures and introduced a new policy framework for case management.

- (b) The Department has not restructured any other part of its organisation since the commencement of "Stronger Together". The expenditure for growth and improvement of case management services under the "Stronger Together" program was \$7.9 million in 2007-08.
- (2) (a) I am advised that DADHC held a five-day Case Management Induction Conference from 16-20 June 2008 at the Novotel Conference Centre at Homebush, Sydney Olympic Park.
- (b) No. The purpose of the conference was to provide the new and existing case management staff and supervisors with a comprehensive introduction to DADHC's new directions in case management. Over the five-day induction, staff heard from international and national leading professionals in the field of human services, leadership and professional supervision, from people with a disability and their families, and advocates and DADHC staff also shared examples of regional innovation and leadership.
- (c) I am advised that approximately 350 staff attended the conference and of these 269 were accommodated at the venue.
- (d) As mentioned above the Case Management Induction Conference was held over a five day period, 16-20 June 2008.
- (e) I am advised that the total cost of the Case Management Induction conference was \$466,000 or \$1,314 per person for the five days which included all accommodation and meals. This is a valuable investment in front line services and an excellent example of professional development.
- (f) Yes. Some staff from metropolitan areas were accommodated. I am advised that the conference, including the "residential" component of the program, was designed to provide an intensive focus on case management, inter and intra regional networking. Maximum attendance and involvement from case management staff was encouraged, including evening sessions with presentations from people with a disability.
- (g) The Case Management Induction was an integral component of the funding for additional case management positions under "Stronger Together".
- (h) Under "Stronger Together", the \$1.36 billion over five years included \$53 million over five years to recruit the new case managers. Induction of these key front line staff was included in "Stronger Together".
- (i) No. It is the Case Managers who provide a direct service to parents, carers and people with a disability.

- (3) No. I am advised that apart from the formation of DADHC in 2001 and the subsequent establishment of the six DADHC regions, that there has been no restructure or any professional development of this scale for the DADHC Community Support Teams to date.

In the months to come it is proposed to address the structure and supervisory arrangements that exist in the Community Support Teams' therapy services. This is to ensure DADHC is positioned to be able to attract and recruit the additional therapy staff provided under "Stronger Together".

- (4) Refer to the answer to question (3).
- (5) The DADHC Case Management Reform will increase the capacity of key front line staff to provide:
- a timely response in line with the needs of the person with a disability, their families and carers, and
 - early intervention, in particular, at times of life stage transition, to people with a disability and their families.
- (6) The DADHC Case Management Reform will increase the capacity of key front line staff to identify and address unmet need in the community. In particular, the increase of support and intervention services available under "Stronger Together" means that case managers will have resources and services to refer their clients to.
- (7) The new policy framework for case management has a direct focus on early intervention and prevention responses. Greater emphasis will be placed on monitoring and review to better identify changing circumstances and by encouraging early intervention to ensure crises do not develop or are minimised.
- (8) Refer to the answer to question (3).
- (9) The significant injections of funds into the disability services system under "Stronger Together" has now boosted the capacity of the whole service system to respond to the service demand.
- (10) No. The reform increases capacity and focuses on building a more flexible system with a strong focus on early intervention. The objective of the reform is to enhance the quality of life for people with a disability and their families through case management coordination which provides the right mix and sequence of services based on need in a fair and transparent service system.
- (11) The new management positions within Community Support Teams in DADHC are the Senior Manager Access and Manager Access. There were no criteria specifically for the interview process.

The selection process for the positions referred to in question (11) used competitive merit selection principles as provided for in existing public sector recruitment legislation, policy and process. This involves a comparative assessment of candidates against a single set of selection criteria. Interviews are one source of evidence used to inform the assessment. Others include the candidates' written applications and referee reports from third parties who have direct experience of candidates' work performance.

The criteria for the positions, which were used throughout the entire selection process, were set out in documentation made publicly available at the time the positions were advertised. The criteria are:

Senior Manager Access

Thorough knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting access to services and support for people with a disability and their family and carers. Demonstrated management experience in motivating and leading multi-disciplinary teams and in planning and managing priorities, resources and competing demands in an environment of change and supervising senior staff. Demonstrated experience in managing the delivery of culturally appropriate disability support services for Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Proven track record in negotiating cross agency service delivery arrangements and identifying and responding to systematic operational performance issues. High-level negotiation and conflict resolution skills in dealing with community partners and other government organisations at a strategic and/or senior level. Highly demonstrated oral and written communication skills and demonstrated competence in the preparation of briefs, reports and submissions on complex matters. Tertiary qualifications in a relevant field or equivalent knowledge, skills and experience and current NSW driver's licence.

Manager Access

Extensive understanding of the application of relevant legislation, policies and standards on the delivery of services to people with a disability and their families and carers. Highly developed conceptual, analytical and problem solving skills in relation to complex case management and/or specialist disability support services. Demonstrated experience in managing the delivery of culturally appropriate disability community support services to Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Highly effective oral and written communication, interpersonal,

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negotiation and advocacy skills. Experience in developing collaborative partnerships with a broad range of human services agencies to support the delivery of effective and integrated disability services and implement quality improvement initiatives. Experience managing teams operating in a human services environment. Demonstrated capacity to build a cohesive and flexible team operating within a multidisciplinary approach to meet a variety of service delivery challenges. NSW drivers licence.

- (12) Refer to the answer to question (11).
- (13) The Department does not collect data on the length of sector experience of people appointed to any positions, nor of those who were not appointed. Consistent with the practice of previous governments, I am not prepared to authorise the release of the considerable resources required to collect the data necessary to answer these questions.
- (14) Refer to answer to question (13).
- (15) I am advised that none of the DADHC Regions have reported that Community Support Teams telephone extensions have been disconnected. The Community Support Teams have all taken steps to ensure that when a staff member has relocated to a new desk or left the department or the call if not answered, is either forwarded to the switchboard or a message is provided to ensure minimal disruption to clients and their families and carers.
- (16) I am advised there is no evidence that therapists are closing cases without the permission of families. Some therapists have been successful in securing promotional opportunities. I am further advised that in these cases, the usual practice is that some cases are identified as requiring a new therapist to be allocated. When this situation occurs families are informed and arrangements are made for a handover to another staff member. Where ever possible, the therapist completes outstanding tasks prior to the handover. This is done in consultation with the family. Families are formally advised when their service request is being closed.
- (17) I announced the recruitment of 100 additional new Case Managers on 9 January 2008. I am further advised that Regional staff have advised families of the restructure of the Community Support Teams.

The Community Support Teams will continue to provide the same range of services to families. The new case management positions funded through "Stronger Together" will provide the Community Support Teams with more capacity to support families in accessing the services they need in providing care to their family member with a disability.

*3474 QUANDIALLA HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) On what days are contract cleaners scheduled to clean the Quandialla Health Centre?
- (2) Given that members of the community have informed me that the Quandialla Health Service has not been cleaned for a significant period of time will you explain why this regular cleaning has not been conducted?
- (3) What action will you take to ensure that the Quandialla Health Centre is cleaned in accordance with its regular schedule?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Greater Western Area Health Service:

- (1) to (3) Cleaning at Quandialla Health Services was reviewed in March 2008. A new fortnightly regime was drawn up and since 1 April 2008 cleaning has occurred regularly and consistently every second Tuesday by Area Health Service staff who outreach from Grenfell Health Service. Other non-scheduled cleaning is undertaken when necessary.

Cleaning check lists and documentation are completed at the end of each occasion of service. The documentation is audited regularly and continued liaison occurs between the Quandialla Health Staff and Grenfell cleaning staff to ensure cleaning is maintained as per schedule.

*3475 YASS JUNCTION TO YASS TOWN RAIL LINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Does the existing legislation allow the removal of the rail lines between the Yass Town Railway Station and the Yass Junction Railway Station for any reason without enabling legislation being passed in the NSW Parliament?

Answer—

I am advised:

Where there are safety concerns specific infrastructure components may be removed.

*3476 CHILDCARE CENTRE REGISTER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Given the public concern raised by the "Scribbles and Giggles" Child Care Centre in Rydalmere incident, does the Department of Community Services intend to institute a register of childcare centres to record serious incidents that have been investigated by DoCS so parents can make an informed decision when seeking child care places for their children?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) This incident is currently under investigation by the Department of Community Services.

*3477 NURSING HOMES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

Are there any Aboriginal nursing homes dedicated to solely admitting and caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elderly people?

Answer—

I am advised that in NSW there are three residential aged care services whose facilities are dedicated wholly or in part to the care and accommodation of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are:

- Rose Mumbler Aboriginal Retirement Village in Nowra, operated by the Illaroo Co-operative Corporation. The Village provides retirement accommodation, 20 low-care (hostel) beds and 45 Community Aged Care Packages, enabling older people to receive aged care services in their own homes.
- the Booroongen Djugun Aged Care Facility, providing 40 high-care and 20 low-care beds close to Greenhill, whose nearest large centre is Kempsey. This facility is owned and operated by the Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation; and
- the Maranoa Village Assisted Living Centre in Alstonville close to Lismore. The Maranoa Village is operated by Baptist Community Services, NSW & ACT and provides 45 low care places, with a portion dedicated to the care and accommodation of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aged care services are also provided to many older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their own homes via Community Aged Care Packages, Extended Aged Care At Home Packages and Extended Care At Home Dementia Packages provided by both NSW Area Health Services and non-Government organisations. These community-based aged care packages are funded and regulated by the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing.

*3478 HORNSBY HOSPITAL FUTURE WORKS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

In light of the 2008-09 Budget Paper No 4 statement that \$26.5M estimated total cost (\$22.3M in 2008-09) for planning future new works including Mental Health stage 4 (including a new unit at Hornsby Hospital), what is specifically planned for the new unit at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

This refers to the allocation of planning funds to allow continuation of planning for a proposal to extend the current adult acute in-patient service to accommodate 35 beds, provision of a new 15 bed in-patient facility for Child and Adolescent Services and the co-location of the Community Child and Adolescent Services on the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai campus.

*3479 NEW LINE ROAD CHERRYBROOK—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In light of the statement made in correspondence dated 29 May 2008 from the Parliamentary Secretary for Roads to my office "I am advised the RTA is currently considering future road improvement on New Line Road from Purchase Road, Cherrybrook to Quarry Road, Dural", what is planned for this section of very dangerous road?

Answer—

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I am advised:

The RTA is considering a proposal to widen the two-lane section of New Line Road to four lanes north to Galston Road, Dural with associated intersection improvements.

The need for these works will be considered in the development of future road programs.

*3480 CANCER PATIENTS AT CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

How many cancer patients have sought treatment at the Calvary Mater Newcastle, specialist oncology unit, since its opening?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital's oncology unit and radiation oncology services opened in 1985.

Patients seeking treatment at the specialist oncology unit are those patients referred to both medical oncology and radiation services.

The number of cancer patients receiving treatment is recorded in the hospital's data collection and reporting system on the basis of occasions of service. This means that a person may be counted more than once - for example, if a patient is seen by a medical oncologist and then by a radiation oncologist, they will be recorded as a new patient twice.

For this reason, it is more accurate to provide data on the number of occasions of service received by cancer patients.

Since 1985 there have been 507,134 recorded outpatient occasions of service by the hospital's oncology unit and radiation oncology services.

*3481 AGED CARE FACILITY—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL GROUNDS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the annual charge of leasing part of Sutherland Hospital grounds to DCA Limited or an aged care facility?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of serious issues relating to the development proposal such as height, limited access, car parking and impact on residents of Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah?
- (3) When will NSW Health respond to correspondence from residents of Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah who have offered to sell their properties to NSW Health because of the impact on their homes from the proposed aged care facility?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service:

- (1) to (3) The Development Application for the aged care facility was refused by the Sutherland Shire Council on 12 June 2008.

The South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Health Service will respond to residents comments following advice from DCA Funds Management Limited as trustee of the Sutherland Trust and DCA Aged Care Group concerning their future intentions.

*3482 PARKING FACILITIES AT SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What plans are there to improve parking facilities at Sutherland Hospital to reduce parking congestion in local residential streets?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service:

Car parking availability at Sutherland Hospital complies with Sutherland Shire Council regulations.

An independent parking review was commissioned on behalf of Sutherland Hospital by the NSW Department of Commerce. A Traffic Committee has been established at Sutherland Hospital. This Committee is currently working with the Department of Commerce to ensure implementation of appropriate recommendations from this review.

*3483 DUPLICATION OF THE CRONULLA RAILWAY LINE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is duplication of the Cronulla Railway Line on schedule for completion in late 2008?
- (2) Is the final estimated cost of the duplication of the Cronulla Railway Line still \$231 million?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to individual projects under the Rail Clearways program can be found at www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

*3485 CHILDREN WITH LEUKAEMIA—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many new cases of children with leukaemia have been recorded in Ku-ring-gai Council area in each of the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (2) What are the total number of cases of children with leukaemia currently recorded in Ku-ring-gai Council area?
- (3) How many new cases of children with leukaemia have been recorded in Warringah Shire in each of the years 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (4) What are the total number of cases of children with leukaemia currently recorded in Warringah Council area?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the NSW Cancer Institute:

(1) to (4) As this matter falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), for future reference these questions should be re-directed accordingly.

The information sought by the Member is available in the NSW Cancer Register as follows:

Number of new cases of leukaemia in children less than fifteen years by local government area and year of diagnosis 2001 to 2005:

Local Area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Ku-ring-gai	5	5	3	2	2	17
Warringah	2	2	5	8	9	26

Data for 2006 and 2007 is currently not yet available.

*3486 ALLOCATED POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the allocated police numbers in the Local Area Commands of:
 - (a) North Shore;
 - (b) Kuring-gai;
 - (c) Warringah?
- (2) What are the current police numbers in the Local Area Commands of:
 - (a) North Shore;
 - (b) Kuring-gai;
 - (c) Warringah?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au. There is no Warringah Local Area Command.

*3487 INSURANCE TAXES—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that general insurance taxes in NSW are higher than in any other country in the developed world?
- (2) Does the Minister consider this acceptable?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister going to reduce the excessively high insurance taxes in NSW from the current level given that they are almost three times the level of comparable international average rates?
- (b) If not, why not?

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- (4) (a) Will the Minister reduce NSW stamp duty on insurance premiums to the "best practice" rate of 7.5%?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The premise of the question is wrong.

The general insurance duty rate in NSW is one of the lowest in Australia. At a general rate of 9 per cent it is below SA (11 per cent) and Victoria, WA, NT and ACT (10 per cent).

- *3488 FIRE SERVICES LEVY—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Given that under the current system only contents and building insurance policy holders pay the Fire Services Levy in NSW and the Insurance Council of Australia states the removal of Fire Services Levy from NSW insurances would result in 98,600 more households taking up contents insurance and 22,800 households taking up building insurance:

- (1) (a) Is the Treasurer going to remove the fire services levy from NSW insurance policies?
(b) If not, why not?
(2) Does the Minister consider it acceptable that one section of the community contributes to fire services provided to the entire community in NSW?
(3) What is the Minister going to do to correct this inequity?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The issue of replacing the current contribution from insurance companies with a property levy was considered by a public inquiry established by the Government. The inquiry was conducted by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament (PAC) which included MP's including Gladys Berejiklian and John Turner from the Opposition.

The inquiry reported in 2004, concluding that the current funding arrangements should be retained. The Government accepted this finding of the inquiry.

- *3489 MULTI ELECTORATE TRANSPORT PROGRAMS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

With regard to two items listed under Multi Electorate Transport Programs in the Treasury's 2008-09 list of infrastructure projects, namely a total cost of \$20 million for digital train radio implementation and \$8 million for improved passenger initiated egress to trains:

- (1) Were tenders called for these works and if so when?
(2) Where were expressions of interest advertised and how many tenders were received?
(3) What was the range of tendered amounts from lowest to highest?
(4) To whom was the tender let and for what amount?
(5) What was the extent of the tendered works?

Answer—

I'm advised:

That neither the digital train radio implementation nor the improved passenger initiated egress to trains projects have yet gone to tender.

- *3490 CITYRAIL SHORTFALL ON CAR SETS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In the event CityRail is short on car sets for a particular service, does it reallocate car sets from another area to meet the shortfall?

Answer—

I am advised:

CityRail works to provide the maximum number of carriages across the network, particularly during the peaks.

The availability of carriages is dependent upon a number of factors such as fleet maintenance schedules, the fleet upgrading program and any repairs relating to graffiti and vandalism on trains.

For special events such as the State of Origin, the Royal Easter Show and World Youth Day, additional carriages are made available.

This temporarily increases the number of trains available to service large special events while minimising peak interruptions and cancellations.

*3491 3 X 3 FUEL LEVY—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Has the 3 x 3 fuel levy been removed?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The NSW Government no longer applies the 3 x 3 fuel levy and does not tax any retail petroleum products. With the commencement of the GST from 1 July 2000, the Federal Government now has sole responsibility for the taxation of petroleum products, including petroleum excise duty and the GST.

*3492 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Given the Federal Government has already committed \$210 million to Banora Point upgrade, why has the NSW Government failed to provide more than the \$5 million for planning in the 2008/09 Budget so that construction can begin immediately?
- (2) Given that costing by the Community Highway Group (CHG) indicates that Option C's cost is closer to \$220-230 million, which is similar to that of option B and substantially less than the \$250 million quoted by the Minister, does the Minister agree that his concerns regarding an alleged \$60 million price variance between options B and C are now unwarranted?
- (3) Given that the combination of the Federal Government's \$210 million commitment with the NSW Government's \$45 million in 2007/08 for Pacific Highway funding already exceeds both the RTA and CHG costing of Community Option C, will the Minister select Community Option C as the preferred option for the Sexton Hill upgrade?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$5 million committed by the NSW Government in 2008/09 will enable planning for the Banora Point upgrade to be finalised and land acquisition to commence.

The RTA is currently finalising a report to address the issues raised in 59 submissions sent to the Department of Planning in response to the environmental assessment display.

Further information about the project is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*3493 RAIL FUNDING IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given that infrastructure allocation papers received from the Treasurer show a total 2008/09 budget allocation of \$166,586 for RIC and RailCorp infrastructure projects:

- (1) (a) Is this infrastructure funding allocation an indication that rail services on the Tweed-Murwillumbah line will be restored in the future?
- (b) If no, why is funding being allocated for infrastructure projects on a rail line which the NSW Government has closed?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the commuter dissatisfaction in the Tweed with the bus service that replaced train services on the Tweed-Murwillumbah rail line, and the strong community support for restoring rail services on the line?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Funding has been allocated to address essential corridor inspection and noxious weed control activities.
- (2) The Ministry of Transport has been asked to advise the Government regarding long term transport

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strategies for the region.

A Cross Border Transport Taskforce has been established which comprises the Director Generals of the NSW Ministry of Transport and the Queensland Department of Transport to examine this issue. A joint Queensland/NSW discussion paper, examining ways to meet the existing and future transport needs of the region, was released last year and submissions received.

The recommendations proposed by the Task Force, following this period of public consultation, are now being considered.

*3494 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given that the Pacific Highway suffered from traffic gridlock over the 2008 Queen's Birthday Long Weekend as a result of several accidents on the road:

- (1) Were any of these accidents a result of the RTA's decision to resurface the road at Sexton Hill on the night before the start of the long weekend?
- (2) When will the upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill commence, so as to reduce the high frequency of accidents on this notoriously dangerous stretch of road?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is continuing to upgrade the Pacific Highway and will continue to work closely and cooperatively with the Federal Government to commence work as soon as possible after detailed planning has been completed and the project is approved.

*3495 INVESTIGATION INTO BULLYING AND HARASSMENT CLAIMS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a Wollongong based nurse, Julie Kesby, is currently unemployed and unable to work in any hospital in the Illawarra whilst the bullying and harassment claims she has made are addressed?
- (2) What has the Minister done to address the issues Ms Kesby has raised concerning corruption and collusion at senior levels regarding decisions and actions pertaining to her matter?
- (3) What process, policy and legislation has NSW Health followed in investigating her complaints?
- (4) Did the Risk Management Unit of NSW Health inform this nurse that the Independent Commission Against Corruption had declined to investigate her complaint?
- (5) What is the current cost of legal representation by Clayton Utz of the Health Service if this proceeds to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (6) What is the expected overall cost of legal representation by Clayton Utz of the Health Service if this proceeds to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal?
- (7) Has Ms Kesby lodged a complaint with the Anti-Discrimination Board claiming you have victimised her by failing to intervene and direct the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service to act according to mandatory NSW Health Policy?
- (8) (a) Will the Minister engage lawyers to represent the Minister at the Anti-Discrimination Board in relation to Ms Kesby's matter?
(b) If so, who will pay the Minister's legal fees?

Answer—

Mr Terry Clout, Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health, has advised that as this matter is currently before the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, no comment can be made at this time.

*3496 SERVICES FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What services in the problem gaming area does the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing participate in, in full or part responsibility, with relation to:
 - (a) youth gambling programs;
 - (b) e-counselling/telephone counselling;
 - (c) development of awareness programs for TV/media?
- (2) What spending has been allocated to each of these services for the next three years from:

- (a) the Responsible Gambling Fund;
(b) any other Liquor, Gaming and Racing funding for the next three years?

Answer—

- (1) (a) From 1 July 2008, the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF) is funding one youth-specific gambling counselling service, operated by Mission Australia in the South West Sydney region. Many RGF-funded services also work with young people, including the Central Coast Problem Gambling Service that has developed an early intervention youth program as part of its RGF-funded gambling counselling service.
- (b) The RGF funds the G-line (NSW) telephone help-line for problem gamblers, their families, and significant others. This help-line (1800 633 635) is available 24 hours, 7 days a week, and provides crisis counselling, information, and referral to face-to-face counselling services across NSW. Many RGF-funded face-to-face counselling services also offer telephone counselling to their clients. A total of 3,124 telephone counselling sessions (2,065 problem gambling; 1,059 financial) and 229 on-line counselling sessions (10 problem gambling; 219 financial) were recorded as having been delivered by RGF-funded services between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2007. The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR), with other jurisdictions, is currently investigating options for a national online counselling service for problem gambling from 2009.
- (c) On 3 July 2008 a multi-media awareness campaign about problem gambling targeted at males aged 18 to 24 years and funded through the RGF was launched. The \$1.8 million 'Gambling Hangover' campaign is being promoted on radio, newspapers, train stations, bus interiors and online and includes SMS and website interactivity (www.gamblinghangover.nsw.gov.au). A wide range of awareness activities is also undertaken by individual RGF-funded gambling counselling services in their local communities as part of their RGF grants, including advertising and promotions through local media outlets. In 2006/07, services reported allocating the equivalent of \$1,098,950 for these purposes. Other awareness activities include the placement of brochures and signage in gambling outlets promoting the G-line (NSW) service, and advertising the G-line (NSW) service in telephone directories across NSW.
- (2) (a)

Youth Gambling Programs

RGF-funded gambling counselling and support services across NSW have been allocated \$10.27 million in 2008/09. For the named services:

- Mission Australia South West Sydney: \$153,185 for 2008/09 plus annual increases based on a weighted average of the Consumer Price Index and Labour Price Index until 30 June 2012.
- Central Coast Problem Gambling Service: \$161,180 for 2008/09 plus annual increases based on a weighted average of the Consumer Price Index and Labour Price Index until 30 June 2012.

E-counselling/telephone counselling

The G-line (NSW) telephone counselling service has been allocated \$750,000 for 2008/09 with an option under the current contract for the service to be extended to 2009/10 involving a similar amount. Consideration is currently being given to trialing, in conjunction with other Australian jurisdictions, a national on-line gambling counselling service. The proposed NSW contribution to this would be \$552,773 over three years, commencing in 2008/09.

Development of Awareness Programs for TV/Media

\$1.8 million has been allocated from the RGF for the Gambling Hangover awareness campaign to run over 2008 and 2009. Local awareness activities by RGF-funded gambling counselling services are expected to continue at or above 2006/07 levels over the next three years (i.e. at least \$1.1 million per annum). The RGF is also developing options for a range of other education and awareness activities around problem gambling, including for young people, as part of a proposed early intervention and community awareness strategy to be undertaken through a variety of media. Expenditure on this strategy is expected to exceed \$1 million per annum over each of the next three years (from 2008/09).

- (b) Nil.

*3497 SCHOOL BUS ROUTES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With respect to a letter dated 28 May 2008 (reference RML 105729) regarding seatbelts on school buses, it was advised that "independent experts" have now been engaged to conduct an assessment of school bus

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routes in NSW and that the Transport Ministry will establish a risk strategy for each route and that consultation will continue with parent groups and the industry to ensure the best safety outcome is achieved:

- (1) What period of time will the "independent experts" take to conduct the assessment?
- (2) (a) Will parents in the Myall Lakes electorate be included in the consultation to ensure the best safety outcome is achieved?
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) (a) If parent groups in the Myall Lakes electorate are included in the consultation to ensure the best safety outcome is achieved, how will the consultation be undertaken?
(b) If so, what period of time will the consultation be undertaken for?
- (4) (a) If it is decided to install on board equipment such as seat belts, when will the installation occur?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government's approach to assessing school bus safety is based on the "National Guidelines for Risk Assessment of School Bus Routes" agreed by the Australian Transport Council.

The assessment process is ongoing, involving collation and analysis of route risk data for all state roads. This will then inform the identification of priorities and suitable mitigation measures.

Given that it is a statewide initiative, consultation will occur with peak organisations at the state level, at the appropriate time.

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*3498 CHARGES RECORDED—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—

In relation to the answer provided by the Minister for Police, reference Question and Answer Paper No. 77, Question No 2928 - Charges Recorded:

- (1) Based on the number of charges recorded, what are the ten busiest police stations in:
 - (a) the Sydney Metropolitan area;
 - (b) regional and rural New South Wales?
- (2) What is the number of charges recorded at the Mount Druitt Police Station for the following years:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information in relation to individual police stations is not recorded.

*3499 DIVIDENDS FROM THE GENERATION SECTOR OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What has been the amount of dividends received from the generation sector of the electricity industry over the following financial years:
 - (a) 2006-2007;
 - (b) 2005-2006;
 - (c) 2004-2005?
- (2) What has been the amount of dividends received from the distribution sector of the electricity industry over the same periods as mentioned in (1) above?
- (3) What are the expected dividends from these two sectors for the current and next two financial years?

Answer—

Matters relating to dividends from the generation sector of the electricity industry fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Treasurer.

- *3500 SAFETY OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What percentage of the Government's \$46.5 million four-year program to enhance safety of students in school zones will be spent on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

I am advised:

The roll out of the \$46.5 million program will see flashing lights installed at school zones over the next four years. The selection of school zones involves a risk assessment based on safety criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, crash history and crash risk.

With the program only six months into its first year and the above criteria being constantly assessed and changed over time, the RTA is unable to advise how much of the budget will be allocated to the Northern Beaches in the future.

- *3502 "PINCH POINT" ROAD NETWORK STRATEGY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What work has been done as part of the Government's "pinch point" road network strategy to relieve congestion on Spit Road and Military Road?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Roads and Traffic Authority.

- *3503 FERRIES 2010 STRATEGY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How much does Sydney Ferries estimate fares will need to increase to pay for its "Ferries 2010" strategy?

Answer—

I am advised:

The determination of fares is the responsibility of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

- *3504 WATERFRONT LAND RENTAL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

Why do constituents in Balmain pay 61% more per square metre to rent waterfront land than constituents in Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Greenwich?

Answer—

NSW Maritime administers waterfront leases in Sydney Harbour, principally for private jetties, mooring pens, swimming baths and boatsheds.

Rental for these private facilities is based on a formula recommended by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in a 2004 Report titled "Review into Rentals for Waterfront Tenancies on Crown Land in NSW". Copies of this report are available from the IPART website.

I am advised that prior to the adoption of the IPART formula in 2004, some Sydney Harbour domestic jetty rentals had not increased since 1989.

In 2007 NSW Maritime conducted a comprehensive review of domestic leasing arrangements, including the operation of the IPART rental formula. The review was an open process and invited comments from the public.

As a result of the review, the Government made a number of changes to domestic leasing policies.

Variations between precinct rates are generally a result of differing statutory land values for the suburbs included in each precinct.

- *3505 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO WALKER INQUIRY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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- (1) What is the cause of the delay on the Government's response to the Walker Inquiry into Sydney Ferries?
- (2) When is an announcement expected?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Given the important place ferries have in Sydney's transport and tourism landscape, the Government is taking the necessary time to properly assess the implications of Mr Walker's recommendations.

The Government has established an inter-agency steering committee to consider the Inquiry's findings and recommendations and to review submissions received by key stakeholders.

- *3506 STATEFLEET MOTOR VEHICLES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What was the expenditure on StateFleet Motor Vehicles for the Manly electorate in 2007-08 and 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

StateFleet does not collect details on operational expenditure on vehicles in the Government Fleet by electorate.

- *3508 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES IN RAYMOND TERRACE AND MAYFIELD—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many properties does the Department of Housing own and maintain in Raymond Terrace?
- (2) What is the market value of these properties?
- (3) How many properties does the Department of Housing own and maintain in Mayfield?
- (4) What is the market value of these properties?
- (5) What is the median rental price charged to Department of Housing tenants in Raymond Terrace?
- (6) What is the median rental price charged to Department of Housing tenants in Mayfield?
- (7) What is the annual maintenance budget for the Department of Housing in Raymond Terrace?
- (8) What is the annual maintenance budget for the Department of Housing in Mayfield?
- (9) How many vacant Department of Housing properties are in Raymond Terrace?
- (10) How many vacant Department of Housing properties are in Mayfield?

Answer—

- (1) 732
- (2) Capital values are subject to asset changes and market fluctuations.
- (3) 386
- (4) Capital values are subject to asset changes and market fluctuations.
- (5) \$170
- (6) \$95
- (7) \$1,255,075
- (8) \$1,804,579
- (9) and (10) The number of Housing NSW properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as houses are vacated by tenants, are cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act, and are then reoccupied. Housing NSW has the lowest turnaround times for any housing organisation in Australia.

- *3509 REGULATION AND SALE OF ANIMALS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What studies were undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries in advance of the drafting of the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill 2007?
- (2) With regard to the studies and statistics quoted by the Minister, did this originate from his Department?
- (3) If not, which organisations or industry groups commissioned the figures?
- (4) How many submissions from the public concerning the Animals (Regulation of Sale) Bill has the Minister's office received?

Answer—

- (1) None. The proposed Bill was put forward by Clover Moore MP.
- (2) No.
- (3) The studies and statistics are available in published works – literature or conference proceedings.
- (4) To date 774.

*3510 INTERSECTION OF WILLIAMTOWN DRIVE AND NELSON BAY ROAD, WILLIAMTOWN—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given that passenger numbers at Newcastle Airport is around one million per year and that most passengers use private motor vehicles to travel to and from Newcastle Airport and that the only access to the Airport is the intersection of Williamtown Drive and Nelson Bay Road, which has a poor accident record:

- (1) Did the RTA ask Port Stephens Council to condition a Development Application for increased car parking at Newcastle Airport with a requirement to install traffic lights at the intersection with no requirement to upgrade street lighting?
- (2) Is the RTA now requesting extensive street lighting along Williamtown Drive and on Nelson Bay Road, between Slades Road and Moxey Close even though Newcastle Airport Limited has agreed to provide street lighting within the confines of the intersection?
- (3) Will the Minister intervene to:
 - (a) Ensure that the RTA accelerate their approval process to enable Newcastle Airport Limited to improve this dangerous intersection?
 - (b) Will the NSW Government take full responsibility if the procrastination of the RTA in this matter leads to another serious traffic accident at this intersection?

Answer—

I am advised:

Nelson Bay Road is a State Road and, therefore, the RTA's consent is required for road works and traffic control signals. It is the responsibility of the proponent to develop and submit designs in accordance with RTA requirements, before works can proceed.

The RTA issued an authorisation on 9 July 2008 for the developer to commence works. I understand work commenced on 22 July 2008.

*3511 OVERSEAS STUDENTS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to overseas students studying in New South Wales:

- (1) What would be the annual cost of providing public transport concessions in line with existing student concessions?
- (2) What plans, if any, does the Government have about providing student concessions to overseas students in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised:

NSW has the most generous transport concessions scheme in Australia, spending almost \$800 million annually to provide more transport options to more categories of concession beneficiary than any other jurisdiction.

The NSW Government targets concessions availability to people most in need, in accordance with relevant policy objectives. Full fee paying overseas tertiary students are not eligible for half fare concessions because in order to obtain the relevant visa to study in Australia, they have indicated that they have sufficient funds to cover their living expenses for the duration of their stay. This includes their transportation costs.

For public transport users who are not eligible for concessions, including international students, there are a range of discounted fare products available. Information about these products is available on the Transport Infoline website at www.131500.info or by calling 131 500.

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*3512 GLENBROOK RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Glenbrook Railway Station:

- (1) What are the Government's plans for commuter car parking at the station?
- (2) What has been the Minister's response to community representations for better car park facilities at the station?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Premier's 2006 Urban Transport Statement outlines the Government's priorities for commuter car parking.

The Urban Transport Statement is available on the internet at www.nsw.gov.au/urban_transport.asp

*3513 REVIEW OF THE ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why with the rising cost of petrol has there been no review into the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme?
- (2) When can residents of rural and regional NSW expect the NSW Government to do a review of this scheme?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) and (2) A Taskforce has been established to examine the recommendations from the report from the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry (Federal Government) into patient assisted travel across Australia - Highway to Health: better access for rural, regional and remote patients - (September 2007).

A further review of the NSW Transport for Health - Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme policy will be considered once the findings of the national Taskforce have been submitted to Health Ministers for consideration.

*3514 HOME OXYGEN SERVICE—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised me in writing on 19 March 2008 that "assistance through the Home Oxygen Service is available to people in all parts of NSW":

- (1) Why does the local coordinator of the North Coast Area Health Service Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP) Home Oxygen Service Lodgement Centre, Ms Chris Wendt have no funds to help local enquiries?
- (2) Why is there a three year wait for a machine on the Far North Coast, if there is one available and if the funds are there to pay for it?
- (3) Why can Ms Wendt provide funds to purchase a mask for a machine but not a machine?
- (4) What urgent action is the NSW Government taking to address these critical problems?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) The North Coast Area Health Service Oxygen and Respiratory Program provides assistance for clients requesting Domiciliary Oxygen, Respiratory Aids, Variable Positive Airway Pressure (VPAP) Units and at times Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) or Biphasic Positive Airway Pressure (BPAP) Units. In the North Coast Area Health Service there are currently 450 clients receiving assistance for the supply of home oxygen.

The program is experiencing an increase in the supply of VPAP Units for those clients who have neurological disorders such as Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis.

Prioritised waiting lists have been introduced for the supply of CPAP Units. The current waiting list has been reduced to 12 months. This waiting list will be addressed with funds from the recently announced \$11M funding enhancement by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

- (3) Once a machine has been provided to a client, it is not unusual to provide replacement masks due to wear and tear. Masks cost considerably less than the purchase price of a machine. Machines are of no clinical benefit to the client in the absence of a well fitting functional mask.

(4) The NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government recently announced joint funding totalling \$11M for the purchase of equipment and aids for people with a physical disability. This funding, which will assist 5,000 people, will also be used to address waiting lists for CPAP machines and other respiratory equipment for people living at home.

EnableNSW, which is part of Health support services, is implementing major reforms to improve the quality and efficiency of NSW health disability support services including Home Oxygen services. These include statewide procurement initiatives to achieve best value in the purchase of equipment for people with disabilities, a new information system and consolidation of administrative functions to improve efficiency, and expert statewide advisors to assist clinicians with complex prescriptions.

*3516 NARDY HOUSE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Why is the Minister failing to meet the Nardy House contractual agreement and failing to meet the requirements of the overriding Nardy House Trust Deed by not providing respite to its designated priority client group i.e. people with profound disabilities?
- (2) (a) Will the Minister hire registered nursing staff for the specialised Nardy House Respite Facility when the service being offered by DADHC is prioritised to offer respite to people with profound disabilities whose everyday needs require this level of care when away from their families?
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister prepared to meet the Department's contractual agreement with the Nardy House Trust to offer respite to carers of people with profound disabilities at the specialised respite facility and is the Minister prepared, as a consequence, to hire the appropriate nursing staff to meet the needs of these clients?
(b) If not, why not?
- (4) How does the Minister propose to guarantee the safety of people with profound disabilities at the Nardy House facility if carers have requested nursing staff be in attendance and DADHC only supplies carers with lesser skills, a nursing monitor or a part-time nurse?
- (5) Will the Minister explain why DADHC, as the service provider and funding body of the Nardy House Facility, is not providing funds to meet its obligations in relation to service provision at Nardy House?
- (6) How will the Minister overcome the matter of discrimination against people with profound disabilities and their carers by not providing the agreed contractual service?
- (7) Will the Minister detail the number of vacant respite beds available to carers of people with profound disabilities requiring nursing level care centre-based care in DADHC funded facilities in NSW at the present time and where these DADHC facilities are situated?
- (8) Why did the Acting Regional Director Southern Region, offer to a Nowra family, as an alternative to supplying registered nursing staff at Nardy House a week's respite at Dorothy Sales in Canberra at a cost of \$630 per night only to have that offer rescinded the following morning?
- (9) Will the Minister explain the denial of specialised respite to the Nowra family when there were vacant beds at the Nardy House Facility but the requirement to hire registered nursing staff according to need, had not been met?
- (10) Will the Minister explain the provision of in-house respite in Cooma in January of one only carer on a twenty-four hour roster to a young foster child with profound disabilities when the family had requested respite in Nardy House, which at that time had three vacant beds at the facility?
- (11) Is the Minister aware that this family cancelled their holiday and returned home because they felt the child was at risk?
- (12) How many respite care facilities other than Nardy House require more than 60 pages of paperwork before access is granted for any type of respite including emergency care?

Answer—

- (1) The Agreement between Nardy House Inc and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) states that the Department will firstly prioritise people with high physical support needs, secondly individuals with high support needs and any residual capacity will be available for those with lesser needs.

I am advised that DADHC continues to offer the Nardy House respite service to the priority group but the demand remains low.

- (2) (a) The requirement for registered nursing staff is identified within the individual's health care plan which defines the tasks and interventions required routinely for each person accessing respite within

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any Departmental facility. The appropriate arrangements are made to ensure that those needs can be met for each individual.

This identification in an individual health care plan is based upon clinical needs. I am advised that in the Nardy House Agreement 4.2 (h) the Department is solely responsible for the cost of and all decisions pertaining to clinical matters.

(b) The provision of planned respite for individuals with high support and care needs within the Nardy House respite service includes health care planning.

The Department is currently recruiting a registered nurse to work within the Bega Valley with clients of DADHC operated and DADHC funded services. This approach is to provide clinical support to individuals in relation to health care plans and delivery of nursing interventions.

- (3) (a) Client access to the Nardy House Respite service is being prioritised in line with the Agreement.
- (b) Refer to answer to Question (3) (a).
- (4) The provision of planned respite service is managed through well considered planning and assessment processes, staff training and orientation visits. Clients with high support needs may experience an untoward health event requiring medical or hospital care however a life long disability of itself does not denote an acute health care need or a nursing facility requirement.
- (5) DADHC has provided adequate funds for respite service provision at the Nardy House facility on a full time basis, however the demand for the priority group remains low.
- (6) Refer to answer to Question (3) (a).
- (7) DADHC allocates respite beds in the allocation process for each booking period to ensure maximum utilisation of respite beds to meet the respite needs of families/carers. Beds are not kept vacant for the use of clients with specific needs, and beds allocated based on prioritisation criteria as set out in the Allocation of Planned Respite Care policy. In addition to Nardy House, where registered nursing care can be provided to meet a client's assessed need, the Department has two respite units that have registered nurses 24/7, one at Liverpool and the other at Carlton unit at Grovenor in Sydney. Registered nurses are deployed on an individually assessed need basis in a number of other respite units throughout the State. The nearest respite unit to the Bega Valley would be the Berkley unit in Wollongong where registered nurses routinely visit two to three times per day for individually assessed routine nursing interventions for high need/profoundly disabled groupings of respite clients.
- (8) I am advised that the Acting Regional Director, Southern Region spoke one evening to a Nowra family offering the family access to the Liverpool respite unit as this unit has 24/7 registered nurse coverage. As part of this conversation the Acting Regional Director also covered the option of Nardy House with the provision of registered nurse coverage on an assessed need basis for this service. The Nowra client is still able to access a respite service in the ACT on a fee for service basis.
- (9) There has been no denial of Nardy House respite to any family and based on assessed need appropriate personnel will be provided to meet those needs. This could be registered nurses, it could be additional staff depending upon the needs of clients, and it may also require allied health professionals from time to time.
- (10) It is noted that privacy issues must be considered and raising an individual issue when this detail could be identifying. However, I am advised that the foster carer chose in-house respite, this was without a registered nurse and this was provided by a service in Cooma. I am further advised that Nardy House was offered however in-home respite was chosen by the foster carer.
- (11) I am advised that no report of this nature has been received by DADHC.
- (12) The development of plans based upon assessed need and the detailing of each high need person's individual needs does require extensive documentation and ensures consistency in care and support arrangements across the 24/7 period.

DADHC respite services require a level of documentation particularly for first time users of a respite service, to ensure appropriate information is gained to provide a quality service.

The Director-General wrote to the Nardy House Committee on 15 May 2008 informing them that the Director of Respite, Ms Mary-Jane Clarke would be reviewing the information collected and its use. To date this has identified that the collection of information is consistent with DADHC policies.

A workshop with the Nardy House Committee on 14 August 2008, will provide an opportunity for the Committee to examine both the purpose and details of the DADHC information being collected, consider other funded organisations examples and begin the development of a future approach to meeting these responsibilities.

The Department takes very seriously its obligation to meet its duty of care and ensure that the very best service is provided to those in our care. There is a requirement for detailed documentation for those individuals within this category. Clients new to the service have a comprehensive assessment of needs and risks, however once respite is in place the regular updates prior to each stay enable continuity of care and consistency of support to be provided.

*3517 MODEM AT QUANDIALLA HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the modem at the Quandialla Health Centre has been unserviceable for at least four weeks, that the \$110 cost of the repair has been approved and that the health centre remains unable to send or receive any electronic health information will you explain why the area health service has not allowed the modem to be repaired?

Will you immediately require the Greater Western Area Health Service to repair the Quandialla Community Health Centre's modem?

Answer—

I am advised by the Greater Western Area Health Service that a new modem has been installed at the Quandialla Health Centre.

*3518 MOTORCYCLE FRONT NUMBER PLATES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Roads and Traffic Authority currently considering the reintroduction of front number plates on motorcycles?
- (2) Have representatives of the Victorian government or VicRoads raised this issue with the RTA or the NSW government in any forum?
- (3) If so, is the NSW government considering the joint introduction of Victorian proposals?

Answer—

I am advised:

This issue has been raised with the RTA and NSW government through the National Standing Committee on Transport. Through this forum, VicRoads were tasked with preparing a draft Regulatory Impact Statement on Frontal Identification of Motorcycles for consideration by members.

No decision has been made to introduce front number plates on motorcycles.

The RTA has identified several technical and safety issues which would need to be addressed for the practical implementation of the Victorian model for frontal identification of motorcycles to be considered.

*3519 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) At which specific locations in the electorate of Burrinjuck is the allocation of \$777,000 for case worker accommodation in the Department of Community Services Major Works Work-in-Progress being spent?
- (2) Will this funding see these particular projects completed or will they attract continuing funding in the 2009/10 budget?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Yass Community Services Centre fit out will be completed in 2008.

*3520 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many children and adolescents have accessed mental health services at Hornsby Hospital's Child and Adolescent Service in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 to date?
- (2) How many clients are provided services at the Hornsby Hospital EPIS?
- (3) How many children under the age of 18 years have been admitted into the PECCAT Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

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- (1) Over the period 2003 to June 2008 3,517 children and adolescents have accessed mental health services at Hornsby Hospital's Child and Adolescent Service.
- (2) Over the same period 553 clients have accessed services from the Hornsby Hospital EPIS.
- (3) Over the period 2006 to June 2008, there have been 91 admission of 70 individual young people aged less than 18 years of age.

*3521 HORNSBY CLEARWAYS PROJECT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the specific date for completion of the Hornsby Clearways Project and when will it be fully operational?
- (2) What will the final budget figure be for this project?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to individual projects under the Rail Clearways program can be found at www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

*3522 WET BERTHING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) Will 'wet berthing' changes be implemented onto individual boats moored at jetties and pontoons?
- (2) When will this occur and what will the change(s) be?

Answer—

This is a matter for NSW Maritime.

*3523 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI—WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How much has been spent on the removal of graffiti in the Wallsend Electorate?
- (2) What financial assistance does the NSW Government give to local councils for the removal of graffiti in the Wallsend Electorate?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government does not collect this information. The Member for Wallsend may wish to contact the local councils in the Wallsend electorate directly to ascertain information about how much money is spent on the removal of graffiti.
- (2) In May 2006 the NSW Attorney General announced a comprehensive strategy for reducing the incidence of graffiti vandalism. The Member for Wallsend may wish to contact the Attorney General if she would like further information, as the Attorney General's Department is the lead agency for the implementation of the Government's response to graffiti vandalism and administers funding for the strategy.

*3524 DEATHS IN SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many deaths occurred in Sutherland Hospital in each of the last five years?
- (2) How many were attributable to errors in provision of services by health care professionals?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) It is important to note that most deaths in Australia occur in hospitals. They include deaths from cancer, motor vehicle accidents and heart attacks, among other causes. The number of deaths at Sutherland Hospital in each of the last five years was as follows:

Year	Number of deaths
2003	324
2004	301
2005	338
2006	318

2007

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(2) I refer the Member to my response to Question No. 3394 in the Legislative Assembly.

*3525 COMMUTER CAR PARKING—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are the Government's plans for commuter car parking at:

- (a) Caringbah Railway Station;
- (b) Cronulla Railway Station;
- (c) Woollooware Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Premier's Urban Transport Statement outlines the Government's priorities for commuter car parking.

The Urban Transport Statement is available on the internet at www.nsw.gov.au/urban_transport.asp

*3526 MANDATORY LICENCE TESTING—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

How many people in the Miranda and Cronulla electorates were required to undertake the mandatory 85 years and over driving test?

Answer—

I am advised in 2007 there were 451 letters issued to aged drivers in the Cronulla electorate. In the Miranda electorate, 310 letters were issued.

*3527 OUT-OF-COUNTRY BUS DRIVERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why can out-of-country drivers not be issued with a NSW bus driver's authority until they have held a licence for 12 full months?
- (2) Why does this restriction apply in NSW when it does not apply in Victoria?
- (3) As bus companies are held responsible for the driving skills and fitness of their drivers, why are out-of-country drivers not treated like other drivers and take tests which determine their skills and fitness to drive?
- (4) As there is a need for bus drivers in rural areas, why are these restrictions placed on potentially competent drivers?

Answer—

This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

*3528 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS CORPORATION—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given that the financial statements for the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation are not contained in their annual reports as advised by the Minister in response to Question No. 2900:

- (1) Are members of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation Committee paid?
- (2) How much is paid to the Chairman?
- (3) How much is paid to the members?
- (4) How much is paid to the deputy members?
- (5) Are members paid a set fee per year or per meeting?
- (6) Who sets the fee and how are amounts of remuneration set?
- (7) What funds are surplus?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) The Chairman of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation Committee receives no remuneration. Members are paid an annual fee of \$1860, deputy members

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\$155 for each meeting they attend. Remuneration is set according to the Guidelines for New South Wales Board and Committee Members: Appointments and Remuneration. The Annual Report of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation contains all the information regarding the corporation's financial performance.

*3529 LONGWALL MINING IN NSW—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

With regard to longwall mining in New South Wales:

- (1) How many longwall coalmines are currently in operation in NSW?
- (2) (a) Of these longwall coalmines, how many operate within one kilometre of a water source, including rivers, creeks, and swamps?
(b) How many of these water sources are connected to Sydney's water supply?
- (3) (a) How many longwall mines have been approved for future operations in which mining activities will occur within one kilometre of a water source, including rivers, creeks, and swamps?
(b) How many of these water sources are connected to Sydney's water supply?
- (4) What assessment has the NSW Government done on wildlife population in creeklines, riverbeds, and swamps where subsidence has occurred following longwall mining within one kilometre?
- (5) What assessment has the NSW Government done on the long-term impact on creeklines and riverbeds where cracks have occurred following longwall mining activities below or within one kilometre?
- (6) (a) How does the NSW Government monitor water sources where longwall mining activities occur below or within one kilometre?
(b) Does monitoring include water sources downstream where surface water may have mixed with subsurface water following subsidence?
- (7) How does the Government coordinate investigations of longwall coalmining impacts among departments given different aspects fall within the authority of the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, and the Department of Water?

Answer—

(1) and (2) (a) 20.

(b) 9.

(3) (a) 1.

(b) Nil.

(4) to (7) Environmental assessment is carried out by the mining company. Where surface subsidence related impacts are predicted, proponents must submit a comprehensive Subsidence Management Plan (SMP). SMP approvals require companies to monitor impacts and report to the government.

In addition, the Government announced an independent expert panel to complete an inquiry into underground coal mining in the Southern Coalfield. The independent inquiry is nearing completion and will provide a sound technical foundation for the assessment and long term management of underground mining in the Southern Coalfield.

Monitoring by the company includes water quality both above and below the potential impact zones.

An SMP is assessed by an Interagency Committee comprising senior representatives from the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Environment and Conservation, the Department of Planning, Department of Water and Energy and the Mine Subsidence Board. Representatives from other agencies, including the Roads and Traffic Authority, are also involved where appropriate. The members of the Interagency Committee communicate as necessary regarding concerns about any impacts including organising joint investigations.

*3530 FACTORY FARMING STATISTICS—PIGS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many pigs are currently being raised in sow stalls in NSW?
- (2) What proportion of all pigs currently raised in NSW for consumption are being raised in sow stalls?
- (3) What proportion of all pigs currently raised in NSW for consumption are raised indoors (ie. not raised in a free-range environment)?
- (4) What proportion of pigs that are 'bred free range' are raised indoors?

- (5) How many pigs in NSW undergo the following procedures:
- (a) Tail docking;
 - (b) Teeth clipping; and/or
 - (c) Castration?
- (6) What percentage of those procedures referred to in either 5 a) b) or c) above are carried out without pain relief?

Answer—

- (1) Pigs are not "raised" in sow stalls in NSW.
- (2) See above.
- (3) Unknown.
- (4) Unknown.
- (5) (a) to (c) Figures are unavailable. Tail docking, teeth clipping and/or castration are pig husbandry procedures practised world wide.
- (6) The conduct of these procedures are covered in the "Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Pigs" 3rd Edition 2008. These procedures are only to be performed by competent personnel, or under direct supervision of competent personnel.

*3532 PADDINGTON BOWLING CLUB—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

With regard to the Inquiry into Paddington Bowling Club Limited under Section 41X of the Registered Clubs Act 1976, which I understand reported on 31 March 2008:

- (1) Will the Government make public the report, findings and/or recommendations of this Inquiry?
- (2) What action has the Government taken to implement any recommendations following this Inquiry?
- (3) What measures has the Government imposed on Paddington Bowling Club Limited to protect public lands and community assets?
- (4) What measures has the Government imposed on Paddington Bowling Club Limited to protect neighbourhood residential amenity, particularly noise?
- (5) What measures has the Government imposed on Paddington Bowling Club Limited to ensure compliance with licensing conditions?

Answer—

- (1) The Director of Liquor and Gaming has directed the Club to distribute a copy of the report to all members of the Club and to post a copy of the report on the Club's website at <http://www.paddobowls.com.au>. The report is able to be accessed by members of the public at that website.
- (2) The Director of Liquor and Gaming is currently reviewing the report and other information obtained in the course of the Inquiry to determine if there have been any breaches of State or Commonwealth Law, or grounds for taking complaint action against the Club.
- (3) The Club occupies Crown land pursuant to a lease from the Crown. Any application to convert the land upon which the Club is situated, from Crown leasehold to freehold to enable it to be sold, would have to be made to the Department of Lands. Such an application was made in 2006 and refused by the Minister for Lands.
- (4) Since the year 2000, the Liquor Administration Board has imposed 27 conditions on the Certificate of Registration of the Paddington Bowling Club to reduce the undue disturbance of the quiet and good order of the neighbourhood of the Club. The last of those conditions was imposed on 18 December 2007. An on going noise complaint is currently before the Liquor Administration Board and the Club is undertaking acoustic testing and implementing noise amelioration measures to reduce disturbance.
- (5) Paddington Bowling Club Limited, like any other registered club, is required to comply with the requirements of the Registered Clubs Act, relevant provisions of the Liquor Act and Gaming Machines Act and conditions imposed upon the Club's Certificate of Registration. The Club has 37 conditions on its Certificate of Registration. The Director of Liquor and Gaming is reviewing a number of issues raised in the Inquiry, to determine what action, if any, he proposes to take against the Club to ensure future compliance with its licensing conditions.

*3534 WSN TIP SALE PROCESS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What plans are being considered to sell WSN Environmental Services?
- (2) What plans are being considered to sell any part of the WSN Belrose site?

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Answer—

I'm advised:

The Government has undertaken a strategic review of WSN Environmental Solutions and is now considering a range of options and strategies to ensure the continued growth of the business.

*3535 WSN TIP CURRENT LEVEL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the current operational Reduced Level (RL) of the top of the landfill on then main hill at the WSN Belrose Waste Site?
- (2) Is the planned finished level still RL 185 metres and, if not, what is the planned level?
- (3) What is the current estimated date for completion of the landfill to the finished level?
- (4) What depth of additional fill is planned to be placed over the saddle area between the main hill and the existing Waste Transfer Station?

Answer—

- (1) Reduced Level 185.
- (2) RL 185 is the current planned finished level.
- (3) The current estimated finish date is mid-2010. However, WSN continues to explore options to prolong the life of this important community asset for the benefit of the SHOROC councils.
- (4) Up to four metres of additional fill is currently planned to be placed over Area 2.

*3536 SCRIM TESTING ON THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given that the Minister has advised 'SCRIM testing is done annually along the Pacific Highway and the last SCRIM was undertaken on 11 April 2008':

- (1) What were the results/findings of the SCRIM testing undertaken on 11 April 2008?
- (2) What were the results/findings of the SCRIM testing conducted annually during:
 - (a) 2004;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2006;
 - (d) 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

SCRIM testing is done annually along the Pacific Highway. SCRIM testing provides technical data that is used as a tool for further investigation and assessment.

*3537 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES AT TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised 'The new ward at The Tweed Hospital is a 30 bed ward and that extra allied health staff, which includes Pharmacy positions will be established and recruited to ensure that efficient and effective patient care is maintained on the ward':

- (1) How many additional pharmacy positions will be created 'to ensure that efficient and effective patient care is maintained' in the new 30 bed ward at Tweed Hospital?
- (2) What other allied health positions will be created to service the new 30 bed ward at Tweed Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) A Pharmacist will be appointed for 16 hours per week to provide Pharmacy Services.
Further enhancements will be considered once the patient cohort/requirements are established.
- (2) The following Allied Health positions have been created and are currently under recruitment:
 - Physiotherapist, 20 hours per week
 - Speech Pathologist, 8 hours per week
 - Occupational Therapist, 8 hour per week
 - Social Workers, 8 hours per week.

*3538 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES AT TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised that 'The North Coast Area Health Service management is working with the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department staff to develop alternative models of care to alleviate demand pressures' but there is no indication by the Minister that any additional beds will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department:

- (1) How will 'alternative models of care' alleviate the pressures stemming from 1,237 emergency patients being treated in corridors in 2007, and occupancy levels reaching as high as 108%?
- (2) What are some of the 'alternative models of care' that have been put forward by the North Coast Area Health Service to 'alleviate demand pressures' in the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) Alternative Models of Care strategies aim to either offer an alternative to hospital admission or facilitate quicker discharge from hospital wards.
- (2) "Alternative Models of Care" include:

- Recruitment to enhance the existing Aged Care Services Emergency Team Service of The Tweed Hospital. This will include extending the existing service to provide a 7 day per week service with extended hours Monday-Friday within The Tweed Hospital Emergency Department.

The Aged Care Services Emergency Team service will offer a comprehensive assessment via a multidisciplinary service to aged clients presenting to the emergency department. This assessment will assist in reducing hospitalisation for identified appropriate aged clients via supported and safe return to their community/place of residence.

- Implementation of an Acute to Age Related Care Service for The Tweed Hospital.

Acute to Age Related Care Service is based on a service model targeting early and appropriate identification of the discharge support needs of older people admitted to hospital. The target group for Acute to Age Related Care Service intervention are older people in hospital undergoing an acute episode of care who:

- have multiple health and care support needs that put them at risk of, or in need of residential aged care directly from hospital;
- and who may require formal Aged Care Assessment Team assessment for access to recommended services.

- Implementation of Hospital in the Home for The Tweed Hospital.

The Department of Health identified patients in target Diagnostic Related Groups that would be appropriate for management in the home. These patients include those with conditions such as Cellulitis, Deep Vein Thrombosis and Urinary Tract Infection. Nursing staff and a part time Physiotherapist have been employed to undertake the management of the identified Hospital in the Home patients, in conjunction with existing community health services. These positions commenced in June 2008.

*3539 PUBLIC SECTOR WASTE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Will the public sector achieve its goal of not increasing total waste between 2003 and 2008?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The total amount of waste generated has fluctuated considerably between reporting periods because a large proportion of waste comes from construction works and this is dependant on the timing of major infrastructure projects. Total waste generated declined substantially between 2001 (the baseline for the 5 year goal referred to in the question) and 2003, rose in 2005 and then declined again between the 2005 and 2007 reporting periods. The overall trend since 2001 is a reduction in waste generation rates.

Increased agency recycling and reuse has also meant that a greater proportion of all waste generated is being recovered instead of disposed of. The amount of waste disposed of by agencies has dropped by 42 per cent between 2003 and 2007.

The waste generation rates for agencies for 2007-2008 will be available in late 2009, which is the next Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy reporting period.

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*3540 WRAPP PLANS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Which small agency has the highest proportion of waste going to landfill?
- (2) Since it is not required to report its WRAPP progress, how will the Department promote waste reduction in this agency?
- (3) How does the Department intend to promote waste reduction within Landcom and the Sydney Olympic Park Authority?
- (4) (a) Does the Department review and provide feedback on all agencies' WRAPP plans and reports?
(b) If not, when was the last feedback provided?

Answer—

- (1) From data supplied for the 2008 WRAPP Progress Report, Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust had the highest proportion of waste going to landfill for the period 2005 to 2007. This was primarily due to construction work being undertaken for a new grandstand.
- (2) The Department of Environment and Climate Change will continue to support all agencies, including those that are exempt from biennial reporting. These agencies are still required to have a WRAPP plan which is reported on every three years in their Annual Reports. The Department will maintain regular contact with agencies and will provide training opportunities in waste management and sustainable purchasing, promote best practice recycling systems, and disseminate information on the use of recycled products. Actions to reduce waste will also be integrated into the education components of the implementation plan for the Government's recently announced Sustainability Policy for Government Agencies.
- (3) Landcom and the Sydney Olympic Park Authority will receive support as outlined in the answer to question (2).
- (4) The Department of Environment and Climate Change reviews WRAPP reports and provides advice to agencies in relation to WRAPP plans, reporting and benchmarking. Agency specific WRAPP Feedback Reports were provided in June 2004 and broad areas for improvement identified to Chief Executive Officers. The Department has also offered specific WRAPP feedback to any agency on its 2007 performance and is developing a specific support program for those agencies that generate large quantities of waste.

*3541 RECYCLED MATERIALS POLICIES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) When will the Department develop a policy requiring agencies to measure their carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it?
- (2) When will the Department set an agency target for purchasing material with recycled content?
- (3) When will the Government mandate specific clauses in all State Contracts to encourage purchasing materials with recycled content?

Answer—

- (1) On 8 May 2008 the Premier announced that the NSW Government will become carbon neutral by 2020 and the operations of the NSW Cabinet will become carbon neutral from mid 2009. As the Premier also announced, I will prepare an assessment within six months on the best way for Government agencies to become carbon neutral.
- (2) The Sustainability Policy for government agencies, also announced by the Premier on 8 May, includes a number of targets including one for purchase of copy paper with recycled content. A minimum of 85 percent of all copy paper purchased by NSW Government in 2014 must contain some recycled content. In addition, from the commencement of the 2008/09 financial year agencies are required to specify inclusion of at least one recycled content option as part of each publication quote sought.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change will also examine other opportunities to increase use of recycled content products as part of its review of the Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) in 2008/09 as recommended in the recent Auditor General's review of the program.

- (3) The Department of Commerce manages State contracts. This matter should be referred to the Minister for Commerce.

*3542 EASTERN QUOLLS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the suspected sighting of two Eastern Quolls in Roberts Creek Road, East Kurrajong in October 2006?
- (2) Why has the sighting not been added to the National Parks and Wildlife Service ATLAS database?
- (3) How many suspected sightings of Eastern Quolls have occurred since the last positive sighting in Vaucluse in 1963?
- (4) (a) Has the National Parks and Wildlife Service investigated transferring Eastern Quolls from Tasmania into New South Wales?
(b) If so, what did those investigations conclude?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The record has been added to the Atlas of NSW Wildlife database, but is not yet available on the publicly accessible version of the Atlas because the sighting occurred outside the accepted distribution for this species. These types of sightings are subject to further investigation to confirm their reliability before adding them to the publicly available Wildlife Atlas database.
- (3) The Department of Environment and Climate Change has information regarding 18 other claimed sightings of varying reliability since 1963.
- (4) No.

*3543 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) What were the 'minor opportunities' for improvement in internal controls and procedures that the Auditor-General reported to Sydney Catchment Authority management in 2007?
- (2) What measures have Sydney Catchment Authority management taken to act on these opportunities?
- (3) What Australian water utility had an average leakage rate of 35 percent as referred to by the Auditor-General?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the minor opportunities for improvement identified by the Auditor-General in 2007 included:
 - timing of the delivery of the Annual Financial Report;
 - disclosure of General Managers' salaries in the annual report;
 - inclusion of an annual review of the Debt Management Framework in the Sydney Catchment Authority's annual internal audit process; and
 - improvements to capitalisation policy, stock take procedures, managing staff leave balances, managing offsets of assets and liabilities in the accounting process and processes relating to debtors.
- (2) I am advised by the Sydney Catchment Authority that it has reviewed its policies and procedures and each issue raised in the report has been addressed, or is in the process of being addressed.
- (3) I am advised that the Auditor General refers to an average water leakage rate across Australian water utilities of 7 per cent to 35 per cent. These figures were not supplied by the Sydney Catchment Authority but can be found in The Future of Water Supply (Page 11 Smith, S., 2004, NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service, briefing paper 4/2004). These figures are averages across the Australian industry, and do not refer to an individual utility.

*3544 LOGGING ON PRIVATE LAND—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How much private land has the Department of Environment and Climate Change approved for logging in the past year?
- (2) What reports do landowners provide before an area is logged?
- (3) What measures does the Department have in place to identify and protect old-growth forest and sensitive habitats on private land?

Answer—

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(1) As at 25 June 2008, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has approved 410 property vegetation plans covering 118,279 hectares since introduction of private native forestry Code of Practice in August 2007.

(2) Prior to undertaking forestry activity, a property vegetation plan must be prepared and agreed to by the landowner and the Department, acting as my delegate.

Before logging commences, a forest operation plan must be prepared and signed by the landowner and those undertaking the logging. A copy must be available on-site when operations are occurring, and be made available to departmental officers on request.

(3) The Native Vegetation Act 2003 and the Code of Practice contain measures for the identification and protection of old-growth forest and other sensitive habitats on private land. Under the requirements of the Code of Practice, forest operations are not permitted in old-growth forests, rainforests, wetlands, heathlands, rocky outcrops and steep slopes.

When applying for a property vegetation plan, landowners are provided with a map showing previously recorded old-growth forest and rainforest layers. This mapping information was obtained during the comprehensive regional assessments of forests. The landowners have the option of accepting this information or requesting a reassessment of their old growth and rainforest.

Endangered ecological communities are protected by the Code of Practice. Forestry operations may only be permitted in these communities when the operation will aid the restoration of that community, and the Director General of the Department of Environment and Climate Change has approved an Ecological Harvesting Plan. No such plans have been approved to date.

The Code of Practice includes site-specific protection measures for any threatened species that are not otherwise protected. These prescriptions are triggered from a known record, sighting or other evidence of the presence of threatened species.

The Code also includes requirements for the retention of habitat trees, and protection of drainage features such as creeks and streams.

*3545 WASTE REDUCTION AND PURCHASING POLICY—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) When will the Department begin its review of the 10 year Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy?

(2) Which Government agencies did not submit WRAPP data and information in 2007?

(3) What action will be taken as a result?

(4) Are there any financial penalties involved?

Answer—

(1) A review of the Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy will commence in the 2008/09 financial year.

(2) Three small agencies did not respond. These were the NSW Crime Commission, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW and the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority.

(3) These agencies are now required to report on WRAPP once every three years in their Annual Reports.

(4) No.

*3546 SINGLE SLICE CT SCANNERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Are there any single slice CT scanners still being used in any hospitals in NSW?

(2) If so, where?

Answer—

I am advised by NSW Health:

(1) and (2) According to an audit of medical equipment undertaken last year there are 3 single slice scanners still in operation. These are located at:

- Nepean
- Royal Prince Alfred, and
- Griffith Hospitals.

*3547 MIXED WASTE GARBAGE BINS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) Is it a legal requirement for mixed waste garbage bins to have red lids?

(2) Are NSW local councils required to change garbage bins with green lids to have red lids instead?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

While waste management is a local government function, the regulation of garbage bin lid colours is not controlled by the Local Government Act 1993 and therefore does not fall within my portfolio.

This issue falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon Verity Firth MP. The Member may therefore wish to refer his questions to Minister Firth.

*3548 E-PASS TOLL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

If you drive through the Falcon Street ramp in Sydney without an e-PASS is the toll still \$1.30 or are there further fees?

Answer—

I am advised:

If a driver uses the Falcon Street Gateway without an e-pass or a valid e-tag account, a toll notice is sent to the registered operator of the vehicle charging a toll of \$1.33 plus an administration fee.

Connector Motorways (operators of the Lane Cove Tunnel and Falcon Street Gateway) recommend casual or infrequent users of the Falcon Street ramp register for a Roam Express Visitor's e-PASS.

*3549 DISASTER MANAGEMENT—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What steps has the National Parks and Wildlife Service taken to plan for evacuation of visitors to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and residents of Cottage Point in the event of a disaster at Cottage Point such as a bushfire?

Answer—

During major emergencies, community evacuation is the responsibility of the NSW Police and the Local Emergency Controller appointed under State Disaster Plan arrangements.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for the management of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, which surrounds the small community of Cottage Point and includes the popular visitor areas at Akuna Bay and on the West Head peninsula. Bitumen roads provide access to both Cottage Point and West Head.

In August 2006 the Department adopted a Fire Management Strategy for the park which details the fire trails, roads and other infrastructure needed to support fire management. This Strategy was placed on public exhibition for four weeks and involved significant consultation with the District Bush Fire Management Committee, the Rural Fire Service and local rural fire brigades.

In addition, the Department worked closely with the Warringah-Pittwater District Bush Fire Management Committee to develop a specific evacuation plan for the Cottage Point and the West Head sections of the park. These arrangements were shown to be very effective when park visitors needed to be evacuated from West Head during a fire in October 2007.

*3550 CLIFF OVERHANGS—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given the dangerous cliff overhangs to Cowan Drive and Notting Lane at Cottage Point, what action might be taken to alleviate the risk?

Answer—

As a result of concerns raised by the Cottage Point Community Association in 2006, the Department of Environment and Climate Change arranged for a preliminary geotechnical assessment of several steep natural bushland areas in the Cottage Point area.

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The preliminary report suggested that the naturally occurring risks associated with the cliffs could be greater than would normally be considered reasonable, but no greater than those associated with similar steep hillsides across the entire Hawkesbury Sandstone system.

In March 2007 the Department advised all residents adjoining the study area of the results of this preliminary assessment, and offered to assist the Cottage Point Community Association to organise a more detailed assessment, should the Association feel that the reported level of risk required further investigation. The offer was declined by the Association in October 2007.

Structural issues associated with Cowan Drive, which lies between the cliffs and the residences, are the responsibility of Warringah Council. The Department understands that Council has recently examined geotechnical issues in this area.

*3551 CLIFF FACE—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the risk of water run off destabilising cliff face above the Cowan Drive at Cottage Point?
- (2) If yes, what action does the National Parks and Wildlife Service propose to reduce this geotechnical risk?

Answer—

- (1) Following concerns expressed by the Cottage Point Community Association, the Department of Environment and Climate Change arranged for a preliminary geotechnical assessment of several steep natural bushland areas in the Cottage Point area. This assessment did not identify any risks associated with water run-off.
- (2) Not applicable.

*3552 PENSIONER REBATES FOR RESIDENTS IN RETIREMENT HOMES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Did the Minister and his department receive an e-mail dated 16 May 2008 from Steve McGarrigle on the subject of "Pensioner rebates for residents in retirement homes"?
- (2) If so, when will the Minister reply to Mr McGarrigle?
- (3) If the Minister does not intend to reply why will he not reply?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

Mr McGarrigle's email correspondence was received and a reply forwarded to the provided email address.

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*3553 WOOL INDUSTRY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What is the latest information available to the Department of Primary Industries as to the state of the wool industry in New South Wales?
- (2) What is the latest figures as to the prices being paid to the wool producers in this State?
- (3) What impact on wool production has occurred as a result of:
 - (a) the drought;
 - (b) meat prices;
 - (c) animal diseases?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Wool Industry is in remarkably good shape given current challenges to the market, including: a period of very low prices: the extended drought; the strong Australian dollar; the shortage of rural labour; and the impacts of the campaign against mulesing.

- (2) The Eastern Market Indicator closed the 2007-08 season at 874 c/kg clean. Over the period of July 1995 to present, the average price paid for 19 micron wool was 1031 c/kg clean.
- (3) (a) The drought has had a large, negative impact on total wool production both through decreased fleece weights, because sheep have been fed a maintenance ration only, and because of the reduction in sheep numbers as woolgrowers sell off stock to reduce their feeding costs.
- (b) Lamb prices have been high since 2002 and have contributed to a shift away from wool production.
- (c) While disease can impact on the wool production of an individual sheep, there is no evidence to suggest that animal diseases have had significant general effect on wool production in NSW.

*3554 CROSS BORDER HEALTH—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What provisions have been made to achieve integration of the Albury and Wodonga health services in the:
- (a) 2008-09 Budget;
- (b) Greater Albury Cluster Health Service Plan 2006-2011;
- (c) Action Plan for Emergency Services Inter-Facility Co-ordination?
- (2) When will a timeline be announced for implementation of key aspects of cross-border health integration?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) There is no specific budget provision in the NSW Health 2008-09 budget for the proposed Albury Wodonga integration.
- (b) There is no such document.
- (c) I am advised by the Ambulance Service of NSW that there is no such document.
- (2) Announcements regarding implementation of key aspects of cross border health integration are contingent on decisions yet to be made by the NSW and Victorian Cabinets.

*3555 TOOMELAH WATER CRISIS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What action has been taken to address the lack of water supply in Toomelah which resulted in fresh water having to be trucked in following the breakdown of the community's water pump?

Answer—

The NSW Government commissioned a major water supply infrastructure upgrade in Toomelah community amounting to \$600,000 in December 2007. These works ensure there is reliable water reticulation service and chlorination to control contamination. The Local Aboriginal Land Council has an ongoing responsibility to carry out basic maintenance to ensure the effective operation of the infrastructure.

I am advised that the water pump has been repaired and is running without incident. Furthermore additional insulation has been added to prevent a repeat breakdown.

The water supply is monitored by both the Moree Plains Shire Council and a trained community member to ensure that any problems with the water supply are identified quickly and resolved.

*3557 DROUGHT RELIEF PACKAGES—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area have received assistance under the current drought relief packages?
- (2) How many have they received?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Rural Assistance Authority administers the Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy (ECIRS) Scheme. Declarations of eligible geographical areas are on a Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) basis. During the present Exceptional Circumstances event a total of 730 applications have been received in Murray RLPB and 1082 in Riverina RLPB from producers whose farming activities include irrigation.

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In 2007 a specific Extraordinary Assistance Package (EAP) was available for Irrigators in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys. A total of 119 applications were received from irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

- (2) Of the ECIRS applications, 583 were approved in Murray RLPB totalling \$25.7 million, and 945 were approved in Riverina RLPB totalling \$37.15 million.

Of the EAP applications, 62 were approved, with assistance totalling \$2.18 million.

*3558 MOTORCYCLE GREEN SLIPS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to Motorcycle Slips in New South Wales:

- (1) What is the trend in total quantum dollars to CTP premiums collected annually from motorcycle CTP policy holders?
- (2) What is the trend in the dollars quantum paid out of the CTP and/or LTCS schemes for claims against motorcycle CTP policy holders?
- (3) Will the Minister provide me with a copy of the 2007 MAA Relativity Survey?
- (4) Are claims made against the Scheme(s) by riders of unregistered motorcycles?
- (5) When will the results regarding current motorcycle claims experienced in its current relatives review be released?

Answer—

- (1) For accident years 1999-2005 which represent accident years sufficiently developed to accurately reflect actual CTP claim costs, the dollar quantum of the motorcycle CTP premium collection as a proportion of the total premium pool collected has remained static, accounting for approximately 2 per cent of the total premium pool collection in each of those accident years.
- (2) For accident years 1999-2005 CTP claim payments relating to accident injuries caused by motor cyclists averaged 60 per cent of the total motorcycle CTP premium collection for that period. This is consistent with overall scheme claim payments for accident years 1999-2005 which averaged 61 per cent of the total premium collection. The Lifetime Care and Support scheme covers the lifetime treatment, rehabilitation and care costs of people suffering catastrophic injuries in motor vehicle accidents. No claim is made against an individual policy holder.
- (3) The Motor Accidents Authority tabled a copy of the "Compulsory Third Party Insurance review of Premium Relativities from 1 July 2008" at the 9th Review of the Motor Accidents Authority and the Motor Accidents Council to be conducted by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice.
- (4) Yes. A CTP claim can be made against the driver/rider of a motor vehicle who is at-fault in causing injury to another road user. In certain circumstances, for example, where the injured person is under 16, or injured in a blameless accident, a claim can also be made regardless of fault. Any person suffering catastrophic injuries in a motor vehicle accident, regardless of fault, is eligible to apply to participate in the Lifetime Care and Support scheme.
- (5) See (3) above.

*3559 BLUE-GREEN ALGAE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) How much money was spent on the collaborative blue-green algae project between the former Department of Land and Water Conservation and Dr Neilan (UNSW) in 2002, which then failed to be developed to a state where the Department could apply the testing techniques at its Wolli Creek laboratory?
- (2) Given the Minister previously advised Budget Estimates (2007) that Dr Neilan's test results for lake Burrangorang found that over 99% of the algal cells within the lake did not have the toxicity gene, does this mean that water containing these algae blooms is therefore safe to drink?
- (3) If water is still considered to be unsafe then what is the source of its danger to humans?

Answer—

- (1) A grant of \$16,000 was made to the University of NSW in 2002 for Professor Neilan's laboratory to conduct toxicity testing on blue-green algal samples, which it did. Expenditure on the collaborative project in subsequent years, when it was transferred to the Department's Wolli Creek laboratory, amounted to \$35,520.
- (2) The water in Warragamba Dam is raw, untreated water. The water at consumers' taps is treated and meets or betters the standards in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- (3) All raw water used for potable supply across NSW requires disinfection to remove microorganisms,

even when blue-green algae are not present.

*3560 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND FOR THE PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How much of the \$30 million to be spent from Climate Change Fund for the Public Facilities Program has been spent?
- (2) What was the money spent on?
- (3) (a) Have reports been submitted that reflect outcomes of the expenditure?
(b) If so, what are the outcomes?

Answer—

- (1) As at 30 June 2008, \$1.6 million has been allocated, of which \$278,158 has been paid. Payments are made as project milestones are completed.

The next round of project grants under this program will be announced shortly, after I receive the recommendations of the independent advisory panel that reviews the applications.

- (2) Funding has been allocated to seven projects. Based on milestone reports which have been submitted, the outcomes so far include:
 - solar heating for a public pool;
 - lighting, chiller and ventilation upgrades;
 - installation of photo-voltaic panels;
 - installation of building energy management systems; and
 - on-going education and public awareness programs.
- (3) (a) and (b) While the above milestones have been achieved, no projects have been completed yet. Therefore, no final reports are available.

Reporting of the program outcomes will be done through the annual report of the Climate Change Fund, required to be tabled in Parliament each year.

*3561 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND FOR THE RECYCLING AND STORMWATER HARVESTING PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) How much of the \$100 million allocated from the Climate Change Fund for the Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting Program has been spent?
- (2) What was the money spent on?
- (3) (a) Have reports been submitted that reflect outcomes of the expenditure?
(b) If so, what are the details?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting Program was set up to examine the opportunities for, and to establish a recycled water grid in metropolitan Sydney.

To date, the focus of the project has been on the establishment phase, and the administration of establishing the recycled water market and funding criteria. The funding criteria will ensure that the Program is targeted to the most appropriate and economically efficient projects for the community.

*3562 REGISTERED GUN LICENCES—GOULBURN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many people residing in the seat of Goulburn have registered gun licences?
- (2) How many licensed guns are registered to addresses in the electorate of Goulburn?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) There are currently 3,801 firearms licences on issue in the Goulburn electorate, including firearms dealer/club owner licences.
- (2) There are 27,706 registered firearms in the Goulburn electorate.

*3572 HEAVY VEHICLE INSPECTION SITE AT YOUNG—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

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- (1) Has the Roads and Traffic Authority ascertained that the new Heavy Vehicle Inspection site at Cherryhaven Orchard, Cowra Road Young complies with the appropriate Council zoning requirements for the conduct of these inspections?
- (2) If not, why did the RTA make the decision to move Heavy Vehicle Inspections to this site before making this determination?
- (3) How many additional heavy vehicle movements over the Zouch Street Bridge are expected to eventuate as a result of this decision?

Answer—

I am advised:

The development of the new Heavy Vehicle Inspection Site meets the appropriate Council zoning requirements.

There are a number of alternative access routes to the new site. The RTA estimates that approximately 10 inspections per day will be drawn from surrounding areas in Young, Harden and Murrumburrah.

*3573 ZOUCH STREET BRIDGE YOUNG—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Rail Infrastructure Corporation fund the replacement of the Zouch Street Road Over Rail Bridge on the Main Southern Rail Line at Young during 2008/09 as foreshadowed by the RIC in their letter to Young Shire Council of 8 August 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Zouch Street Bridge is currently listed for renewal in the Rail Infrastructure Corporation's 2008/09 capital works programme.

*3574 ORANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the total number of staff positions allocated to the Orange Community Service Centre following its recent reopening after refurbishment?
- (2) Of these staff positions how many are designated as:
 - (a) Management;
 - (b) Caseworker child protection;
 - (c) Caseworker early intervention;
 - (d) Administration;
 - (e) Other?
- (3) How many of each of these positions were actually filled by staff as at 18 June 2008?
- (4) How many active (a) child protection clients and (b) early intervention clients were being administered through the Orange CSC as at 18 June 2008?

Answer—

- (1) 30.
- (2) (a) 6. Includes 1 Manager Client Services, 1 Service Support Manager and 4 Casework Managers.
(b) 12.
(c) 4.
(d) 3.
(e) 5.
- (3) All.
- (4) (a) 61.
(b) 27.

*3575 HORNSBY HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Of patients admitted to Hornsby Hospital, what percentage are for:
 - (a) Day only stays;
 - (b) Overnight stays?
- (2) How do these figures compare with 5 years ago?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) For the 2007-08 financial year, of the patients admitted to Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Hospital:
 - (a) 22.8% were day only stays;
 - (b) 77.2% were patients who stayed one or more nights.
- (2) For the 2003-04 financial year of the patients admitted to Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Hospital:
 - (a) 24.5% were day only stays;
 - (b) 75.5% were patients who stayed one or more night stays.

*3576 CHARGES FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many charges for underage drinking have been laid against how many people in relation to incidents in the Hornsby Shire since June 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*3577 HOMELESS PEOPLE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many homeless people are currently present in:
 - (a) NSW;
 - (b) Hornsby Shire Council area;
 - (c) Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How are they counted?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The most recent information on homelessness in NSW is provided in the Counting the Homeless 2001: New South Wales Report (2004, Chamberlain and Mackenzie). This report is the primary source for counting homelessness in NSW.

*3578 NURSES AND BUREAUCRATS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many nurses are currently employed:
 - (a) In the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service;
 - (b) At Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) How many bureaucratic positions are there currently:
 - (a) in the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service;
 - (b) at Hornsby Hospital?
- (3) What is the yearly salary costs for 2007 and 2008 to date for:
 - (a) Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service nurses and bureaucrats;
 - (b) Hornsby Hospital nurses and bureaucrats?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report data on the basis of individual health facilities. However, the Department of Health routinely provides state-wide workforce data and employee related expenses in its Annual Report.

Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service as a reporting entity, comprises all the operating activities of the hospital facilities, including Hornsby Hospital, and the Community Health Centres under its control.

Accordingly, workforce data and data on salaries and wages at the Area Health Service level are published in Area Health Service's annual reports.

The Member is referred to Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's publicly available annual reports.

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- *3579 AUTISM SPECIAL UNIT—SHORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

What funding was allocated to Shortland Public School for the setting up of the Autism Special Unit?

Answer—

A support class for students with Autism was established at Shortland Public School in 2004. A standard establishment grant of \$7,758 was provided to Shortland Public School. In 2005, a state-wide NSW Government initiative provided a teachers aide position for this class in addition to the teacher position. This class can accommodate up to 7 students.

- *3580 GRANTS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

What was the nature and total amount of grants to Sutherland Shire Council in 2006-07 and 2007-08 by the State Government?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission, which is established under the Local Government Act 1993, makes recommendations on Commonwealth funded financial assistance grants to local councils. These are untied grants, able to be used by councils for any purpose.

The entitlement for Sutherland Shire Council for 2006-07 was \$5.176 million, while the estimated entitlement for 2007-08 is \$5.336 million.

Neither I nor the Department of Local Government collect details of grants paid by other State Government agencies.

Sutherland Shire Council's annual financial statements will disclose its State Government grant receipts.

- *3581 CHILDREN WITH LEUKAEMIA—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How many new cases of children with leukaemia have been recorded in Sutherland Shire in each of the years:

(a) 2004;

(b) 2005;

(c) 2006;

(d) 2007?

(2) What are the total number of cases of children with leukaemia currently recorded in Sutherland Shire?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the NSW Cancer Institute:

(1) and (2) As this matter falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), for future reference these questions should be re-directed accordingly.

The information sought by the Member is available in the NSW Cancer Register as follows:

Number of new cases of leukaemia in children fifteen years or less by local government area and year of diagnosis 2004 to 2006:

Local Area	2004	2005	2006	Total
Sutherland	2	3	4	9

Complete data for 2007 is currently not yet available.

- *3582 COUNSELLORS FOR MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Community Services—

In an area where there is an absence of a public counsellor with specialist expertise in juvenile male sexual assault perpetrators, does the Government fund perpetrators to access private counsellors with specialist expertise?

Answer—

Yes, if this is an agreed action contained in a child or young person's case plan.

*3583 RESOURCES FOR MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) What resources are available in the Wagga Wagga electorate to deal with juvenile male sexual assault perpetrators?
- (2) What counselling support is available for families of the perpetrator?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Juvenile Justice is not the sole provider of such services. For young offenders in the care and custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, a full time Sex Offender Program Counsellor is employed in the Wagga Wagga Juvenile Justice Community Services office, to work with juveniles who have been mandated by the court to undertake the Sex Offender Program, as part of their supervision order, including those sentenced in custody at the Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre.
- (2) Parents and carers may also seek counselling support by approaching the Community Health General Counselling Services, as well as counselling services offered to families through non-government organisations, such as Mission Australia.

*3584 BUSES FOR M2 MOTORWAY—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the twenty additional buses the Minister promised recently be put into service for the M2 motorway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The additional buses are expected to be operational by the end of February, 2009.

*3585 BUSES FOR M2 MOTORWAY—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the twenty additional buses the Minister announced recently for use on the M2 motorway be used exclusively for the motorway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 20 additional buses are expected to be in operation on various routes operating on the M2 motorway by the end of February, 2009.

*3586 OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

How many schools in the Baulkham Hills electorate have outstanding maintenance matters that have been notified to the Department more than twelve months ago?

Answer—

Maintenance in schools across the State is an ongoing activity, constantly delivered throughout the year through a comprehensive suite of initiatives designed to best meet a range of circumstances.

- Preventative Maintenance is regular work performed by a contractor to keep specific building elements and equipment in good repair.
- Programmed Maintenance is work based on items that are picked up in the bi-annual condition assessments of each school. Annual maintenance plans are developed by schools in conjunction with their local Asset Management Unit.
- Essential Urgent Repairs are maintenance works undertaken immediately by the contractor if required by the school, with the school contributing up to its specific contribution limit.
- The Extra Maintenance Program is a four year statewide program aimed at injecting additional funding into priority areas.

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The Department of Education and Training continues to work with school principals and school communities to identify priority projects to deliver safe, well-maintained learning environments for the students of NSW.

*3587 BELROSE WSN LANDFILL SITE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the Government's long-term plan to operate the leachate plant, connected to the Belrose WSN landfill site, to prevent polluted effluent reaching Garigal National Park and Middle Harbour?
- (2) For how long is it estimated that the leachate plant will have to operate after the landfill site closes?
- (3) What information has been provided by WSN Environmental Services to date regarding their Closure Plan?
- (4) Further to Q&A 0276, is the expected date of cessation of landfill activities still December 2009, and if not, what is it now?
- (5) Who is anticipated to own the landfill site after that closure date?
- (6) Will Warringah Council take no future responsibility for the site?
- (7) What public use of the site is anticipated after the closure date?
- (8) What does the Government plan to do with the ten hectare site adjacent to Bare Creek (and within the WSN boundaries), which is currently in a natural bush state?

Answer—

- (1) Current licence conditions require WSN to operate the leachate management facility until onsite leachate generation becomes environmentally stable (ie less than 1mg per litre ammonia concentration). A leak detection system also exists.
- (2) It is estimated that the leachate treatment facility will operate for 30 to 35 years following landfill closure.
- (3) WSN is currently required to lodge a closure plan twelve months prior to the closure of the landfill.
- (4) Current expected closure date is mid-2010. WSN and the councils are working to maximise the life of the landfill, and this date may extend.
- (5) This has not been determined with respect to the landfill site. WSN will continue to own land associated with ongoing operations.
- (6) This is a question for Warringah Council.
- (7) The lower portion of the Belrose site will continue to be used by WSN for operational activities. These activities may include processing of recyclables, dry waste, garden waste or putrescible waste, though no material will be landfilled on the site.

The higher, steeper part of the site is not going to be used for operational activities.

If recreational facilities are not established, WSN will revegetate the site in accordance with licence requirements, and manage landfill gas and leachate on an ongoing basis. The site would be secured and over time revegetate back to native bushland, but would not be accessible to members of the public.

- (8) WSN owns this land. WSN has undertaken not to landfill in this area.

*3588 ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the final report "Attention Deficit Disorder in Children and Adolescents in NSW - 2007" by the Clinical Excellence Commission and my previous written Question 1827:

- (1) Who chose the panel members of the Commission?
- (2) Were they checked before their appointment for any conflict of interest and, if not, why not?
- (3) How many of the panel members previously served on advisory committees for Novartis or Eli Lilly (producers of drugs to treat ADHD)?
- (4) Who framed the terms of reference for the Commission?
- (5) How much did the review cost NSW taxpayers?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Clinical Excellence Commission that:

- (1) The membership of the Special Committee was decided jointly by the NSW Department of Health and the Clinical Excellence Commission.
- (2) Members of the Special Committee were asked to declare any conflict of interest prior to their appointment.
- (3) Three.

- (4) The NSW Department of Health.
 (5) The Review took 6 months to complete at a total cost of \$88,572.46.

*3589 EXTRA FUNDING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) How much average EXTRA funding per child per day is provided by the State for children with special needs who attend State funded preschools?
 (2) How does this compare with average EXTRA funding per child per day provided for care of children with special needs in relevant institutions by the Federal Government?

Answer—

It is unclear what the Member for Davidson is asking. The question appears to refer to funding allocated to State funded preschools, and should be referred to the Acting Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC for response.

*3590 RURAL MIDWIVES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised the NSW Government will commit \$2.5 million over 4 years from 2007-08 for 125 scholarships for extra training to existing rural midwives, and to attract 20 new rural student midwives:

- (1) (a) How much of this \$2.5 million funding will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital to provide extra training to existing midwives located at the hospital?
 (b) If none, why not?
 (2) (a) How many of the 20 new rural midwife positions will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital?
 (b) If none, why not?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer:

- (1) and (2) This funding will not be allocated to individual hospitals. All midwives working in the rural sector, including those at Tweed Hospital, are eligible to apply for scholarships to upgrade their skills.

*3591 RADIATION FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Minister has explained that Lismore Hospital received radiation facilities before the Tweed Hospital because its population catchment of 140,000 is greater than that of the Tweed Hospital (75,000) but that a Tweed Hospital medical oncologist stated that the Tweed has 5,600 cancer patients compared to 3,300 in Lismore:

- (1) (a) Does the Minister agree that the Tweed Hospital will need its own dedicated radiation facilities in the future to cope with the large number of cancer sufferers in the area?
 (b) If no, why not?
 (2) Given that the Lismore Hospital received funding for radiation facilities in the 2008/09 Budget but the Tweed Hospital did not, when will the Tweed Hospital be granted funding for the development of radiation facilities?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) The planning of Radiotherapy Services in NSW is undertaken at a state-wide level through a consultative process and is based on nationally agreed planning parameters.

Strategic planning of Radiotherapy Services also recognises that patients generally will access services in closer geographical proximity to their residence or metropolitan services that provide outreach services. In an area such as the Far North Coast this includes patients flowing across State borders to access treatment at geographically closer services. Residents of the Tweed Shire can currently access radiotherapy services in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.

A Joint Planning Study between New South Wales and Queensland to consider the health care needs of residents living in the fast-growing Tweed Shire and South East Queensland area has been undertaken. This aims to ensure an integrated approach to service delivery for the residents of the Far North Coast of NSW and South East Queensland.

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Queensland Health is currently planning for public radiotherapy services for the Tweed/Gold Coast region at the new Gold Coast University Hospital, to be developed on the Griffith University Gold Coast Campus at Parklands.

*3592 BREAST CANCER FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Minister has advised that the 'North Coast Area Health Service is currently undertaking recruitment of the additional staff required to develop a screening and assessment service for breast cancer at The Tweed Hospital':

- (1) What staff and how many are being recruited by NCAHS to establish a screening and assessment service at the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) How much funding will be provided by the NSW Government to BreastScreen at Tweed Heads in the 2008/09 Budget?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) The North Coast Area Health Service is currently in the process of recruiting a Radiographer to a fulltime position and a Receptionist for 32 hours a week at The Tweed Hospital BreastScreen Service to provide screening and assessment services.

BreastScreen North Coast is working with Gold Coast Medical Imaging to provide a Radiologist experienced in diagnostic mammogram and a Sonographer to attend the assessment clinics. These positions will be employed on a sessional basis.

BreastScreen has the support of the Breast Surgeons at The Tweed Hospital to attend the assessment clinics.

- (2) Funding will be provided to fill the above mentioned positions on a permanent basis and purchase an ultrasound machine to meet the requirements of the assessment clinics.

North Coast Area Health Service has not finalised Hospital and Service allocations however, this process is currently underway.

*3593 LICENCE OR PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY OF WATERFRONT LAND—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

Where a licence or permissive occupancy has been issued in relation to waterfront land, who is the legal owner of structures (such as jetties or boat houses) constructed on the land subject to the licence or permissive occupancy?

Answer—

The holder of the licence is the legal owner of the structures subject to that licence.

*3594 LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

In the case where a third party suffers damage on a structure within an area where a licence or permissive occupancy has been issued, is the Department of Lands liable in respect to these damages?

Answer—

No.

*3595 BUS TRAVELLING TIMES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) (a) Does the STA monitor bus-travelling times into the Sydney Central Business District from various locations in the Sydney Metropolitan area?
- (b) If so, what is the time it takes for the E88 service leaving North Avalon (Careel Head Road) at 7.21 am to travel to Central Station on weekdays?

- (2) On how many occasions has this service arrived at Central Station more than 5 minutes past the scheduled arrival time during the past 12 months?

Answer—

This question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

- *3596 BUS TRAVELLING TIMES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) (a) Does the RTA monitor bus-travelling times into the Sydney Central Business District from various locations in the Sydney Metropolitan area?

(b) If so, what is the time it takes for the E88 service leaving North Avalon (Careel Head Road) at 7.21 am to travel to Central Station on weekdays?

- (2) On how many occasions has this service arrived at Central Station more than 5 minutes past the scheduled arrival time during the past 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) and (b) Questions regarding the roles and functions of the Roads and Traffic Authority should be directed to the Minister for Roads.

- (2) Information regarding departure and arrival times for State Transit's E88 service from North Avalon can be accessed via the Transport Infoline on 131500 or www.131500.info

- *3597 LICENCES FOR WATERFRONT LAND ACCESS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

For what reasons does the Department of Lands issue licences in relation to waterfront land access on Pittwater rather than leases?

Answer—

Leases are generally granted in cases involving significant capital investment, such as marinas. Licences, on the other hand, that do not generally affect the public use and enjoyment of the waterway, are considered the most appropriate tenancy arrangement for domestic waterfront occupations.

- *3598 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many new Department of Housing properties have been constructed in the Taree area in:

(a) 2007;

(b) 2006;

(c) 2005;

(d) 2004;

(e) 2003?

- (2) How many new Department of Housing properties have been constructed statewide in:

(a) 2007;

(b) 2006;

(c) 2005;

(d) 2004;

(e) 2003?

- (3) How many clients are there on the general waiting list for housing in Taree?

- (4) How many clients are on the priority waiting list for housing in Taree?

- (5) On average how long do clients on the priority waiting list in Taree have to wait for Department of Housing accommodation?

- (6) How many clients are there on the waiting list for Department of Housing accommodation in New South Wales?

- (7) On average, how long will clients in New South Wales be expected to wait for housing accommodation including those on both the general and the priority waiting lists?

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Answer—

- (1) The new supply program for Housing NSW properties consists of building and redeveloping (construction) as well as purchasing (acquisition) new homes. Twenty five properties were constructed and acquired in Taree in a rolling program for the period 2003/04 to 2007/08.
- (2) This information is available in Housing NSW's Annual Report.
- (3) to (7) The time an applicant spends on the housing register varies and changes constantly. Many factors influence how long each applicant waits including the type of accommodation sought (e.g. number of bedrooms, style of dwelling); the type of household (e.g. aged couple, single person); and special needs (e.g. ground floor requirements, modifications).

The number of people on the housing register awaiting accommodation varies and changes constantly.

*3599 MARTIN BRIDGE—TAREE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why has work on the Martin Bridge in Taree ceased?
- (2) Has the resurfacing work on the Martin Bridge been completed?
- (3) If not, when will the work be completed?
- (4) If it is complete, why was only half the roadway on the bridge resurfaced?

Answer—

I am advised:

Wet weather interrupted the resurfacing work on the Martin Bridge at Taree, but the work has since been completed.

24 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 77)

*3600 RABBIT CALICIVIRUS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Is the rabbit calicivirus still used in New South Wales to control rabbit populations?
- (2) If so, what is the latest advice from the Department of Primary Industries and/or the Rural Lands Protection Boards on the effectiveness of this virus?
- (3) Is there any clear evidence that rabbits have started to develop a resistance to this virus?
- (4) What is the latest information on the cost to agriculture in New South Wales as a result of the rabbit and how has this cost changed in the last ten years?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Rabbit Calicivirus Disease (RCD), more commonly called Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) has substantially reduced rabbit populations across NSW.
- (3) There is evidence that some rabbits develop a resistance to the virus.
- (4) Economic damage by wild rabbits in Australia, including cost of control and production losses, has been estimated as high as \$600 million annually (ACIL 1996).

Updated levels of damage and control costs for rabbits are currently being assessed by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre in collaboration with NSW DPI.

*3601 FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Given the Minister's 6 June 2008 announcement of funding for Financial Counselling Grants will she state which specific service has responsibility for providing financial counselling services in Boorowa, Harden and Young?
- (2) Will the Minister confirm local advice from the Riverina Financial Counselling Service that Young, Harden and Boorowa will no longer receive an outreach financial counselling service under these grants?
- (3) If so, what action will the Minister take to rectify this situation?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) Of the \$1 million in additional funding made available under the Financial Counselling Services Program, applications in excess of \$3.2 million were received. An application by Mission Australia seeking funding for the Boorowa, Harden & Young region was unsuccessful.

Applications for funding under the Financial Counselling Services Program were assessed by a Grants Assessment Committee. The Committee consists of Trustees of the Financial Counselling Trust. The Trustees are appointed to the Trust based on their expertise in the financial counselling sector, in accordance with the Financial Counselling Trust Fund - Deed of Appointment. They are therefore eminently qualified to make recommendations regarding funding for financial counselling services.

All applications were reviewed and assessed and a determination was made based on the financial budget for the Program, as well as the aims and objectives, selection criteria, and the advertised priorities in regard to the targeted regions of NSW. Recommendations were submitted to the Commissioner, then Minister for Fair Trading for approval.

- (2) The Riverina Financial Counselling Service, auspiced by Mission Australia, receives funding to operate a financial counselling service in the Riverina area. The outreach service in question has never received funding under the Financial Counselling Services Program and was operated solely by Mission Australia. Any decision to withdraw that outreach service was made by Mission Australia.
- (3) The additional \$1 million has now been fully allocated - this includes \$970,864 allocated to financial counselling services under the program and the balance of \$29,135 which will contribute to the Office of Fair Trading's commitments for an indexed increase to these funded services, as stipulated by treasury. This Government is committed to financial counselling in NSW and, as such, is constantly striving to source additional funding. I fully support the sector and appreciate the important work that they do for the community.

*3602 RAINWATER TANK REBATE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What is the average length of time taken to process rebates under the NSW Rainwater Tank Rebate Scheme from receipt to dispatch of payment?

Answer—

39 days.

*3603 CHILD OF PETER AND MICHELLE NICHOLAS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) (a) Has the review of the case of the child of Mr and Mrs Nicholas, which the Minister stated in his letter R08/00033(dated 9 April 2008) would be "commencing shortly", been completed?
(b) If so, why have Mr and Mrs Nicholas not been formally informed of the outcome of the review as promised in his letter?
- (2) If the review has not been completed, will the Minister personally explain to Mr and Mrs Nicholas the reason why the review has not been undertaken given his commitment in his letter?

Answer—

A response will be provided privately to representations.

*3604 MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What is the number of hours provided for mental health counselling at:
 - (a) Northern Institute of TAFE;
 - (b) Hornsby campus?
- (2) For (a) and (b) how many students are accessing this?
- (3) (a) Have the number of hours for (a) and (b) been reduced since December 2007?
(b) If so, to what number of hours?

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Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Mental health counselling for students at TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute is provided by both Teacher Consultants and Counsellors.

Due to requirements for student privacy, the number of hours provided specifically for mental health counselling is not formally recorded and is therefore not available.

- (2) Again, due to requirements for student privacy, the number of students specifically seeking mental health counselling is not recorded.
- (3) All TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute Counsellors provide services across the Institute. There has been no reduction in the provision of disability support or counselling services, including mental health services, for students at TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute since December 2007.

*3605 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many bushfires have been discovered to be deliberately lit in the Hornsby Shire in:

- (a) 2002;
(b) 2003;
(c) 2004;
(d) 2005;
(e) 2006;
(f) 2007?

- (2) What has been achieved in relation to apprehending the perpetrators?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Available records for the Hornsby Local Government Area indicate the following number of incidents:

- (e) 1.
(f) 5.

- (2) Court proceedings have commenced where appropriate.

*3606 DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) (a) Are there any programs in the Hunter New/England area to rehabilitate drug offenders?

(b) If so, what are they?

- (2) What has been the success of these programs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Attorney General's Department operates the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program in the Hunter/New England area. Further details are available on the Lawlink Website.

In the Hunter/New England area, the Department of Corrective Services provides the Alcoholics Anonymous program, the Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse - Pathways program, Getting SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training), Narcotics Anonymous, Sober Driving Program. The member is referred to the Department of Corrective Services Annual Reports for further details in relation to the Sober Driver program. Evaluations in relation to the other programs are either currently underway or the program is not currently subject to evaluation.

Information on programs administered by NSW Health should be sought from the Minister for Health.

*3607 CRONULLA BEACHES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Will any of the Government's additional \$40 million in funds to revitalise the State's tourism be spent to promote Cronulla's beaches?

Answer—

The Government's initial response to the O'Neill Report on the Review into Tourism in NSW required the release of the report for targeted consultation with industry, with a view to submitting a NSW Tourism Strategy within three months. This process is currently being coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in conjunction with the Department of State and Regional Development. It is therefore premature to indicate where the funds will be allocated.

*3608 PLANNING AND ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Did the Premier negotiate with the Shooters Party to support recent Government planning legislation or to support upcoming electricity legislation in return for Labor supporting recent firearms legislation?

Answer—

Any legislative proposal is, and will continue to be, considered on its merits.

*3609 PLANNING LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Did the Minister negotiate with the Shooters Party to support recent Government planning legislation in return for Labor supporting recent firearms legislation?

Answer—

Any legislative proposal is, and will continue to be, considered on its merits.

*3610 ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Did the Treasurer negotiate with the Shooters Party to support upcoming Government electricity legislation in return for Labor supporting recent firearms legislation?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Any legislative proposal is, and will continue to be, considered on its merits.

*3611 SHERATON HOUSE—VEHICLE PURCHASE—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Community Services—

Given that St Francis Xavier Parish has spent well in excess of a million dollars on Sheraton House (a men's refuge in Ballina) in the past five years, which is the responsibility of the State Government:

- (1) Will the Minister fund the \$35,000 needed to purchase a vehicle to assist in the transportation of clients to various appointments, medical centres and facilities?
- (2) If not, will the Minister consider funding towards this purchase?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I refer the Member to my reply to his representations on this issue.

*3612 TWEED HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised "the Government is investing \$717.7 million to deliver better services and improve health infrastructure across the North Coast Area Health Service in 2008-09":

- (1) How much of this \$717.7 million funding to the NCAHS in 2008-09 will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) What is the exact list of additional services and infrastructure projects that the Tweed Hospital will receive in 2008-09 under the NCAHS' \$717.7 million funding allocation?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) The North Coast Area Health Service is working with hospitals, services and clinical managers to determine the allocation of new funding that will be provided to all North Coast Area Health Service entities.

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*3613 KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) Given that the Minister has advised that Kingscliff Bowls Club's rent of Crown land will increase "because the Club's gaming revenue exceeds \$1 million", why are Crown land rental rebates pegged specifically to gaming revenue rather than overall club operating profit?
- (2) Given the crippling effect of the NSW Government's poker machine taxes and new no-smoking regulations on the profitability of NSW clubs, is gaming revenue a more suitable criteria than overall club profit for assessing whether a club is eligible to receive the Crown land rebate?
- (3) Will the NSW Government provide complete exemption from this rental price hike to NSW clubs which have gaming revenue exceeding \$1 million, but which under the rental increases would see them become financially unviable?

Answer—

- (1) The formula was developed in negotiations with ClubsNSW and is consistent with that used by other government agencies in their dealings with registered clubs.
- (2) During negotiations with ClubsNSW it was indicated that use of gaming revenues is more appropriate and generally more equitable than using overall club profit.
- (3) Under the Crown Lands Act, the Minister for Lands provides waivers of rent in situations where lessees, including registered clubs, demonstrate hardship.

*3614 TWEED HOSPITAL STAFFING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the number of (a) doctors and (b) nurses presently employed at the Tweed Hospital in the emergency department?
- (2) What is the number of (a) doctors and (b) nurses presently employed at the Tweed Hospital in the maternity unit?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) (a) 27.3 FTE medical staff in the Emergency Department.
(b) 41.7 FTE nursing staff in the Emergency Department.
- (2) (a) 4 VMO Obstetrician and Gynaecologist positions (1 currently vacant being supported by locums), plus 3 FTE Obstetrician & Gynaecologist Registrars.
(b) 34.3 FTE nursing staff in the Women's Care Unit.

*3615 MAJOR ASSESSMENTS COORDINATOR—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Major Assessments Coordinator within the Environment Protection and Regulation Group, who is currently leading the strategic planning, conservation assessment and investment of the Growth Centres Conservation Funds on new grassy woodland conservation reserves and biobanking agreements in the Sydney Basin?
- (2) Given that the Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Special Provisions) Bill 2008 specifically deals with Growth Centres Conservation Funds on new grassy woodland conservation reserves and biobanking agreements in the Sydney Basin, who advised the Government when the lead position was vacant?
- (3) Did the previous Major Assessments Coordinator resign in disgust at the draft Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Special Provisions) Bill 2008?

Answer—

- (1) The strategic planning, conservation assessment and investment of the Growth Centres Conservation Fund is being led by the Department of Environment and Climate Change Environment Protection and Regulation Group. This group is responsible for strategic planning and conservation assessment of new protected areas.
- (2) The Major Assessments Co-ordinator position is a new position created by the Department to specifically implement the outcomes of the Growth Centres biocertification work. This work was unaffected by the Threatened Species Conservation Amendment (Special Provisions) Bill 2008.
- (3) Not applicable.

*3616 ADVERTISED POSITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Principal Technical Policy Officer with the Environment Protection and Regulation Group, who is currently advising on chemical technical policy?
- (2) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Executive Director of the Corporate Services Division, who is currently leading corporate strategic development, management and implementation of DECC's Finance, HR/IR, IT and Administration, and delivering on major corporate reforms?

Answer—

- (1) The Manager and staff of the Chemicals Technical Policy Unit, within the Chemicals Policy Section of the Department's Environment Protection and Regulation Group currently provide advice.
- (2) The current Executive Director of the Corporate Services Division is remaining with the Department until the recruitment process is complete and a new Executive Director commences.

*3617 THREATENED SPECIES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many of the 17 threatened animal species and one threatened plant species recorded on the Sandgate rail grade separation site were subjected to the seven-part test?
- (2) If the one threatened plant species recorded on the site was not subjected to the seven-part test, why not?
- (3) What measures have been put in place to protect these 18 threatened species at Sandgate?

Answer—

The Sandgate rail grade separation proposal was considered by the Minister for Planning, the Hon Frank Sartor MP, under Division 4, Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change provided advice to the Department of Planning regarding the environmental impact statement prepared by the proponent, the Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd.

The seven-part test for such assessments is prescribed in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and, as such, is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

25 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 78)

*3618 WORLD YOUTH DAY—JOURNEY OF THE CROSS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) In relation to the organisation of World Youth Day, will there be a Journey of the Cross and Icon throughout various suburbs of Sydney?
- (2) Will this journey start on 1 July 2008?
- (3) On what dates and in which suburbs will this journey take?
- (4) In which suburbs in the Mount Druitt electorate will residents be able to witness this journey?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A detailed itinerary is available at:
http://www.wyd2008.org/index.php/en/wyd08_events/journey_of_the_cross_icon/15_day_walk
- (4) Please refer to my answer to question without notice given to the House on the 26 June 2008 where I stated:

"I note that the member for Mount Druitt has put a question on the Notice Paper asking where the people of Mount Druitt can go to see the journey of the Cross and the Icon and I can advise him that on Saturday 5 July in Rooty Hill and Emerton are the best opportunity for people who live in the electorate of Mount Druitt to see that Cross and Icon as it comes, from 1 to 15 July, right around metropolitan Sydney."

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*3619 REVENUE FROM FISHING LICENCES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Regarding the expenditure of revenue from fishing licence fees in the Port Stephens region:

- (1) How much revenue was raised from the fishing licences of Port Stephens residents in the 2006-07 period?
- (2) How many local projects did this revenue fund?
- (3) How much fishing licence revenue remains unspent from this period?

Answer—

- (1) Information on all individual licence sales for local residents in Port Stephens for 2006/07 is not available.
- (2) A number of local and statewide programs were funded in 2006-07 in the Port Stephens area:
 - A Fisheries Officer.
 - A fish aggregating device off Port Stephens.
 - Restoration of the Mallabulla jetty to provide an accessible, safe fishing platform.
 - Provision of angel rings at popular rock fishing spots in Port Stephens.
 - Fourteen Fishcare volunteers from surrounding areas are involved in face to face education of recreational fishers.
 - Research on important fish species landed during the Port Stephens Interclub Tournament.
- (3) Fee revenue is not allocated to specific districts or areas. However, the Trusts are overseen by committees made up of regional recreational fishers.

*3620 BOAT RAMP AT NORTH ARM COVE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

Regarding funding for a boat ramp at North Arm Cove:

- (1) (a) Has the Minister received any representations from community organisations in North Arm Cove regarding the construction of a boat ramp?
(b) If so, why have these requests not been responded to?
- (2) Can the Minister commit to building a boat ramp at North Arm Cove?

Answer—

- (1) There are no records of written representations to the Minister.
- (2) Grant applications for funding waterways infrastructure projects through NSW Maritime, close on 22 August 2008. Applications are assessed by an expert panel. In submitting an application, community organisations require the support of local council who usually build, own and maintain boat ramps and associated infrastructure. Standard planning approvals are required if a grant application is successful.

*3621 WORLD YOUTH DAY—TRANSPORT—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding World Youth Day transport from Newcastle:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that in the week leading up to World Youth Day over 5,000 pilgrims are anticipated to participate in Maitland-Newcastle Diocese "Days in the Diocese" celebrations?
- (2) Given that these pilgrims will be travelling to Sydney on the same day to participate in the official World Youth Day ceremony, has the Minister made an allocation for the increased strain on public transport services from Newcastle to Sydney during this time?
- (3) Can the Newcastle to Sydney service handle an additional 5,000 passengers on its hourly service?
- (4) Will World Youth Day pilgrims travelling from Newcastle receive any subsidy for using this service?
- (5) Will additional services be arranged to cater for the increased demand?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) RailCorp worked closely with transport planners engaged by the Maitland Newcastle Diocese. Transport arrangements for the pilgrims included a combination of coach and train services.
- (2) Registered participants of World Youth Day received a "pilgrim passport" which included free travel on Sydney suburban trains and bus services.
- (3) Customers who did not register as pilgrims with the event organisers, but planned to attend one of

the major events were able to pre-purchase discounted commemorative train and bus tickets.

- (4) Four thousand additional train services and 16,500 additional bus services operated throughout the Sydney suburban area to get participants to and from WYD08 events. A public transport guide to WYD events was also provided.
- (5) Following the success of World Youth Day, a Mobility Forum will be held to bring together transport operators, authorities, experts, planners, councils, retailers, chambers of commerce and other major stakeholders to see what more we can do to free up our city streets and increase public transport use.

*3622 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND MOBILITY PLAN—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the costs of the feasibility study of a pedestrian and mobility access plan on the Princes Highway at Narooma:

- (1) Why is Eurobodalla Shire Council being asked by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to contribute half of the \$30,000 cost of a pedestrian access and mobility plan demanded by the RTA before a pedestrian safety island can be built on the Princes Highway?
- (2) Has the \$15,000 project blown out to \$45,000 after the study is included in the costs?
- (3) Would it be more prudent to simply build the pedestrian refuge rather than adding 300 per cent to the costs doing a study on the feasibility of an obviously necessary safety and protection measure?
- (4) Why is this feasibility study required given that this pedestrian refuge has been sought for years by local businesses and without the cost of the study, this stretch of the Princes Highway could have two pedestrian refuges, one outside the IGA and another outside the caravan park?

Answer—

I am advised:

Pedestrian and Mobility Plans (PAMPS) are necessary to ensure that any facility forms an integral part of the safe management of pedestrians and the maintenance of traffic flow. The RTA provides funding for PAMPS to councils on a 50:50 basis.

The management and provision of safe access for pedestrians around the entire Narooma Flat area needs to be considered and any single facility needs to form part of a larger strategy. The RTA will continue to work closely with Council to enhance pedestrian amenity at Narooma.

*3623 CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO BEACH—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to the closure of public access to the beach from Crown land through Lot DP 826655 (ref NA07H171):

- (1) Why is the Crown Lands division proposing this closure?
- (2) How many kilometres of coastline will this closure remove from public access?
- (3) Is this proposed closure contrary to, or part of, the Government's own Coastal Lands Protection Scheme?
- (4) Is the access road going to remain accessible to fire crews and natural resource management?
- (5) Is access to the beach going to be maintained by building boardwalks, bike tracks or walking tracks?
- (6) Because the reserve systems, beaches and dunes are nesting sites for endangered and threatened species such as Little Terns and Pied Oyster Catchers, will this land continue to be maintained by local environmental groups who have been effective at eradicating noxious and problematic weed species?
- (7) Is this reserve going to be sold or leased for any reason in the future?
- (8) (a) Is there an option to acquire this land under the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme on account of its historical and natural significance to the local community?
(b) If yes, is this acquisition being considered?

Answer—

- (1) The Crown Lands Division of the Department of Lands is processing a road closing application by the owner of lot 2 DP 826655.
- (2) None. The road proposed to be closed is not formed and does not provide practical access to the coast.
- (3) No, because existing practical access to the coast will not be affected.

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- (4) No. The road is presently inaccessible to emergency services vehicles.
- (5) No. However, other existing practical access routes will remain in place.
- (6) and (7) Other adjoining Crown land will not be affected.
- (8) This question is not a matter for the Minister for Lands.

*3624 COURT RULE—D'ARCY V BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

What court rule allowed Justice Pain to accept the alteration to John D'Arcy's development application that was lodged in an objection prior to the commencement of the case D'Arcy v Bega Valley Shire Council [2002] NSW LEC 225?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Member to his question on notice to the former Attorney General notice regarding Mr D'Arcy's matters before the Land and Environment Court. It is not appropriate to comment on what occurs in individual court proceedings. If either party is dissatisfied with the result of court proceedings there are appropriate appeal mechanisms in place.

*3625 MERIMBULA HOME NURSING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the services provided by Merimbula Home Nursing?
- (2) Is there any scope for financial assistance from the Government for this vital service to the Far South Coast?

Answer—

- (1) I understand that Merimbula Home Nursing Service is a privately owned, for-profit business that does not receive funding from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC). Merimbula Home Nursing services the Bega Valley and Cooma Monaro Local Government Areas. I am aware that it provides a number of services funded by the Commonwealth Government. Services provided by this organisation include Veterans Affairs Nursing, In-Home Respite Care, Veterans Home Care, Private Home Help, Community Aged Care Packages, Extended Aged Care at Home and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia Specific programs. A DADHC funded service in the Southern Region occasionally purchases nursing services from this organisation for clients requiring a nursing level of care for in-home respite and out-of-home respite services.
- (2) As a for-profit private organisation Merimbula Home Nursing Service is eligible to apply for funding as and when requests for tenders are made available in the Southern Region of DADHC.

*3626 OLD BEGA HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) When will the old Bega Hospital be rebuilt given it burnt down in May 2004?
- (2) Given that local volunteers continue to fundraise and maintain the area, what support will the Government give to assist their efforts?
- (3) If the Government will not rebuild the old hospital, are there plans to knock it down?

Answer—

- (1) Funding in the order of \$2 - \$3 million cannot be sourced from the Public Reserves Management Fund.
- (2) The Department of Lands is examining alternative strategies that cater for reserve users and other community groups in the Bega area.
- (3) No.

*3627 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) Why is the Minister for Water Utilities still making public statements that water from the proposed Tillegra Dam will be supplying the Central Coast when the Central Coast has Federal funding to construct the pipeline from Mardi Dam to Mangrove Creek Dam which will mean the Central Coast does not need Tillegra?

- (2) (a) Is the statement by Wyong MP David Harris (Central Coast News) that the Government is planning to demand Central Coast ratepayers foot some of the bill for the proposed Tillegra Dam true?
- (b) If so, how much will the ratepayers be expected to pay?
- (3) In light of the increased costs of the desalination plant to Sydney water users, what will be the projected increase in the bills of Hunter residents attributed to the proposed construction of Tillegra Dam?
- (4) If 60 per cent of the cost is to be recovered from future development (as stated by Hunter Water Corporation MD Kevin Young), what is the expected additional cost burden per housing lot on future development?
- (5) As the State Government originally predicted a population growth of 95,000 in the Lower Hunter and the current projected population growth of 160,000 over the next 25 years doesn't occur, what are the cost implications for existing Hunter residents (cost per bill) and for future development (cost per lot)?
- (6) Has Hunter Water Corporation paid approximately \$55 million in dividends and tax equivalents to the State Government every year for the last 10 years?
- (7) (a) Is Hunter Water Corporation going to reduce the size of the dividend and tax equivalents that they pay to the State Government to reduce the cost burden of the Tillegra Dam on Hunter residents?
- (b) Is the size of the dividend going to increase because the asset base will increase and Treasury want a fixed return on assets?

Answer—

(1) The Central Coast's Water Plan 2050 categorically states that Tillegra Dam is a component in securing the water supply for the Central Coast in the longer term. The Mardi to Mangrove Creek Dam pipeline is also a component of this long term strategy.

(2) (a) I understand that the Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) and the Central Coast councils have formed a working party to investigate mutually agreed cost sharing arrangements for Tillegra Dam.

(b) I refer you to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

(3) to (5) I refer you to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

(6) Information on payments made by the HWC to the Government is publicly available in the HWC's annual reports.

(7) (a) and (b) Tax equivalents are set by the Federal Government and must be paid in accordance with taxation legislation. There is no choice available to modify this taxable amount required by law. Dividend payments are set annually in discussion between the shareholders and the HWC Board.

*3632 RESPONSE BY OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

When can Smith and Gray, Trading as Touie Smith Sales & Service, of Yass expect a reply to their letter of 31 March 2008 to the Office of Fair Trading in which they seek information on work description categories available to licences covered by the air-conditioning and refrigeration industries?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading has no record of receiving the original letter from Mr Rodney Gray of Smith & Gray Pty Ltd. However, in response to the receipt of a copy of his letter on 10 June 2008, an officer contacted Mr Gray on 16 June 2008 to discuss his concerns.

Following the introduction of the Government Licensing System there were some changes to licence class names. The change in class name from 'Refrigeration' to 'Refrigeration Installer' was not intended to infer any change in the scope of work able to be carried out by a licence holder. All licensees who currently have the class of 'Refrigeration Installer' will shortly have the class name reverted to 'Refrigeration'. Fair Trading will advise Mr Gray when the change has been effected.

*3633 YOUNG HOSPITAL MAMMOGRAM X-RAY MACHINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

Given that in Question 2839 on 6 May 2008 I asked the specific question as to the length of time that the mammogram x-ray machine at Young Hospital had been unserviceable and in her answer on 10 June she neglected to provide this information, will the Minister inform me of the specific date that the mammogram x-ray machine at Young Hospital ceased functioning?

Answer—

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I am advised by the Chief Executive, Greater Southern Area Health Service that the machine had been unserviceable since 22 April 2008.

*3634 WAITING TIME FOR SURGERY—CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE MINISTER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

Given the recent case in Brewarrina where a treating doctor had to seek the intervention of the Member for Barwon before the Department of Community Services would grant approval for a chronically ill child with tonsillitis to have an operation to remove the tonsils because his custody had not yet been determined by the courts, how many other children in the care of the Minister have had surgery delayed because of administrative delays within the Department of Community Services during:

- (a) 2004;
- (b) 2005;
- (c) 2006;
- (d) 2007;
- (e) to date in 2008?

Answer—

I am advised that there are no systemic problems in arranging surgery for children in care. This case was a result of an unfortunate delay in the processing of the request at a local level. Arrangements are underway to conduct this child's surgery as soon as possible.

*3635 HORNSBY HOSPITAL CT SCANNER—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Hornsby Hospital CT scanner one of the oldest in New South Wales?
- (2) If yes, when will the Hornsby Hospital CT scanner be updated?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) I refer the Member to my Media Release on this subject of 25 June 2008.

*3636 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many bushfires have been found to be deliberately lit in the Hornsby Shire in (a) 2002, (b) 2003, (c) 2004, (d) 2005, (e) 2006 and (f) 2007?
- (2) What has been achieved in relation to apprehending the perpetrators?

Answer—

I am advised:

The member asked this question on 6 March 2008 and it was responded to on 9 April 2008. The member is referred to the Questions and Answers paper No. 58.

*3637 BREAST CARE NURSES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) (a) Are there any breast care nurses at Hornsby Hospital?
- (b) If so, how many?
- (2) Are there any breast care nurses in the Hornsby region for the provision of care to women undergoing breast surgery for cancer?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) Women undergoing breast surgery for cancer in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai region are provided care through the Acute/Post Acute Care Service and Northern Sydney Home Nursing Service. Within these services, there are four community nurses who specialise in breast cancer care.

*3638 SPORTS RAGE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

What is the Government doing to combat the issue of sports rage in junior sporting events?

Answer—

The Government has developed the Sport Rage Prevention Kit. The kit features a suite of materials designed to assist volunteer administrators be proactive in the prevention and management of sport rage in the junior sport setting. The Government conducts the Coloured Vest Program which assists in developing a supportive environment for new officials in the junior sport setting. The Government also conducts various courses for sports clubs and associations including "Harassment Free Sport", "Diffusing Conflict and Anger in sport" and "Complaint Handling and Resolution for clubs".

*3639 RESPONSE TO EMAILS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

When will the Premier respond to emails sent to him by Renae Clark?

Answer—

The emails sent to me by Ms Renae Clark were referred to the Hon. Nathan Rees, MP, Minister for Water for consideration. I am advised that the Minister for Water replied to Ms Clark on 14 July 2008.

*3640 HOMELESS PEOPLE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Community Services—

(1) How many homeless people are currently present in:

- (a) Sutherland Shire:
- (b) Cronulla electorate?

(2) How are they counted?

Answer—

The report indicates that there are approximately 26,676 homeless people in NSW.

Information on homelessness numbers is provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

*3641 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL ADMISSION NUMBERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Of patients admitted to Sutherland Hospital, what percentage are for:

- (a) day only stays;
- (b) overnight stays?

(2) How do these figures compare with 5 years ago?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) For the 2007/08 financial year, of the patients admitted to Sutherland Hospital:

- (a) 17.2% were day only stays;
- (b) 82.8% were patients who stayed one or more nights.

(2) For the 2003/04 financial year, of the patients admitted to Sutherland Hospital:

- (a) 23.7% were day only stays;
- (b) 76.3% were patients who stayed one or more nights.

*3642 CYCLE TOURISM—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With regards to Tourism NSW recently reporting "Cycle tourism is riding high in NSW with more than 500,000 visitors trying a pedal-powered experience in 2007" and that "NSW was the No 1 State for cycle tourism":

(1) How was the figure of 500,000 obtained and verified?

(2) How many of the 500,000 were from overseas?

(3) (a) How many brought their own bikes?

(b) Who counted them?

(4) (a) Where did the cyclists do their cycling?

(b) In which towns and regions?

(5) How does the Minister support the claims that:

(a) cyclists as tourists stay longer than non-cyclists;

(b) spend more while on holiday?

Answer—

(1) The figure was obtained from the National and International Visitor Surveys undertaken by Tourism Research Australia, a business unit of Tourism Australia. In the year ended March 2008 a total of 597,800 domestic and international visitors to NSW went cycling.

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- (2) In the year ended March 2008, 120,000 international visitors to NSW stated that they went cycling somewhere in Australia. The International Visitors Survey shows that in the same period 54% of all international visitors to Australia came to NSW. Therefore, it can be estimated that around 64,800 international visitors enjoyed a cycling trip in NSW.
- (3) (a) Data available from the National and International Visitor Surveys relates to the number of visitors to NSW partaking in cycling during their stay. There is no data available on how many visitors brought their own bikes to NSW.
(b) Not applicable.
- (4) (a) Visitors enjoy cycling throughout NSW.
(b) The most popular regions for cycling are the North Coast NSW, South Coast, Northern Rivers and Sydney.
- (5) (a) The fact that cyclists stay longer than non-cyclists can be supported by data contained in the National and International Visitor Surveys.
(b) The fact that cyclists spend more than non-cyclists can be supported by data contained in the National and International Visitor Surveys.

*3643 FACTORY FARMING STATISTICS—CHICKENS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many layer hens are currently being raised in cages or battery farms in NSW for egg production?
- (2) What is the average age of those hens (raised in cages or battery farms) at the time they are sent to slaughter?
- (3) How many male chicks (hatchlings) are disposed of each year in NSW and what are their primary methods of disposal?
- (4) How many chickens are currently being raised in broiler farms in NSW for chicken meat production?
- (5) What proportion of all chickens currently raised in NSW for food (meat) or food production (eggs) are being raised in battery and broiler farms?
- (6) How many layer hens in NSW undergo the procedure known as "beak trimming" or "debeaking" and what percentage of layer hens undergo this procedure without pain relief?

Answer—

- (1) Facilities for approximately 4.6 million birds.
- (2) Approximately 78 weeks of age.
- (3) To maintain flocks at levels necessary to meet the demand for eggs, approximately nine million birds are placed each year in Australia. NSW accounts for approximately 35% of the total. Culled hatchlings are humanely destroyed in accordance with the "Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Domestic Poultry" 4th Edition (the Code).
- (4) Approximately 155 million broiler chickens were produced in NSW in 2006-2007.
- (5) No chickens are raised in battery or boiler farms for meat production.

For layer hens the Code provides three housing systems. These are cage system (facilities for approximately 4.6 million birds), barn system (facilities for approximately 160,000 birds) and free-range system (facilities for approximately 340,000 birds).

- (6) Beak trimming is a husbandry procedure in use world-wide to reduce the risk of cannibalism. The Code sets out that "Beak trimming must be performed only by an accredited operator or under the direct supervision of an accredited trainer as part of an accreditation training program and must be performed only in accordance with agreed accreditation standards."

*3648 DRIVING TESTS—LAKE CARGELLIGO RTA—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many provisional driving tests have been done through the Lake Cargelligo RTA office in the past two years?
- (2) In the last two years, what percentage of provisional drivers have failed in their first driving test through the Lake Cargelligo RTA?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the last two years, 119 driving tests were conducted at Lake Cargelligo.

In the last two years, 56 per cent of provisional drivers failed their first driving test at Lake Cargelligo.

*3649 TRAIN SERVICE FROM NEWCASTLE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In regard to the response to question 2437 relating to the scheduled 05:08 fast train from Newcastle on 16 June 2008:

- (1) (a) Was the service six minutes late arriving at Morisset?
(b) If yes, why?
- (2) (a) Was the service altered to an "all stations" and the change not announced to passengers until just before arrival at Gosford?
(b) If yes, why was this change implemented and how many times has this service been changed to an "all stations" this year?
- (3) (a) Was the service on arrival at Central, 29 minutes later than scheduled?
(b) If yes, how many times this year has this service arrived later than the scheduled time?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The service was delayed due to inclement weather and speed restrictions near Teralba.

The service was altered to an all stations service to minimise delays to those passengers waiting for the all stations service travelling behind the 5.08am fast train from Newcastle.

Information regarding train arrival and departure times can be found at the Transport Infoline website www.131500.info or by phoning 131500.

*3650 CLIENTS OF KANANGRA CENTRE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Are clients of Kanangra Centre at Morisset proposed to be relocated in the near future?
- (2) If yes, can assurances be given that clients will not be relocated permanently or as an interim measure to other large residential centres?
- (3) Further, will assistance be made available to accommodate clients returning to family homes if that option can be demonstrated to be their preference, in their best interest, and supported by their family?

Answer—

Whilst initial service planning to explore future options for the Kanangra Centre has commenced, there are no proposals to relocate residents in the near future.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (DADHC) No Admissions to Large Residential Centres Policy will continue to apply. DADHC also operates the Hunter Accommodation Challenges Project. This is an ongoing program for existing residents of Hunter Residences, including the Kanangra Centre, which aims to provide equitable, well-planned and appropriate accommodation based on the individual needs of residents. In some instances it is in the best interests of residents to move to other large residential centres. Any such moves are only undertaken following consultation and obtaining full consent from residents and/or their representatives.

DADHC is currently developing a range of possible options based on the support needs of existing residents. These options have not been finalised however they may include providing assistance to obtain support services in the family home where appropriate. The NSW Government is committed to working with all stakeholders, including the current residents, families, guardians and staff to ensure that future accommodation options are in the best interests of residents of Kanangra Centre.

*3651 DAY LEAVE FROM KANANGRA CENTRE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

Why were day leave visits previously undertaken to the home of Ms Chris Rosenthal by her sister, a client of the Kanangra Unit at Morisset Hospital, summarily curtailed without any formal notice or justification?

Answer—

Ms Heather Rosenthal is 74 years old and has a severe intellectual disability, osteoarthritis and other physical disabilities.

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Ms Rosenthal fractured her hip in January 2007. A full investigation determined that a fall when she attempted to get out of bed was found to be the cause of her fractured hip. I am informed that Kanangra Centre has management plans in place to minimise any further risk of harm to Heather, including a mobility management plan.

I am advised that in March 2006, the Public Guardian was appointed with the responsibility of making decisions on Heather's behalf in relation to her accommodation and service provision. I am further advised that the Public Guardian is of the view that Ms Christine Rosenthal was willing at that time to have an Occupational Therapist assess her new home to determine if the accommodation was appropriate to meet Heather's needs during home visits and overnight stays.

I am advised that correspondence from the Office of the Public Guardian dated 31 August 2006, requesting that an independent assessment by an Occupational Therapist of Ms Christine Rosenthal's new home be undertaken prior to further home visits, had inadvertently not been actioned.

I am advised that the Nurse Manager, Accommodation and Nursing Service of the Kanangra Centre, informed the Public Guardian of the oversight and the home visits were ceased in March 2007. I am further advised that the Nurse Manager, Accommodation and Nursing Service has contacted Ms Christine Rosenthal on two occasions in an attempt to arrange an independent Occupational Therapist assessment, however, to date, Ms Christine Rosenthal has declined the offer of the independent Occupational Therapist assessment.

I understand that Ms Christine Rosenthal continues to visit her sister Heather at the Kanangra Centre most Sundays and most Wednesdays. Heather and Christine go for coffee at a local café with wheelchair access fortnightly. A taxi with disabled access picks up Heather and transports her to the café.

*3652 **KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB**—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

Given that the Minister has advised that Kingscliff Bowls Club's rent of Crown land will increase "because the Club's gaming revenue exceeds \$1 million":

- (1) (a) Has the Minister assessed the suitability of any other financial indicators for use as the criteria for the eligibility of NSW clubs applying for the Crown land rental rebate?
- (b) If yes, what other financial indicators were assessed and why were they not adopted?
- (c) If no, why not?
- (2) Why is only one financial indicator used to assess the eligibility of NSW clubs applying for the Crown land rental rebate?
- (3) What was the rationale for the NSW Government adopting a \$1 million gaming revenue threshold as the criteria for NSW clubs being ineligible to receive the Crown land rental rebate?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Indicators considered included gross gaming revenue, total gross revenue from all sources and rent based on the market value of land occupied. Arising from negotiations with ClubsNSW it was agreed that an indicator using gross gaming revenue was more equitable and consistent with the methodology used by other NSW government agencies in categorising registered clubs.
 - (c) Not applicable.
- (2) It was agreed that the selected indicator was the most equitable methodology and consistent with other NSW government agencies.
- (3) Negotiations with ClubsNSW revealed that this is the threshold used by other NSW government agencies in their categorisation of registered clubs.

*3653 **DEATH OF SAM MURPHY**—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that in relation to the death of Sam Murphy the Minister has advised "Following the Inquiry hearing the Area Health Service immediately commenced an investigation and the General Manager of The Tweed Hospital contacted Ms Murphy to discuss her concerns":

- (1) What were the findings of NCAHS' investigation into the death of Sam Murphy at The Tweed Hospital?
- (2) Did the investigation into Sam Murphy's death identify any deficiencies in the clinical record keeping procedures of the Clinical Information Department at The Tweed Hospital?

- (3) Has The Tweed Hospital and/or NCAHS and/or NSW Health received any complaints from Mrs Carol Murphy concerning the treatment of Sam Murphy and/or clinical record keeping procedures at The Tweed Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) On the basis of the investigation into the death of Mr Sam Murphy it appears that Mr Murphy received excellent care during his time at The Tweed Hospital and that appropriate decisions were made in regards to his management and care.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.

The issues raised by Mrs Murphy at the Special Commission of Inquiry at The Tweed Hospital on 29 April 2008 in relation to treatment of her son Sam by The Tweed Hospital had not been raised with the management of the hospital. As the issues had not been raised previously, an investigation had not been undertaken by the hospital or North Coast Area Health Service. Following the Inquiry hearing the Area Health Service immediately commenced an investigation and the General Manager of The Tweed Hospital contacted Mrs Murphy to discuss her concerns. A written response including an apology was forwarded to Mrs Murphy.

- *3655 TENDER RFT 0800361—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why was a "re-invite" for tender RFT 0800361 issued on 9 June 2008, when in the Minister's reply to Question 2851 she stated that the National Parks and Wildlife Service Rotary Wing tender was for a minimum of 180 hours per helicopter and that that figure was commercially viable because there was a good pool of potential tenderers at the pre-tender briefing?
- (2) Why was the number of hours in the tender increased from 180 to 240 if the original tender had such strong commercial support?

Answer—

- (1) My reply to Question 2851 stands as an accurate account of the facts at that time. There was a significant number of potential tenderers who attended the pre-tender briefing, which indicated a strong interest from the market.

After tenders were received, the Tender Assessment Committee concluded that these tenders were not satisfactory and that the Government was not obtaining the best result from the tender process.

- (2) The previous three-year aircraft hire contract guaranteed a minimum payment to the contractor for 120 hours. This was increased to 180 hours in the first tender in order to attract greater interest from the market.

As the result from the first tender process was not satisfactory, the guaranteed minimum hours was again increased to 240 hours and the contract period extended from seven months to eight months in order to get a better outcome for Government.

- *3656 ROTARY WING TENDER SELECTION PANEL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many people sit on the National Parks and Wildlife Service Rotary Wing tender selection panel?
- (2) Who are they and who do they report to?
- (3) Should all tenderers be informed of advice given to other tenderers and all tender information, including new information about the tender, be distributed to all tenderers?

Answer—

- (1) There are four officers on the rotary wing tender selection panel.

- (2) The panel comprises:

Regional Manager, Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment and Climate Change (Chairperson).

Acting Manager, Flight Operations Section, Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment and Climate Change (technical expert).

Chief Pilot, NSW Forests, Department of Primary Industries (independent representative).

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Principal Procurement Specialist, Department of Commerce.

The Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment and Climate Change, will consider and may approve the selection panel's recommendations.

(3) All tender specifications and any subsequent amendments are published on the NSW Government tenders web site. Clarifications of specific tenders are discussed only with that specific respondent.

*3657 ROTARY WING TENDER—APPROVED OPERATORS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Regarding the Minister's reply to Question 2995 in which she stated that the Chief Pilot can distribute work to operators outside the fire season from the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List, and that part of the selection depends on the experience of the pilot:

- (1) As the current Rotary Wing tender asks for the provision of helicopters without personnel, why does the Chief Pilot take into account the experience of the pilot when choosing a preferred operator from the designated approved list?
- (2) What accountability mechanism is in place to ensure that work is fairly distributed across the approved operators list throughout a financial year?

Answer—

- (1) The current tendering process for the supply of helicopters without personnel is unrelated to the establishment and use of the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List.
- (2) The aim of establishing a NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List is not to ensure that every operator receives a set amount of work. The objective of the list is to ensure that listed operators satisfy minimum requirements for safe fire fighting operations. Operators are chosen from the list by the Chief Pilot and by others on the basis of a number of factors, including experience.

*3658 HELICOPTER SERVICE CHARGES—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In relation to the Minister's response to Question 2864 in which she stated in part that the charge out for helicopter services to regions of the Department of Environment and Climate Change was set to achieve a net neutral position for the Flight Operations unit at the end of each financial year:

- (1) What is the charge to regional areas per flight hour?
- (2) In dollar terms, what is the dollar difference between the contract charge per hour paid to the operator and that charged to the Department of Environment and Climate Change regions?
- (3) Given the contract charge to NPWS by the operator is based on the aircraft time as shown in the maintenance release of the aircraft, does the Flight Operations division charge the higher "engine time" charge to the regions?
- (4) As the Minister stated that regional offices of the Department of Environment and Climate Change may use any operator from the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List, was a directive sent to regional offices by the Flight Operations Unit with a list of operators that was only a selective list that they were to choose from and not the full approved list as stated by the Minister?
- (5) Will the Minister provide a comparison on the full charges to regions for the use of helicopters provided by the Flight Operations Unit and the actual cost paid to the contract operators for the same work to those regions for the current financial year?

Answer—

- (1) The Flight Operations Unit's internal charge-out rate for departmental-managed aircraft varies according to aircraft type, type of activity and other add-ons. The charge-out rates for all its aircraft are calculated to recover the Unit's direct costs of providing the aircraft, but not those costs which are absorbed corporately, such as aviation insurance, rent, permanent staff salaries, maintenance, administration, travel and accommodation.

As an indicator, the current basic charge-out rate to the Department's regional offices for Park Air 1, a departmental-owned Squirrel helicopter, is \$750 per hour without fuel and \$1,150 with fuel included (most jobs will involve a combination of these two rates).

- (2) For aircraft that the Department has leased, the internal rates charged to the regional offices will be generally higher than for departmental-owned aircraft, in order to ensure the same cost-recovery principle is met. The rates are calculated to cover not only the lease costs but any additional costs

incurred by the Unit in providing the aircraft, such as non-salary wages for some of the pilots, fuel, or the Unit's winches, safety equipment and fire equipment.

- (3) Yes, engine time is charged for both departmental-owned and leased aircraft.
- (4) No.
- (5) As indicated in Question (2) above, the internal charge-out rates for leased aircraft are set higher than the basic lease costs, as the Unit incurs a range of additional costs when providing aircraft services to the Department's regional offices.

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*3659 NEW DWELLINGS—MOUNT DRUITT ELECTORATE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many new dwellings were provided by the Department of Housing in the Mount Druitt electorate during the 2007-08 financial year?
- (2) How many are planned for the coming financial year?
- (3) What is the breakdown on the types of dwellings that are referred to in questions (1) and (2) above?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The number of new dwellings varies under a rolling program of property acquisitions, new constructions, the redevelopment of existing properties and other programs. The program for 2007-08 to 2008-09 consists of up to 32 new dwellings.

(3) There are various types of dwellings, ranging from one-bedroom units to four-bedroom cottages.

*3660 VALUATION ADVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Has the Minister received any valuation advice for both the generator and retail businesses over the past three years?
- (2) Will he release a copy of this valuation advice?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Treasury has received preliminary valuation advice in relation to the State-owned generation and retail businesses.

At this point in time, it is not appropriate for this advice to be released. I am advised that the material contains commercial-in-confidence information about the businesses.

Public release of such information could be expected to have an unreasonable adverse effect on the Government's proposal to secure the State's future electricity supply.

Such information has been made available to the Auditor-General to be included in his review of the Government's proposal to restructure the State's electricity industry.

*3661 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—STATE-OWNED GENERATORS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of capital expenditure (beyond summaries in annual reports) on all state-owned generators for each of the past five years?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Energy.

*3662 COAL CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) For all the state-owned generators, when were the most recent coal contract negotiations held?
- (2) What is the predicted impact of rising coal costs on the sale price of the State-owned generators?

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given the short-term nature of existing coal contracts expiry profile?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Coal contracts are negotiated on an ongoing basis by electricity generators. The power stations have a suite of contracts covering long term, medium term and short term coal purchases.

Power stations operated by the State-owned generators predominantly burn high ash coal which is generally unsuitable for the export markets.

Higher export thermal coal prices are not expected to materially impact the sale price of the State-owned generators.

*3663 NO DISCONNECTIONS POLICY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Does the Government propose to extend its "no disconnections policy" across the entire electricity retail sector or only to customers of retailers that are currently State-owned?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Energy.

*3664 NO DISCONNECTIONS POLICY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Will the Government provide a precise definition of its "no disconnections" policy in relation to its electricity privatisation plans?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Energy.

*3665 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) How many schools in the Manly electorate are assisting with accommodation for World Youth Day?

(2) How many households in the Manly electorate have offered accommodation for World Youth Day?

(3) What disruptions will there be to transport in the Manly electorate during World Youth Day?

(4) How many registrations from people in the Manly electorate have there been for World Youth Day?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) Questions relating to World Youth Day accommodation and registrations should be directed to the event organisers, World Youth Day 2008.

Information on changes to transport services during World Youth Day was available on the Transport Infoline website, www.131500.info or by calling 131500.

*3666 STATE PROPERTY AUTHORITY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) How many State-owned properties does the State Property Authority not manage?

(2) What is the value of these properties?

(3) How many and what total quantum of leases were negotiated by SPA last year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Property Authority does not maintain independent records on the number or value of State-owned properties it does not manage.

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Ministers responsible for the relevant Government agencies.

More than 200 lease negotiations were undertaken in 2007 by the State Property Authority.

*3667 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

What action has the NSW Government taken in light of the findings into youth homelessness in the "Australia's Homeless Youth" report by the National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Homelessness released in April 2008?

Answer—

The NSW Government is working closely with the Commonwealth Government through current national processes to build on existing NSW efforts to better help homeless people and people at risk of homelessness. NSW recognises the need to strengthen responses for vulnerable groups who are over-represented in the homeless population, including young people.

Through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), NSW is negotiating a new National Affordable Housing Agreement with the Commonwealth which will address social inclusion objectives, including through a focus on homelessness. In March 2008 COAG agreed to implement the A Place to Call Home initiative which will see an additional 155 houses delivered in NSW over five years, and 600 dwellings nationally, for homeless people.

The NSW Government has also made a submission to the Commonwealth Government on its Green Paper "Which way home? A new approach to homelessness", which seeks to promote public discussion of homelessness. The Green Paper will be followed by the development of a White Paper in September 2008, setting out a national plan of action for the next ten years. The NSW submission emphasises the opportunity to promote consistent approaches to homelessness, and the need to give appropriate priority to responses for young people.

Work is also underway in NSW to develop a proposal for a NSW Homelessness Strategic Framework. The proposal will build on work by the NSW Partnership Against Homelessness since 1999 to improve services to people who are homeless in NSW. Development of the proposal will take into account positions put forward by the Commonwealth's White Paper, and ensure national directions are incorporated.

*3668 SALES OF ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What impact has the Government's "Reach for the Stars" program had on boosting sales of energy efficient appliances in NSW?

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

*3669 REAL FUTURES PROGRAM IN PORT STEPHENS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Real Futures program, a community based operation that endeavours to keep young people in further education or gainful employment?
- (2) Does the Department of Education have any grant structures available that could assist similar programs keep young people in education or employment in rural and regional areas?

Answer—

The Real Futures program in Port Stephens is one example of a community working together to ensure the best outcome for their young people.

The Department of Education and Training has a variety of grants and funded programs to support the retention of students to complete schooling and improve their employability.

The School to Work program supports each student to record the development of their work related skills during Years 9 to 12. A grant is provided to each school to facilitate this program. In 2007-2008 this program received \$3.016 million funding.

Statewide, the NSW curriculum also provides students with the opportunity to participate in vocational education as part of the Higher School Certificate.

*3670 RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN THE PORT STEPHENS REGION—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

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- (1) Are there any grant programs that might be available to community based recycling programs?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the 'Refused and Reused' Centre in Salamander bay?
- (3) Are there any programs available to specifically encourage the recycling of unwanted household items such as white goods?

Answer—

- (1) Community based recycling programs are eligible to apply for grants under the Environmental Trust's Environmental Education and Restoration and Rehabilitation Programs. Projects from community groups in partnership with local councils are also eligible for grants under the Trust's Urban Sustainability Program. These grants are allocated on a competitive basis and the next round opens in March 2009.
- (2) Yes, I am aware that this Centre operates as an independent not-for-profit business in the Port Stephens area.
- (3) There are a number of council operated waste and metal pick up services that for no charge collect unwanted items such as white goods which are then recycled. For example, residential properties within the Port Stephens Council area receive an annual bulk waste and metal (including white goods) pick up service. Metals, including white goods, are collected free of charge and sent for recycling.

Privately operated transfer stations and resource recovery facilities also accept large household items for recycling.

Last year the NSW Government funded a second Fridge Buyback Program. The program provides \$35 cash back to eligible households to have a working second fridge collected from their home. The fridge is then degassed and the metal recycled. This program will be expanded from August 2008 under the Government's Climate Change Fund. Fridge Buyback will initially be rolled out in partnership with Sydney councils, with opportunities to expand the program to regional centres also being explored.

*3671 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR MEN—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the success of the 'Mens Shed' program at Salamander Bay, pioneered by the late former Member for Port Stephens, John Bartlett?
- (2) What is the Department of Community Services doing to provide better community based services for men in regional areas?
- (3) What steps have been taken to ensure the Department of Community Services can better engage men in service delivery?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, I am aware of the Men's Shed program at Salamander Bay, and of the late John Bartlett's important contribution to this initiative.
- (2) The NSW Department of Community Services provides a wide range of projects for men through initiatives such as Families NSW. Many of these projects are aimed at engaging men in their parenting role, such as supporting services to be more accessible for men, providing opportunities for men to meet together with their children in supported playgroups, and developing resources specifically for men around the time of the birth of their child. More information about Families NSW is available at the website www.families.nsw.gov.au
- (3) The Department of Community Services establishes clearly articulated service and project specifications to ensure that funded projects support a community focus, including all groups within the community. The Department is also involved in a range of capacity building initiatives designed to engage the community more broadly in its services. Engaging fathers has been a particular focus in policy, practice and funding for the Department, based on international evidence that fathers have a unique and important role in infant attachment and in the longer term life outcomes for their children.

*3673 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the Minister be releasing public transport timetabling arrangements for World Youth Day?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on transport arrangements for World Youth Day is available through the Transport Infoline

website www.131500.com.au or by phoning 131500.

*3674 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to procedures concerning the actions of Transit Officers:

- (1) What procedures must Transit Officers follow when dealing with two or three commuters travelling together and only one in the party is found to have a valid ticket and the other two do not?
- (2) What is the procedure to be followed if a woman is travelling alone at night and is found to not have a valid ticket?

Answer—

I am advised:

Transit officers are required to carry out their duties in conformity with relevant laws, policies and standard operating procedures.

They are trained to exercise good judgement in identifying the most appropriate response to a situation, including considerations of customer and staff safety and the particular circumstances surrounding an incident.

*3675 COUNTRYLINK COACH—TRAVEL INCIDENCE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that on 9 March 2008 two children (aged 12 years and 15 years) travelling from Yass train station into Yass township by CountryLink coach were instead dropped off at Murrumbateman?
- (2) If so, what action has been taken to ensure this never happens again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) That the children were booked on a VLine service and missed their connection at Albury. I understand that staff at Albury directed the children onto a CountryLink replacement coach at Cootamundra where they could then connect with a CountryLink coach to Yass.

RailCorp has advised that upon reaching Yass the driver of the coach made announcements, however the children did not disembark. When the driver realised the children were still on board, he offered to drive them back to Yass. However I understand that the children asked to be dropped off at Murrumbateman so arrangements could be made for a relative to pick them up.

- (2) The matter has been brought to the attention of the contracted CountryLink coach operator to reinforce to drivers their responsibilities when undertaking services.

*3676 OUTER SUBURBAN CARS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the 122 Outer Suburban Cars:

- (1) How many are currently in operation?
- (2) What lines are they servicing?
- (3) When will all 122 Oscars be in operation?
- (4) When and where will the next tranche be delivered?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has invested \$439 million in 122 Outer Suburban Carriages to improve the safety, comfort and reliability of the CityRail network.

RailCorp has taken delivery of 20 four car sets to date. The new carriages currently service the Illawarra/South Coast and Central Coast lines.

Each four carriage train has enhanced security features including closed circuit television, reversible seats with graffiti and fire-resistant covering, air-conditioning, an accessible toilet and on-board information screens.

All 122 Outer Suburban Carriages are expected to be in operation by the end of this year.

The OSCARS are provided across the outer suburban network to replace the outer suburban Tangaras and to support commuter needs.

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*3677 GRAFTON VALUER GENERAL'S OFFICE—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to the Grafton Valuer General's office in the Land and Property Division in the NSW Department of Lands:

- (1) Does the Government currently have plans to relocate or abolish any jobs in the Grafton office in the next 3 years?
- (2) If so, what jobs will be lost/relocated and when?

Answer—

The Valuation Services section of Land and Property Information is reviewing its operational centres in the northern coastal region of the State.

Given the difficulties being experienced in attracting staff to the Grafton location and the close proximity of the offices at Grafton and Coffs Harbour, a decision has been made to relocate the valuation services currently at Grafton to Coffs Harbour over a period of approximately five years through a process of attrition.

A significant number of staff currently employed at Grafton actually live in Coffs Harbour, and these staff members will be given the opportunity to move to the Coffs Harbour office at any time during the transition. Final staff numbers will be reviewed against workloads over the transition period, and no decision has been made to reduce staff numbers.

*3678 SOUTHERN BREAKWALL/WALKWAY—YAMBA—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to the Clarence River's southern breakwall/walkway at Yamba:

- (1) Why has work not commenced on repairs to the Clarence River's southern breakwall/walkway at Yamba which the Minister stated in November last year (Clarence Valley Review 21-11-07) would soon commence and be completed by the Christmas/New Year holiday season?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the breakwall/walkway is in such a state of disrepair that it has become extremely unstable and dangerous to walk on?
- (3) When will works commence on this important project?

Answer—

- (1) Work did not commence on time because successive delays were experienced including unavailability of heavy machinery, several periods of unfavourable weather and recent major road works by Clarence Valley Council which prevented heavy machinery access into Yamba.
- (2) The southern breakwater at Yamba has been monitored by the Department of Lands over the last six months. The most recent survey on 1 July 2008 indicated that despite a number of recent storm events the outer walls and crest of the breakwater has remained in an acceptable condition. While the crest of the breakwater is shaped primarily to provide an accessway for machinery and materials for necessary repairs to the breakwater when required, warning signs advise the public of the risks involved.
- (3) Works to the crest on the southern wall at Yamba are expected to be completed by September 2008.

*3679 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES—CUSTODIAL CARE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to people with disabilities in custodial care:

- (1) Are there currently any people with a disability remaining in Adult Corrective Services due to DADHC not being able to provide appropriate accommodation and support services at the time of being granted parole?
- (2) If yes:
 - (a) Which gaols are currently housing inmates who have been given parole?
 - (b) How many people with a disability have remained within the prison system after parole has been granted in the past five years?

- (c) What is the longest time that a person with a disability has remained in gaol after parole has been granted in the past five years (including those people whose parole commenced prior to this, but their stay in corrective services overlapped into this five-year period)?
- (3) Are there currently any young people with a disability remaining within the Juvenile Justice system due to either the Department of Disability Services or DoCS not being able to provide appropriate accommodation at the time of being granted parole?
- (4) If yes:
- Which Juvenile Justice Facilities are currently housing young people with a disability who have been granted parole?
 - How many young people with a disability have remained within the Juvenile Justice system after parole has been granted, awaiting suitable accommodation and support services in the past five years?
 - What is the longest time that a young person with a disability has remained within the Juvenile Justice system after parole has been granted in the past five years (including those people whose parole started earlier, but overlapped into this five-year period)?
 - Have any young people with a disability been transferred to Adult Corrective Services either just prior to parole or after being granted parole because of the unavailability of accommodation services from DADHC?
 - How many young people with a disability have remained in Juvenile Justice while on parole after they have turned 18?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) A person who is granted parole is required by law to be released on the day specified in the parole order (the parole date), and there may be a period between the granting of parole and the parole date, during which the inmate is required to be held in custody. There is no legal method for detaining an inmate or detainee beyond the parole date unless the person becomes subject to another court order requiring imprisonment or the parole date is a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday and the inmate requests to be released on the next working day afterwards. Consequently, no part of the question applies to an inmate or detainee who has been granted parole.

(3) and (4) These parts of the question should be referred to the Minister for Juvenile Justice.

*3680 NURSE MAGGIE MCGRATH EMPLOYMENT AND LEAVE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- How does the Minister for Health propose to deal with the loss of the record of employment known as the Blue Book belonging to Nurse Maggie McGrath of Pambula?
- Why does Nurse Maggie McGrath owe the Greater Southern Area Health Service 28 days of long service?
- What changes were made by Greater Southern Area Health Service in calculating long service leave in 2003?
- Why is it that Greater Southern Area Health Service no longer advise staff of long service entitlements in writing?
- Why is Greater Southern Area Health Service removing \$1,620.25 from Mrs McGrath's wages?

Answer—

I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that:

- In the absence of Nurse McGrath's Blue Book, staff of Greater Southern Health Service have been able to compile a complete working history of Nurse McGrath from available payroll records. These are also acceptable for Service and Leave purposes.
- Nurse McGrath has overdrawn her Long Service Leave entitlement to the extent of 18 days as at 4 May 2008.
- There were no changes made in 2003 of the method for calculating Long Service Leave.
- Every written enquiry made to the Greater Southern Area Health Service as to the entitlement of an employee to Long Service Leave is answered by way of letter or email advising of the leave balance available.
- The Greater Southern Area Health Service is not deducting from Nurse McGrath's wages the sum of \$1,620.25 or any amounts other than those duly authorised by Nurse McGrath, for Superannuation and Salary Packaging purposes.

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*3681 X84 BUS SERVICE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the X84 bus service:

- (1) What changes have been made to the X84 bus service in the last twelve months?
- (2) When were the changes made?
- (3) Have any complaints about the changes been received?
- (4) Is the Government planning any further changes?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit monitors patronage on all routes, and adjusts services to meet changes in customer demand. Adjustments to the route X84 bus services were made approximately three months ago in response to changing demand patterns.

Information regarding the route X84 bus service can be obtained via the Transport Infoline website www.131500.info or by phoning 131500.

*3682 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

What actions has the Government taken to honour its commitment to bring local government under the State industrial system?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

Since the introduction of Work Choices by the former Federal Government, the question of State versus Federal industrial relations coverage has remained uncertain for New South Wales local government.

The passage of the Federal Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008 has not resolved this uncertainty.

The Iemma Government is committed to and supports an industrial relations system that is based on an independent umpire with broad dispute-settling powers.

This has been achieved in part by the 2006 amendments to the NSW Industrial Relations Act 1996. That Act allows employers and unions to enter into common law agreements (referral agreements) unfettered by the restrictive terms of Work Choices.

Labor's 'Forward with Fairness' policy indicated that the Rudd Government will leave it to State governments to determine the most appropriate approach to regulating the industrial arrangements of their local government employees.

This was confirmed by the Deputy Prime Minister at the recent Workplace Relations Ministers' Council.

In this context, the Iemma Government will be working with the Federal Government and industry parties to restore certainty and stability for local government.

*3684 BOWRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL RELOCATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

When will Bowral Primary School be provided with the \$3 million needed to relocate the school to the Redford Road site?

Answer—

I am advised:

Decisions on funding projects are determined in accordance with state wide priorities in the context of the budget.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to keep the school community informed of developments.

*3685 GREY-HEADED FLYING-FOX RECOVERY PLAN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) When is the grey-headed flying-fox recovery plan undertaken by the Department of Environment and Climate Change due to be completed?
- (2) When this plan is completed what is the expected date that this plan will be implemented?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change is coordinating the preparation of the draft National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox. As it is a national plan, its preparation has required extensive consultation with the Queensland, Victorian and Australian Governments.

The draft National Recovery Plan is currently in the final stages of preparation, and is expected to be ready by August 2008 for the Australian Government to approve and subsequently exhibit for public comment.

- (2) I am advised that, whilst the National Recovery plan is currently in a draft form, NSW has already commenced a number of recovery actions. These include:
 - a major collaborative research project by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Department of Primary Industries, the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and horticulturists in the Sydney basin to identify better ways to enable flying foxes and commercial crop production to co-exist;
 - research to improve our knowledge of camp locations and to identify camps that are most critical to the survival of the species;
 - research into roosting habitat and flying-fox population size and structure; and
 - the development of educational resources to enhance the community's understanding of the important ecological role of flying-foxes.

*3686 TILLEGRA DAM—ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) Do the budget expenditure items provided for in the 2008-09 budget allocation towards the Tillegra Dam in the Hunter Valley include the costs of the environmental assessment, land acquisition and capital costs associated with this project?
- (2) When is the environmental assessment on the Tillegra Dam due to be completed?
- (3) Will the Government follow the recommendations and conclusions made in the environment assessment in relation to the Tillegra Dam?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is anticipated that the environmental assessment will be completed by September 2008.
- (3) Yes.

*3687 TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What are the particulars of the funding agreement between the Total Environment Centre and the NSW Government?

Answer—

There is no funding agreement between the Total Environment Centre (TEC) and the NSW Government.

As a lead environmental agency, TEC receives a grant from the Environmental Trust for the purpose of meeting a proportion of its administrative expenses.

TEC also receives special project grants, a number of which are funded by the Environmental Trust and subject to specific requirements.

TEC receives sponsorship funds for its "Green Capital" program which the Department of Environment and Climate Change sponsors as part of its community education functions.

*3688 BOAT HARBOUR AT CRONULLA—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the Minister doing to ensure the status of Crown Land at the Boat Harbour near Cronulla is effectively managed to protect birds from disturbance?
- (2) Does the Minister support the proposal from the Cumberland Bird Observers Club to add a Boat Harbour reef (to low tide level) to the adjacent Botany Bay National Park?

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(3) If the Minister is in favour of the Boat Harbour reef when will this be implemented?

Answer—

- (1) The management of Crown Lands falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague the Minister for Lands, the Hon Tony Kelly.
- (2) and (3) I am advised that the Department of Environment and Climate Change recognises the high conservation values of the Boat Harbour-Merries Reef crown lands for migratory and non-migratory birds. The Department is liaising with the Departments of Lands and Primary Industries about the need to carefully manage these lands, including their possible addition to Botany Bay National Park.

*3690 METROPOLITAN WATER PLAN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) Will the Sydney Catchment Authority be purchasing existing water licences from landowners as part of the Metropolitan Water Plan?
- (2) What properties will the Sydney Catchment Authority be acquiring in Kangaloon as part of the Metropolitan Water Plan?
- (3) When is planning approval and tender design due to be completed for the bores in Kangaloon as part of the Metropolitan Water Plan?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Sydney Catchment Authority is proceeding with acquisition (by agreement) of part Lot 1 DP 1077342, part of Lot 92 DP 751277, and Lot 1 DP 654395.
- (3) Planning approval has already been received for all bores drilled and one remaining monitoring bore yet to be drilled. Design requirements have been included in all tenders for the bores, including the current tender for the remaining bore.

*3693 AUBURN COUNCIL—AUBURN CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Has an inquiry under section 430 of the Local Government Act been instituted into the Auburn Central Development proposal of Auburn Council?
- (2) (a) Has the draft report been finalised?
(b) If so, when will it be released?
- (3) (a) Has the final report been completed?
(b) If so, when will it be released?
- (4) Why has the report to this date not been released?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The Department of Local Government has advised that a departmental representative is currently preparing the final report in light of submissions received in relation to the draft report. When the report is finalised, it will be released.

*3694 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Why has the Minister not answered my letter 08C035 dated 19 February 2008 (your reference M08910 refers) regarding the refusal of the Office of Fair Trading to investigate alleged felonies committed by Beechwood Homes?
- (2) When will the Minister reply to these representations?

Answer—

- (1) I responded to your representations on behalf of Mr Wade Cox, PO Box 767 Yass NSW 2585, on 14 July 2008.
- (2) N/A.

*3695 NSW AMBULANCE STATION STAFFING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many FTE equivalent Staff are allocated to the NSW Ambulance Stations at:
(a) Boorowa;

- (b) Cootamundra;
 (c) Cowra;
 (d) Crookwell;
 (e) Grenfell;
 (f) Gundagai;
 (g) Harden;
 (e) Yass;
 (f) Young?
- (2) As at 26 June 2008 how many of each of these FTE positions are filled by staff who are fully fit for duty?
- (3) How many of these positions are filled by staff who are on long term stress leave, long-term sick leave or on restricted duties?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW the following table details the FTE establishment and fully fit staffing levels at the corresponding Stations for the period in Question:

Ambulance Station	FTE Establishment	As at 26 June - FTE fully fit for duty
Boorowa	4.0	4.0
Cootamundra	5.0	4.0A
Cowra	8.0	7.0B
Crookwell	4.0	4.0
Grenfell	4.0	4.0
Gundagai	4.0	3.0C
Harden	4.0	4.0
Yass	6.0	6.0
Young	7.0	7.0

A. - This officer has now been deemed fit for pre-injury duties since 17 July 2008.

B. - One permanent officer at Cowra is on workers compensation. In the interim it should be noted this position is being backfilled, on a full time basis, by a fully fit officer.

C. - Gundagai currently has a vacancy which is under active recruitment.

*3696 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

When will the Minister reply to my letter 08E124 dated 17 March 2008 (your reference R08/00533) on behalf of Mr C Alexiou of Putney, (your reference R08/00533) regarding his inability to communicate with the Department of Community Services about the property formerly leased by the parents of Shellay Ward?

Answer—

I have replied.

*3697 HORNSBY HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) In relation to the answer to Question No. 3212, what are the functions of the 'recently opened hospital based outpatient clinic'?
- (2) How long has the clinic been open and where is it located in the Hornsby Hospital campus?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service that:

- (1) The functions of the recently opened hospital based Renal Outpatient Clinic are to provide a weekly public renal outpatient service for patients within the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai District.
- (2) The Renal Outpatient Clinic commenced on Monday, 12 May 2008 and is located in the Bernard Curran Unit at Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital.

*3698 USE OF SUTENT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

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- (1) How many people in NSW received treatment with SUTENT in 2007?
- (2) How many of these people had complications following this treatment related to the use of SUTENT?
- (3) How many people died following the use of SUTENT?
- (4) Is the NSW Government investigating the use of SUTENT?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Pharmacist:

(1) to (3) This information is not routinely collected by the NSW Department of Health.

(4) The NSW Government is not investigating the use of Sutent.

Sutent has been approved for marketing in Australia by the Commonwealth's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) following assessment against quality, safety and efficacy standards. As with all drugs in this class the TGA conducts post marketing surveillance programs to monitor the product's safety. Any adverse events following the use of the drug should be reported by the prescribing physician to the Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee of the TGA.

- *3699 ERADICATION OF CANE TOADS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What measures in NSW have been undertaken to eradicate cane toads?

Answer—

The eradication of cane toads is managed within the environment portfolio. This matter should be referred to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon Verity Firth MP.

- *3700 REGIONAL FLAGSHIP FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What is Regional Flagship Funding?
- (2) How do groups in the Hunter region apply for Regional Flagship Funding?
- (3) Which events have benefited from this funding in the past 5 years?

Answer—

- (1) The Annual Regional Flagship Events Program supports the marketing of events that play an important role in bringing visitors to regional NSW. Increased visitation can deliver much-needed tourist dollars to communities and strengthen the regional economy.

There are two tiers of funding open to events. Organisers can apply for a one-off Annual Funding grant of \$10,000 or Triennial Funding of \$20,000 for three years (total of \$60,000).

- (2) Tourism event organisers from all regions are encouraged to apply for funding under the Regional Flagship Events Program by submitting an application to Tourism NSW.

Funding from Tourism NSW is available for established tourism events that have the capacity to attract visitors to their region. To be funded under the Regional Flagship Events Program events must have run for a minimum of two years, have tourism potential and reflect the character and culture of an area. The event acts as a 'flagship' for their region. Funds are allocated annually and information is available at www.tourism.nsw.gov.au

- (3) Over the past five years the Regional Flagship Events Program has allocated \$1,756,000 in funding to events ranging from the Lovedale Long Lunch to the Parkes Elvis Festival.

A full list of events funded under the Regional Flagship Events Program is listed below.

REGIONAL FLAGSHIP EVENTS PROGRAM FUNDED EVENTS: 2003 - 2008

BLUE MOUNTAINS

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Ironfest	April 2003	\$10,000
Ironfest	April 2004	\$10,000
TRI Blue Mountains Folk, Roots & Blues Fest	March 2006	\$20,000
Jenolan Caves Concert Series	All 2006\$	10,000
TRIX2 Blue Mountains Folk, Roots & Blues Fest	March 2007	\$20,000

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Ironfest	April 2007	\$10,000
Songlines Festival	June 2007	\$10,000
Winter Magic	June 2008	\$10,000
TRI Ironfest	April 2008	\$20,000
TRIX3 Blue Mountains Folk, Roots & Blues Fest	March 2008	\$20,000
TOTAL: 5*		\$140,000

CAPITAL COUNTRY

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Bowral Tulip Time	Sept 2003	\$10,000
TRI Australian Blues Music Festival (Goulburn)	February 2004	\$20,000
Bundanoon Highland Gathering	April 2004	\$10,000
Irish Woolfest	October 2004	\$10,000
TRIX2 Australian Blues Music Festival (Goulburn)	February 2005	\$20,000
Bundanoon Highland Gathering	April 2005	\$10,000
TRIX3 Australian Blues Music Festival (Goulburn)	February 2006	\$20,000
Bowral's Tulip Time	June 2007	\$10,000
Wine, Roses and All That Jazz	November 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 5		\$120,000

CENTRAL COAST

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Australian Springtime Flora Festival	September 2003	\$10,000
Central Coast Country Music Festival	March 2004	\$10,000
Central Coast Country Music Festival	March 2005	\$10,000
TRI Central Coast Country Music Festival	March 2006	\$20,000
TRIX2 Central Coast Country Music Festival	March 2007	\$20,000
Australian Spring Time Flora Festival	June 2007	\$10,000
TRIX3 Central Coast Country Music Festival	March 2008	\$20,000
TOTAL: 3		\$100,000

CENTRAL NSW

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Dubbo International 24hr Prokart Series	April 2003	\$10,000
Mudgee Wine Celebration	September 2002	\$10,000
TRIX3 Marti's Balloon Fiesta (Canowindra)	April 2003	\$30,000
Autumn Heritage Festival	April 2003	\$10,000
Parkes Elvis Revival Festival	January 2004	\$10,000
F.O.O.D WEEK (Orange)	April 2004	\$10,000
The Henry Lawson Festival of the Arts	June 2004	\$10,000
TRI Parkes Elvis Festival	funding commenced Jan 2006	\$20,000
Tullamore Irish Festival	March 2006	\$10,000
TRI x 2 Parkes Elvis Festival	January 2007	\$20,000
Dubbo Jazz Festival	June 2007	\$10,000

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Mudgee Wine Celebration	September 2008	\$10,000
Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival)	September 2008	\$10,000
TRI x 3 Parkes Elvis Festival	January 2008	\$20,000
TOTAL: 10		\$190,000

GREATER SYDNEY WEST

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Hawkesbury Valley, Jazz, Waratah Festival	October 2004	\$10,000
TOTAL: 1		\$10,000

HUNTER

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
TRIx2 Hunter Valley Steamfest	April 2003	\$30,000
This Is Not Art	October 2003	\$10,000
TRIx3 Hunter Valley Steamfest	April 2004	\$30,000
TRI The Shoot Out Film Making Festival	July 2004	\$20,000
Morpeth Jazz Festival	September 2004	\$10,000
Hunter Semillon & Seafood	April 2005	\$10,000
Scone Horse Festival	May 2005	\$10,000
TRIx2 The Shoot Out Newcastle Film Fest	July 2005	\$20,000
TRIx3 The Shoot Out Newcastle	July 2006	\$20,000
Lovedale Long Lunch	May 2006	\$10,000
This is Not Art	June 2007	\$10,000
TRIx1 Lovedale Long Lunch	May 2007	\$20,000
Hunter Semillon & Seafood	April 2007	\$10,000
Lake Macquarie Heritage Afloat	April 2007	\$10,000
Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival and Cruise	March 2008	\$10,000
TRIx2 Lovedale Long Lunch	May 2008	\$20,000
TOTAL: 10		\$250,000

ILLAWARRA

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Illawarra Folk Festival	Sept 2003	\$10,000
Viva La Gong	Oct/November 2004	\$10,000
Viva La Gong	Oct/November 2005	\$10,000
Oz Dance	Feb 2007	\$10,000
Illawara Folk Festival	January 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 3		\$50,000

MID NORTH COAST NSW

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Rusty Iron Rally	Sept 2003	\$10,000
Coffs Coast Food & Wine Festival	October 2004	\$10,000
Celtic Thunder	June 2006	\$10,000
Blue Water Country Music Festival	June 2007	\$10,000
Blue Water Country Music Festival	June 2008	\$10,000
Timbertown Steam Festival	July 2008	\$10,000
Camden Haven Music Festival	April 2008	\$10,000
Festival of the Sun	December 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 7		\$80,000

THE MURRAY

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EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Albury Wodonga Food and Wine Festival	October 2003	\$10,000
Albury/Wodonga Region Wine & Food Festival	Sept/October 2005	\$10,000
Applause Street Theatre & Buskers Festival	October 2005	\$10,000
Murray River International Music Festival	January 2006	\$10,000
Applause Street Theatre & Buskers Festival	October 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 3		\$50,000

NEW ENGLAND/NORTH WEST

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
TRIx2 National Cutting Horse	June 2003	\$30,000
TRIx3 National Cutting Horse	June 2004	\$30,000
TRI Aust Celtic Festival & other events	May & 2 other smaller events	\$20,000
Hats Off to Country	June 2004	\$10,000
Oracles of the Bush - Tenterfield	April 2005	\$10,000
TRIx2 Aust Celtic Festival & other events	May, June & Nov 2005	\$20,000
TRI x3 Aust Celtic Festival & other events	May, Nov 2006	\$20,000
Armidale Women's Comedy Festival	October 2006	\$10,000
Tom Roberts Festival (Inverell)	April 2006	\$10,000
Hats Off to Country	June 2007	\$10,000
New England Wool Expo	May 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 7		\$180,000

NORTHERN RIVERS TROPICAL NSW

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
TRI Byron Bay Writers Festival	August 2003	\$30,000
TRIx2 Byron Bay Writers Festival	August 2004	\$30,000
Lismore Lantern Parade	June 2004	\$10,000
Greenridge Herb Festival	August 2004	\$10,000
TRIx1 Lismore Lantern Parade	June 2005	\$20,000
TRIx3 Byron Bay Writers Festival	August 2005	\$30,000
Art, Food & All That Jazz (Kingscliff)	August 2005	\$10,000
TRIx2 Lismore Lantern Parade	June 2006	\$20,000
TRI Fatherhood Festival	September 2006	\$20,000
Ballina Rivafest	September 2006	\$20,000
Beef Week	May 2007	\$10,000
TRIx3 Lismore Lantern Parade	June 2007	\$20,000
TRIx2 Fatherhood Festival	September 2007	\$20,000
TRIx3 Fatherhood Festival	September 2008	\$20,000
TOTAL: 7		\$270,000

OUTBACK NSW

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
St Pats Race Meeting	March 2003	\$10,000
Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival	March 2005	\$10,000
Nymagee Outback Music Festival	Oct 2006\$	10,000
TOTAL: 3		\$30,000

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RIVERINA

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
UnWined in the Riverina (Griffith)	June 2003	\$10,000
John O'Brien Bush Festival, Narrandera	March 2004	\$10,000
TRI John O'Brien Bush Festival	March 2005	\$20,000
La Festa - Faces of Australia (Griffith)	March 2005	\$10,000
TRIx2 John O'Brien Bush Festival	March 2006	\$20,000
Griffith Festival of Gardens	October 2006	\$10,000
TRIx3 John O'Brien Bush Festival	March 2007	\$20,000
La Festa - Faces of Australia (Griffith)	March 2007	\$10,000
Festival of the Blades (Hay)	April 2007	\$10,000
Griffith Festival of Gardens	October 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 6		\$130,000

SNOWY MOUNTAINS

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Annual Celebration of Motorcycles	September 2003	\$10,000
Sny Mtns Celebrity Trout Challenge	October 2005	\$10,000
Sculpture by the Lake (Jindabyne)	March 2005	\$10,000
Thredbo Blues Festival	January 2006	\$10,000
Tumut's Falling Leaf Festival	April 2006	\$5,000
Snowy River Festival - Dalgetty	November 2007	\$10,000
Australian Open Mountain Bike Riding	March 2007	\$10,000
Snowy River Festival - Dalgetty	November 2008	\$10,000
Tumbafest	February 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 7		\$85,000

SOUTH COAST

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Eden Whale Festival	Oct 2003	\$10,000
Bermagui Celebrity Chefs	March 2004	\$10,000
Tabula Rasa Contemporary Arts Festival	July 2004	\$10,000
Sussex Inlet Annual Family Fishing Carnival	July 2005	\$10,000
Australia's Museum of Flight (Nowra)	October 2005	\$10,000
Bermagui Seaside Fair	March 2006	\$10,000
Escape Art Fest	June 2007	\$10,000
See Change Winter Arts Festival	May 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 8		\$80,000

EVENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR RFEP RECIPIENTS

EVENT	EVENT DATES	FUNDED (\$)
Triennial Wkshop for 02/03 RFEP events	March 2003	\$10,000
Triennial Wkshop for 03/04 RFEP events	June/July 2004	\$10,000
Workshop for 2005 Annual RFEP events	May 2005/06	\$10,000
Workshop for 2005 Triennial RFEP events	August 2005/06	\$10,000
Workshops for 2007	March 2007	\$14,000

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Workshop for 2008 Events	November 2008	\$10,000
Event Management and Marketing Workshop	March 2008	\$10,000
Workshop for 2009 RFEP Applications	April 2008	\$10,000
TOTAL: 8		\$84,000

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDING: \$1,765,000

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS SUPPORTED: 85

Note that the Marketing funds have not been added to this total.

*Each event is only counted once where awarded multiple annual or triennial grants.

*3701 WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON HEAVY VEHICLES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why have Custom Coaches been given an exemption by the RTA for their gas buses which now sees the bus weight allowed on NSW roads increased from 16 to 16.665 tonnes?
- (2) Was this variation cost based given the buses can now stand up to 15 people, previously 12 standing?
- (3) Will the RTA allow variations in the transporting of grain in NSW as per Queensland's Harvest Management Scheme?

Answer—

I am advised:

The exemption has been given to all ultra low floor natural gas powered buses, not just those assembled by Custom Coaches. The basis for the exemption is to allow these buses to operate at full capacity during peak periods.

The grain harvest mass management scheme in NSW will require compliance with statutory mass limits to ensure that vehicles operate within the capability of the road network without causing additional damage, increasing risks to road safety, or diminishing public utility.

The NSW Government continues to look at how it can assist primary producers and will be trialling incremental pricing in exchange for excess mass allowance.

The incremental pricing initiative, as in the case of the ultra low floor gas powered buses, is aimed at encouraging productivity in exchange for a direct user charge for heavy vehicles operating at weights in excess of current statutory limits on approved routes.

*3703 ORANA FAR WEST SAFE HOUSES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Community Services—

What is the Minister doing in response to the following recommendations listed in the June 2004 NSW Department of Community Services review into the operations of the Orana Far West Safe Houses located in Bourke, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Wilcannia:

1. Establish domestic and family violence prevention plans at a regional and local level and local inter-agency/co-ordination groups in safe house communities?
2. Increase resources for the safe houses to enable each to:
 - meet service standards listed in the report;
 - implement a women's safe house/community centre model;
 - Establish a stronger focus on early intervention and protection?
3. Increase practical support for the safe houses?
4. Increase the capacity of the safe houses to meet governance and service quality standards with measures to include increased monitoring by DoCS and practical assistance?

Answer—

The Department of Community Services has negotiated a comprehensive and integrated response to the recommendations from the review with the Commonwealth Government, the NSW Women's Refuge Movement (acting on behalf of the Safe House projects) and Housing NSW.

The response forms the basis of the Orana Far West Safe Houses Project which commenced in October 2007 and will continue for three years. The project will undergo a staged evaluation to ensure the project outcomes are being met.

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*3704 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many bushfires have been discovered to be deliberately lit in the Sutherland Shire in (a) 2002, (b) 2003, (c) 2004, (d) 2005, (e) 2006 and (f) 2007?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's questions are more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*3705 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DOCTORS AND NURSES – SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What is the number of (a) doctors and (b) nurses currently employed at the Sutherland Hospital in the emergency department?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service:

- (a) Doctors: 25.415 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).
- (b) Nurses: 40.11 Full time Equivalent (FTE).

*3706 DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

(1) (a) Are there any programs in the Sutherland Shire to rehabilitate drug offenders?

(b) If yes, what are they?

(2) What has been the success of these programs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Attorney General's Department has two programs operating in the Sutherland Shire, the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program and the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (YDAC). Further details are available on the Lawlink Website.

The Department of Corrective Services provides the Sober Driver Program in the Sutherland Shire. I refer the member to the Department of Corrective Services Annual Report 2005/2006 for further details.

Information on programs administered by NSW Health should be sought from the Minister for Health.

*3707 PROVISIONAL DRIVING TESTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) How many provisional driving tests have been done through the Miranda RTA office in the past two years?

(2) In the last two years, what percentage of provisional drivers have failed in their first driving test through the Miranda RTA office?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the last two years, 4,156 provisional drivers attempted the driving test at Miranda Motor Registry.

Forty-six percent failed on first attempt.

*3708 REBATES FOR RAINWATER TANKS—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) How many rebates for rainwater tanks have been made in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area in each of the years 2000 to 2008, inclusive?

(2) What is the total dollar value for each of the above years?

Answer—

Rebates for rainwater tanks in this area are administered by Sydney Water. This matter is therefore the

portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Water.

*3709 REBATES FOR RAINWATER TANKS—PARRAMATTA—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many rebates for rainwater tanks have been made in the Parramatta Local Government Area in each of the years 2000 to 2008, inclusive?
- (2) What is the total dollar value for each of the above years?

Answer—

Rebates for rainwater tanks in this area are administered by Sydney Water. This matter is therefore the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Water.

*3710 MARINE SANCTUARIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What proportion of NSW waters is currently protected in marine parks?
- (2) What proportion of NSW waters is currently protected in marine parks with a sanctuary zoning?
- (3) How does the NSW Government monitor fishing in NSW marine parks, both in zones that allow and prohibit fishing?
- (4) Is the NSW Government aware of the recent statement of the Australian Marine Sciences Association supporting the importance of marine parks and sanctuary zones?
- (5) To what extent will the NSW Government consider extending the network of marine sanctuary zones?

Answer—

- (1) Approximately one third of NSW waters are currently protected in marine parks.
- (2) Approximately 7 per cent of NSW waters are currently protected within marine park sanctuary zones.
- (3) A comprehensive research and monitoring program is carried out in NSW marine parks, guided by A Strategic Framework for Evaluation and Monitoring of Marine Parks and the Marine Parks Strategic Research Plan 2005-10. Monitoring includes:
 - catch and effort data collected from commercial fishing operators;
 - recreational fishing catch and use surveys; and
 - monitoring of fish size, abundance and diversity in sanctuary zones where fishing is prohibited, and other zones where fishing is allowed.

Further details about fisheries monitoring are best obtained from the Minister for Primary Industries, who has primary responsibility for fisheries management.

(4) Yes.

(5) The Government is committed to building and managing a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas, both as part of its commitment to the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas and under Priority E4 of the NSW State Plan.

Substantial progress has been made over the past decade. The declaration of Batemans and Port Stephens—Great Lakes marine parks, which protect around 34,000 hectares within sanctuary zones, has recently been recognised as a key achievement in the implementation of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

The Government is currently focused on reviewing the zoning plans for the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks to ensure they continue to meet the aims of the Marine Parks Act 1997.

*3711 TRAIN NOISE—WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With respect to noise impacts on the high density residential precinct adjacent to the railway viaduct above Woolloomooloo:

- (1) What complaints have the Government and transport agencies received about noise impacts from trains and the railway viaduct in Woolloomooloo?
- (2) What assessment has been made of train noise levels in apartments adjacent to the viaduct?
- (3) What assessment has been made of the train noise levels in terrace houses adjacent to the viaduct?
- (4) What measures are used in other areas to prevent similar noise impacts?

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- (5) Has the Government investigated using a resilient base for railway sleepers in this location?
- (6) Has the Government investigated using sound absorbent panels along the railway line in this location?
- (7) What other measures has the Government investigated that could reduce these noise impacts on residents?
- (8) What action has the Government taken to reduce these noise impacts?

Answer—

I am advised:

In May, 2008 RailCorp carried out noise measurements on the viaduct adjacent to the train and next to the Domain Apartments. The results were found to be within the normal range for railway operations.

RailCorp has also undertaken noise surveys at street level in Rushcutters Bay towards Edgecliff, and noise levels were found to be within the normal range for railway operations.

As part of RailCorp's maintenance and upgrading network programs, polymer concrete sleepers are being trialed with resilient fasteners. RailCorp continues to investigate the viability of this initiative at key locations across the network.

RailCorp has also considered the use of sound absorbent panels however it has been determined that this treatment would not result in a significant difference to noise levels at this particular location. Other technologies are also being investigated to determine their feasibility and practicality on addressing potential noise impacts on residents.

RailCorp continues to investigate the best options for safety and performance as a part of its normal rail and rolling stock maintenance schedules. Investigations into noise reduction technologies is also ongoing.

*3712 FURTHER CUTS TO 311 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Noting the State Transit Authority information distributed to some residents about proposed changes to the 311 bus service:

- (1) In what areas were residents informed about these proposals?
- (2) Given the ongoing concerns from Woolloomooloo, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay residents, did the Government distribute the "Invitation to Comment" to these areas, and if so, why are residents telling me that they were not informed about the proposals?
- (3) How many complaints have been received about the 311 bus service to the Transport Infoline, STA, Ministry of Transport and Minister for Transport since the service was cut in 2001?
- (4) How many of these complaints are about inadequate and unreliable service on this route, and what other concerns have been raised?
- (5) How many representations about the poor 311 bus service has the Minister recorded as received from me on behalf of passengers and residents?
- (6) What examination has the Government made of using smaller buses to suit the congested, narrow and winding streets that the 311 bus uses?
- (7) What proportion of 311 route passengers travel to Railway Square or Central Railway Station?
- (8) What proportion of 311 route passengers travel on the Elizabeth Bay loop using Ithaca Road, Billyard Avenue and Onslow Avenue?
- (9) What destination studies has the STA carried out to determine the transport needs of Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, Woolloomooloo and Darlinghurst residents?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the Government's bus reform agenda, a network bus review is under way in Region 9. Community consultation for the proposed changes to bus routes in the eastern region took place from 26 May to 25 July, 2008.

Residents in all suburbs adjacent to the Route 311, including Darlinghurst, Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo, were informed of the proposed service changes through a comprehensive letterbox drop. Households received a brochure detailing the proposed changes. A return mail survey was attached to the brochure inviting comments on the proposal. Posters advising of proposed changes were also displayed on every bus in the eastern suburbs and referred customers to the Sydney Buses website or a special enquiry number.

As part of the process, a number of comments on the 311 bus service have been received. Community feedback is now being reviewed prior to the finalisation and implementation of the Region 9 integrated network later in the year.

It is estimated that smaller buses would require a doubling of the number of services to cater for existing levels of patronage. During busy peak periods longer waiting times at bus stops could be likely due to the reduced loading capacity of each bus. However, as recently flagged by the Premier, small buses may be appropriate in some circumstances.

Those and other possible initiatives will be on the table for discussion at the upcoming mobility forum.

*3713 MILLERS POINT PUBLIC HOUSING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With reference to the Sydney Morning Herald article "Sale seen as solution to living with pests" published on 21 June 2008 about neglected Housing NSW properties in Millers Point:

- (1) Aside from the 16 properties already identified for lease, can the Minister confirm that the Government will not lease any additional Housing NSW properties in Millers Point to the private market on 99-year leases?
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that the Government will not sell any Housing NSW properties in Millers Point?
- (3) When will major maintenance work under the Maintenance Reform Program be carried out in Millers Point so that badly needed repairs can be undertaken?
- (4) Will Housing NSW continue to carry out repairs that are necessary for the health and/or safety of tenants until the Maintenance Reform Program is implemented?
- (5) What repairs that are necessary for the health and/or safety of tenants will be carried out in Millers Point prior to the implementation of the Maintenance Reform Program?
- (6) What plans does the Government have to sell or lease any other Housing NSW properties in the Sydney electorate or, if this information is unavailable, in CS1, CS2 and CS3?

Answer—

- (1) There are no plans at this time.
- (2) There are no plans at this time.
- (3) The new maintenance contract commences 27 October 2008. Planned work will be delivered according to priorities and liabilities.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Urgent maintenance issues of a health and safety nature are carried out within four hours. Required non-urgent maintenance is carried out within 21 days. All other work is placed on a Planned Works Program.
- (6) Housing NSW purchases, sells and redevelops properties across its portfolio to ensure it can meet the needs of its clients with appropriate accommodation.

Major new social housing projects are underway at Elizabeth Street, Redfern and at Glebe, where the project will deliver a significant increase in social, key worker and private housing stock on that site.

While the ongoing total number of social housing properties in the Sydney electorate may fluctuate as a result of these activities, the Iemma Government has a commitment to maintain or increase overall stock numbers of social housing in NSW.

*3714 HOUSING NSW—CONTACT WITH TENANTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With respect to the ongoing reports of deceased tenants being left in their units for weeks and even months:

- (1) What procedures does Housing NSW use to ensure regular contact with tenants and, in particular, with tenants who are old or seriously ill?
- (2) What procedures does Housing NSW use to follow up reports from neighbours about tenants' welfare and what is the timeframe for action?
- (3) What review has been carried out of Housing NSW's procedures given the ongoing reports about these incidents?
- (4) What changes have been made in response to recent reports where neighbours notified Housing NSW some six weeks before the body was found in order to ensure prompt and effective follow up by Housing NSW officers?

Answer—

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- (1) Housing NSW has conducted six-monthly audits since March 2006. Housing NSW makes contact at least twice a year with tenants aged over 60 years (45 years for Aboriginal tenants) and at least once a year for other tenants. To avoid intruding on a tenant's privacy, Housing NSW will first check whether there has been another form of contact: for example, face to face meeting, phone call, manual payment of rent or water charges or maintenance work requested. If there has been no contact, the Client Service Officer will visit their home.

The Housing NSW Tenant Connect service was recently launched. This is a telephone monitoring service for social housing tenants aged 80 years and older (and Aboriginal tenants aged 55 years and older) living alone. Australian Red Cross will deliver the service on behalf of Housing NSW.

- (2) In cases where there are concerns about the tenant's well being, Housing NSW will contact the next of kin, if known. Where there are serious concerns, Housing NSW will access the premises with the Police. If not, Housing NSW will seek an Order to access the premises from the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.
- (3) Housing NSW reviews its procedures when preparing for the six-monthly audits. Whenever an incident occurs, Housing NSW checks to see whether the procedures were followed to enable identification of any improvements to the process.
- (4) Housing NSW investigated this alleged report and found it to be unsubstantiated.

*3717 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many bushfires have been found to be deliberately lit in the Ku-ring-gai Council area during (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005, (d) 2006, (e) 2007 and (f) 2008?
- (2) How many bushfires have been found to be deliberately lit in the Warringah Council area during (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005, (d) 2006, (e) 2007 and (f) 2008?
- (3) What has been achieved regarding apprehension of perpetrators?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's questions are more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*3718 AMBULANCE OFFICER RECRUITMENT—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many ambulance officers were recruited in:
- (a) 2002;
- (b) 2003;
- (c) 2004;
- (d) 2005;
- (e) 2006;
- (f) 2007?
- (2) (a) Have there been any ambulance officers recruited this year to date?
- (b) If so, how many?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW advises the following recruitment numbers over the corresponding financial years:

Financial Year	Officers Recruited
2001-2002	133
2002-2003	218
2003-2004	229
2004-2005	147
2005-2006	238
2006-2007	231
2007-2008	235

The Ambulance Service of NSW routinely publishes state-wide workforce data in its Annual Report.

*3719 ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY—SUBSIDISING OF ELECTRICITY—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) Under the Government's plans for privatisation, will the subsidising of electricity for the aluminium industry continue?
- (2) If so, how will it be funded?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The terms and conditions of electricity supply contracts between electricity users in the aluminium industry and electricity suppliers are commercial in confidence. These contracts are drawn up on commercial terms having regard to the load, duration and interruptability of supply.

*3720 RTA DRIVER TESTING OFFICERS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Are RTA driver testing officers rotated to preclude any perception of bias when drivers are re-tested?

Answer—

I am advised:

RTA driver testing officers are randomly selected through a computer-generated process from the pool of testing officers available at each motor registry.

The RTA has implemented rigorous and stringent guidelines and procedures to ensure that driving tests are consistently carried out to meet set requirements. Testing officers are regularly monitored and are required to undergo annual re-training.

*3721 HOMELESS CHILDREN UNDER FIVE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Community Services—

Does the Department of Community Services consider homelessness a risk to children under five years of age?

Answer—

Yes.

*3722 TWEED POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Given that media reports indicate that of 159 active police officers in the Tweed-Byron LAC, 21% are on holiday leave, sick leave or restricted duties and the number of actual police officers presently on duty in the Tweed-Byron LAC represents an average of one officer for every 738 residents in the LAC:
 - (a) Will the Minister allocate additional officers to the LAC to bring the average into line with the NSW average of one officer for every 538 residents?
 - (b) If yes, how many officers will be allocated to the LAC and when?
 - (c) If no, why not?
- (2) Given that in the Tweed-Byron LAC assaults are 23% above the state average, sexual assaults are 74% above the state average and drug offences are 144% above the state average, what strategies are being implemented in the LAC to counter the rising level in crime?
- (3) Given that street offences in the Tweed-Byron LAC are 144% above the state average, yet after 1.00 am only one vehicle containing two officers patrols the entire LAC:
 - (a) Will additional highway patrol officers be allocated to the LAC?
 - (b) If yes, how many and when?
 - (c) If no, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The ratio of police officers to population for the Tweed/Byron Local Area Command (LAC) is well within the average for country locations.
- (2) The Tweed/Byron LAC is experiencing a decline in offences across most crime categories. Proactive policing to address street and drug offences is reflected in strong arrest figures for these categories. Robust street policing and major drug operations will continue.
- (3) Street offences are generally attended to by General Duties police. There is an absolute minimum of two vehicles and four officers on the road after 1am Sunday to Wednesday nights, with additional officers rostered on the busier nights of Thursday to Saturday. Rostered shifts are staggered across the LAC and General Duties staff are supported by Highway Patrol, Detectives and Target Action Group officers as required.

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*3723 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why has the RTA placed conflicting signage on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill stating that speed cameras are both in and out of operation?
- (2) Are speed cameras presently in or out of operation on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill?
- (3) (a) Will the RTA remove the conflicting signage?
(b) If yes, when?
(c) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The speed limit on this stretch of road has been reduced from 80 to 60 kilometres per hour for the duration of the road and ancillary works, which commenced on 4 June 2008 and are expected to be completed shortly, weather permitting.

All 80 kilometre per hour signage has been obscured, including the '80' numerals on the speed camera signage, and on a boom arm. There are numerous 'Work Zone' and 'Road Works' signs indicating the speed limit as 60 kilometres per hour.

The speed camera at Banora Point (Sexton Hill) was not operational during the recent road works.

Normal signage at the site will be reinstated once the road works have been completed.

*3724 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How long has conflicting signage on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill stating that speed cameras are both in and out of operation been in place?
- (2) Over the period detailed in response to (1), how many drivers have received speeding infringements, and what is the dollar value of these infringements?
- (3) How often does the RTA shut down speed cameras on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill, and is signage immediately changed when shut downs occur?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the answer I have provided to question LA 3723.

*3725 ADVERTISED POSITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) (a) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Project Manager to produce the State of the Environment Report, will the report be ready by December 2009?
(b) Who is currently producing the report?
- (2) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Senior Policy Officer for the Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group, who is currently producing policy and managing projects?
- (3) Given that the department is currently advertising for a Director for Urban and Coastal Water Reform for the Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group, who is currently developing policy to manage risks imposed by growing coastal populations, sea level change and urban flooding?
- (4) How can the Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group of the department operate effectively without three key staff members?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b) The Department of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for producing the report. The Project Manager position has been filled on a temporary basis pending permanent recruitment to the position.
- (2) The Senior Policy Officer position in the Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group has been filled on a temporary basis pending permanent recruitment to the position. This position is one of a number within the Department which have responsibility for developing policy and managing projects.
- (3) Internal arrangements are in place to ensure that necessary policy development is maintained

pending the permanent recruitment of the Director Urban Coastal and Water Reform.

- (4) The Climate Change, Policy and Programs Group has appropriate arrangements in place to ensure its effective operation while recruitment for the abovementioned positions takes place.

*3726 NORTHERN BEACHES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

What is the amount of funding given specifically to Northern Beaches Christian School to support students with special needs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The non government school per capita allowances include a 25 per cent flow on for the cost of government school programs for students with special needs. Students with disabilities who attend non government special schools or who are attending mainstream non government schools attract per capita funding at the highest needs funding level, Category 12.

*3727 NORTHERN BEACHES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

Does the Northern Beaches Christian School receive the same funding per student as provided to other schools in the Pittwater Electorate?

Answer—

The distribution of funds to non-government schools is based on a 12 category "needs based" scheme, with Category 12 schools determined as being of greatest need. Within this framework, Northern Beaches Christian School is categorised at Category 10.

*3728 BLACKOUTS—MONA VALE TO AVALON—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What was the cause of the blackouts that occurred from 17 June to 24 June 2008 between Mona Vale to Avalon?
- (2) What steps have been taken to stop this happening in the future?

Answer—

EnergyAustralia has advised me:

- (1) On 18 June 2008 supply was interrupted in the Mona Vale area due to a fault on an 11,000 volt cable. Supply was restored in 24 minutes.

On Sunday 22 June 2008, a fault on a piece of equipment on a 33,000 volt power line between Warriewood and Terrey Hills substations interrupted power.

EnergyAustralia crews began reconnecting customers within 21 minutes by redirecting power supply from other parts of the electricity network. Within 44 minutes power had been returned to more than half the affected homes.

- (2) EnergyAustralia plans to invest \$227 million on the electricity network in Sydney northern beaches area over the next five years.

EnergyAustralia's planned investment program in the area also involves renewing infrastructure, including the decommissioning and replacement of substations.

*3731 CONTAMINATED SANDS—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) With five playgrounds in Pittwater being closed recently due to sand contamination including Palm Beach's Governor Phillip Park, Hitchcock Park in Avalon and parks in Katoa Close, Warriewood, Winnererremy Bay and South Avalon, what measures are being taken to find out where the contamination came from?
- (2) What were the results of the tests that were carried out on the five playgrounds that were shut due to this contamination in Pittwater?
- (3) What do parents in the area need to know in regard to protecting their children from the contaminated sands?

Answer—

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I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) Northern Sydney Central Coast Public Health Unit, with the assistance of Pittwater Council, is investigating the supply and distribution chain of sand to the affected playgrounds. Local wildlife, including ducks and rodents, are also being tested with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Primary Industries.
- (2) Sand samples identified the presence of a bacterium called Salmonella java in at least one sample taken from each of these five playgrounds.
- (3) As an interim measure, parks where contaminated sand has been identified have been closed by Pittwater Council to protect the health of local residents. Parents and carers have also been advised to ensure the children under their care do not ingest sand whilst playing and that they wash their hands after playing.

*3732 BOATING SERVICE OFFICERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) How many Boating Service Officers patrol Pittwater?
- (2) What are the hours during which Pittwater is patrolled by Boating Service Officers?

Answer—

- (1) Two Boating Services officers are permanently assigned to Pittwater. These Officers are supported as required by NSW Maritime's Safety, Education and Compliance Team.
- (2) Daily NSW Maritime patrols are conducted on Pittwater. Dependent on the season and weather, patrols are also conducted at night and early morning. Hours of operation are between 5am and midnight. These patrols are in addition to any necessary 24-hour incident response as well as on-water presence of the NSW Police Marine Area Command.

*3734 RESULTS OF BUS LANES MONITORING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are the results of the formal monitoring of the effects of the new bus lane markings on Pittwater Road along the Northern Beaches of Sydney that was undertaken by State Transit in February and March 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

Travel time checks have been completed and are in the process of being analysed by State Transit.

*3735 HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS):

- (1) What are the target and actual shares of the NSW Health Budget allocated to the NCAHS for the current and past four financial years?
- (2) Has funding been allocated to expand the size of the Emergency Department at Kempsey District Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Iemma Government is investing \$717.7 million to deliver better services and improve health infrastructure across the North Coast Area Health Service in 2008-09, an increase of \$36.7 million on last year.

The Resource Distribution Formula (RDF) is one of a number of factors used in considering the allocation of funding to Area Health Services.

The formula is intended to identify shares of available resources to enable Area Health Services to provide their local communities with comparable levels of access to health services taking into account factors such as:

- the assessed health needs of the local population;
- the local population's utilisation of private health services; and
- additional cost components in providing services to specific populations (such as additional transport and infrastructure costs in rural areas and the cost of interpreter services).

I am advised that each year the Department of Health, in its Annual Report, reports on the performance indicator RDF and the weighted average distance from RDF for Area Health Services.

(2) The upgrade of the Kempsey District Hospital Emergency Department is listed as a priority project for the 2008/09 Rural Health Minor Works Program.

*3736 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HEALTH—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Health:

- (1) How many submissions were received?
- (2) (a) Are these submissions available to the public?
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) (a) Does the Minister intend to compile a summary of submissions based on the major issues identified?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services is independent of my position and the NSW Department of Health.

Submissions received by the Special Commission of Inquiry and any publication of the submissions are matters for the Commissioner, Mr Peter Garling SC.

Her Excellency the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, has extended the reporting date for the Special Commission of Inquiry until 28 November 2008.

Mr Garling has said, by way of media release, that the extension will allow the Commission time to properly consider all submissions and provide the Government with a thorough report on NSW Public Hospitals.

*3737 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—URUNGA TO WARRELL CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the ranking system used to determine the most suitable route from the short-listed route options for the upgrading of the Urunga to Warrell Creek section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Did the RTA seek individual scores from delegates on each route option to be included in the overall ranking process?
- (2) Were pecuniary interest provisions in place to ensure only fair and unbiased scores were submitted from these delegates?

Answer—

I am advised:

Comprehensive information regarding the Pacific Highway upgrade including community involvement and the value management process, is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

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*3738 HOME DETENTION PROGRAM—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) In what year did the home detention program commence?
- (2) What are the aims of this program?
- (3) Is the home detention program available to all parts of New South Wales?
- (4) If not, what parts of the State do not have access to this program?
- (5) How many offenders have been admitted to this program since its inception?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 1997.

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- (2) Home detention is an alternative to full-time detention for less serious offenders which aims to divert offenders from full-time custody, but is not intended as an alternative to periodic detention, community service or other non-custodial alternatives.
- (3) No.
- (4) The home detention program is available in the Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Kempsey regions.
- (5) From 2 February 1997 to 30 June 2008, 4,376 home detention orders have been registered by the Department of Corrective Services.

*3739 COST OF IMPRISONMENT FOR INMATES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) As at the end of the current financial year, what is the cost of imprisonment for inmates in the following categories:
 - (a) Maximum security;
 - (b) Medium security;
 - (c) Minimum security?
- (2) How has this situation changed over the past three financial years?

Answer—

I am advised:

The member is referred to the Department of Corrective Services Annual Report.

*3740 OAKLANDS TO BENALLA RAILWAY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Oaklands to Benalla rail freight line will be stranded once the Victorian Government converts the Wodonga to Albury broad gauge line to standard gauge?
- (2) As the Oaklands to Benalla railway carries huge grain tonnages from Oaklands to port facilities at Geelong, will the Minister liaise with his Victorian counterpart to discuss the conversion of the line to standard gauge?
- (3) What action will the NSW Government take to ensure that the transportation of grain is not shifted from rail to road thereby increasing heavy traffic, road maintenance costs and safety concerns at the narrow bridge across Lake Mulwala and raising costs for this export commodity?

Answer—

I am advised:

While part of the Oaklands to Benalla railway line is in New South Wales, the line is actually managed by the Victorian Government.

I am advised that the Oaklands to Benalla rail line is classified by the Victorian Government as a Silver line, and that discussions on further investment in the Silver lines are continuing with major stakeholders, including rail users and the grain industry. These are decisions for the Victorian Government.

I am further advised that negotiations are taking place with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (as lease holder of the main interstate line) to install a new junction at Benalla that will provide for a connection, should an economic case be made for its future operation.

From a NSW perspective, the Government looks forward to the establishment of the Grain Rail Taskforce recently announced by the Commonwealth Government. The Taskforce will work with governments and industry to determine long term viable solutions to the grain transport task in NSW.

*3741 WILCANNIA TOURISM PROJECT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Following the Federal Government's withdrawal of \$1.8 million from an Indigenous training scheme in Wilcannia, what action has the Minister taken to secure funding from alternative sources for this tourism project?

Answer—

The matters raised in the Member's question are issues which should be directed to my colleague, the Hon. Matt Brown MP, Minister for Tourism for his response.

*3742 "BREAKING THE SILENCE" REPORT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Does the Minister agree with Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, that there is a need for the NSW Government to elevate the issues identified in the "Breaking the Silence" report and to accelerate the response?
- (2) Will the Minister now move to conduct an independent, transparent and comprehensive review of action taken across all agencies to tackle child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government developed and released the "NSW Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities 2006-2011" in response to the NSW Government commissioned, Breaking the Silence Report. The Interagency Plan represents an investment by the NSW Government of \$30 million and includes 88 specific actions to improve government services to Aboriginal families and children to reduce and prevent child sexual assault in the short and long-term.

The NSW Government is committed to implementing all of the Plan's 88 actions. The actions include robust law enforcement to ensure safe communities, effective and consistent child protection responses for children at risk of harm, accessible prevention and early intervention services for families, and measures to build community leadership and support.

The 2008-2009 budget included an additional \$22.9 million for Focus Community work under the Interagency Plan in the Orana Far West region of New South Wales. This brings the allocation of funding for the Interagency Plan to a total of \$52.9 million over four years.

*3743 FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) What effect will the Federal Government's withdrawal of a further \$56 million from mental health programs on top of the \$188 million cut to the mental health nurse initiative program have on mental health services in NSW?
- (2) What representations has the Minister made to his Federal counterpart to restore this funding?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government is working with the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing on mental health programs and services.

*3744 SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES HEAD OFFICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

Is the Department of Corrective Services head office fully secure considering the current dispute with ASIS technologies over payment for its security equipment?

Answer—

I am advised that the Department of Corrective Services head office is fully secure, with systems fully commissioned and operational. Any matters with ASIS Technologies are being handled by the Department of Commerce on behalf of the Department of Corrective Services.

*3745 GOVERNMENT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Is the Government currently in dispute with any contractors in relation to its Government contract management guidelines?

Answer—

I am advised:

NSW Treasury is responsible for the development of the NSW Government Procurement Policy.

To assist agencies procure contractors for construction and the supply of goods & services, the Department of Commerce provides procurement systems reflecting the requirements of the Procurement Policy and associated guidelines.

I invite the member to contact my office if the member has any specific concerns regarding any particular

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contract.

*3746 ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKERS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many of the 24 axed anti-domestic violence workers (who your spokesperson said in February 2008 could apply for the newly created policy positions) were successful in being appointed to the new positions?
- (2) Which departments are they now part of?

Answer—

I am advised that not all of the former Senior Regional Strategies (Violence Prevention) officers applied for positions under the new model.

I am further advised that five former Senior Regional Strategies (Violence Prevention) officers have been appointed to the new, more senior Police Region Coordinator positions in the NSW Police Force. One former Senior Regional Strategies (Violence Prevention) officer has been appointed to the Senior Project Officer position, Integrated Case Management, in the Department of Community Services.

Of the remaining former Senior Regional Strategies (Violence Prevention) officers, outcomes have included voluntary redundancy and redeployment within the Department of Community Services.

*3747 CITYRAIL SERVICES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to CityRail services:

- (1) Was there a train breakdown on the Eastern Suburbs line on 26 June 2008?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) What was the cause of the breakdown and the period of delay before services were resumed?
 - (b) What advice was provided to passengers on affected trains?
 - (c) What advice was provided to passengers on station platforms?
 - (d) What arrangements were made for additional bus services?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 June 2008 delays were experienced with the 4.51pm service from Martin Place to Port Kembla. I understand that the delays lasted for approximately 46 minutes, with trains terminated and diverted at various locations to maintain services in other places across the network.

Passengers on trains were advised of the delays and were provided with options - such as the ticket recognition arrangements in place for using buses - by train crew, SMS messages and CityRail train service screens.

Passengers on station platforms were similarly advised by station staff, station message screens and announcements.

The 131500 line was also informed of the delays and details uploaded on the website.

RailCorp coordinated with State Transit to ensure recognition of rail tickets on regular Sydney bus services for Eastern Suburbs services.

*3748 IR POWERS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to Industrial Relations powers:

- (1) Will the NSW Government refuse to transfer IR powers to the Federal Government?
- (2) If not, will the NSW Government refuse to transfer IR conditions for State public sector workers to the Federal Government?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Together with the other States and the Territories, the NSW Government is engaged in a dialogue with the Federal Government about the future of industrial relations regulation in Australia. Those discussions are ongoing and have not concluded, consequently no decisions about these

matters have been made at this stage. In the meantime, the New South Wales industrial relations system continues to deliver fair and balanced outcomes for employers and employees in this State.

*3750 DRINK DRIVING—ELECTORATE OF GOULBURN—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many people have been charged with drink driving this year in the electorate of Goulburn?
- (2) What is the age profile of drink drivers in the electorate of Goulburn?
- (3) What is the state average of drink driving charges by electorate or area?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Honourable Member's questions are more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*3751 VANDALISM RELATED CRIME—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many people have been charged with vandalism related crimes in the seat of Goulburn this year?
- (2) How many people have been convicted of vandalism related crimes in the seat of Goulburn this year?
- (3) What is the State average by age and locality for people who have been charged with vandalism related crimes throughout NSW?
- (4) What is the State average by age and locality for people who have been convicted of vandalism related crimes throughout NSW?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. I suggest the Member's questions are more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*3752 BIO BANKING SCHEME—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) On what date is the Department of Environment and Climate Change anticipated to implement the bio banking scheme?
- (2) (a) Will the Government address each independent objection made in submissions to the Department of Environment and Climate Change in relation to the proposed bio banking scheme?
(b) If so, will the submissions and responses be made available to the public?

Answer—

- (1) The Biodiversity Banking and Offsets Scheme is an initiative of the NSW Government that provides a streamlined biodiversity assessment process for development, a rigorous and credible offsetting scheme, as well as an opportunity for rural landowners to generate income by managing land for conservation.

The BioBanking scheme officially commenced on 11 July 2008 with the gazettal of the Threatened Species Conservation (Biodiversity Banking) Regulation 2008 and the Threatened Species Conservation (BioBanking Assessment Methodology) Order 2008 in the NSW Government Gazette.

The scheme is being progressively implemented with the Department of Environment and Climate Change developing the training courses, tools and guidance necessary for the effective operation on the Scheme. A Biobanking Credit Calculator and Assessors Training Course will be held in August 2008. The Department has received around 100 expressions of interest from people interested in attending the course. Accredited assessors will then be able to assess sites for potential inclusion in the scheme.

- (2) (a) The Department of Environment and Climate Change has considered all issues raised as a result of public exhibition, and responses or changes incorporated into the scheme are contained in the document Public Exhibition of BioBanking Regulation, Assessment Methodology and Compliance Assurance Strategy: Issues raised and proposed changes.
(b) This document is available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change's website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/publicconsult.htm.

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*3753 ILLAWARRA/SOUTH COAST CANCER PLAN—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the Illawarra/South Coast plan be released for public comment?
- (2) Will the Government be supporting a linear accelerator for Shoalhaven residents as recommended in the abovementioned cancer plan?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There is no separate Illawarra/South Coast Cancer Plan.

*3754 HELPING HANDS PROGRAMME—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

Will ongoing funding be provided to the Helping Hands programme in Nowra, offering voluntary assistance to those in the community suffering mental health issues?

Answer—

This matter falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) and the question should be re-directed accordingly.

*3755 SHOALHAVEN MENTAL HEALTH UNIT—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Since the SESIAHS Clinical Services Plan 2006-2009 contains an initiative to provide a 12.15 mental health unit at Shoalhaven Hospital, when will this facility be provided?
- (2) Following the resignation of Dr Irwin Pakula from the Shoalhaven Mental Health Unit, has this vacancy been advertised and filled?

Answer—

This matter falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) and the question should be re-directed accordingly.

*3756 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Do you support the redeployment of transit officers from the Illawarra to Sydney for special events, such as a blue light disco at Revesby?
- (2) Will a depot be provided for transit officers in the Wollongong area?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Transit Officers are employed by RailCorp, not the NSW Police Force. This question should therefore be addressed to the Minister for Transport.

*3757 REDPLOYMENT OF TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) With respect to another serious assault on the South Coast line on the evening of 21 June 2008, were transit officers on the line redeployed to the East Hills line due to a blue light disco at Revesby?
- (2) Will transit officers continue to be redeployed from the Illawarra/South Coast line in the future?
- (3) What is the result of your discussions with transit officers in Wollongong regarding their desire for a depot in Wollongong?

Answer—

I am advised:

The security resources of RailCorp are deployed across the rail network based on security intelligence. The ongoing objective of the RailCorp Security Division is to place its 600 strong transit officer workforce at the times and places where they will do the most good for the travelling public in terms of preventing crime and anti social behaviour.

I am advised that intelligence and transit officer deployment plans are constantly reviewed to ensure that resources are utilised optimally and in a way that is commensurate with prevailing security conditions/risk.

Given this, transit officer deployments in the South Coast area (as well as other areas) continue to be reviewed and adjusted by RailCorp in light of available intelligence.

Transit officers are not the only security resource deployed on the rail network. NSW Police Commuter Crime Units are permanently operating in the Illawarra and South Coast areas and transit officers work closely with these officers to provide an integrated security system for the rail network.

I understand that once transit officers are deployed, they are coordinated in real time through the RailCorp 24 hour Security Control Centre. The Security Control Centre also has direct contact with the Police Communication Centres and can communicate with train crew and station staff.

RailCorp has also advised that it is regularly signing on transit officers at a range of regional locations and that it has established a number of "sign on" points in regional areas to support this.

I am advised that RailCorp has established a transit officer sign-on point on the South Coast line, in the Hunter and Central Coast areas as well as in an increasing number of outer suburban areas. These are utilised on an ongoing basis to provide intelligence based transit officer coverage of these areas. This arrangement also draws on any local knowledge gained by living locally and interacting with the community.

*3758 ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Given that the Rail Infrastructure Corporation is funding the replacement of the Zouch Street road over rail bridge in Young, does this mean that the RIC is now taking responsibility for replacing or repairing all road over rail bridges in NSW as and when these repairs or replacements become necessary?
- (2) Given that Harden Shire Council has many road over rail bridges for which the RIC has refused to reimburse repairs, citing the minutes of a 1938 Department of Main Roads/Department of Railways joint committee meeting, will the Minister now ensure that Harden Shire Council is reimbursed for the cost of these repairs?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government's Rail Infrastructure Corporation will invest an estimated \$1.4 million to replace the Zouch Street road over rail bridge this financial year.

The local road authority is responsible for maintaining the road wearing surface on the bridge at their cost.

*3759 ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given the confusion between the Rail Infrastructure Corporation and the Roads and Traffic Authority as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the wearing structure of the road surface on a road-over-rail bridge will you provide a ruling as to whether, under current legislation, the rail corridor supersedes the road corridor and therefore the entire structure of the bridge within the rail corridor is the responsibility of the Rail Infrastructure Corporation to maintain?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Rail Infrastructure Corporation is responsible for maintaining the bridge structure, and the local road authority is responsible for maintaining the asphalt road surface. There are several formal agreements with local road authorities which detail specific maintenance responsibilities.

Once a bridge becomes uneconomical to repair, it is then replaced with a new bridge with the same functionality, designed to meet current RTA standards.

*3760 NSW GOVERNMENT SPECTACLES PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many spectacles were issued free or subsidised to pensioners and other low-income earners in NSW under the NSW Government Spectacles Program during:
 - (a) 2004;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2006;
 - (d) 2007;

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- (e) to date in 2008?
- (2) What was the total cost of this program to the Community Services Budget in each of these years?
- (3) Will the Minister confirm that the normal waiting time from placing of an order to receiving of spectacles under this program is 14 days?
- (4) On how many occasions has this time limit been exceeded by three 30 days during:
- (a) 2004;
- (b) 2005;
- (c) 2006;
- (d) 2007;
- (e) to date in 2008?

Answer—

- (1) This information is supplied by financial year.

2004/05 - 92,616
2005/06 - 90,504
2006/07 - 90,301
2007/08 - 90,250

- (2) This information is supplied by financial year.

2004/05 - \$5,034,763
2005/06 - \$4,980,091
2006/07 - \$5,016,181
2007/08 - \$5,276,091

- (3) Yes.

- (4) Nil on record.

- *3761 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF HORNSBY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

How many community fire units are being established in the Hornsby electorate within the 'various' 2008-2009 Budget (5.30, book 4) allocation of \$2,416,000?

Answer—

A community group is currently being trained at Seaview Street, Mt Ku-Ring-Gai, with installation of the Community Fire Unit (CFU) expected in the next three months.

There are another ten applications from communities in the Hornsby electorate that will be assessed during the 2008-09 financial year for suitability to establish a CFU.

- *3762 ACCOMMODATION FOR FIONA WAY—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

With reference to the very recent issuing of an in-reach package to Fiona Way at Leighton Lodge, Turramurra, when will accommodation external to a nursing home and appropriate to Fiona's needs be made available?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care recently concluded an Expression of Interest to create innovative, age appropriate accommodation across NSW for young people with very high support needs under the NSW Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program. Through this EOI, alternative accommodation places will be developed and made available for applicants under the YPIRAC program.

I am advised that applicants have been informed in writing when they have been placed on an accommodation register, and that the YPIRAC program will contact those who have been prioritised for supported accommodation, and for whom an appropriate accommodation placement becomes available.

It is anticipated that at least 100 supported accommodation places will be established progressively over the next two years across NSW.

- *3763 HORNSBY BOWLING CLUB—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

In light of the recent financial difficulties of Hornsby Bowling Club, is there any Government funding available to assist the Board to attend to the greens so that the bowlers can continue to operate until the eventual future for this club is known?

Answer—

Sporting clubs can apply for general improvements through specific grants administered by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. When these grants become available information is available at the NSW Sport and Recreation website, www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

*3764 BUDGET ALLOCATION—HORNSBY SHIRE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What, if any, crisis accommodation will be provided in the 'various' 2008-2009 State Budget (5-83, Budget Paper 4) for the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) If nothing, what is the Government doing for the hundreds of homeless people in the Hornsby Shire area?

Answer—

- (1) A complete breakdown of items listed as "various" in Budget Paper Number 4 has not been done for each electorate. In the 2008/09 State Budget, the Government has committed \$8.7M for crisis accommodation across NSW.
- (2) The Crisis Accommodation Program provides short to medium term accommodation for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or are in other forms of crisis. As at 22 July 2008, there are 10 dwellings provided through the Crisis Accommodation Program in the Hornsby Local Government Area.

*3765 FOOTPATH SMOKING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given the increasing levels of conflict between tobacco smokers who are patrons at licensed premises smoking on the footpath, in conflict with pedestrians using the footpath and residents concerned about noise and litter, particularly in areas where there are concentrations of licensed premises such as the Oxford Street and Kings Cross entertainment zones:

- (1) What analysis has the Government carried out to assess the impacts of the smoking ban in licensed premises on the public domain?
- (2) What strategies will the Government use to prevent these conflicts and prevent large numbers of people from licensed premises congregating and blocking footpaths?
- (3) What strategies will the Government use to prevent indoor smoking bans increasing litter from cigarette butts in the public domain?

Answer—

The ban on smoking in enclosed areas within public spaces including licensed premises, introduced under the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2000, is based on strong public health research demonstrating the negative health impacts of smoking and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in enclosed spaces.

The ban is an important part of the NSW Government's ongoing commitment to reduce the harm associated with smoking. Under the NSW State Plan, the Government has set itself tough targets to reduce rates of smoking through to 2016.

It is recognised that some people may elect to smoke outside licensed premises as a result of the ban.

The NSW Police Force and local councils have powers under relevant legislation to manage the use of open public spaces including footpaths.

A range of agencies including local councils have powers under relevant legislation to manage littering.

*3767 REDFERN AND SURRY HILLS BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Noting the State Transit Authority information distributed to some residents about proposed changes to the 300 series bus services that will result in more people trying to use fewer buses in the inner city, especially during peak hours:

- (1) In what areas were residents informed about these proposals, and what assessment has been done to check that all residents received the STA brochure?
- (2) Given the ongoing concerns from residents about the need for additional buses on this route, particularly at peak times, why is the STA proposing to reroute buses to Bondi Junction?
- (3) Given the ongoing concerns from Redfern and Surry Hills residents about buses being full when they

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- reach the inner city, what improvement to capacity does the STA estimate these proposals will make?
- (4) How many complaints have been received about inadequate 300 series buses to the Transport Infoline, STA, Ministry of Transport and Minister for Transport each year for the past five years?
 - (5) How many of these complaints are about inadequate and unreliable service on this route, and what other concerns have been raised?
 - (6) What destination studies has the STA carried out to determine the transport needs of Redfern and Surry Hills residents and how do these proposals meet those identified needs?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the Government's bus reform agenda, a network bus review is being conducted in Region 9. Community consultation for the proposed changes to bus routes in the eastern region took place from 26 May to 25 July, 2008.

Every resident in the suburbs affected by the proposed route changes received a brochure in their letterbox. Posters advising of the proposed changes were also displayed on every bus in the Eastern Suburbs, referring customers to the Sydney Buses website or a special enquiry number.

A point of contact was also established through the Transport Infoline 131500 and posters displayed at shopping centres and major institutions.

A regional planning forum, organised by the Ministry of Transport, also took place and was attended by community and other stakeholders.

As part of the process, a number of comments on the 300 series bus services have been received. Community feedback is now being reviewed prior to the finalisation and implementation of the Region 9 integrated network later in the year.

The proposed changes will strengthen the network in the Eastern Suburbs and provide simpler, more direct and regular services.

*3768 TRAVEL TO CHINA—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) Is the Premier planning yet another trip to China?
- (2) Has the Premier accepted any hospitality relating to the Beijing Olympics?

Answer—

All travel by the Premier is undertaken on behalf of the State of New South Wales and in accordance with Government policy.

*3769 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Did the Minister at any time suggest to or instruct the CEO or Acting CEO of NSW Maritime that either or both of the following persons should have their employment with NSW Maritime terminated:
 - (a) William Karel Fergus McPherson;
 - (b) Joseph Scimone?
- (2) If so, how did the Minister do this?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Employment and/or dismissal of NSW Maritime employees is a matter for NSW Maritime.

*3770 WALSH BAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

In relation to answer to Question No 3221:

- (1) Where exactly in the NSW Maritime Annual Reports is the amount of profit share paid to the NSW Government regarding the major development of Walsh Bay revealed?
- (2) Were any amounts of the originally-agreed profit share to be paid forgiven or reduced by either NSW Maritime or the NSW Government?
- (3) If so, who authorised this?

Answer—

(1) The Honourable Member is referred to the response to Question No. 3221.

- (2) and (3) NSW Maritime's profit share from the Walsh Bay project was agreed when final project costs and income were quantified in 2006, subject to Goods and Services Tax and associated costs. The profit share paid to NSW Maritime was in accordance with this agreement.

*3771 FIREARMS LICENCES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many licensed firearm holders are there in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) How many registered firearms are there in the Tweed electorate?
- (3) How many staff are employed at the Murwillumbah Firearms Registry Office?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) 1,359.
- (2) 4,919.
- (3) 106.

*3772 FIREARMS LICENCES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many firearm registration applications were lodged:
 - (a) In 2006;
 - (b) In 2007;
 - (c) In 2008 year-to-date?
- (2) How many firearm registration applications were unsuccessful:
 - (a) In 2006;
 - (b) In 2007;
 - (c) In 2008 year-to-date?
- (3) What was the average waiting time between application for firearm registration and notification of approval:
 - (a) In 2006;
 - (b) In 2007;
 - (c) In 2008 year-to-date?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) (a) No figures for 2006 are available.
(b) 36,085.
(c) 21,129 as at 1 July 2008.
- (2) NSW Police will not refuse to register a firearm. If a registration cannot be actioned as a result of a person not being a valid licence holder, the firearm is registered through a firearms dealer until if and when a valid licence is obtained.
- (3) It takes approximately 10 days for a registration certificate to be issued to an individual.

*3773 HOSPITAL RE-RATING ASSESSMENT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Tweed Hospital was unsuccessful in its application to be re-rated from a term 3 hospital to a term 4/5 hospital:

- (1) What Key Performance Measures, as used by IMET to assess hospitals seeking re-rating, did the Tweed Hospital fail to meet in its attempt to be upgraded to a term 4/5 hospital?
- (2) What other reasons has IMET stated to support their decision to not upgrade Tweed Hospital to a term 4/5 hospital?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service:

- (1) and (2) The Key Performance Measures are prescribed within the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training Accreditation standards. The Tweed Hospital is yet to receive the final report from the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training.

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*3774 PROPOSED ADDITION OF CROWN LAND TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is the Department of Environment and Climate Change still considering the possible addition of Crown land at lots 195 and 196 Cabbage Tree Road, Ingleside into the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park?
- (2) If yes, what are the issues, if any, that need to be resolved before the addition can proceed?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department of Environment and Climate Change is not currently considering the addition of these Crown land lots to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

*3775 PROPOSED ADDITION OF UNRESERVED LAND TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What issues regarding the existing uses of unreserved land currently being considered for incorporation in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park need to be resolved by the Department of Lands?

Answer—

Please refer to my answer to Written Question No 3774.

*3776 UPGRADE OF MONA VALE ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) In relation to the State Infrastructure Strategy, page 65, which refers to an upgrade to Mona Vale Road, what are the Government's plans for the upgrade to Mona Vale Road between Mona Vale and Terrey Hills?
- (2) What is the cost of the proposed upgrade?
- (3) On what date will the proposed upgrade commence?
- (4) On what date will it be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

A Mona Vale Road upgrade has been identified in the State Infrastructure Strategy 2008/09-2017/18, released in June 2008.

The Strategy indicates on page 83 that Mona Vale Road is one of a number of projects not yet approved which form part of the \$140 billion State Infrastructure Strategy to 2017/18.

Further information on the State Infrastructure Strategy is available at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au

*3777 SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are disabled students who live within 1.6 km from their schools entitled to free travel to and from school under the School Student Transport Scheme?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Ministry of Transport will consider an exemption to the School Student Transport Scheme eligibility criteria on health grounds.
- (2) Further information is contained in the Ministry of Transport's information sheet entitled "School Student Transport Scheme Information Sheet No. 0102C - October 2003" for parents and guardians. This information sheet can be downloaded from the Ministry of Transport's website, www.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/ssts.html