



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 149

TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2013

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. 139 (Including Question Nos 3537 to 3559)	16 April 2013
Q & A No. 140 (Including Question Nos 3560 to 3580)	17 April 2013
Q & A No. 141 (Including Question Nos 3581 to 3622)	18 April 2013
Q & A No. 142 (Including Question Nos 3623 to 3657)	23 April 2013
Q & A No. 143 (Including Question Nos 3658 to 3661)	24 April 2013
Q & A No. 144 (Including Question Nos 3662 to 3699)	25 April 2013
Q & A No. 145 (Including Question Nos 3700 to 3716)	29 April 2013
Q & A No. 146 (Including Question Nos 3717 to 3730)	30 April 2013
Q & A No. 147 (Including Question Nos 3731 to 3782)	01 May 2013
Q & A No. 148 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 149 (Including Question Nos 3783 to 3839)	04 June 2013

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(Paper No. 139)

*3537 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENTS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What services are available from the Mount Druitt Hospital for patients presenting with symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease?
- (2) How many persons have presented at the hospital over the past two years with such symptoms?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Mount Druitt Hospital provides a number of services for patient's presenting with symptoms of dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. These services include aged day care centres where the patient is actively involved in activities specific to their needs.

For patients presenting through the Mount Druitt Hospital Emergency Department, the Hospital provides Aged-care Services Emergency Team (ASET) cover Monday to Friday, between 7.30am and 4pm, utilising a registered nurse with an aged care focus. For all admitted patients regardless of presentation symptoms, the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) is used to screen for delirium. This is a validated tool that assesses a patient's cognition and can distinguish between delirium and dementia.

Where patients have presented with other medical conditions or symptoms, symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia may be identified during assessment but may not always be identified and coded as a presenting problem or primary diagnosis. Therefore, figures regarding presentations do not accurately represent all presentations with symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia.

*3538 STOCKTON CENTRE NURSE TO PATIENT RATIO—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What is the nurse to patient ratio at the Stockton Centre?
- (2) What is the recommended nurse to patient ratio?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Stockton Centre is not a NSW Health run facility. This question should be referred to the Minister for Disability Services.

*3540 WICKHAM SHELTER AND AMENITIES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) If the Government turns Wickham into a transport hub, what shelter and amenities for commuters are being planned?
- (2) What will be the date of completion of these amenities?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Further details of the new Wickham interchange are currently being developed.

*3541 ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES OUTSOURCING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

How will outsourcing maintenance work affect Roads and Maritime Services employees in the Hunter?

Answer—

I am advised:

In May 2012, the Commission of Audit recommended that Roads and Maritime Services develop a proposal to conduct a competitive tender for road maintenance in the Sydney metropolitan area.

*3542 WALLSEND DEMOUNTABLE BUILDINGS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Which schools in the Wallsend electorate have demountable buildings?
- (2) For each school:
 - (a) How many demountables are there?
 - (b) How long have these demountables been used as classrooms?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Communities uses demountable buildings to meet changing accommodation needs in schools due to increased enrolments, emergencies such as fires or natural disasters and accommodation needs arising from capital works or maintenance projects being conducted at schools. Demountable buildings are regularly moved on and off school sites to meet changing needs and the number of demountable buildings on a school site is subject to change.

To list the number of demountable buildings on individual school sites would be a diversion of resources from the Department's core business, the provision of public education.

*3543 SCHOOL LAPTOP FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Will the Government be continuing the funding for laptops in schools?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) National Partnership funding for the Digital Education Revolution finishes at the end of 2013. There is no commonwealth or state commitment to continue the funding from 2014.
- (2) This question should be referred to the Commonwealth Government.

*3544 PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How much funding does the Government contribute to subsidising preschool education?
- (2) (a) Will the Government offer free preschool services to families?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) In 2012-13, the NSW Government has allocated approximately \$149 million in support of NSW preschool education.
- (2) (a) Other States and territories do charge fees. Further, the NSW Government does offer free preschool to disadvantaged families, as do other states. In March 2013, the Government announced an immediate funding boost of \$25 million for the preschool sector, with \$20 million to go directly to preschool services to reduce fees for parents and \$5 million in capital funding to expand preschools in areas where more places are needed.

The fee initiative will reduce fees for the remainder of 2013 to zero in preschools in the most disadvantaged areas of the State. In 2014 and beyond, Government support for services will be aligned to the family circumstances of the children enrolled. Children in circumstances of disadvantage will be eligible for free or near-to-free preschool for up to two years.

(b) Not applicable.

*3545 ELECTORATE POLICE STATIONS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Which electorates in NSW do not have a police station within their boundaries?

Answer—

The location of all police stations in NSW can be found on the NSW Police Force website at www.police.nsw.gov.au.

I am advised that electorate boundary details are available on the Electoral Commission NSW website at www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

*3547 HUNTER PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

How many additional public housing properties have been purchased or built as part of the stock available to public housing applicants in Hunter regional offices in 2011 and 2012?

Answer—

In the 2011-12 financial year 122 dwellings were built or purchased in the Hunter region (including 41 under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan).

The Hunter Region is defined as encompassing the state electorates of Cessnock, Charlestown, Lake

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Macquarie, Maitland, Myall Lakes, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Swansea, Upper Hunter and Wallsend.

*3548 CONTINUING DETENTION ORDERS APPLICATIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In the period from 27 July 2011 to date, how many applications have been made for continuing detention orders under the Crimes (Serious Sex Offenders) Act 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

None.

*3549 LIVERPOOL COURT HOUSE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

When will the renovated Liverpool Court House be opened?

Answer—

I am advised:

Liverpool Courthouse will be officially opened on 16 April and will be fully operational from 22 April 2013.

*3550 CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINAR—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Who or what is the recipient of the proceeds of funds that will be raised at the Continuing Legal Education seminar to be held in Parliament House on 22 March 2013 at which the Minister will be the chief speaker?

Answer—

There was no such seminar.

*3551 COLLECTION AGENCY RESTRICTIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) What restrictions are there on preventing collection agencies issuing "lasso" summonses to every person of a given name without making any attempt to ensure that any of them are the person they actually seek?

(2) If there are no such restrictions, what steps will the Minister take to introduce restrictions?

(3) If there are such restrictions, why were they ineffective in preventing Baycorp Collections PDL (Australia Pty Ltd) from issuing process against Walter Wardle of Woodbine?

Answer—

I am advised:

Collection agents will generally try to enforce a debt by service of a writ. A plaintiff cannot file for the service of a writ to more than one specific person at a time for the same cause of action. However, plaintiffs do sometimes misidentify a defendant in court documents.

On 27 March 2013 my Department sent a notification to bulk litigants who electronically file court documents on the NSW Online Registry website stressing the importance of taking reasonable steps to identify the right defendant in all court documents. For infrequent court users, LawAssist provides information online about identifying the correct defendant.

My Department has also referred the issue of misidentification of a debtor to the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services for consideration as part of the statutory review of the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004.

I am aware of Mr Wardle's unfortunate experience and his complaint has been referred to the following regulatory bodies: the Security Licensing & Enforcement Directorate within NSW Police, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

*3552 IMPLEMENTATION OF ICAC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Will the Government implement recommendations 1 to 5 of the Report by the Independent Commission Against Corruption of the investigation into the smuggling of contraband into the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at the Long Bay Correctional Complex dated December 2013?

- (2) If so, when?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The recommendations contained in the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) report entitled "Investigation into the smuggling of contraband into the Metropolitan Special Programs Centre at the Long Bay Correctional Complex" dated January 2013 are currently being reviewed by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW).

As required by section 111E(2) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, CSNSW must inform the ICAC of its plan of action in response to the recommendations arising from the ICAC investigation within 3 months of receiving the recommendations. This response is due to the ICAC by 26 April 2013.

*3553 WORKCOVER PROSECUTIONS IN LIVERPOOL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Have any prosecutions been commenced by Workcover arising out of incidents involving gas cylinders at the BP Service Station in Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) WorkCover's investigation is ongoing.

*3554 REPORT AND SURVEY COSTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What was the cost of compiling, preparing and printing How it is: State of the NSW Public Sector Reform 2012?
- (2) What was the cost preparing, conducting, compiling and reporting on the People Matter Employee Survey?

Answer—

The costs of the two reports were within the budget of the Public Service Commission in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

*3555 EVANS HIGH SCHOOL AMBULANCE ARRIVALS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) (a) Were any ambulances called to Evans High School between 1 and 14 December 2012?
(b) If yes, how many?
- (2) Did any ambulances take more than 30 minutes to arrive on the scene?
- (3) (a) What was the longest waiting time from the school call to ambulance arrival?
(b) If there were delays, what were the reasons?

Answer—

- (1) From 1 to 14 December 2012 the Ambulance Service received four calls related to three incidents at Evans High School, Blacktown, including two calls to the same incident on 11 December 2012.
- (2) and (3) All three ambulance responses in the period were appropriate and handled in accordance with Ambulance Service of NSW protocols.

*3556 MERRIWA MULTI PURPOSE SERVICE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the crisis facing Merriwa Multi Purpose Service (MPS) now that both doctors have left the town?
- (2) What plans exist for medical cover for Merriwa after the departure of the current locum GP in mid-April?
- (3) What incentives from NSW Health exist for suitable GPs to relocate to Merriwa?
- (4) What advertisements have NSW Health placed for new GPs in the last three months?
- (5) (a) Has an area of need position been applied for?

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(b) If so, has it been approved?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (5) The supply of General Practitioners is primarily a responsibility of the Australian Government. However, Hunter New England Local Health District, in recognition of the important role of General Practitioners in the community, has taken a number of steps to ensure that General Practice coverage is available in Merriwa.

A temporary locum arrangement is in place to provide services, and the Local Health District is also working with the Medicare Local regarding an ongoing arrangement. The Local Health District is also working closely with the local pharmacist to meet the needs of the community relating to prescription medication.

In addition, a former Merriwa GP Visiting Medical Officer is providing services to the community one day a fortnight at the Merriwa Multi Purpose Service.

*3557 GLENFIELD RAILWAY STATION SECURITY—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Transport—

With regards to security at Glenfield Railway Station:

- (1) What hours are staff on site?
- (2) What CCTV is provided to the area around the railway station?
- (3) What precautions have been taken to protect the new station from graffiti vandals since it was opened?
- (4) What future enhancements are planned for security in the area around Glenfield railway station?
- (5) (a) Will the Minister permit local residents to paint out the graffiti if equipment is provided?
(b) How would this be organised?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Glenfield station is staffed twenty four hours, seven days per week. Additional security is provided at the station from 8pm until 3am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.
- (2) There is comprehensive CCTV coverage across the whole transport interchange, precinct area, station and commuter car park.
- (3) The station was designed with particular thought given to lighting levels, CCTV coverage and clear sight lines. The station is inspected daily by station staff.
- (4) Local Police have been inducted to the new station and conduct regular patrols during peak periods.
- (5) Given the potential dangers associated with volunteers removing graffiti at busy metropolitan stations, this option is not recommended.

*3559 DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE WORK—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What work has been done by Hugo Halliday for the Minister's Departments and office since 26 March 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Nil.

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*3560 ROOTY HILL RAILWAY STATION COMMUTER NUMBERS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Is the number of commuters using the City Rail network increasing?
- (2) Has the number of commuters using the Rooty Hill railway station increased?
- (3) If so, what are the latest figures for commuters using the Rooty Hill railway station in comparison to the same periods over the past three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available from the Bureau of Transport Statistics.

*3561 HACC PROGRAM GARDEN MAINTENANCE—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

Are budgetary constraints impacting on the time frame required for garden maintenance through the HACC program?

Answer—

No.

*3562 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

(1) Will the Minister implement the recommendations of the Library Council of NSW to reform the funding system for NSW public libraries?

(2) If so, when?

Answer—

(1) The recommendations are under consideration as part of the 2012-13 Budget process.

(2) See (1) above.

*3563 FRANS AFTER SCHOOL CARE PILOT PROGRAM—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

Will the funding that was made available to FRANS (Croydon) for the After School Care pilot program to assist kids with special needs, be extended beyond 30 June 2013?

Answer—

I am advised that Ageing, Disability and Home Care does not fund the After School Care pilot program.

*3564 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION WAITING TIME—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

(1) What is the current waiting time to be assessed by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to be considered for supported accommodation?

(2) How many people with a disability are seeking supported accommodation in NSW?

Answer—

(1) The amount of time between a person identifying accommodation as a goal they wish to pursue via person centred planning and their Register of Requests for Supported Accommodation application varies due to the complexities of a person's needs.

(2) As at 28 February 2013, 979 people were seeking supported accommodation in NSW, this is further evidence as to why the Government is supporting a National Disability Insurance Scheme which will increase disability services funding from approximately \$2 billion to \$6 billion jointly with the Commonwealth.

*3565 HOUSE WITH NO STEPS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

(1) Is the Minister aware of overcrowding in homes supported by House with No Steps that are leased through the St. George Community Housing?

(2) Does the Minister have any proposals to alleviate this situation?

Answer—

Ageing, Disability and Home Care, House with No Steps and St George Community Housing are working together to identify appropriate longer term accommodation options for residents.

*3566 WOLLONGONG CASEWORKER POSITIONS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) How many fulltime equivalent caseworker positions were funded at the Wollongong CSC on 1 August 2012?

(2) How many of these caseworkers were on leave, secondment or undertaking duties other than local casework on 1 August 2012?

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- (3) How many of these positions were vacant on 1 August 2012?
- (4) How many full time equivalent caseworker positions were funded at the Wollongong CSC on 1 August 2011?
- (5) How many of these caseworkers were on leave, secondment or undertaking duties other than local casework on 1 August 2011?
- (6) How many of these positions were vacant on 1 August 2011?
- (7) How many fulltime equivalent caseworker positions were funded at the Wollongong CSC on 1 March 2013?
- (8) How many of these caseworkers were on leave, secondment or undertaking duties other than local casework on 1 March 2013?
- (9) How many of these positions were vacant on 1 March 2013?

Answer—

Community Services' backfilling policy is unchanged from that of the former Government.

*3567 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM—Ms Linda Burney asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Given the increase in Community Building Partnership Program applicants each year:

- (1) Does the Government propose to increase the funding?
- (2) If so, when and by how much?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Government is investing \$90 million over four years to fund the Community Building Partnership.

*3570 SCHOOL HATCHING PROGRAMS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to hatching programs where eggs and incubation kits are brought in to schools for students to witness chicks and ducklings hatch:

- (1) What approval has the Government given to allow these programs in schools?
- (2) What consultation has the Government had with the following organisations about the program:
 - (a) The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
 - (b) The Animal Welfare League; and
 - (c) Other animal protection groups?
- (3) What assessment has the Government made on the educational value of the program given that chicks and ducklings hatch without mothers in artificial environments and are treated as educational aids?
- (4) What conditions does the Government impose on these programs to protect the animals?

Answer—

- (1) Schools in New South Wales must comply with the Animal Research Act 1985 and the Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals used for scientific purposes.
- (2) Representatives from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Animal Welfare League are currently members of the Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee, attend regular meetings and participate in school monitoring visits.

Any correspondence from any animal protection group is addressed by the Schools Animal Welfare Officer and discussed at Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee meetings.

- (3) All hatching programs are assessed through the Animal Research Review panel, a statutory body of the Department of Primary Industries. The care of chickens and ducklings in the classroom is a category 2 activity in the Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines.
- (4) Each year the NSW Department of Education and Communities, the NSW Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools of NSW issues an Animal Research Authority to each of their schools as required by the Animal Research Act 1985. This Authority authorises those staff named on the Authority to use animals for the purposes of teaching and research, provided that the activities are in accordance with the provisions described in Animals in schools: Animal welfare guidelines for teachers.

*3571 CAR SHARE SCHEMES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Noting City of Sydney funded research by SGS Economics and Planning that shows that car share benefits this year are worth around \$21 million, including \$18.5 million in deferred car purchases by households and businesses, \$640,000 in foregone parking permit revenue to the City, and each car share car can replace the need for 12 other cars:

- (1) What assessment has the Government conducted about how car share schemes can reduce:
 - (a) the need for on-street parking spaces;
 - (b) private motor vehicle reliance;
 - (c) traffic congestion; and
 - (d) costs to residents, businesses and governments?
- (2) Which world cities did the Government look at as part of its assessment?
- (3) How does the Government promote car share as an option for government departments, businesses and residents?
- (4) What is the Government's car share policy?
- (5) What plans does the State Government have to promote and support car share schemes in order to reduce traffic and parking congestion?

Answer—

I am advised:

Local councils are the delegated authority for on-street car parking on local and regional roads. Roads and Maritime Services has issued a Technical Direction detailing the minimum requirements for the implementation of dedicated on-street car share parking.

*3572 ASBESTOS AT BARANGAROO—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Noting media reports about an Environment Protection Authority report on asbestos at Barangaroo and new concerns about possible risks for adjacent residents and visitors to the area:

- (1) What information and advice has the Government given to residents and visitors to the Barangaroo precinct?
- (2) How has the Government ensured safety for workers on the construction site?
- (3) How has the Government ensured safety for adjacent residents, including school students and children at the nearby childcare centre?
- (4) What other action is being implemented following the most recent reports?
- (5) What other plans does the Government have ensure safety with asbestos uncovered at Barangaroo?

Answer—

- (1) The safety of the community and workers is paramount. Robust processes and procedures are in place to manage the historic contamination on the site.

I am advised the Barangaroo Delivery Authority regularly provides information about the planning and development of Barangaroo, including the management of asbestos, to the community via newsletters, construction progress reports, community notifications, website updates, community and stakeholder briefings and meetings.

- (2) The safety of the community and workers is paramount. Robust processes and procedures in place to manage the historic contamination on the site.

Any finds of asbestos are dealt with according to the comprehensive measures outlined in the site's Asbestos Management Plans. There is extensive air monitoring in place and to date no airborne asbestos fibres have been detected.

- (3) Refer to question 2.
- (4) In November 2012, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) commissioned an independent public health expert, Dr Tim Driscoll, to assess the current procedures and work practices in place at Barangaroo which deal with the management of asbestos and make recommendations to ensure that the processes were in line with world's best practice. Associate Professor Driscoll is a specialist in occupational medicine, public health medicine and epidemiology at the Sydney School of Public Health at the University of Sydney.

In line with the recommendations the public foreshore walk has been re-routed around the northern end of the site and the Barangaroo Delivery Authority will implement the other five recommendations contained in the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) report.

These recommendations will ensure the site is managed under the most stringent conditions in Australia for the remediation of asbestos contaminated soil.

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(5) Refer to question 4.

*3573 COUNCIL VOTES ON COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) How many instances of Councillors being asked to vote on commercial negotiations involving the use of and/or disposal of Council property with companies whose activities they are not aware of been brought to the attention of the Division of Local Government or the Minister's office in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many instances of the following have been brought to the attention of the Division of Local Government or your office in the past 12 months:
 - (a) Council staff having full details of the companies concerned with the negotiations and the council staff refuse to advise the Councillors of the information they have; and/or
 - (b) Council staff have entered into confidentiality agreements with the companies concerned to specifically not reveal such information to Councillors?
- (3) What advice is available to Councils and Councillors to deal with instances, such as these, that may affect Council decisions?
- (4) Have any such instances been drawn to the Minister's attention concerning Liverpool Council?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

(1) to (4) I am advised that:

Based on a search of correspondence received by the Division of Local Government, there has been one instance in each case.

Available advice includes the Division of Local Government Circular 10-30 "Councillors' Access To Information"; Division of Local Government "Practice Note No.16 - Meetings Practice Note; Part 7 of the "The Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW"; and advice from the Division of Local Government's Governance Team in response to questions directed to it by councils and councillors.

Based on the advice above, I am aware that this correspondence relates to Liverpool City Council.

*3574 CLINICAL NURSE EDUCATORS AND CONSULTANTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Regarding Clinical Nurse Educators (CNE) and Clinical Nurse Consultants (CNC):

- (1) Has any CNC or CNE been offered, or taken, a redundancy package, in the last 18 months, in the NSW Health system?
 - (a) If so, how many?
 - (b) In which local health districts?
- (2) Will the Minister guarantee that no CNE or CNC in the NSW Health system will be offered a redundancy package, whether voluntary or not, in the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has committed to employing over 275 more clinical nurse/midwife educators and clinical nurse/midwife specialists.

Local Health Districts determine whether any individual Clinical Nurse Consultant or Clinical Nurse Educator will be offered a voluntary redundancy.

Between March 2012 and February 2013, seven nurses employed in the Clinical Nurse Consultant classification accepted voluntary redundancy. No nurses in the Clinical Nurse Educator classification accepted voluntary redundancy in the period.

The nurses were employed in the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Western NSW and Western Sydney Local Health Districts.

*3575 HOSPITAL BED AND TREATMENT SPACE NUMBERS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given that the NSW Auditor General reports (Volume 11, 2012) that there were 24,141 beds and treatment spaces available (page 30) as of 30 June 2012, an increase of 125 in the 12 months since June 2011:

How does this correspond to the Minister's promise prior to the 2011 Election to open 1,390 new hospital beds during the 2011-15 parliamentary term?

Answer—

I am advised:

The figures quoted are two data points, one reflects the average available bed numbers in the month of June 2012, and the other in the month of June 2011.

Comparing this data does not reflect whether new bed capacity has been added to the health system during the course of 12 months, as the average available bed numbers fluctuate from month to month, depending on patient activity and the need for hospitals to use beds and treatment spaces flexibly to meet fluctuating demands.

From 1 July 2012 the allocation of funding shifted from providing funding for new beds to funding the volume of patients. An additional 38,000 cost weighted separations were purchased in 2012-13. The comparison of estimated bed /treatment space equivalents purchased for Local Health Districts in 2012-13 can be found in the NSW Health Annual Report at: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Publications/annual_report1209_HealthAR_2012_Health_Stats.pdf

*3576 PROSTHETIC LIMB TENDERING PROCESS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the tendering process for the provision of prosthetic limbs in NSW Health:

- (1) Were patients consulted before their access to their current supplier at their current clinic was terminated?
 - (a) If yes, how was patient input sought?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (2) What steps did the Minister's department take to notify affected patients of the changes to their services?
- (3) What criteria were used to establish the successful tenders for these contracts?
- (4) Did the Ministry of Health or the Minister's office consider the broader implications of granting 40% of the available contracts to 1 of only 5 prosthetics providers operating in NSW?

Answer—

(1) to (4) In June 2012 NSW Health released a Notice to Industry advising its intent to issue a request for tender to the prosthetics industry for feedback and comment. In July 2012, a Request for Tender was issued. The purpose of this tender was to establish a state panel of prosthetics providers, and appoint individual companies to provide support to hospital based clinics and interim limbs (a person's first limb).

Tenders were evaluated on both price and quality of service, including pre-operative consultations, warranty periods and adjustment services, and turnaround times for assessments and fittings. Senior Local Health District clinicians played a lead role in the tender evaluation and selection process to determine their preferred supplier of interim (first) limbs from an approved panel of service providers.

To ensure ongoing sustainability of the prosthetic limb market, it was decided that no supplier would be allocated more than 40 per cent of the estimated total volume of business. This ensured that, a competitive and viable market place was maintained across NSW, and to prevent a sole provider model across NSW and metropolitan Sydney.

There are now four companies accessing clinics within metropolitan Sydney, with four companies with clinic access in rural areas.

Under the new contract, consumers can take their prescription to any provider on the panel to provide their replacement limb and to undertake ongoing repairs. The patient's chosen prosthetist may communicate with the amputee clinical team to further clarify the prescription and discuss ongoing prosthetic needs.

The only restriction to this process relates to an individual's initial interim limb. These are provided as part of the inpatient episode of care and must be provided by the attending prosthetist at the relevant hospital's clinic.

Amputee clinics within each LHD were provided with fact sheets outlining any changes for both patients and clinical staff.

*3577 CODE OF PRACTICE FOR COMPUTERISED CHECKOUT SYSTEMS IN SUPERMARKETS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

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- (1) What proportion of businesses using barcode reading technology to price goods are signatories to the Code of Practice for Computerised Checkout Systems in Supermarkets?
- (2) How can consumers know whether a business is a signatory to the Code?
- (3) For those businesses that are not signatories, what incentive exists to motivate a proprietor to rectify an error in their system before another customer is overcharged?
- (4) What awareness raising activities have been undertaken to make consumers aware of their rights under the Code?
- (5) Are signatories to the code given guidance on best practice for making consumers aware of their rights under the Code?
- (6) What processes are in place to attract more businesses to become signatories to the Code?
- (7) (a) What awareness raising or educational materials are provided to stores that are signatories to the Code?
(b) Are any of these materials aimed at store employees to ensure they are informed of consumer rights under the Code?

Answer—

The Code of Practice for Computerised Checkout Systems is a voluntary code administered by the Australian National Retailers Association.

While NSW Fair Trading does not regulate the Code, it is understood that signatories to the Code encourage customer awareness of the Code through the display of signage at store entry points. It is also understood that signatories are expected to ensure staff familiarity with the requirements of the Code.

Under the Australian Consumer Law, products and services must clearly display a 'single price' which is the minimum total cost that is able to be calculated. Failing to sell goods for the lowest displayed price can lead to monetary penalties.

*3578 IPART CALCULATION OF WETLAND RENTS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given the criticism, from the NSW Valuer General and the NSW Auditor General (September 2009), of the IPART calculation of wetlands rents:

- (1) Did the Minister meet with members of the Waterfront Action Group on 29 July 2011 and discuss the inequity of wetland rents on the Parramatta River?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the current wetland rentals in Birchgrove, Balmain, Drummoyne (east of the Gladesville Bridge) are \$42.96 per square metre, while on the northern side of the Parramatta river the wetland rent currently charged to people who generally own much larger properties is only \$17.85 per square metre and the west of Gladesville Bridge people who also generally own larger properties are currently charged \$20.14 per square metre?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that Mr George Citer, Chairman of the Waterfront Action Group, on 22 June 2012 met with Michael Wright and Dennis Buttigieg, senior executive of the Roads and Maritime Service, and discussed combining the three Parramatta river precincts together and charging an average wetland rent to all renters of wetlands on the river, so that the total revenue would remain the same?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that Roads and Maritime Service has no objection to charging an average rent to all its domestic lessees on the Parramatta River?
- (5) Has the Minister considered taking action to address the present inequity in the rents of the wetlands on the Parramatta River and replace it with a fairer system?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) I met with members of the Waterfront Action Group on 29 July 2011 to discuss matters associated with a review of domestic waterfront rents being conducted by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal at that time.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Roads and Maritime Services is bound by the recommendations of the 2011 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal review, which were adopted in full.
- (5) All relevant matters, including submissions received by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal during its 2011 review, were considered in full by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal prior to making its recommendations.

*3579 WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL ORAL SURGEONS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many oral surgeons are there in Wollongong Hospital?
- (2) Are there any plans to increase the number of oral surgeons to Wollongong Hospital?
- (3) What is the time line for such changes?

Answer—

(1) to (3)

Within the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District dental surgery is performed at Shellharbour Hospital. A visiting Paediatric Specialist from Sydney Dental Hospital has a theatre list at Wollongong Hospital once per month for children.

The current arrangements meet the demand for inpatient oral surgery within the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and no changes are planned within the Local Health District's dental service.

*3580 SPEED ZONE CHANGES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Regarding the 37 fewer speed zones announced by the Minister on 22 March 2012:

- (1) How many of these changes have been fully implemented?
- (2) How many have had speed signs changed at these locations?
- (3) At which locations have these changes not yet been implemented?
- (4) When will the changes be implemented at these locations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Forty-six of the 48 recommended speed zone changes, which resulted from the 131 speed zone reviews, have been implemented.
- (2) All of the implemented 46 speed zone changes have had speed limit signage changes.
- (3) Two locations, the M2 Sydney and Cobb Highway from Hay to Deniliquin, have roadworks underway.
- (4) The Cobb Highway speed zone change implementation is expected in April 2013 and the M2 implementation is expected in June 2013.

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*3581 EASTERN CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING POSITION—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What is the current situation with the proposed loss of a teacher's position from the Eastern Creek Public School?
- (2) Will the Minister delay the departure of a teacher for a period of time to allow the enrolment figures for this school to be brought up to date at the end of term one?

Answer—

- (1) In 2013 student enrolment numbers at Eastern Creek Public School entitle the school to 11 classroom teacher positions, the same number of classroom teacher positions as at the beginning of 2012.
- (2) The Department's Staffing Services area will continue to work closely with the Principal and the Regional Director to monitor the school's enrolments. If enrolments increase during the year to a level which provides an additional teacher under the staffing formula, the school's teacher entitlement will be adjusted.

*3582 CESSNOCK HOSPITAL—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to Cessnock Hospital:

- (1) What is the maximum number of wards located at Cessnock Hospital?
- (2) How many wards are currently open?
- (3) What is the maximum number of beds located at Cessnock Hospital?
- (4) How many beds are currently available to be utilised?

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- (5) What was the number of admissions with a minimum of one night's stay in the years:
- 2009-2010;
 - 2010-2011;
 - 2011-2012?

Answer—

I am advised

(1) to (4) There are six wards located at Cessnock Hospital. Five wards are currently open. The day surgery ward has been relocated to the medical unit while an electrical upgrade is underway and a body protection system is installed.

The number of beds and treatment spaces at Cessnock Hospital varies according to the number of presentations and admissions to the Hospital.

(5) Information regarding admissions to Cessnock Hospital is available at the MyHospitals website - www.myhospitals.gov.au.

- *3583 KURRI KURRI HOSPITAL—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to Kurri Kurri Hospital:

- What is the maximum number of wards located at Kurri Kurri Hospital?
- How many wards are currently open?
- What is the maximum number of beds located at Kurri Kurri Hospital?
- How many beds are currently available to be utilised?
- What was the number of admissions with a minimum of one night's stay in the years:
 - 2009-2010;
 - 2010-2011;
 - 2011-2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) Kurri Kurri Hospital has an emergency department, medical/transitional ward, day surgical ward and a rehabilitation unit, all of which are operational.

The number of beds and treatment spaces at Kurri Kurri Hospital varies according to the number of presentations and admissions to the Hospital.

(5) Information regarding admissions to Kurri Kurri Hospital is available at the MyHospitals website - www.myhospitals.gov.au.

- *3585 KURRI KURRI POLICE STATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to Kurri Kurri Police Station:

- What are the current operating hours?
- How many officers currently operate out of Kurri Kurri Police Station?
- What hours is the station manned in a manner that allows members of the community to have face to face contact with officers?

Answer—

I am advised:

Kurri Kurri Police Station provides a 24 hour mobile response. In addition the police station is also covered by officers from Maitland and Cessnock.

Officers are allocated to Local Area Commands. Kurri Kurri police station falls within the Central Hunter Local Area Command. Authorised Strength numbers can be found on the NSW Police Force website at www.police.nsw.gov.au.

Members of the community can contact the Kurri Kurri Police Station by telephone 02 4937 1593 if they wish to make an appointment with a police officer.

*3586 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES FOR CESSNOCK—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regard to Economic Assessment of Mining Affected Communities (February 2013), Figure 4, page 9:

- (1) What expenditure details justify the claim in the graph that Cessnock receives approximately \$19,000 expenditure per head of population?
- (2) On what grounds, conditions and data is this figure calculated?
- (3) Does the calculation method include infrastructure projects such as the Hunter Expressway and if so does it include the NSW and Federal components of expenditure?
- (4) If the calculation method does include the Hunter Expressway, at what value is the NSW contribution included in analysis for the year 2011-12?

Answer—

- (1) The information in the Assessment is derived from NSW Treasury data on actual total capital and recurrent expenditure by the NSW Government in the 2011-12 financial year and Australian Bureau of Statistics population data.
- (2) See answer to question (1).
- (3) All capital expenditure by the NSW Government is included.
- (4) Individual infrastructure projects were not separately identified in the analysis.

*3587 WICKHAM STATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to the decision to terminate the Newcastle Rail Line at Wickham Station:

- (1) Has any modelling been done to present what a future Wickham Station would be like under this new scenario?
- (2) Is this modelling publicly available?
- (3) Will the Wickham station be limited to 3 train lines or will it have 4 train lines?
- (4) Will the Government need to acquire land and property in the vicinity of the proposed new Wickham station to build it?
- (5) Have Railcorp been consulted in the decision and modelling process for the proposed new Wickham Station?
- (6) Given the new Wickham station is being developed as a transport interchange, serviced by frequent buses, will this require additional buses, bus drivers and support staff to service the broader Hunter or will existing resources be redirected?
- (7) How much will building based infrastructure at the proposed new Wickham Station cost?
- (8) How much will support network based infrastructure servicing the proposed new Wickham Station cost?
- (9) How many rail based staff at the current Newcastle and Civic stations will be made redundant as a result of the line termination at Wickham?

Answer—

I am advised:

The detailed project plan will include the infrastructure design for the new station.

*3588 NEWCASTLE RAIL LINE SERVICE TO GUNS AND ROSES CONCERT—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to the additional train services that will be offered on the Newcastle Rail Line for the Guns and Roses concert:

- (1) How many additional services will be offered for rail patrons and customers to travel to this event?
- (2) What will be the points of departure and termination for these services?
- (3) (a) Is this a new initiative?
(b) If not, is there a history of similar services being offered for major events in the Newcastle-Hunter region?
- (4) If this is in keeping with past events also supported by additional rail services:
(a) What were these events?
(b) How did the rail services support customer attendance?

Answer—

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I am advised:

(1) to (4) As you may be aware, the Guns and Roses concert was held on 13 March. The event was originally planned for Hunter Stadium, Broadmeadow and two additional services were committed to operate to support the event – 6:47pm Newcastle to Broadmeadow service and 11:30pm Broadmeadow to Hornsby service. The event was later relocated to Newcastle Entertainment Centre, Newcastle.

Each special event is considered on an individual basis. Predicted event crowds and previous rail ticket sales are considered when determining the need for additional services.

*3589 NEWCASTLE CBD TRAFFIC FLOW—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the traffic flow into the Newcastle CBD from the north west:

- (1) What is the current traffic count for Maitland Road, for peak hour traffic feeding in to Newcastle in the morning and out of Newcastle in the afternoon?
- (2) At what sites have this traffic count data been collected?
- (3) Is there any modelling to predict future increases in traffic flows along Maitland Road?
- (4) Are there any future works, development, improvement or expansion planned for the Maitland Road capacity to feed into or out of the Newcastle CBD?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) A traffic count undertaken for Maitland Road in 2011 indicated the following:

- Morning peak 2563 southbound vehicles.
- Afternoon peak 2735 northbound vehicles.

(2) North of the intersection of Old Maitland Road, Hexham, near Hexham Bowling Club.

(3) Yes.

(4) The Hunter Expressway is expected to reduce traffic on the New England and Pacific Highways between Maitland and Newcastle. In addition, construction of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass between Shortland and Sandgate is underway. On completion, traffic flow on the Pacific Highway in the Sandgate area is forecast to improve.

*3590 SCHOOL AND SPORTING VENUE PARKING RESTRICTIONS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to parking restrictions around schools and sporting venues:

- (1) When will the option be available for drivers to use a "kiss and drop" zone for their passengers as this type of zone works successfully at both railway stations and airports?
- (2) If this option is not to be made available for drivers, what alternate option does Roads and Maritime Services consider suitable to ensure the safety of passengers alighting and the lawful use of any such intended zones?

Answer—

I am advised:

Drop off and pick up (kiss and ride) initiatives operate in 'No Parking' zones at schools across NSW and are established at the instigation of the school community, in consultation with, and following safety assessment by, the local council.

Information on how a school can establish a 'drop off and pick up' initiative can be found on the Roads and Maritime Services website.

Local government can establish parking restrictions, including 'No parking' zones, drop-off initiatives and other schemes, around sporting grounds and venues.

*3591 REDFERN AUTOMATIC NEEDLE DISPENSING MACHINE—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Regarding the Redfern Automatic Needle Dispensing Machine (ADM):

- (1) When was the machine installed?
- (2) When did it start operating?
- (3) (a) Is it an on-going initiative or a trial?
(b) If it is a trial, when is the proposed end date?

- (4) How many kits have been dispensed so far?
- (5) What is the total budgeted cost for the first twelve months of operation, including the purchase and maintenance of the machine?
- (6) What alternative locations have been identified for the ADM?
- (7) How have they been selected and what community consultation has been undertaken?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Installation works for an ADM at Redfern Community Health Centre commenced on 30 January, 2013. The ADM became fully operational on 11 April 2013.

(3) The ADM has not been installed on a trial basis. A Redfern ADM Implementation Working Group has recently been established to oversee the implementation and operations of the ADM, and to monitor and address any issues that may arise. In addition, a Human Services Group was convened on 24 January 2013 to address health and social issues impacting on Redfern, Waterloo and Darlington areas. This is co-chaired by the Local Area Commander and the Chief Executive, Sydney Local Health District and meets monthly. An evaluation of the ADM will be conducted during the first 12 months of operation through the University of Sydney.

(4) One fitpack was dispensed during the testing phase from 19 – 26 February 2013. Fifteen fitpacks have been dispensed from 11 – 16 April 2013.

(5) The ADM cost \$12,000. Equipment will be supplied and stocked through the Needle Syringe Program primary outlet on site at Redfern Community Health Centre.

(6) Several alternative locations were suggested by the community, including the Redfern Police Station, however, alternate locations were not viable based on NSW Ministry of Health guidelines. The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was proposed as an additional location and an ADM has since been installed and is currently operational.

(7) To-date, over 30 consultation meetings have occurred with a wide range of key stakeholders in the Redfern community, including three large public community forums. In addition, the establishment of a Redfern ADM Implementation Working Group has occurred and an Integrated Senior Human Services Group has been reconvened.

Key Government agencies have been extensively involved in the consultation process, with Police taking a role in co-chairing the Integrated Senior Human Services Group.

*3593 PYRMONT AND ULTIMO BUS SERVICES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport—

Noting population increases over a sustained period, the planned removal of the Monorail and the proposed redevelopment of the Convention and Exhibition Centre, all of which will impact on public transport:

- (1) What review of bus services to these precincts has been carried out?
- (2) What assessment has the Government carried out on transport needs following the removal of the Monorail?
- (3) What new bus services does the Government propose to replace the Monorail?
- (4) Will the Government ensure that all bus services replacing the Monorail are fully accessible as is the Monorail?
- (5) What changes will be made to improve access to the 448 bus service and route?
- (6) What other changes will be made to bus services in this precinct?
- (7) What other action does the Government propose to improve active transport for Ultimo and Pyrmont?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (3) to (7) Bus services in Pyrmont and Ultimo are currently being reviewed as part of an annual review of all bus routes in the area.

(2) The Government has considered the numbers of people currently using the Monorail and the types of journeys that are being made, in identifying any transport needs arising from the removal of the Monorail.

*3594 WOOLLOOMOOLOO SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

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Noting the long term provision of social housing in Woolloomooloo under the 1974 Tripartite Agreement, and that the Land and Housing Corporation owns many of the streets, walkways, footpaths and homes:

- (1) What action has been taken to ensure the continued provision of Police, Housing NSW, chemist and GP services in Land and Housing properties?
- (2) What is the current backlog of maintenance and repairs for social housing homes in Woolloomooloo?
- (3) How many Woolloomooloo homes are listed for major programmed works?
- (4) Does the Government provide a handyman to carry out minor repairs and small tasks for Woolloomooloo residents as in other estates?
- (5) When does the Government intend to develop social housing on vacant land at 179 Dowling Street as promised under the Commonwealth Government's stimulus package?
- (6) What options have been considered to allow community use of this site given its delayed redevelopment?
- (7) What action is the Government taking in response to ongoing complaints about street cleansing, bin bays and dumped waste in Woolloomooloo?
- (8) What plans does the Government have to review social housing in Woolloomooloo and when will this occur?
- (9) What plans does the Government have to sell further commercial properties in Woolloomooloo?
- (10) What further action will the Government take to improve social housing in Woolloomooloo?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) no longer owns the properties referred to in the question.
- (2) LAHC has no record of any unactioned works in the Woolloomooloo Estate.
- (3) A property assessment survey is underway in the Estate, and is expected to be completed in 2014. These surveys will inform further planned maintenance programmes for the area.
- (4) Housing NSW has a handyman service for its tenants in the Estate. Tenants access this service through the Housing Contact Centre.
- (5) and (6) 179 Dowling St, Woolloomooloo is not owned by LAHC.
- (7) LAHC works closely with Sydney City Council and its own contractors at the Estate. The LAHC contractors are on site continually to maintain the areas of the Estate within its responsibility, including cleansing and removal of illegally dumped rubbish.

LAHC meets on site with Council officers regularly to discuss potential issues and has recently clarified accountabilities to improve outcomes for the area.

- (8) The Government has no current plans to review social housing in Woolloomooloo.
- (9) There are no current plans for commercial sales in the Woolloomooloo area.
- (10) LAHC is developing a strategy for ongoing management of all of the Government's social housing assets, including the prioritisation of maintenance, renewal, upgrading and replacement of assets across NSW.

*3595 WOOLLOOMOOLOO SAFETY AUDIT—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Noting that the Land and Housing Corporation owns many of the streets, walkways, footpaths and homes in Woolloomooloo:

What action is the Government taking on the recommendations of the 2012 Safety Audit jointly carried out by Housing NSW, Kings Cross Police, City of Sydney, health and welfare service providers and local residents for:

- (1) Upgrading and repairing street lighting;
- (2) Improving safety in Lands and Housing owned laneways;
- (3) Signage for parking and waste dumping;
- (4) Making electricity meters secure and accessible for reading;
- (5) Repairing stormwater and sewage grates and covers;
- (6) Repairing footpaths and walkways, with ongoing maintenance;
- (7) Maintaining trees and other plants on Land and Housing properties;
- (8) Installing sharps disposal bins for multi-unit dwellings and open areas;
- (9) Enforcing parking conditions with bollards, line makings, linking parking spaces to individual tenancies and signage;
- (10) Working with the City of Sydney to improve waste and recycling;

- (11) Promote and educate tenants on recycling; and
(12) Taking action on rapid graffiti removal?

Answer—

The 2012 Woolloomooloo Safety Audit is currently being finalised by City of Sydney Council. Land and Housing Corporation will then review the recommendations to determine what action it is required to undertake at Woolloomooloo Estate.

- *3596 BEDS, NURSES AND DOCTORS INFORMATION—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given your previous assertions in 2008 that patients and the public deserve to have access to up to date information about their hospitals, including how many acute care beds are available at any given time, how many nurses are employed and what level of experience they have, and similar information for emergency doctors:

Where is this up to date information on:

- (1) acute available beds;
- (2) nursing numbers and levels of experience; and
- (3) similar information for emergency doctors currently available?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding available bed data is available in the NSW Health Annual report 2011-12 which can be accessed at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publications/Pages/annualreport12.aspx>.

Workforce data is also available in the NSW Annual Report. Information regarding the experience and qualifications of individual staff working for each Local Health District and Specialty Network is not held centrally.

- *3597 HOUSING NSW TENANT FRAUD UNIT SURPLUS FUNDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Will the Minister invest any surplus funds derived from the recent amnesty by the Housing NSW Tenant Fraud Unit to help address the housing affordability crisis in South-West Sydney?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Services.

- *3598 BANKSTOWN AUBURN COMMUNITY RADIO—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) What action will the Government take to resolve the impasse between Bankstown Auburn Community Radio (BACR) and Bankstown Area Co-op over access to the Padstow premises previously utilised by the Bankstown Area Co-op?
- (2) (a) Given that the license for the Bankstown Area Co-op has expired will the Government intervene to ensure that present license holders BACR are able to use this facility?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Question incorrectly refers to the Bankstown Area Co-op. There is no such co-operative registered in NSW. The Padstow premises referred to are owned by Bankstown City Radio Co-operative Limited.

The Co-operative must comply with section 285 of the Co-operatives Act 1992 in relation to the disposal of its assets. This provision restricts the Co-operative from disposing or leasing of an asset if the disposal would result in the co-operative ceasing to carry on any primary activity without the members approving, by special resolution, the disposal of those assets.

It is therefore up to the Co-operative's members to decide whether any assets of the Co-operative are to be transferred to or utilised by another organisation. NSW Fair Trading does not have the jurisdiction to intervene in this matter.

The Co-operative has advised Fair Trading that the Board intend to arrange a members' meeting to discuss the future of the Co-operative.

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*3599 CHILDREN AND WINDOW SAFETY CONSULTATION PAPER IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will the Government reduce the five year implementation period proposed by the Children and Window Safety consultation paper before window safety devices must be installed?

Answer—

An implementation period of five years has been proposed to allow sufficient time for affected strata buildings to become fully compliant.

Owners corporations will need time to determine whether the new requirements apply to them and to identify which windows require safety devices. It may be necessary for owners corporations to hold general meetings in order that owners can consider and vote on available options. It may also be necessary to raise additional funds to pay for the work required.

Owners corporations will be able to undertake the work as soon as they are ready. They do not need to wait until the end of the five year period. There is also nothing to prevent individual strata residents from using the options already available to install window safety devices in their own units. For example, there is a model strata by-law that enables owners to install child safety devices on the windows in their own unit without needing the approval of the owners corporation. In the case of rental premises, landlords cannot unreasonably refuse to give permission to their tenants for minor modifications such as installing child safety window devices.

The Government's Children and Window Safety Consultation Paper specifically seeks community feedback on the proposed five-year implementation period. All feedback and comments received will be carefully considered in finalising the Government's window safety measures for children.

*3600 RELEASE OF CHILDREN- AND WINDOW SAFETY CONSULTATION PAPER—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Why did it take more than twelve months for the Government to release Children and Window Safety consultation paper?

Answer—

The Children and Window Safety Consultation Paper was released as part of the Government's response to the report of The Children's Hospital at Westmead Working Party into the Prevention of Children Falling from Buildings (the CHW Report). The CHW Report recommended legislative and building design changes as well as an education and awareness campaign. However, the Working Party did not attempt to assess the costs and benefits of any of its proposals.

The Government took office on 28 March 2011, shortly after the release of the CHW report. The Government began examining this important issue along with a large number of other priority reform projects. In the months following the release of the CHW Report, the Government developed a statewide education and awareness campaign. Evidence from around the world has shown that community education can deliver significant and positive child safety outcomes.

In November 2011, the campaign, called Think Child Safe: Windows and Balconies, was launched. NSW Fair Trading sent 40,000 copies of the Think Child Safe brochure to real estate agents, strata managers and community housing providers. Fair Trading presently sends child safety flyers to all new tenants with their rental bond receipts. This equates to some 430,000 flyers over an 18 month period. Fair Trading is also developing an instructional video which will show owners and tenants how to easily and cheaply make their windows safe for young children. The video will soon be available, free of charge, on the Fair Trading website.

The Government will be implementing further child safety education campaigns aimed at families with young children. The campaigns will reach key service providers such as childcare centres, pre-schools and family health clinics.

Both before and since the launch of the education and awareness campaign, the Government was closely examining and assessing the costs and benefits of the CHW Report's proposals for legislative and building design changes. At the same time, we were mindful that window safety design was also being considered by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) in relation to the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The Government had no intention of allowing the situation to arise where the building industry was given two new and different sets of window safety requirements.

The ABCB undertook public consultation on proposed amendments to the BCA, which included new window safety measures. The BCA 2013 comes into effect in May 2013 and will require window safety devices on all bedroom windows above ground level in new residential premises.

The Government's proposed measures as outlined in the Children and Window Safety Consultation Paper are fully consistent with the BCA 2013.

Before any changes to strata and tenancy laws are implemented, the Government will be publicly consulting on the proposals. We are keen to receive feedback from industry and the broader community on the implementation of the changes.

*3601 WINDOW SAFETY DEVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Given that the Australian Building Code Changes will be introduced from May 2013:

Why will families living in apartments have to wait up to five years for mandatory safety devices to be installed on their windows?

Answer—

Families living in apartments will not have to wait five years for safety devices to be installed on their windows.

Strata residents already have options for taking immediate action to improve child safety in their homes. For example, there is a model strata by-law that enables owners to install child safety devices on the windows of their own units. The by-law states that an owner, or anyone authorised by an owner, is not prevented from installing any structure or device that would prevent harm to children.

If the strata residents are tenants, they can seek permission from their landlord to make minor modifications to install window safety devices. Landlords cannot unreasonably refuse to give permission for minor modifications to premises.

The Government has proposed a five-year implementation period to ensure that all affected strata schemes have enough time to become fully compliant and to ensure that problems like those associated with Labor's rushed Pink Batts scheme do not occur. However, it is important to note that many strata residents can already take action to improve child safety in their homes.

*3602 AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS AND SERVICING COMPLAINTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Given that the category Automotive - Repairs and Servicing has been ranked in the top ten consumer complaints for the past three years:

What advice have you received from NSW Fair Trading about the need to reform the motor vehicle repair industry?

Answer—

The Motor Dealers Act 1974 and Motor Vehicle Repairs Act 1980 are currently the subject of a comprehensive legislative review, to which the Member for Bankstown made a submission. The review is currently being finalised.

*3603 IMPACT OF INSURANCE PRACTICES ON PANEL BEATERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will NSW Fair Trading investigate claims that panel beaters in NSW are being adversely impacted by the anti-competition practices of major insurance companies?

Answer—

The Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Council, which provides advice on issues relevant to the motor trade, has recently been directed to examine the relationship between motor vehicle repairers and insurers.

Matters relating to anti-competitive practices should be referred to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The Commission is responsible for administering the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, which aims to prevent anti-competitive behaviour and conduct by businesses.

*3604 INSURANCE CLAIM DIRECTIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will NSW Fair Trading investigate claims that major insurers are directing claims to panel beaters who are wholly or partly owned by the insurer?

Answer—

The Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Council, which provides advice on issues relevant to the motor trade, has recently been directed to examine the relationship between motor vehicle repairers and insurers.

NSW Fair Trading will examine any complaints made or evidence presented to the agency regarding breaches of the Motor Vehicle Repairs Act 1980 or the Fair Trading Act 1987.

Concerns relating to anti-competitive practices should be directed to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. The Commission is responsible for administering the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, which aims to prevent anti-competitive behaviour and conduct by businesses.

*3605 INSURANCE PAYMENT DELAYS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will NSW Fair Trading investigate claims that major insurers are delaying payment of insurance and refusing lifetime warranties to customers who remain with their local panel-beater rather than using insurer preferred panel-beaters?

Answer—

The Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Council, which provides advice on issues relevant to the motor trade, has recently been directed to examine the relationship between motor vehicle repairers and insurers.

NSW Fair Trading will examine any complaints made or evidence presented to the agency regarding breaches of the Motor Vehicle Repairs Act 1980 or the Fair Trading Act 1987.

*3606 WYEE SEWERAGE SERVICES—Mr Greg Piper asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does the Priority Sewerage Scheme still operate outside of the Sydney metropolitan region?
- (2) Where does the township of Wyee sit on the state's priority list for sewerage services?
- (3) When are homes in the original township of Wyee currently serviced by pump-out systems likely to receive sewerage services?
- (4) Will the Minister commit funds to the sewerage of the Wyee township in the 2013-2014 State Budget?

Answer—

- (1) Areas outside of Sydney Water and Hunter Water's area of operations fall within the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program. This program falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister for Small Business.
- (2) Hunter Water has applied for funding to provide sewerage services to the Wyee Township via the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF).
- (3) See answer to question (2) above. Hunter Water is awaiting an outcome of this application.
- (4) See answer to question (3) above.

*3609 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

- (1) Why is Lake Macquarie, the biggest mining area in the Lower Hunter, accorded a Tier 4 rating the lowest category for LGAs affected by mining in the Government's 2013 Economic Assessment of Mining Affected Communities, despite having five operating coal mines, a coal preparation plant, fallout from two coal-fired power plants and bearing the impact of coal haulage by road and rail?
- (2) Why was it decided to use royalty revenue from mining as the basis for categorising the degree to which a community is mining-affected?
- (3) Why is this measure considered a fair and accurate assessment of the impact of mining in a community?
- (4) How does the Minister explain a mining-intense LGA such as Lake Macquarie receiving such a low rating?
- (5) Why weren't factors other than royalty revenue including the number of mines, the impact of coal haulage and the potential impact of future mining activity taken into account in the categorisation of Lake Macquarie when these factors were considered in the categorisation of Newcastle, a community indirectly affected by mining?
- (6) Is the community of Lake Macquarie ever likely to receive any funding under the Resources for Regions program?

Answer—

- (1) As clearly explained in the Assessment report, the ranking of mining affected communities was done on the basis of mining royalties per capita.
- (2) This is consistent with the approach in the 2011 Assessment and is explained in both the 2011 and 2012 Assessment reports.
- (3) See answer to question (2).
- (4) See answer to question (1).
- (5) 'Indirectly mining affected' and 'mining affected' communities were defined by different criteria. Lake Macquarie was dealt with in the same way as all other communities in a manner consistent with the approach adopted in the 2011 Assessment.
- (6) Lake Macquarie and all other LGAs will be considered in future assessments.

*3610 EDUCATION AND TRAINING INFORMATION SERVICE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What is the role of the Education and Training Information Service?
- (2) As at 1 March 2012 how many staff were employed in the Education and Training Information Service?
- (3) As at 1 March 2013 how many staff were employed in the Education and Training Information service?

Answer—

- (1) The Education and Training Information Service was the library and information service for staff of the Department of Education and Communities. It provided literature searches, inter-library loans, subscriptions, alerts to staff regarding educational news, and historical information on schools and aspects of public education in NSW through the "Government Schools of NSW from 1848" website.
- (2) Six.
- (3) Six.

*3611 PARTNERSHIP OFFICERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) As at 1 March 2012 how many partnership officers were employed by the Department of Education and Communities?
- (2) As at 1 March 2013 how many partnership officers were employed by the Department of Education and Communities?
- (3) What impact will the regional alignment have on partnership officers?

Answer—

- (1) 12.8.
- (2) 10.7.
- (3) In 2014, funding for Partnership Officers, will be incorporated into transitional equity funding as a component of the staged implementation of the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM). These funds will be distributed directly to schools via a formula that takes into account the needs of schools, including the diversity of the student population.

*3612 FULL TIME TEACHER EMPLOYMENT—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

As at March 2013 expressed as a full time equivalent:

- (1) How many primary school teachers are employed by NSW Education and Communities in schools in NSW?
- (2) How many secondary school teachers are employed by NSW Education and Communities in schools in NSW?

Answer—

As at June 2012, there were:

- (1) 33,431 full time equivalent (FTE) permanent, temporary and casual primary teachers employed in NSW government schools.
- (2) 28,233 full time equivalent (FTE) permanent, temporary and casual secondary teachers employed in NSW government schools.

The 2013 workforce profile data collected on a census date in March will be finalised in May 2013.

*3613 GLENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CATCHMENT BOUNDARY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

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- (1) Is it proposed to change the catchment boundary for Glenwood High School as a result of the development of the Ponds High School?
- (2) Will parents of Glenwood High School and the community be consulted about any proposed boundary changes for Glenwood High School?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A consultation process with local primary and secondary principals, including with the Principal of Glenwood High School, has already commenced.

*3614 HOME SCHOOL AND ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) As at 1 March 2013 how many Home School Liaison Officers and Aboriginal School Liaison Officers are employed by the Department of Education and Communities?
- (2) Where are the Home School Liaison Officers and Aboriginal School Liaison Officers located?
- (3) How many schools is each Liaison Officer responsible for?
- (4) What impact will the Regional realignment have on Home School Liaison Officers and Aboriginal School Liaison Officers?

Answer—

- (1) 110.
- (2) Home School Liaison Officers and Aboriginal Student Liaison Officers are allocated across New South Wales based on need. The need is determined by factors such as geographical location, attendance data and the enrolment of Aboriginal students. The allocation of Aboriginal Student Liaison Officers is made in consultation with the State Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.
- (3) The number of schools each Liaison Officer is responsible for varies as officers support schools and their students according to local needs and priorities.
- (4) The number of Home School Liaison and Aboriginal Student Liaison Officer positions will not be impacted by the implementation of the new model of support to schools.

*3615 SETTLEMENT SERVICES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Will there be any additional funding to Settlement Services across New South Wales given some services cover up to eight Local Government Areas servicing over 800 000 migrants?

Answer—

The NSW Government provides a range of services which are also available to new settlers in NSW, however funding for Settlement Services is primarily a Commonwealth responsibility.

*3616 COMMUNITY BUILDERS PROGRAM—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Why was there a 76% decrease in funding allocations to the Community Builders Program between 2010-11 and 2011-12?

Answer—

The 2012 Community Builders Fixed Term round focused on funding high quality projects that will have the greatest benefit for vulnerable children, young people, families and communities. Fewer projects were funded in the latest round, compared with previous rounds, because a very high proportion (64 per cent) of applications did not meet the advertised eligibility criteria or did not successfully meet the assessment criteria.

The Community Builders Fixed Term program funds projects on a fixed term basis of between one and three years, as it did under the previous state Labor Government. Applicants identify the appropriate term for their project within the program guidelines.

*3617 COMMUNITY BUILDERS FIXED TERM PROGRAM—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What will happen to the rest of the allocations to the Community Builders Fixed Term Program?

Answer—

The NSW Government is working better and smarter to improve services and lives. To that end taxpayers' money under this Government will increasingly fund improved innovative services for

disadvantaged communities, to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people, and their families.

*3618 COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE SCHEME—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is the Government considering reforming the Compulsory Third Party Insurance scheme?
- (2) With regards to the current Compulsory Third Party Insurance scheme can the Minister confirm that a report has been prepared by Ernst & Young Chartered Accountants, to cost the no-fault scheme sought to be proposed?
- (3) If so, when will the Minister make the report available?

Answer—

The Government announced proposed reforms to the Compulsory Third Party Insurance Scheme, in conjunction with the release of its policy paper Reforms to the NSW Compulsory Third Party Green Slip Insurance Scheme, on 17 February 2013.

The Motor Accidents Authority is currently engaged in a consultation process with a variety of stakeholder groups in relation to the proposed reforms. The Government will release further details and relevant documents at the appropriate time.

*3619 NSW HEALTH VISA HOLDERS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How much funding has the Government put aside in the 2012-2013 budget for the training of local doctors, nurses and health practitioners?
- (2) How many 457 visa holders currently hold positions in the NSW Health?
- (3) Is there an intake limit as to the number of 457 visa holders that NSW Health recruit to fill vacant positions?
- (4) How do NSW Health work contracts for 457 visa holders differ from NSW work contracts for Australian residents employed by NSW Health?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) NSW Health 2012-13 key budget facts, which includes details in relation to investment for the education and training of its current and future workforce, are available on the NSW Health website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/about/budget/pages/default.aspx>.

NSW Health's recruitment policy states that employer sponsored visa programs, such as subclass 457 visas, aim to fill shortages that cannot be filled from the local labour market. Currently there are over 2,500 staff employed across the NSW health system on 457 visas. These numbers vary as recruitment needs change.

NSW Health's recruitment policy states that a person who is not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident is only eligible for temporary employment for a period not longer than the duration of their current visa. It is a condition of being a sponsor for a 457 visa that the sponsor must show that they are providing no less favourable conditions of employment to the nominee than they are providing or would provide to an Australian performing equivalent work in the sponsor's workplace. This obligation applies up to a certain exemption level which is currently \$180,000AUD.

*3620 FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE UPGRADE COMMENCEMENT—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

When will work commence on the upgrade of the Fairfield Interchange?

Answer—

I am advised:

Work already commenced on the Fairfield Transport Interchange upgrade project in late February 2013.

*3621 FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE UPGRADE SCOPE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

What is the scope of works for the Fairfield Interchange upgrade?

Answer—

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I am advised:

This information is available on the Transport for NSW website.

*3622 IMPACT OF FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE UPGRADE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

How will the Fairfield Interchange upgrade impact on local businesses?

Answer—

I am advised:

When completed, the Fairfield Transport Interchange will make it easier for commuters to access local businesses and other areas of the Fairfield CBD via train.

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*3623 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL CORONARY DISEASE FIGURES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many persons have presented to the Mount Druitt Hospital with symptoms of coronary disease in the year ending 28 February 2013?
- (2) How do these figures compare with each of the three previous years?

Answer—

(1) and (2)

I refer the Member to my response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice LA3646.

*3624 CITY OF CANTERBURY HOUSING—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Does the Minister have plans to make available more affordable housing in the City of Canterbury?
- (2) (a) If so, when?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

Yes. It is anticipated that around 100 new National Rental Affordability Scheme dwellings will be delivered in the Canterbury local government area over the next several years.

*3625 WESTERN SYDNEY OUTFALL PIPES—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) Does Sydney Water have any plans to make Western Sydney Outfall pipes inaccessible as they cross the Cooks River?
- (2) Is Sydney Water aware of the practice of young men using the exposed pipes as a bridge?

Answer—

This Question on Notice should be directed to the Hon Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra.

*3626 OPAL TICKETING SYSTEM—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Transport—

Under the proposed OPAL ticketing system on public transport:

- (1) If a commuter travels off peak on their forward journey, how will the OPAL system determine the price on the return trip later in the day?
- (2) Are there any plans to introduce a cheaper CityRail day ticket, to only cover the Sydney metropolitan area?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Opal card is being progressively introduced and started with a Customer Trial on the Neutral Bay ferry service from 7 December 2012. On 8 April 2013, the Customer Trial on ferries was extended to the Manly ferry service.

The Opal card provides the following fare incentives:

- a weekly reward providing free travel after eight paid journeys in a week;
- a \$2.50 daily cap on Sunday; and
- a daily travel cap of \$15.00 from Monday to Saturday.

Details on fares for the Opal Card, including those on rail, will be released as the rollout progresses.

*3627 FIRE STATIONS IN LAKEMBA ELECTORATE—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

In relation to fire stations in the Lakemba electorate:

- (1) How many incidents have Riverwood Fire Station crews responded to during the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013?
- (2) How many incidents have Lakemba Fire Station crews responded to during the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013?
- (3) What was the total staffing number at Riverwood Fire Station as at 1 January 2012?
- (4) What was the total staffing number at Lakemba Fire Station as at 1 January 2012?
- (5) What is the current staffing at both Riverwood and Lakemba Fire Stations?
- (6) How many times since 1 July 2012 has Riverwood Fire Station been closed due to rostered staff not being replaced?
- (7) How many times since 1 July 2012 has Lakemba Fire Station been closed due to rostered staff not being replaced?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW has advised:

- (1) 708.
- (2) 1,457.
- (3) 21.
- (4) 24.
- (5) 21 at Riverwood Fire Station and 24 at Lakemba Fire Station.
- (6) Riverwood Fire Station has not been closed. It was temporarily taken off line on five occasions for approximately two hours and thirty minutes on each occasion. During these times, a 'back fill' fire engine and fire crew were in transit to and from Riverwood. The area was protected during these short periods by other fire crews located at Revesby, Lakemba and Hurstville.
- (7) Lakemba Fire Station has not been closed. It was temporarily taken off line on three occasions for approximately two hours and thirty minutes on each occasion while a 'back fill' fire engine and crew were in transit to and from Lakemba. The area was protected during these short periods by other fire crews located at Campsie, Bankstown and Riverwood.

Nevertheless, these arrangements have minimal impact on the response times or fire services to the community and are no different to arrangements that have been standard practice for over 100 years.

*3628 CARDIFF RAIL CAR PARK UPGRADE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the Government be upgrading the Cardiff Rail car park in association with the installation of lifts?
- (2) If so, how many car parks will be installed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I was pleased to open the new lifts as part of the Cardiff Station major upgrade with the Premier and the Member for Charlestown on 8 April 2013. The upgrade to Cardiff Station represents a significant investment in transport infrastructure in the Hunter by this Government, and will help make public transport more accessible for the community.

The Member for Charlestown has also raised the matter of additional commuter car parking at Cardiff Station, and it will be considered under the Transport Access Program.

*3629 CARDIFF RAILWAY STATION COMMUTERS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Is the number of commuters using the Cardiff rail network increasing?
- (2) If so, what are the latest figures for commuters using the Cardiff railway station in comparison to the same periods over the past three years?

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Answer—

This information is available from the Bureau of Transport Statistics.

*3630 NEWCASTLE DISABLED ACCESS BUSES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

In view of the decision to cut the Newcastle rail line at Wickham:

- (1) What is the Government doing to provide additional disabled access buses for the Newcastle CBD?
- (2) How many disabled access buses are currently in use by Newcastle Buses?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) State Transit conforms to the requirements of New South Wales and Commonwealth disability legislation.

In 2012-13, the Government is funding the purchase of 37 new buses for Newcastle Buses, to replace aged buses.

All new route buses purchased by bus operators are required to be air-conditioned and have a low floor, stepless entry to allow easy access by the elderly, disabled and passengers in wheelchairs.

*3631 MEDOWIE SCHOOL STUDENT BUS TRAVEL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many school students in the Medowie region travel by bus to school?
- (2) Which schools do they attend?
- (3) How many attend each school?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) 725 students who reside in the Medowie region are eligible for free transport under the School Student Transport Scheme and are conveyed to various schools by bus.

*3632 SCHOOL LAPTOP FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Will the Government be continuing the funding for laptops in schools?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I refer the member to my answer in her previous question LA QON 3543.

*3633 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL CAR PARKING REVENUE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How much revenue was raised by car parking at the John Hunter Hospital from January to December 2012?
- (2) To which projects was this revenue allocated?
- (3) How much was allocated to each project?

Answer—

(1) to (3)

Revenue received from car parking at John Hunter Hospital pays for the operating costs of the car parks, repairs and maintenance of parking equipment, the surrounding road networks and additional parking facilities across all Hunter New England Local Health District sites, such as the new car park at Maitland Hospital.

The District has procedures in place to assist visitors who cannot afford the parking fee. Social workers are available to provide parking assistance in hardship cases, and weekly passes are available at the John Hunter Hospital to reduce the cost of parking for visitors required to frequently return to the Hospital.

*3634 WALLSEND HOME INVASIONS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

How many home invasions were recorded in the Wallsend electorate in:

- (1) 2009;
- (2) 2010;

- (3) 2011; and
(4) 2012?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics and can provide these for a range of offences.

*3635 HUNTER POLICE STATION STAFFING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Which electorates in the Hunter have police stations that are not staffed twenty four hours per day?
(2) Why are they not staffed twenty four hours per day?
(3) What are the names of the stations?

Answer—

I am advised:

Local Area Commands provide a 24 hour mobile policing response to all those areas within the boundary of each Command.

Local Area Commands are responsible for ensuring that there are always an adequate number of police officers rostered on duty to match expected demand. The appropriate allocation and tasking of policing resources within a Command is achieved, on a daily basis, using the intelligence-based identification of crime trends and "hot spots".

In terms of the allocation of police resources across these areas, a range of factors are considered to determine police strength, such as crime figures, categories of crime, population and demographics, and these are reviewed as changes occur to ensure policing meets demand.

*3636 POLICE TRANSPORT COMMAND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

How many Police Transport Command now work permanently patrolling the Hunter's trains?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Police Transport Command officers do not permanently patrol the Hunter's trains alone, they also patrol public buses and the Stockton Ferry. The Police Transport Command deploys resources on an intelligence basis, based on identified risk and emerging trends. The Command conducts operations in both command and satellite hubs. The visible presence of police on our public transport networks is an effective deterrent against crime and provides reassurance to public transport customers.

As at 1 February 2013 the authorised strength of the Police Transport Command was 351 sworn officers plus 14 unsworn staff. This aligns with the Government's commitment to increase authorised strength to a target of 610 officers by December 2014.

*3637 LETTER FROM KAYE REID—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does the Minister propose to reply to the letter/email received from Kaye Reid dated 28 February 2013 concerning the will of her father Albert Allen who passed away on 1 October 2010 in Casino Hospital?
(2) If not, why not?
(3) If so, what will be the Minister's response?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Attorney General and Justice sent a response to Ms Reid on 5 April 2013.
(2) NA.
(3) The reply noted the appropriate authorities and sources of advice that may be able to address Ms Reid's concerns.

*3638 EMAIL FROM ERNEST NAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Will the Minister respond to the email from Ernest Nam dated 22 February 2013 concerning his visit to see his son at Wellington Correctional Centre?

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- (2) If not, why not?
(3) If so, what will be the Minister's reply?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW responded, on behalf of the Minister, by way of letter to Ernest Nam dated 11 March 2013. The letter responded to the concerns raised in the email.

*3639 STATEWIDE COMMUNITY AND COURT LIAISON SERVICE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) At which local courts do the Statewide Community and Court Liaison Service operate?
(2) What is the cost of the program at these locations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Statewide Community Court Liaison Service operates at 20 local courts. These locations are listed below:

- Blacktown
- Burwood
- Campbelltown
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gosford
- Kempsey
- Lismore
- Liverpool
- Manly
- Nowra
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Macquarie
- Sydney Central
- Sutherland
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wollongong
- Wyong

Currently the Liverpool Courthouse is under renovations and the service is not available. The Liverpool Courthouse reopens on 22 April 2013.

- (2) Funding for the program is controlled by NSW Health. As such, any questions relating to the cost of this program should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP and Minister for Health.

*3640 CREDIT PROGRAM IN LOCAL COURTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) At which local courts does the CREDIT program currently operate?
(2) What is the cost of the program at these locations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Court Referral of Eligible Defendants into Treatment (CREDIT) program currently operates at Burwood, Tamworth and Quirindi Local Courts.
(2) The total cost of the CREDIT program in 2012-2013 is \$591,425.

*3641 MERIT PROGRAM AT LOCAL COURTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) At which local courts does the MERIT program operate?
(2) What is the cost of the program at these locations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program operates at 65 local courts across NSW. These locations are listed below:

Albion Park	Coffs Harbour	Kogarah	Newtown	Singleton
Ballina	Cooma	Kyogle	North Sydney	Sutherland
Bankstown	Downing Centre	Lismore	Nowra	Tamworth
Bathurst	Dubbo	Liverpool	Oberon	Toronto
Blacktown	Fairfield	Maclean	Orange	Tweed Heads
Blayney	Forbes	Maitland	Parkes	Wagga Wagga
Broken Hill	Gosford	Manly	Parramatta	Wauchope
Burwood	Grafton	Milton	Penrith	Waverley
Byron Bay	Hornsby	Mt Druitt	Port Kembla	Wellington
Camden	Junee	Mullumbimby	Port Macquarie	Wilcannia
Campbelltown	Katoomba	Murwillumbah	Queanbeyan	Wollongong
Casino	Kempsey	Muswellbrook	Raymond Terrace	Woy Woy
Cessnock	Kiama	Newcastle	Ryde	Wyong

(2) Funding for the MERIT program is provided from the Commonwealth Government to the NSW Minister for Health. Therefore, questions relating to the full budget for the program should be directed to my colleague, the Hon Jillian Skinner, MP, Minister for Health.

- *3642 JUVENILE JUSTICE DETAINEES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

As at 1 March 2013 how many young people were detained in each of the juvenile justice centres in the state?

Answer—

Table: Number of Young People in Custody by Juvenile Justice Centre on 1 March 2013

Juvenile Justice Centre	Number of Young People
Acmena	40
Baxter	92
Cobham	36
Emu Plains	35
Juniperina	25
Orana	21
Reiby	36
Riverina	24
Total	309

Source: DAG/IJ SIS. 23 Mar 13

1. Includes remand and control.

- *3643 JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE ADMISSIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

From 1 January 2013 to 1 March 2013 how many young people were admitted to juvenile justice centres in the state?

Answer—

Table: Number of Custody Admissions by Juvenile Justice Centre From 1 Jan 13 to 1 Mar 2013

Juvenile Justice Centre	Number of Admissions
Acmena	54
Baxter	91
Broken Hill Shelter	7
Cobham	275
Juniperina	73
Orana	59

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Reiby	76
Riverina	51
Total	686

Source: DAG/IJ SIS. 23 Mar 13

1. Includes remand and control.

*3644 TASER WEAPONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

What is the Government's response to the recommendations of the Report of the Ombudsman under Section 31 of the Ombudsman Act entitled "How are Taser weapons used by the NSW Police Force"?

Answer—

The Ombudsman found that the NSW Police Force should be commended for the steps they have taken to ensure that Tasers are used appropriately.

A number of recommendations were made that aim to strengthen and improve Police policies, procedures and practices and to ensure public confidence in the use of Tasers is maintained.

The NSW Police Force only declined to support two of the 46 recommendations made by the Ombudsman, which related to changes in policy that are not warranted on the evidence available or would contravene the NSWPF responsibilities under Work Health & Safety Legislation.

The NSW Police Force has provided the Ombudsman with a comprehensive implementation schedule.

*3645 LIVERPOOL GAS CYLINDERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

What was the result of Workcover's consultation with, working with and liaising with Liverpool Council, Fire and Rescue NSW and relevant agencies in relation to the location of gas cylinders at the BP Service Station, Hoxton Park Road, Liverpool?

Answer—

WorkCover has been working with Liverpool Council, Fire and Rescue NSW, the gas supplier and the business on site to develop a proposal for an appropriate installation. This requires the construction of a fire-rated wall between the two adjacent properties. I understand this work requires Council building approval, application for which is the responsibility of the owner.

There are four decanting Liquid Petroleum Gas cylinders currently installed at the Liverpool site.

WorkCover issued an Improvement Notice, with an expiry date of 10 June 2013, requiring construction of a fire-rated wall prior to the installation of any further cylinders. The supplier will not supply further cylinders until the fire-rated wall is constructed. No breach is currently occurring.

WorkCover continues to monitor the situation and regularly inspects the site.

*3646 MOUNT DRUITT CARDIAC UNIT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the closure of Mount Druitt hospital's cardiac unit:

- (1) How many beds have been shut?
- (2) On which wards have these beds been shut?
- (3) On which date were these beds shut?
- (4) How many of the nursing staff employed to care for patients in those beds will transfer to Blacktown?
- (5) How many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) nursing staff will stay to work in non-cardiac areas of Mt Druitt?
- (6) How many FTE staff will be reduced in non-nursing areas?

Answer—

(1) to (6) The Blacktown Mt Druitt community is receiving enhanced cardiology services, as cardiology presentations have increased over recent years.

The \$324 million expansion of the Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospital will bring 170 new beds for the community of Western Sydney, including 49 new cardiology beds, an increase from 29, under a consolidated cardiology service.

The Blacktown Mt Druitt Hospital Cardiac Care Centre will be located in a purpose-built new building that will include a Coronary Care Unit (CCU), a Cardiology Inpatient Unit, a Clinical Measurement Unit, and a Cardiac Gym for patients requiring rehabilitation following a cardiac illness through a structured and supervised exercise program, and more. There has been wide consultation with staff as part of the development of these new buildings and consultation will continue.

*3647 **CARDIAC BEDS RELOCATION**—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the closure and relocation of cardiac beds from Mt Druitt to Blacktown Hospital:

- (1) What number of beds did this unit contain before the closure of Mt Druitt's cardiac ward?
- (2) On which ward?
- (3) How many new beds have been opened at Blacktown as a result of this move?
- (4) On what date were they opened?
- (5) On which ward?
- (6) Are any of these beds specifically designated for "patients transferred from Mt Druitt"?
- (7) What transport options have been provided to family members of patients from the Mt Druitt area who will now need to travel to Blacktown?

Answer—

(1) to (7) I refer the Member to my response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice LA3646.

*3648 **CLINICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN SYDNEY**—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) When was the Clinical Council of Western Sydney local health district first made aware of plans to close all beds in Mount Druitt's cardiac unit?
- (2) Was the full council formally briefed at a Clinical Council meeting?
- (3) On what date?
- (4) On what date did the Clinical Council approve the closure and relocation?

Answer—

(1) to (4) The consolidation of cardiology beds at Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital was discussed at the Hospital's Clinical Council since November 2012 as part of the \$324 million expansion of the Hospital. Consultation with stakeholders is ongoing.

*3649 **ILLAWARRA MEDICAL RETRIEVAL HELICOPTER**—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In relation to the 24 hour medical retrieval helicopter service in the Illawarra:

- (1) Has the Minister received detailed briefings about a proposal to relocate this helicopter to Sydney?
- (2) If so, can the Minister outline what these briefings say about the Illawarra service?
- (3) When will the Minister be making a decision about the location of the service in the Illawarra?
- (4) When will the community be informed of this decision?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The Ernst & Young report recommends that the Government further investigate the option of moving the Wollongong helicopter service and crew to the planned new Sydney helicopter base.

The Government's response will be informed by stakeholder and community feedback which has recently been undertaken.

*3650 **MOUNT KEIRA ROAD CLOSURE**—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the closure of Mount Keira Road?
- (2) Will opening this road on a permanent basis require funding of about \$1 million?
- (3) Will the Government contribute to this important road link?
- (4) If so, how much funding will the Government allocate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Mount Keira Road is a Local Road under the care and control of Wollongong City Council.

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*3651 GONG SHUTTLE PATRONAGE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of people not able to get on board the Gong Shuttle due to overcrowding?
- (2) Since it commenced, what has been the percentage increase in patronage that has taken place?
- (3) What is the Government doing to fix the overcrowding issue?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) During peak periods, some buses have reached their legal passenger capacity and passengers have been requested to wait for the next service. The service operates on 10 and 20 minute frequencies.

*3652 PAYROLL TAX REBATES IN SHELLHARBOUR ELECTORATE—Ms Anna Watson asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many businesses in the Shellharbour electorate are eligible for the payroll tax rebates under the Government's Jobs Action Plan?
- (2) How many businesses in the Shellharbour electorate actually received the payroll tax rebate under the Jobs Action Plan?

Answer—

- (1) All businesses liable for payroll tax in NSW may be eligible for the Jobs Action Plan rebate. There are 318 businesses with addresses registered for payroll tax in the Shellharbour electorate.
- (2) As at 25 March 2013, four businesses with registered addresses in the Shellharbour electorate have received the rebate.

*3653 SERVICE NSW ONE STOP SHOPS—Ms Anna Watson asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does the Government plan to roll out the Service NSW one stop shops in the Shellharbour electorate?
- (2) If not, what criteria does the Government use on which to base its decision to establish these one stop shops?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government created Service NSW to deliver better government services, in ways that suit our customers. This includes one easy-to-use website with live chat and better functionality, a 24/7 phone info line. Later this year 18 service centres will be opening around the State including centres in the Illawarra.
- (2) I am advised Service NSW evaluates service centre locations against a strict set of criteria including population catchment (including estimated population growth); geographic spread; availability of suitable sites; and maximising overall access for communities across the State.

*3655 ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Why is the Albion Park Rail Bypass study announced in June 2012 taking so long to complete?
- (2) What is the process for completing this study?
- (3) Has the process started?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Roads and Maritime Services are currently in the process of reviewing the corridor included in Wollongong and Shellharbour Councils Local Environmental Plans for the future alignment of Princes Highway between Yallah and Oak Flats.
- (2) The study involves reviewing the corridor to ensure that it meets current road design standards, updating the traffic modelling and investigating other potential constraints to the corridor being used for the future route.
- (3) The results of this study are expected to be finalised mid 2013.

*3656 ALBION PARK STATION UPGRADES—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Have the upgrades to Albion Park station been completed?
- (2) What specific works were completed?
- (3) On what date were works completed?

- (4) If not, what is the delay in completing works?
- (5) What was the estimated cost of the works at the time of the Minister's announcement of the works proceeding?
- (6) What is the final cost of the works at the date of completion?

Answer—

(1) to (6) Major construction on the upgrade at Albion Park station has been completed.

The project improves accessibility for customers, and is part of the \$770 million Transport Access Program, which also includes provision for a new station at Shell Cove, upgrades Dapto and Gerringong stations, as well as commuter car parks at Oak Flats and Kiama.

These improvements demonstrate a commitment by the NSW Government to improving access to transport service for the people of the Illawarra.

*3657 SHELLHARBOUR CITY SHUTTLE BUS—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has the Government received representations from any organisation or individual supporting the establishment of a shuttle bus service in Shellharbour City since March 2011?
- (2) What is the annual cost of operating the free shuttle bus in Wollongong?
- (3) How many shuttle buses operate in the fleet?
- (4) How many designated routes are there in the free shuttle bus service in Wollongong?
- (5) What is the annual patronage of the free shuttle bus in Wollongong?
- (6) Which private bus operator is contracted to provide the shuttle bus service in Wollongong?
- (7) Does a free shuttle bus service operate in other parts of NSW?
- (8) If so, what is their location and annual cost of operation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (8) The Government has no plans to introduce additional free shuttle buses at any location in NSW.

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(Paper No. 143)

*3658 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL CORONARY HEART UNIT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Has the number of persons affected by coronary heart conditions presenting at the Mount Druitt Hospital reduced in recent months?
- (2) If so, what are the numbers of people presenting that substantiate a reduction in presentations?
- (3) If the number of persons so affected has not dropped, why has the Government closed the Coronary Care Unit at the Mount Druitt Hospital?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I refer the Member to my response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice LA3646.

*3659 DIGNAMS CREEK PRINCES HIGHWAY—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In relation to the planned upgrades to the Princes Highway at Dignams Creek:

- (1) Have noise studies been carried out?
- (2) If not, why?
- (3) Have any impacts to local heritage significance been identified?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) A noise and vibration impact assessment is being prepared and will be made available to the public when the project Review of Environmental Factors is displayed for community comment in mid-2013.

Specialist reports that are being prepared to supplement the Review of Environmental Factors including noise and vibration impact assessment, biodiversity, hydrological, water quality, geotechnical, heritage,

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and urban design, landscape character and visual impact assessment will also be placed on public display with the Review of Environmental Factors for community comment.

*3660 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS REVIEW—Mr Ryan Park asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

In relation to the review into daylight savings announced in September 2011:

- (1) When did this review formally start?
- (2) When did it conclude?
- (3) Who was consulted?
- (4) What were the specific findings?
- (5) Will the Government change current daylight savings arrangements?
- (6) If so, when and how?

Answer—

- (1) The Cross Border Commissioner, Mr Steve Toms, was asked to investigate strategies to quantify and mitigate the impact of time zone anomalies in NSW when he was appointed in March 2012.
- (2) Mr Toms will deliver findings to the NSW Government regarding the concerns raised by regional communities in due course.
- (3) A range of stakeholders and other jurisdictions have provided feedback to the Commissioner on their views about daylight saving, including difficulties experienced during the summer six months when NSW participates in daylight saving and Queensland maintains Australian Eastern Standard Time.
- (4) Mr Toms will deliver findings to the NSW Government regarding the concerns raised by regional communities in due course.
- (5) Daylight saving in NSW is currently synchronised with other States including Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT, which improves business operating conditions by ensuring consistency.

If not made in conjunction with other jurisdictions, any changes to the length of the daylight saving period in NSW would create a range of new cross-border issues for communities and issues throughout NSW.

- (6) There is no current proposal for change.

*3661 ILLAWARRA TAFE INSTITUTE COURSES—Ms Anna Watson asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What courses are currently available from the Illawarra TAFE Institute campus at Dapto?
- (2) What services which existed in the 2011 and 2012 calendar year at the Dapto campus are no longer available in 2013?
- (3) What are the enrolment numbers at the Dapto campus for:
 - (a) 2010;
 - (b) 2011;
 - (c) 2012; and
 - (d) 2013?
- (4) What is the number of staff at the Dapto campus for:
 - (a) 2010;
 - (b) 2011;
 - (c) 2012; and
 - (d) 2013?
- (5) What is the market value of the Dapto campus?

Answer—

- (1) Dapto Campus is currently offering a range of Foundation Skill programs including those which enable students to access and maintain employment or prepare for further education and training. Certificate level programs are also being offered in Information Digital Media and Technology and Retail.
- (2) All services offered at Dapto Campus continue in 2013, including access to learning resources which have been placed in relevant teaching sections.
- (3) Student enrolments at Dapto Campus:

Year	Student enrolments
2010	658
2011	534
2012	348

2013	ongoing (final figures will be available in March 2014)
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(4) Staff numbers at Dapto Campus:

Year	Staff numbers
2010	111
2011	107
2012	95
2013	97

(5) The Department has not sought market valuation for its Dapto Campus site.

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(Paper No. 144)

*3662 SHALVEY HUB PRECINCT REGENERATION PLAN—Mr Richard Amery asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why did the Government stop the Shalvey Hub Precinct Regeneration Plan before its planned completion?
- (2) What impact has this decision had on the proposed upgrade of the Shalvey Community Centre?
- (3) Have all proposed upgrades of the older Department of Housing estates such as Lethbridge Park and Willmot now been put on hold?

Answer—

- (1) NSW Land and Housing Corporation has revised the scope of the project to ensure that it is completed within existing funding constraints and state-wide priorities.
- (2) The existing amenity and function of the community centre has not been impacted by the review and all work on the Shalvey Community Centre has been completed according to the revised project scope.
- (3) No.

*3663 SCHOOL PUBLIC TRANSPORT LATE ARRIVALS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to children who utilise public transport to get to school:

- (1) Is it a Department of Education ruling that late arrival notices be issued to students when public transport timetables do not enable a timely arrival?
- (2) If not, on whose authority are the late arrival notices issued?
- (3) Are all late arrival notices issued to students recorded as demerits on the student's school record?
- (4) What avenues are available to parents and students to appeal the issuing of late arrival notices?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Schools are required to maintain attendance records that are an accurate record of the attendance of students. Occasionally a student may be late through circumstances beyond their control, for example, because of traffic issues or late running buses. Schools follow up any unexplained absences with parents, including late arrivals. This is an important part of a school's duty of care to its students.
- (3) Where a parent has explained the absence, and the explanation has been accepted by the principal, no further action will be taken unless there is a pattern of lateness that is of concern to the school.
- (4) Where a parent has concerns over the procedures for recording late arrivals, they should contact the school to discuss the issue.

*3664 PUBLIC HOSPITAL WORKFORCE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the total workforce employed by the Government at public hospitals across NSW:

- (1) How many full time employees were there in the financial years:
 - (a) 2009-2010;
 - (b) 2010-2011;
 - (c) 2011-2012?

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- (2) How many part time employees were there in the financial years:
(a) 2009-2010;
(b) 2010-2011;
(c) 2011-2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Ministry of Health routinely provides Statewide workforce data in its Annual Report, available on the Ministry's website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/reports/pages/default.aspx>.

- *3665 CESSNOCK AND KURRI KURRI HOSPITAL BEDS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the upgrade to hospital beds at Cessnock Hospital and Kurri Kurri Hospital being funded by the Hunter Infrastructure Fund:

- (1) Have the bed upgrades been finalised?
(a) If yes, when?
(b) If no, what is the proposed completion date?
(2) (a) What other hospitals across NSW have received bed upgrades?
(b) Were these funded from similar regional infrastructure budgets or from the normal health budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) and (b)

There have been 95 new electric beds, replacing all ward beds across both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Hospitals. These beds and additional trolleys for their emergency departments and day-stay surgical units were commissioned and arrived in May 2012.

(2) Local Health Districts are responsible for routine repair or upgrades to hospital beds within their district which will vary according to their specific needs and routine maintenance and repair programs.

- *3666 EDGEWORTH, BARNESLEY AND WEST WALLSEND BUS SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What progress has been made with regards to a timetable review of bus services in the Edgeworth, Barnesley and West Wallsend areas which was due early 2013?
(2) Will there be changes to enable Route 268 to operate a Sunday and Public Holiday service?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Transport for NSW and Hunter Valley Buses are currently undertaking the timetable review of bus services operating in the Edgeworth, Barnesley and West Wallsend areas.

- *3668 MAIN ROAD 195 FLOOD MITIGATION MEASURES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to the area surrounding Main Road 195 (formerly known as State Road 135) at Testers Hollow between Clifleigh and Gillieston Heights:

- (1) (a) Has any previous state governments commissioned flood mitigation measures for the flooding area?
(b) If yes, when?
(2) Has either Cessnock City Council or Maitland City Council requested previous state governments to explore flood mitigation measures for the flooding area?
(3) If yes:
(a) When?
(b) Which Council?
(c) On how many occasions where the requests received?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Roads and Maritime Services have at no stage (including as the former the Roads and Traffic Authority under the previous government) been commissioned to undertake flood mitigation works in this area.
- (2) Neither Maitland City Council nor Cessnock City Council has requested the Office of Environment and Heritage to explore flood mitigation measures in this area. However, the area was covered by the Wallis/Swamp/Fishery Creek Flood Study which was prepared in 2011 for Cessnock City Council with technical and financial assistance from the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program.
- (3) Not applicable.

*3669 MAIN ROAD 195 FLOODING—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to Main Road 195 (formerly known as State Route 135) at Testers Hollow between Cliftleigh and Gillieston Heights:

- (1) In the past 10 years, how many times has this section of road been closed due to flooding?
- (2) How long on each occasion was this section of road closed for?
- (3) (a) Has this section of road ever been gazetted by this or previous governments for flood mitigation measures?
(b) If yes, when was it gazetted?

Answer—

I am advised:

Main Road 195 was closed to traffic at Testers Hollow for approximately eight days due to flooding in March 2013. Prior to this, in the last 10 years, Roads and Maritime Services was advised by Cessnock Council that it had closed the road at Testers Hollow in June 2007 and in April 2008.

In 2007, the road was closed for approximately two weeks and repairs to the road took a further three weeks. In 2008, the road was closed for two days. A section of about 400 metres of road was under water during these flood events.

The Testers Hollow area is part of the Lower Hunter Flood Mitigation Scheme. Details of the scheme can be found on the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority website at www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au.

*3670 CENTRAL HUNTER COMMAND RESPONSE TIME—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What is the average response time for police in the Central Hunter Command?
- (2) How does it compare to the State average?

Answer—

I am advised:

From July 2012 to March 2013, the Central Hunter Local Area Command responded to just over 79 per cent of priority 1 and 2 calls in less than sixteen minutes.

The NSW Police Force reports statewide response times in its Annual Report.

*3671 BERESFIELD POLICE STATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to Beresfield Police Station:

- (1) What hours is the police station open?
- (2) Under what operational conditions does the station operate during these hours?
- (3) Are the hours of operation currently a trial or is a permanent position of operations?
- (4) What data or statistics are available to qualify the success or failure of these operating hours?
- (5) What options for community consultation or feedback have been facilitated to determine how closely the operating hours and conditions align with community expectation?

Answer—

I am advised:

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Local Area Commands provide a 24 hour mobile policing response to all those areas within the boundary of each Command and are responsible for ensuring that there are always an adequate number of police officers rostered on duty to match expected demand. The appropriate allocation and tasking of policing resources within a Command is achieved, on a daily basis, using the intelligence-based identification of crime trends and "hot spots".

In terms of the allocation of police resources across these areas, a range of factors are considered to determine police strength, such as crime figures, categories of crime, population and demographics, and these are reviewed as changes occur to ensure policing meets demand.

The current tasking and deployment model operating within the Central Hunter Local Area Command provides for the most efficient use of available resources across the entire Command. This results in a 24 hour mobile police response being available to Beresfield and adjoining areas.

Local Area Commands also hold regular Community Safety Precinct meetings which allow community members to meet with Police Local Area Commanders and share their perspective on local crime and safety issues. These Committees are highly successful due to local community knowledge and have resulted in many local crime prevention strategies being implemented.

*3672 WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) When will the new Working with Children checks commence?
- (2) Why has the introduction of the new system been delayed?

Answer—

- (1) The new Working with Children check will commence on 15 June 2013. Government will be announcing the commencement as soon as the regulations have been signed.
- (2) The public consultation on the draft regulation was poorly managed.

The Minister appointed an Acting Commissioner who has successfully addressed the concerns raised by the sector and continues to work with stakeholders to ensure review is ongoing and the regulation and WWCC is the best it can be.

*3673 PARENT RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACTS—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many Parent Responsibility Contracts were signed in 2012?
- (2) How many of these contacts were breached in 2012?
- (3) In 2012, how many families who signed Parent Responsibility Contracts had their children restored?
- (4) How many of these parents had their children removed?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Parental Responsibility Contracts are used with families to prevent children and young people from entering the out-of-home care system and maintain the child or young person in the family. The purpose of the contracts is to improve the parenting skills of the primary care givers and encourage them to accept greater responsibility for their child.

Parental Responsibility Contracts did not improve lives under the previous Government because they were not sufficiently utilised to meet the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families.

A recent Department of Family and Community Services trial introduced new practices to focus caseworkers on preservation and restoration with placement of a child in out-of-home care as a last resort. This trial showed a greater and beneficial use of Parental Responsibility Contracts occurs when part of a targeted scheme to help children either stay at home or return home.

For example, the trial showed that Parental Responsibility Contracts should be used as a casework tool to assist families work toward preservation, rather than a legal tool used to commence court proceedings. Similarly, through the clear and simple format of Parental Responsibility Contracts, case plans for families can better outline services and supports to be provided, goals to be achieved and tasks to be completed, all within set timeframes.

The NSW Government's proposed reforms to improve child protection proposes strengthening the use and effectiveness of Parental Responsibility Contracts by:

- extending Parental Responsibility Contracts from 6 months to 12 months, to give parents more time to improve their parenting capacity;
- extending the use of Parental Responsibility Contracts to cover unborn children; and

- extending Parental Responsibility Contracts' use when there is earlier intervention.

*3674 HORSE RIDING TRIALS IN WILDERNESS AREAS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With regard to the horse riding trial in five wilderness areas:

- (1) What monitoring of horse riding impacts will be introduced as part of the trial?
- (2) To what extent does this monitoring go beyond the current system of general Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) implemented in parks?
- (3) To what extent will outcomes from monitoring be reported?
- (4) To what extent will:
 - (a) weed invasion;
 - (b) mechanical damage to soils, tracks and vegetation; and
 - (c) conflicts with other park users be measured as part of monitoring?
- (5) What thresholds of damage will apply in the trial, which if exceeded will lead to immediate closure of horse riding activities on a particular track?
- (6) How will the Government reverse any damage caused by horse riding trials in national parks, reserves and wilderness areas?
- (7) Where environmental risks are detected during the trial, to what extent will the Government take a precautionary approach and only continue or expand horse in riding national parks, nature reserves and wilderness areas if there is proof it has no detrimental impacts?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The trial will monitor key environmental indicators relevant to the particular park location, identify methods to be applied, establish thresholds for when management intervention is required, and set out the types of management actions that may be employed. This approach is part of the strategic adaptive management framework for the trial, which is currently being developed with the assistance of scientific experts from the University of NSW, the University of Technology Sydney and the CSIRO. This is an appropriate, evidence-based approach to horse riding and is consistent with well-established park management practices.

Outcomes of the trial will be reported regularly to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council. They will also be conveyed to the Horse Riding Consultative Group and local stakeholders directly involved in the trial and released publicly as appropriate.

*3675 LOW INCOME EARNER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What plans does the Government have to provide low-income households direct financial assistance to:
 - (a) Replace inefficient hot water systems, air conditioners and space heaters;
 - (b) Replace other inefficient appliances like fridges;
 - (c) Install roof, wall and window insulation; and
 - (d) Install solar hot water systems?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to provide private residential landlords with direct financial assistance to:
 - (a) Replace inefficient hot water systems, air conditioners and space heaters;
 - (b) Replace other inefficient appliances;
 - (c) Install roof, wall and window insulation; and
 - (d) Install solar hot water systems?
- (3) What plans does the Government have to provide strata owners' corporations and company title boards with direct financial assistance to:
 - (a) Replace inefficient common usage hot water systems, air conditioners and space heaters;
 - (b) Replace other inefficient common usage appliances;
 - (c) Install roof, wall and window insulation in common areas; and
 - (d) Install solar hot water systems for common usage?
- (4) What consideration will the Government give to reintroducing the NSW Home Saver Rebates program which helped households save an estimated 4.8 billion litres of water, 401,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and \$51 million on household water and energy bills a year?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

(1) The Government provides support for up to 220,000 low income households to reduce energy use by up to 20 percent through the Home Power Savings Program. The Home Power Savings Program provides eligible households with a home power assessment by an energy expert, to identify ways to save power in the home, a power savings kit and a personal power savings action plan.

(2) and (3) The NSW Government has established the legislative framework for Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs), which make it easier to access finance for environmental improvements to existing commercial, industrial, strata scheme and large multi-unit residential buildings in NSW.

EUAs will allow Owners Corporations to access competitive finance to upgrade the common areas of residential strata buildings and realise energy and water savings. The first EUA was signed in December 2012, and these agreements are now available in four council areas including City of Sydney, North Sydney, Parramatta and Lake Macquarie.

(4) The Government is investigating a range of other policy and program options to support householders, building owners and business to support cost effective energy efficiency measures.

*3676 WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With reference to the proposal by Infrastructure NSW to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall by 23 metres and the estimated cost over \$750 million:

- (1) What consideration will the Government give to using the existing dam more effectively to integrate flood management measures?
- (2) What consideration will the Government give to the alternative proposal to rely on the auxiliary spillway on the eastern side of the dam wall to carry extreme floods past the dam with safety, with new gates to regulate small and medium flood flows?
- (3) How does this alternative proposal compare with regard to protecting homes on the floodplains against raising the dam, which does not protect these homes from big floods from the Grose, Colo and Macdonald rivers and the South Metropolitan catchments?
- (4) Will the Government rule out new urban development on the flood plain given raising the dam wall will not prevent major floods from the other half of the Hawkesbury-Nepean's catchment south of Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has commenced a detailed review of the flood management arrangements for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

More information about the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Review is available on the NSW Office of Water website – www.water.nsw.gov.au.

*3677 VESSEL EMERGENCIES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With respect to response to Fire and Rescue NSW's capacity to respond to fires on board large passenger ships in Sydney Harbour, and noting advice provided in November 2010:

- (1) When was the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and guidelines between Fire and Rescue, NSW Maritime and the Sydney Ports Corporation referred to in November 2010 agreed?
- (2) What changes to improve response to emergencies on vessels have been made to Standard Operational Guidelines since November 2010?
- (3) What changes to improve response to emergencies on vessels have been made to the Station Training Program since November 2010?
- (4) With respect to training fire officers for responding to fires on vessels:
 - (a) Have all officers stationed around Sydney Harbour been trained;
 - (b) What does this training involve; and
 - (c) How many officers have had this training?
- (5) What specialized equipment for fires on vessels has been added to that listed in the advice given in November 2010?
- (6) (a) How many multi-agency ship fire operations were carried out during 2011 and 2012?
 (b) What agencies participated?

- (7) What assessment has the Government made of best practice for emergencies on vessels since November 2010?
 (8) What plans does the Government have to improve response to emergencies on vessels?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW has advised:

The agencies involved in the Memorandum of Understanding and guidelines for multi-agency operations for a fire on a vessel in Sydney Harbour process, have met on a number of occasions since 2010 and long standing arrangements between agencies continue to operate.

Fire & Rescue crews that are required to attend to fires on vessels undertake training relevant to responding and combating ship fires through the Station Training Program and specifically "Shipboard Firefighting". Training involves a number of components, such as familiarisation and pre-incident planning, hazards associated with ship fires, extinguishing agents for ship fires, techniques and procedures for combating and protecting against ship fires amongst others.

Approximately 160 firefighters attached to the Sydney CBD fire stations have undergone marine training/familiarisation with Sydney Ports. More than twenty five firefighters attached to Balmain and Leichhardt have also qualified as marine operators.

Fire & Rescue NSW has rolled out new handheld radios in its Zone Metropolitan East 1, which includes the fire stations protecting Sydney Harbour. Fire & Rescue NSW will shortly commission a replacement fire engine, based at Pyrmont Fire Station, which will have bulk carbon dioxide and will also carry high expansion foam. Fire & Rescue NSW hazardous materials fire engines, based at Alexandria, also carry state-of-the-art atmospheric monitoring equipment, as well as equipment to monitor the temperature inside a ship during firefighting operations.

Exact figures on multi-agency ship fire operations carried out at this time are unable to be provided by Fire & Rescue NSW. Agencies involved in multi-agency ship fire operations included Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Water Police, NSW Police Force, Sydney Ports Authority, Royal Australian Navy, Roads and Maritime Services, former Emergency Management NSW, and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Fire & Rescue NSW continues to consult with international and national agencies to ensure that their procedures, equipment, exercises and training are in line with recognised best practice. Fire & Rescue continually monitors its performance and identifies lessons learned from its own operations and major incidents that occur across Australia and overseas. As opportunities for improvement are identified they are analysed and incorporated where appropriate.

- *3678 MARDIS GRAS DRUG DOG DETECTION OPERATIONS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to drug dog detection operations at the Mardi Gras Harbour Party, parade After Party and Laneway Party:

- (1) How many people at these events were searched for drugs?
- (2) Of those searched, how many were strip searched?
- (3) What is the Government's response to concerns that a number of people were strip searched in public against their will?
- (4) How were Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers involved in the operations?
- (5) Of the people who were searched, how many were not found with any illegal substances?
- (6) Of the people who were searched, how many were found with only small amounts of illegal substances likely for personal use?
- (7) Will any intelligence gathered as a result of operations at these parties contribute to convicting major drug traffickers?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force advises me:

(1) and (2) An approximate total of 260 were searched at the Mardi Gras Harbour Party and Parade After Party. Of those searched, 60 were strip searched. No persons were searched or strip searched at the Laneway Party.

(3) Drug detection dogs are a high visibility policing tool used to deter illicit drug use and sale. Police officers will caution or if appropriate, charge those found in possession of these substances. People were not strip searched against their will. A number of designated private areas out of public view in

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accordance with the requirements of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 were established to carry out these searches.

(4) The majority of Gay and Lesbian Liaison officers (GLLOs) were rostered on for the Mardi Gras Parade. Two GLLOs were rostered for deployment to the Mardi Gras Harbour party and two were deployed to the After Party. No GLLOs were deployed to the Laneway Party.

(5) and (6) Of the 260 searched, a total of 137 drug possession incidents occurred. In addition, at the After Party, approximately 170 patrons were treated by medical personnel for substance abuse and 6 were taken to hospital.

(7) Yes.

*3679 BARANGAROO SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

Noting that the Department of Finance and Services is reviewing its properties in Millers Point:

- (1) Does the major Barangaroo South development include 2.3 per cent of the residential GFA or only about 25 units of affordable housing?
- (2) What social housing is planned for the Barangaroo South development?
- (3) What affordable housing is planned for the Barangaroo Central development?
- (4) What social housing is planned for the Barangaroo Central development?
- (5) What further action will the Government take to provide low cost housing at Barangaroo?

Answer—

I am advised that -

- (1) and (2) This information is publicly available and can be found on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website: <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/determinations/>
- (3) to (5) This question should be directed to the Premier who has responsibility for the Barangaroo Delivery Authority.

*3680 DRUG DOG DETECTION OPERATIONS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to drug dog detection operations at venues, public events, concerts, dance parties, parades and on public transport:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made on the impact drug dog detection operations have on harm minimisation?
- (2) What research has the Government done to substantiate claims that drug detection dogs encourage patrons to take more drugs at once to avoid carrying them and being charged?
- (3) What concerns have been raised with police following this research?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised:

Drug detection dogs are a high visibility policing tool used to deter illicit drug use and sale and to caution or if appropriate, charge those found in possession of these substances.

No such research has been undertaken.

*3681 LICENCE APPROVAL AND CONDITIONS DOCUMENTS ONLINE—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to a media release on 21 July 2011 that the Government is currently developing a new online resource to provide details of licence approval and conditions documents:

- (1) Is this resource currently available?
- (2) If so, what is the web address?
- (3) If not, what action has been taken to develop the resource and when is it expected to be available?

Answer—

(1) to (3) <http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/environment/ref>.

*3682 LIQUOR LICENCE INFORMATION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What consideration has the Government given to licensed premises providing summary information about their liquor licenses outside the relevant premises, including:
 - (a) Operating hours;
 - (b) Venue capacity;
 - (c) Conditions relating to RSA marshals and security officers;
 - (d) Noise conditions;
 - (e) Conditions relating to opening of doors and windows and use of courtyards and balconies;
 - (f) Restrictions on queuing and use of public space; and
 - (g) Contact person for complaints?
- (2) Is the Government aware of City of Sydney proposals for "basic approvals information" about development consent and license conditions to be posted outside licensed premises?
- (3) Will the Government work with the City of Sydney to improve public information about and licensed venues?

Answer—

- (1) The liquor laws require the name of the licensee, the name of the premises and the type of licence held in respect of the premises to be displayed on the front of the premises.

The Government has considered the need for other information about licensed premises to be available to the public as part of the implementation of its Kings Cross Plan of Management.

The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing is liaising with the City of Sydney Council in the development of a notice that can be displayed by licensed premises, which provides basic liquor licence and development consent information.

The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing is also working with the City of Sydney Council to improve public information about local liquor licences and to develop a resource, in the form of a fridge magnet, to provide residents with contact information for disturbance issues associated with licensed venues.

Detailed licence information, including liquor licence conditions, is available from the Government Licensing System website at www.licence.nsw.gov.au.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Refer to answer given to question 1.

*3683 MOTORCYCLE GANGS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In reference to the recent occurrence of shootings throughout NSW, particularly in South-West Sydney:

When will the Minister ban outlaw motorcycle gangs so that the police have the tools they need to keep communities in South-West Sydney safe?

Answer—

The government recently introduced reforms to NSW criminal organisation legislation by way of the Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Amendment Act 2013. These reforms amended the Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Act 2012 to make it consistent with aspects of the equivalent Queensland legislation, which was recently the subject of an unsuccessful challenge to the High Court.

The amendments included shifting the decision to declare a criminal organisation from an eligible judge of the Supreme Court to the Supreme Court itself, and the introduction of a criminal intelligence monitor to oversee aspects of the application process.

An application under the legislation must be lodged by the Commissioner of Police. Questions in this regard should be addressed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

*3684 RETIREMENT VILLAGES AMENDMENT LEGISLATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) What is the current status of the NSW Fair Trading Review of the retirement villages amendment regulation?
- (2) Will the Government release all submissions received as a result of this review?

Answer—

The Retirement Villages Amendment (Standard Contract) Regulation 2013 will be released shortly.

All submissions received in response to the draft Regulation have been published on NSW Fair Trading's website.

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*3685 REGULATORY BURDEN REVIEW—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) What is the current status of the NSW Fair Trading Review of Regulatory Burden?
- (2) Will the Government commit to releasing all submissions received as a result of this review?

Answer—

- (1) The Government is currently reviewing the submissions received in response to the Issues Paper Making NSW No 1 Again: Reducing Regulatory Burden.
- (2) The submissions received are publicly available on the NSW Fair Trading website.

*3686 MOTHERCARE COLLAPSE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Given the recent crackdown by NSW Fair Trading on gift cards:

What action will be taken to assist consumers affected by the collapse of baby product retailer Mothercare?

Answer—

Mothercare Australia Limited was placed under voluntary administration on 29 January 2013, with BRI Ferrier appointed as administrator. NSW Fair Trading has limited jurisdiction when a company has entered into administration and cannot intervene in complaint matters.

However, Fair Trading assists consumers affected by such events by providing them with information about dispute resolution options available to them, such as registering as an unsecured creditor with the administrator or contacting their financial institution to discuss obtaining a chargeback if payment was made by credit card.

*3687 ALCOHOL PRODUCT ADVERTISING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In reference to the NSW Alcohol Summit 2013:

What is the Government's position on the proposal to prohibit advertising of alcohol products?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The regulation of alcohol advertising is primarily a Commonwealth matter and any ban would be most effective if implemented via a national model rather than by individual states.

In relation to the reference to the NSW Alcohol Summit 2013 convened by the NSW/ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance, I note that the communiqué refers to alcohol promotions in bottle shops, pubs, clubs and other liquor outlets.

Questions regarding such promotions should be directed to the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing.

*3688 NSW ALCOHOL SUMMIT—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In reference to the NSW Alcohol Summit 2013:

What action will the Government take to address the following NSW alcohol related harms:

- (a) Alcohol-attributable hospitalisations?
- (b) Treatment episodes where alcohol is the principal drug of concern?
- (c) Alcohol-related non-domestic assaults?
- (d) Alcohol-related domestic assaults?
- (e) Alcohol-related assaults on police?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The NSW Ministry of Health undertakes a range of strategies and initiatives to reduce alcohol-attributable hospitalisations and provide appropriate treatment services. Information about awareness raising campaigns and community-led responses is publically available at www.yourroom.com.au Ministry provides funding to five Local Health Districts and the Children's Hospital at Westmead to operate enhanced drug and alcohol Consultation Liaison services to improve Emergency Department performance indicators by reducing blockages, increase the early identification of patients with drug and alcohol problems and improve their health outcomes and improve generalist staff capacity to identify and

refer patients with drug and problems to appropriate services. Additionally, the NSW Drug and Alcohol Specialist Advisory Service provides a free telephone service for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals to provide advice on the diagnosis and management of patients with alcohol and other drug issues.

A range of alcohol treatment services are provided through Local Health Districts and Speciality Networks, including outpatient counselling; withdrawal management; pharmacotherapy treatments, case management and assertive outreach; Consultation Liaison services; and specialty clinics such as Substance Use in Pregnancy services, diversion programs and involuntary treatment.

In September 2012 the Involuntary Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program commenced. This program provides for the involuntary treatment of a small number of people with severe substance dependence, who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others and who have not been able to be managed by other means.

In addition to services delivered in the government sector, the Government provides over \$33 million to non-government organisations across the state to deliver comprehensive drug and alcohol programs ranging from health promotion and prevention to treatment and extended care. We also recently delivered on our election commitment to provide an additional \$10 million over four years to the non-government sector for the enhancement of drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and programs, to reduce the number of people with drug and/or alcohol dependencies.

Questions relating to alcohol-related assaults should be addressed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Minister for Hospitality and Racing.

I am advised that information concerning the NSW Police Force's response to alcohol related issues is publically available including on its website, in annual reports, and in NSW 2021.

I am advised that information concerning the regulation of licensed premises is available on the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing's website. This includes information about the Government's Three Strikes disciplinary scheme which targets irresponsible venue operators who disregard the law and put the safety of their patrons and the broader community at risk.

***3689 BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE WORKS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—**

What maintenance works are planned at Bankstown Hospital during the following financial years:

- (1) 2012-13;
- (2) 2014-15;
- (3) 2015-16?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) Maintenance is undertaken at Bankstown Hospital by external agencies annually to ensure safety and operability of equipment and to ensure compliance with Work Health and Safety regulations. During the 2012-13 financial year, statutory and scheduled maintenance was conducted at Bankstown Hospital as required and at varying intervals.

***3690 BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—**

What new works including infrastructure provision and improvements are planned at Bankstown Hospital during the following financial years:

- (1) 2012-13;
- (2) 2014-15;
- (3) 2015-16?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3)

In the 2012-13 financial year infrastructure improvements at Bankstown Hospital include:

- development of an ano-rectal physiology laboratory, which will provide enhanced diagnostic services for patients requiring colorectal procedures;
- expansion of the number of renal dialysis chairs from 15 to 17, providing additional treatment sessions

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for patients;

- upgrade of its fixed duress alarm system in the Emergency Department;
- improvements to commence in food services including; refurbishments to the kitchen, the purchase of a new dishwasher and the purchase of burlodge meal trolleys; and
- refurbishments to the operating theatres storage areas including; painting, flooring and renovations to the sterile stock storeroom.

For the 2014-15 and 2015-16 financial years, Bankstown Hospital has several works options under consideration, and final plans will be based on patient need and available resources.

*3691 NURSE TO PATIENT RATIOS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What advice has the Minister received regarding Nurse to Patient Ratios in the South-West Sydney Local Health District?
- (2) What is the latest available information regarding Nurse to Patient Ratios at Bankstown Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) 'Nurse to patient ratios' do not apply to NSW hospitals. The 'Nursing Hours per Patient Day' staffing formula is used, which provides greater flexibility to determine the number of nurses on applicable wards.

*3692 HARBOUR TUNNEL TRAFFIC DELAYS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In relation to the traffic delays that occurred on 21 March 2013 as a result of an incident in the Harbour Tunnel:

- (1) What specifically caused this incident?
- (2) What measures have been put in place to ensure this doesn't happen again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A loose steel road plate over a drainage pit in the Sydney Harbour Tunnel struck and punctured the fuel tank of a southbound truck. This resulted in 200 litres of diesel spilling onto the road, at the mid-point of the Sydney Harbour Tunnel.
- (2) The Sydney Harbour Tunnel is managed by the Sydney Harbour Tunnel Company. Roads and Maritime Services is working with the Sydney Harbour Tunnel Company to investigate this incident to ensure maintenance practices are reviewed and improved to reduce the likelihood of incidents like this occurring in the future.

*3693 FAIRFIELD SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What are the Government's plans to reduce the waiting list for social housing in the Fairfield Allocation Zone?

Answer—

This Government inherited a waiting list of around 54,000 applicants and a system where no information was provided to tenants about how long they could expect to wait for an offer of housing.

Last year, I announced the publication of information about expected wait times for housing applicants. This gives applicants a realistic idea of how long they may need to wait for a social housing property and allocation zones where the wait may be shorter. If applicants are willing to change their desired location, they may be housed sooner.

*3694 FAIRFIELD FIRE STATION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Is the Government planning to upgrade Fairfield Fire Station?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW has advised that due to the age and location of the current premises, Fairfield Fire Station will be rebuilt approximately two kilometres to the north at Yennora.

- *3695 CHESTER HILL FIRE STATION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Is the Government planning to upgrade Chester Hill Fire Station?

Answer—

I am advised Chester Hill Fire Station was upgraded in June 2012.

- *3696 ROAD AND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Does the Government plan to allocate funding to improve roads and road safety across Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the 2012-13 state budget, the NSW Government has invested \$5 billion to build and maintain critical road and maritime infrastructure across NSW.

This level of investment is more than the previous Government has delivered and is a great achievement in such a difficult economic climate.

In addition, the creation of the Community Road Safety Fund, which directs speed camera revenue straight back into road safety projects, ensures that spending on Road Safety is maintained at \$231 million indexed for CPI increases.

- *3697 M4 SPEEDS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What is the Government doing to help motorists from western and south western Sydney who travel along the M4 where average speeds have dropped to 36 kilometres per hour during the morning peak?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has implemented a real time travel time information service and removed the toll plaza to improve travel on the M4 Western Motorway.

The NSW Government and Federal Government have committed \$17 million to undertake the concept design and environmental assessment by June 2014 for the M4 Managed Motorway project.

The NSW Government is also developing a business case for the implementation of the WestConnex project that will improve travel on M4 Western Motorway.

- *3698 MAJOR ARTERIAL ROAD CONGESTION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What is the Government doing to reduce congestion on our major arterial roads?

Answer—

I am advised:

Before the 2011 election, the NSW Government made a clear commitment to deliver an additional \$200 million over four years to help improve safety and reduce congestion. The 2012-13 NSW Budget allocated \$67 million towards meeting these commitments.

The NSW Government has allocated \$125 million over five years from 2012-13 for the implementation of a Pinch Point Program in Sydney with \$17.5 million allocated in the 2012-13 NSW Budget.

The NSW Government is also spending over \$19 million on a Bus Priority Program in 2012-13 in Sydney.

- *3699 ROAD SAFETY—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Will road safety be compromised by the Government's plan to sack up to 500 road maintenance workers and privatise safety and road works?

Answer—

I am advised:

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In May 2012, the Commission of Audit recommended that Roads and Maritime Services develop a proposal to conduct a competitive tender for road maintenance in the Sydney metropolitan area.

A similar maintenance contract arrangement has been in place in the northern metropolitan area of Sydney since 1995. Roads and Maritime Services staff will be offered a transfer package to a new service provider or the option of a voluntary redundancy package.

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*3700 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL CARDIAC UNIT EQUIPMENT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Have funds been raised in the Mount Druitt community to buy equipment for the cardiac unit at the Mount Druitt Hospital?
- (2) If so, what is to happen to this equipment after the cardiac unit is closed down?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The Mount Druitt community has raised funds for the Cardiac Unit at the Mount Druitt Campus of Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital. Over the years, the Mount Druitt community has donated treadmills, step-through bikes, office equipment and a stress testing machine. All of this equipment will be remaining at the Mount Druitt Campus with the exception of the stress testing machine. Cardiac Rehabilitation, which is not relocating to the Blacktown Campus of Blacktown Mount Druitt Hospital, houses the majority of the equipment purchased by the community.

I also refer the Member to my response to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice LA3646.

*3701 NURSE STAFFING LEVELS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Are nurse staffing levels to be reduced in John Hunter Hospital's emergency department?
- (2) Will the Minister increase nurse to patient ratios in hospitals?
- (3) Are there solutions to the problem of ambulance backlog in hospitals?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3)

There are no plans to reduce nursing staff levels at John Hunter Hospital Emergency Department. Nurse to patient ratios do not apply to NSW hospitals. Nurse staffing at John Hunter Hospital's Emergency Department is in accordance with the Public Health System Nurses' and Midwives' Award. The Emergency Department is currently fully and appropriately staffed.

Transfer of Care is the measure used to determine the timely transition of a patient's care, from an ambulance to the care of the Emergency Department. Transfer of Care data for the John Hunter Hospital is extremely positive with significant improvements to ambulance delays in the last six months. For January 2013, John Hunter Hospital achieved a transfer of care of 89 per cent against the NSW Health target of 90 per cent.

*3702 SWANSEA POLICE STATION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What are the current operating hours for Swansea Police Station?
- (2) How many officers currently operate out of Swansea Police Station?
- (3) What hours are the station manned that allow the public face to face contact with officers?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Lake Macquarie Local Area Command provides a 24 hour mobile police response to all those areas within the boundary of its Command, including Swansea.

Officers are not allocated to police stations but to the Local Area Command.

Members of the community can contact Swansea Police Station by telephone: 02 4971 1121, if they wish

to make an appointment with a police officer.

*3703 NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given the imminent completion of the Hunter Expressway:

Will the Government be funding the planning and building of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Stage 5 to cater for the additional traffic?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government's priorities for the Hunter are outlined in the Regional Action Plan. The plan includes the development of the Hunter Regional Transport Plan. In formulating the plan, Stage Five of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass will be considered on its merits along with other projects across Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

*3704 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN FAIRFIELD—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) Does the Minister have plans to make available more affordable housing in the City of Fairfield?

(2) (a) If so, when?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

It is anticipated that around 80 new National Rental Affordability Scheme dwellings will be delivered in the Fairfield local government area over the next several years.

*3705 FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL CORONARY DISEASE PATIENTS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) How many persons have presented to the Fairfield Hospital with symptoms of coronary disease in the year ending 28 February 2013?

(2) How do these figures compare with each of the three previous years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Symptoms of coronary disease include chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations and dizziness. Patients that are diagnosed with a form of coronary disease are placed into a cardiac rehabilitation program, which is run by the Fairfield Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Service. The 2011-2012 financial year saw the number of consultations increase from the previous financial year, which can be attributed to increased referrals from hospitals within the South Western Sydney Local Health District, and increased promotion of the service in the local community with the establishment of a Cardiac Ambulatory Care Service.

*3706 CABRAMATTA RAIL NETWORK COMMUTERS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is the number of commuters using the Cabramatta rail network increasing?

(2) If so, what are the latest figures for commuters using the Cabramatta railway station in comparison to the same periods over the past three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available from the Bureau of Transport Statistics.

*3707 INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAM—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

What was the funding allocation for the Integrated Services Program for the financial years ending 30 June:

(1) 2010;

(2) 2011;

(3) 2012?

Answer—

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- (1) \$8,787,000.
- (2) \$9,587,000.
- (3) \$10,387,000.

*3708 FULL TIME AND PART TIME MAGISTRATES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many full time magistrates were there in NSW as at these dates:
 - (a) 1 June 2010;
 - (b) 1 June 2011;
 - (c) 1 December 2011;
 - (d) 1 June 2012;
 - (e) 1 December 2012;
 - (f) 1 March 2013?

- (2) How many part time magistrates were there as at these dates?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The following table shows the number of full time and part time magistrates holding office at each of the requested dates:

	01/06/2010	01/06/2011	01/12/2011	01/06/2012	01/12/2012	01/03/2013
Full time	125	126	125	126	126	127
Part time	6	8	8	8	8	8

*3709 FULL TIME AND PART TIME DISTRICT COURT JUDGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many full time District Court judges were there in NSW as at these dates:
 - (a) 1 June 2010;
 - (b) 1 June 2011;
 - (c) 1 December 2011;
 - (d) 1 June 2012;
 - (e) 1 December 2012;
 - (f) 1 March 2012?

- (2) How many part time District Court judges were there at these dates?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The following table shows the number of full time and part time District Court judges holding office at each of the requested dates:

	01/06/2010	01/06/2011	01/12/2011	01/06/2012	01/12/2012	01/03/2013*
Full time	67	68	66	70	71	69
Part time	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*The response to sub question provides information for 1 March 2013, as was requested by the Member under QON 1708.

*3710 FULL TIME AND PART TIME SUPREME COURT JUDGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many full time Supreme Court judges were there in NSW as at these dates:
 - (a) 1 June 2010;
 - (b) 1 June 2011;
 - (c) 1 December 2011;
 - (d) 1 June 2012;
 - (e) 1 December 2012;
 - (f) 1 March 2012?

- (2) How many part time Supreme Court judges were there at these dates?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The following table shows the number of full time and part time Supreme Court judges

holding office at each of the requested dates:

	01/06/2010	01/06/2011	01/12/2011	01/06/2012	01/12/2012	01/03/2013*
Full time	48	46	47	47	48	48
Part time	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*The response to sub question provides information for 1 March 2013, as was requested by the Member under QON 1708.

*3711 INMATE VISITS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many young people have been prohibited or banned from visiting inmates in NSW Correctional Centres in the periods:

- (1) 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012;
- (2) 1 January 2013 to 1 March 2013?

Answer—

I am advised Corrective Services NSW has taken 'young people' to mean anyone under the age of 18 years.

- (1) Seven; and
- (2) One.

*3712 SYDNEY DRUG COURT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many referrals have there been to the Sydney Drug Court as at the following dates:

- (1) 1 June 2012;
- (2) 1 December 2012; and
- (3) 1 March 2013?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Sydney Drug Court commenced sitting on 14 February 2013. However, referrals to the court were allowed from 7 January 2013 when amendments to the Drug Court Regulation 2010 commenced. In light of this referrals to the court are as follows:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) 33.

*3713 SYDNEY DRUG COURT REFERRALS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Are referrals accepted by the Sydney Drug Court from outside of the Sydney Council Local Government Area?
- (2) What are the rules concerning referrals to the Sydney Drug Court and the geographic areas from which they can be made?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Referrals to the Sydney Drug Court may be accepted from the District Court and Local Court in the sittings prescribed by clauses 6(a) and 6(b) in the Drug Court Regulation 2010.

The Drug Court Regulation 2010 also prescribes the criteria a person must satisfy in order to be an eligible person for referral to the Sydney Drug Court. Clause 4(a) provides that the person's usual place of residence must be within certain local government areas, including the City of Sydney.

In addition to a person's place of residence, there are additional criteria that must be met to be eligible for referral to the NSW Drug Court.

*3714 BULLYING COMPLAINTS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many complaints have been made of bullying in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions since 1 July 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

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Since 1 July 2011, there have been two complaints made of bullying in the Office of Public Prosecutions.

*3716 WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Will the Government amend the Workers Compensation Act to compensate those injured workers whose payments have been incorrectly stopped by their insurers?

Answer—

WorkCover continues to work closely with Scheme agents and insurers to ensure the transition under the new legislation is as smooth as possible for all participants. Payments to injured workers who made a claim before 1 October 2012 will not change until they have undergone a work capacity assessment. Due to the large number of people receiving payments, it will take up to 12 months for all claims to be assessed. Injured workers will be notified by their insurer three months prior to any change in payments as a result of the assessment.

As part of the transition process, WorkCover is providing injured workers with simple ways to dispute matters relevant to their claim and seek review if they believe they have not been dealt with fairly.

Initially the worker can request an internal review from the insurer. If they are not satisfied with the outcome of the review, they can then request a Merit Review of the decision by WorkCover. Following this, the worker can apply to the WorkCover Independent Review Officer (WIRO) for a procedural review.

The WIRO is an independent office which provides an independent review of work capacity decisions made about benefits and work capacity. The WIRO also includes the new Independent Legal Assistance and Review Service. The Service facilitates access to free independent legal advice to injured workers, in circumstances where there is a disagreement with insurers regarding entitlements. It has been designed to ensure the efficient, fair and equitable resolution of disputes, without unnecessary financial burden on injured workers.

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*3717 STROKE UNITS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Does the National Stroke Foundation have a goal of having a stroke unit in every major hospital in the country?
- (2) Does NSW have a stroke unit in all major hospitals?
- (3) What hospitals in NSW are not equipped to handle persons presenting to the hospital suffering the effects of a stroke?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The National Stroke Foundation launched the National Action Plan for Stroke in December 2012. Outlined within the Australian Stroke Program is a policy proposal seeking funding to deliver world best-standard stroke care by developing more stroke units, improving access to stroke units and providing integrated data collection and quality improvement systems to support the stroke units.

(2) and (3) In NSW there are currently 37 stroke services across metropolitan, rural and remote areas covering most of the major hospitals. All hospitals in NSW with an Emergency Department have staff trained to manage acute complications of stroke. Secondary transfer can occur after initial stabilisation of patients in any Emergency Department.

*3718 CESSNOCK TIMBER BRIDGES PROGRAM—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to funding available to Cessnock City Council for the Timber Bridges Program:

- (1) What funding has been made available to the Council over the last seven years?
- (2) (a) Have the Council expended their funding?
(b) Does it still retain some funding for future works?
- (3) (a) What bridges have been worked on in this period?

- (b) What are expected to be worked on in the future?
- (4) (a) Does the RMS still have a Timber Bridge Funding Program?
- (b) To what value?
- (c) Will Cessnock City Council be entitled to apply?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) \$1.57 million provided on a 50:50 matching basis with councils.
- (a) Yes.
- (b) The Timber Bridges Partnership program concluded in 2011.
- (2)
- (a) The following five bridges were replaced Congewai Creek, Sweetmans Creek, Slacks Creek, Narone Creek and Thompsons Bridge.
- (b) The Timber Bridges Partnership program concluded in 2011.
- (3)
- (a) to (c) In October 2012, the NSW Government announced a new \$145 million program, "Bridges for the Bush", to improve road freight productivity by replacing or upgrading bridges over the next five years at 17 key locations in regional NSW.
- A further \$17 million has been allocated to the RMS Timber Bridges Strengthening and Replacement Program in 2012-13.
- In addition to the Bridges for the Bush program, the NSW Government has allocated more than \$1.3 billion toward the maintenance of roads in NSW.
- Included in this is \$170 million of grant payments made to councils in 2012-13 as a contribution to the management of regional roads and bridges and \$215 million in natural disaster funding upon application.

*3719 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION REPORT—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With respect to the report "A Contributing Life: the 2012 National Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention":

- (1) What action has the Government taken on its COAG commitment to:
- (a) Increase access and quality of services to meet gaps;
- (b) Include people with a lived experience of mental health issues, families and supporters in planning, design and evaluating policy and services;
- (c) Recognise the role that non-government organisations play; and
- (d) Not discharge people with mental illness from hospital or other facilities into homelessness?
- (2) (a) What action has the Government taken to independently and transparently report annually on actual mental health expenditure compared to announced budget allocation?
- (b) Where is this data available?
- (3) What funds were allocated and spent in the inner city during the last reporting period for:
- (a) Acute care services;
- (b) Prevention and early intervention programs;
- (c) Community based mental health services; and
- (d) Rehabilitation and recovery programs?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Council of Australian Governments agreed to provide a response to the National Mental Health Commission's inaugural Report Card on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention that would include national indicators and targets for mental health reform. NSW will be participating in that work.

Annual mental health expenditure is reported by the NSW Government in the Financial Statements included in the NSW Health Annual Report. The Financial Statements are independently audited. Budget allocations are found in the NSW Government Budget Papers. The NSW Ministry of Health does not collect specific data on 'inner city' mental health program funding and expenditure.

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The NSW Government is committed to improving mental health in NSW, delivering on its election commitment to establish the NSW Mental Health Commission. The Commission will provide for a more accountable mental health system and work collaboratively with the government and non-government sectors, and the broader community, to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to mental health care throughout the state.

*3720 CYCLING INDUCTION LOOPS—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to the report "Why do cyclists infringe at red lights? An investigation of Australian cyclists' reasons for red light infringement" published in Accident Analysis & Prevention (Volume 50 January 2013):

- (1) What evidence does the Government have about the problem identified in the study showing one quarter of cyclists who travel through red lights do so because the embedded inductive loop does not recognise bicycles?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that all induction loops operate to recognise bicycles and how often are these tested?
- (3) Given that bicycles must be situated directly over the area of maximum sensitivity to be detected:
 - (a) How does the Government inform cyclists about correct placement at traffic signals?
 - (b) What assessment has the Government made of painted detection points to direct cyclists to correct placement at signals as used in Western Australia?
 - (c) Will the Government include painted detection points at all traffic signals to identify correct placement for cyclists?
- (4) What further action will the Government take to ensure that all traffic signal inductive loops recognise bicycles and cyclists know where to stop to trigger traffic signals?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In 2011 the Institute for Sustainable Futures of the University of Technology and Bitzios Consulting conducted independent studies titled Cyclist Behaviour at Sydney CBD Cycleway Intersections; and Sydney CBD Cycleways Traffic Signals Optimisation. Both studies provided the way ahead for inductive loop development as well as other technologies that may assist cyclists. The inductive loop has been modified to incorporate the key detection findings of both studies.
- (2) In 2012 Roads and Maritime Services commissioned a study to investigate the operation of inductive loops on some bicycle paths. In general, the study found that the inductive loops were operating as designed and that the detection of bicycle riders was reliable as long as the rider remained within the detection zone until the traffic signal turned green.

Roads and Maritime Services has developed a test procedure in partnership with City of Sydney Council to demonstrate that the bicycles can be detected. This test procedure may be used when a new bicycle loop is installed or when a fault is reported.

- (3) (a) Information about rider position in relation to inductive loops is included in the handbook for bicycle riders, available on Bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au.
- (b) The Australian standard for traffic signals is currently under review and Roads and Maritime Services is raising the matter with the responsible committee.
- (c) Awaiting the outcome of the review of the Australian standard..
- (4) Roads and Maritime Services is in the process of preparing a short video which will illustrate where the loops are, and how riders should position themselves to trigger the signals. This video will also be available on Bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au.

*3721 SOCIAL HOUSING GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Noting that rapid response graffiti removal has been shown to reduce its incidence and help prevent further graffiti and improve perceptions of safety:

- (1) What programs does the Department of Finance and Services operate to remove graffiti on its social housing properties?
- (2) What programs apply to common areas inside buildings and where public access removal by Councils does not occur?
- (3) What is the process and timeframe for removal of obscene and offensive graffiti on housing properties?

- (4) What is the process and timeframe for removal of other graffiti on housing properties?
- (5) (a) Has all non-urgent graffiti removal been put on hold until next financial year?
(b) If so, why?
- (6) What practical help and information does the Government provide to tenants to help them remove graffiti from housing properties?
- (7) What volunteer graffiti removal projects does the Government run for social housing tenants?
- (8) What kits does the Government provide to social housing tenants who wish to help remove graffiti near their homes?
- (9) What further action will the Government take to ensure prompt removal of graffiti on its properties?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Removal of graffiti is undertaken by Land and Housing Corporation through its maintenance programs.
- (3) The process involves inspection and removal of the graffiti under the relevant program timeframe.
- (4) The graffiti removal is included in a future program of works under the relevant program timeframe.
- (5) (a) No.
(b) N/A.
- (6) to (9) Land and Housing Corporation does not run volunteer graffiti removal projects for social housing tenants. Tenants can assist by reporting graffiti for removal by Land and Housing Corporation through the Housing Contact Centre, available 24 hours, 7 days.

*3722 HOUSING NSW TENANCY SUCCESSION—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Noting new Housing NSW policies on "Succession of Tenancy" and "Recognition as a Tenant", and reports that constituents are being evicted under these policy changes:

- (1) Does Housing NSW policy allow only one eligible adult to be the lessee for each household?
- (2) Does the new policy mean that all leaseholder partners or children could be evicted or made homeless if the leaseholder leaves the property due to death, disability ill-health or imprisonment?
- (3) Do the new policies require current tenants eligible for social housing to move out and go to the end of the waiting list for housing?
- (4) Can Succession of Tenancy applicants remain in their homes while Housing NSW processes applications and appeals for recognition and succession?
- (5) Will the new policies result in the eviction of one family currently in housing in order to house another family from the waiting list and not reduce the overall waiting list?
- (6) What education and training has been provided to Housing NSW officers to apply these policies?
- (7) What additional staff have been allocated to help those tenants found not eligible for succession of tenancy or recognition as a tenant with relocation, private rental applications and rehousing costs?
- (8) How will the Government evaluate the impact of these new policies?
- (9) What consideration will be given to the additional occupants' length of stay in their current home when applying for succession?
- (10) What training and information is provided to Housing NSW staff to ensure they are able to implement new policy and provide advice on options and processes to tenants seeking succession?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) to (10) Details of the policy are available on the Department of Family and Community Services website.

Training has been provided to staff and regular reporting will be implemented to ensure the objectives of the policy are being achieved.

*3723 CHILDCARE FACILITIES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With respect to analysis in The Australia Institute report "Trouble with childcare affordability, availability and quality":

- (1) What programs does the Government provide to help parents and guardians locate childcare that meets their needs, including waiting lists and vacancies?
- (2) What data does the Government have about childcare demand in the inner city?
- (3) What data does the Government have about future demand for childcare in the inner city?

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- (4) What support does the Government provide to increase the availability of flexible and responsive childcare options?
- (5) How does the Government support the provision of appropriate land and buildings for childcare facilities?
- (6) What other support does the Government provide to help the establishment of new childcare facilities in high demand area?
- (7) What action has the Government taken with the Commonwealth Government to increase childcare in areas of high need?
- (8) What further action will the Government take to improve childcare affordability, availability and quality?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Education.

*3724 OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFFING NUMBERS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Why have staffing numbers been reduced from five to two within the Office of Veterans Affairs?

Answer—

Staffing levels in Veterans' Affairs have not been reduced. The Veterans' Affairs branch is now better resourced.

The Office of Communities also provides a full suite of corporate support services to Veterans' Affairs.

*3725 ANZAC MEMORIAL BUILDING ANNUAL REPORT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) Why has the 2011-2012 Annual Report for the ANZAC Memorial Building not met the assigned timetable for presentation to this Parliament?
- (2) Which government department is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Annual Report?

Answer—

(1) Between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2012, the Trustees were provided with accounting services by a number of different NSW Government agencies and shared services providers, resulting in a high degree of complexity in the creation of financial statements for that period. Treasury had previously extended the reporting period to eighteen months to align the ANZAC Memorial's annual reporting with the financial year. The Trustees' Annual Report and audited financial statements for 2011-12 will be finalised shortly.

(2) The preparation of the 2011-12 Annual Report is now the responsibility of Veterans' Affairs within the Office of Communities, Department of Education and Communities.

*3726 NEWCASTLE DISTRICT CENTENARY OF ANZAC AND CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) When will the Newcastle District Centenary of Anzac Steering and Co-ordinating Committee receive a response to a letter sent to the Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs dated 21 November 2012 requesting endorsement of the Committee?
- (2) What are the reasons for the delay in responding to the Committee?
- (3) If the Government is not going to respond to the Committee, why not?

Answer—

I have enquired with the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary, and I am informed a response to the Committee is forthcoming.

*3728 ANZAC MEMORIAL BUILDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

How will the Government guarantee the proper funding for maintenance and future capital improvements to the Anzac Memorial Building and stop the decline in capital funds for the principal memorial in NSW?

Answer—

The NSW Government provides funding to the Trustees of the ANZAC War Memorial Building, who are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Memorial.

*3729 HOUSING NSW HANDYMAN PROJECT—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—

In relation to the handyman project for Housing NSW properties:

- (1) How many projects have been undertaken by the handyman in the Keira electorate in this financial year?
- (2) What is the funding allocation for handyman projects in the Keira electorate and the Illawarra?
- (3) What is the overall funding allocation in NSW for handyman projects?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance and Services.

*3730 MOUNT KEIRA DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Why did Mount Keira Demonstration School not receive flashing lights for their school in the latest rollout?
- (2) When will the school community receive these flashing lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) All school zones in NSW are assessed using the School Pedestrian Risk Model that considers factors such as approach speed, traffic and pedestrian volumes, sight distances and existing pedestrian facilities. Unfortunately, Mount Keira Demonstration School was not in the latest rollout because other schools were assessed as being higher risk.
- (2) School zones that have not yet received flashing lights, including Mount Keira Demonstration School, will be reassessed for future rollouts.

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3731 LAND TITLES OFFICE SALE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

*3732 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND TRANSPORT ALLOCATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to the \$350 Million Hunter Infrastructure Fund:

- (1) What dollar amount was provided from the Transport budget for the fund?
- (2) How much of this funding has been spent?
- (3) How much remains to be spent?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3)

Information regarding the status of transport projects funded by the Hunter Infrastructure Fund is available online at www.hunterinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au.

3733 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND HEALTH ALLOCATION—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

*3734 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ROADS ALLOCATION—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the \$350 Million Hunter Infrastructure Fund:

- (1) What dollar amount was provided from the Roads budget for the fund?
- (2) How much of this funding has been spent?
- (3) How much remains to be spent?

Answer—

I am advised:

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(1) to (3) The Government allocated \$350 million to the Fund over four years, commencing in the 2011-12 financial year. Approximately \$170 million has been allocated to transport projects over four years commencing 2011-12 through to 2014-15.

Information regarding the status of transport projects is available online at www.hunterinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au.

*3735 MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to mobile speed cameras used in NSW:

- (1) Who allocates the placement of the vehicle and camera?
- (2) Is there a preferred position on a hill for the placement of the vehicle and camera?
- (3) Are there set numbers of cameras operating in each electorate?
- (4) If a local community group were seeking to have a speed camera installed out of regard for community safety, what would be the appropriate means by which they could achieve this?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In consultation with the Centre for Road Safety and NSW Police, Roads and Maritime Services and the service provider conduct a technical assessment in each mobile speed camera location to identify safe and feasible enforcement sites, which guides the placement of the vehicle and camera.
- (2) There are specific criteria to determine enforcement sites, such as operational requirements of the enforcement technology. These criteria include an assessment of slope to ensure enforcement is not conducted on a significant downhill grade unless there is a specific safety reason.
- (3) No.
- (4) Members of the public can nominate where they think a speed camera should be located via the Safer Roads website at www.saferroadsnsw.com.au. These nominations are reviewed by the Centre for Road Safety to determine if the location is suitable for speed enforcement.

*3736 CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION CTP CATEGORY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the Conditional Registration CTP Category:

- (1) What areas are classified as "Other"?
- (2) What areas are classified as "Country"?
- (3) Why does "Other" classified Conditional Registration cost approximately 120% more than "Country" classified Conditional Registration?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Finance and Services.

3737 KURRI KURRI TAFE HEAVY VEHICLE MECHANICAL COURSE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—

*3738 GRAFTON AND CESSNOCK GAOL PRISON NUMBERS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

With regard to prisoner number in the Grafton and Cessnock gaols, how many prisoners were housed at each of these 2 prisons as of 8:00 am on:

- (1) Monday July 9, 2012;
- (2) Tuesday July 10, 2012;
- (3) Wednesday July 11, 2012;
- (4) Thursday July 12, 2012;
- (5) Friday July 13, 2012;
- (6) Saturday July 14, 2012; and
- (7) Sunday July 15, 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following information is recorded as at 12:00am of the date listed.

Date	Total number of inmates at Cessnock Correctional Centre	Total number of inmates at Grafton Correctional Centre
Monday July 9, 2012	453	161
Tuesday July 10, 2012	454	161
Wednesday July 11, 2012	454	161
Thursday July 12, 2012	462	162
Friday July 13, 2012	476	74
Saturday July 14, 2012	476	75
Sunday July 15, 2012	487	76

*3739 NEWCASTLE CBD RESIDENTIAL UNITS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

With regard to residential units approved and constructed within the Newcastle CBD - as identified in Department of Planning Newcastle Urban Renewal documents:

- (1) How many residential units were approved for construction between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2012?
- (2) During this same period, how many of those units had completed construction?
- (3) Of those not yet constructed, do they remain as approved and ready for construction or has their approval lapsed?
- (4) How many residential units have had their plans approved for construction in 2013?

Answer—

I am advised that –

- (1) to (4) This question should be directed to Newcastle City Council.

3740 GREYHOUND RACING—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

3741 BOURKE JOINT INVESTIGATION RESPONSE TEAM—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

3742 COMMUNITY BUILDERS GRANTS—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

*3743 WALSH BAY BUS SERVICES—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport—

Regarding calls for bus services to the residential precinct and arts and cultural facilities in Walsh Bay:

- (1) What assessment of demand for bus services to this precinct has been carried out?
- (2) What assessment has been carried out of extending the 311 bus route to Hickson Road?
- (3) What assessment has been carried out of extending the 433 bus to Hickson Road?
- (4) What other bus services could be considered for extension to Hickson Road?
- (5) What further changes does the Government propose to improve public transport for Walsh Bay?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) The extension of the 433 bus to Hickson Road from 6pm to midnight, seven days per week under the trial has been monitored and assessed on an ongoing basis.

Given the disappointing patronage of the 433 extension there are no plans to extend other bus routes to Walsh Bay at this time.

*3744 EASTERN SUBURBS RAILWAY LINE NOISE—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to noise impacts for residents in areas affected by rail noise adjacent to the Eastern Suburbs Railway Line:

- (1) (a) What complaints have been received about train noise in these areas over the past 12 months?
(b) Are these complaints increasing?
- (2) What action has been taken on the Noise Abatement project previously announced for this railway line?
- (3) What action has been taken to mitigate noise impacts around:

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- (a) The Domain portal and Woolloomooloo;
 - (b) Rushcutters Bay/Paddington to Glenmore Road; and
 - (c) Edgecliff?
- (4) What other options are available to reduce noise in these areas?
- (5) What further action does the Government plan to prevent train and railway noise impacts on adjacent residents?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013, RailCorp received 17 noise complaints about train noise near the Eastern Suburbs Railway Line.

(b) Complaints are decreasing.

(2) The Noise Abatement Project was a trial study which is now completed.

(3) (a) to (c) RailCorp has given priority to noise reduction work on sections of track identified in the trial study.

In the last six months RailCorp has replaced 700 metres of rail near Rushcutters Bay, and conducted noise reduction work on almost three kilometres of rail near Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay and Edgecliff.

In the last 12 months other infrastructure works have been undertaken at locations on the Eastern Suburbs Railway Line which will assist in reducing noise.

(4) and (5) RailCorp and Transport for New South Wales are continuing to develop a Rail Noise Abatement Program.

3745 TENANT PARTICIPATION POLICY—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

*3746 TAYLOR SQUARE RAINBOW CROSSING—Mr Alex Greenwich asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the Minister's comments on Channel 9 News on 26 March 2013 that the Rainbow Crossing at Taylor Square is a "risk to pedestrian safety", and noting that a City of Sydney initiated independent safety audit found the rainbow crossing did not cause accidents or injuries:

(1) What evidence were the Minister's comments based on?

(2) What safety studies have been done on the crossing?

(3) What further studies are planned?

(4) What consultation has the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) had with local police noting Assistant Police Commissioner Mark Murdoch referred to the crossing as an innovation in pedestrian safety?

(5) What assessment has the RMS done on pedestrian safety outcomes at the heavily pedestrianised rainbow crossing in West Hollywood?

Answer—

I am advised:

An independent Road Safety Audit commissioned by the City of Sydney Council and undertaken by Bitzios Consulting on the crossing's operation during March clearly found it to be unsafe with a high risk of a serious incident occurring.

Section 6.1 of the Audit states that: "the behaviour witnessed on the crossing was considered a high risk of pedestrian/vehicle related incidents". Page 19 of the Road Safety Audit recommended the option of "removal of the crossing", warning the risks being taken by pedestrians are "likely to lead to a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle".

I am advised that Mr Murdoch's personal remarks on the matter were made some weeks before the Road Safety Audit was completed and the dangers documented.

3747 WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

3748 WATER FLUORIDATION—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

- 3749 AMBULANCE NSW—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3750 INSHORE WATER RESCUE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3751 ARMIDALE HOSPITAL FUNDING—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3752 ARMIDALE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN POSITIONS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3753 ARMIDALE HOSPITAL GENERAL SURGICAL POSITIONS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3754 ARMIDALE HOSPITAL GENERAL MEDICAL ROSTER—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3755 WALKOUT RATE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3756 FAIR TRADING EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 3757 GIFT CARDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 3758 FAIR TRADING RESTRUCTURE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 3759 BANKSTOWN PUBLIC LAND SALES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3760 GEORGES HALL PUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY FENCING—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- *3761 PLANNING WHITE PAPER—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- (1) When will the Government release the upcoming Planning White Paper?
 - (2) Will the Government ensure communities will always have their say on development applications?
- Answer—
- (1) The White Paper was released on 16 April 2013 for public comment.
 - (2) Community consultation is the foundation of the new planning system. The Government will increase opportunities for community participation in the State's new planning system which has been released for comment.
- Increasing community engagement in the preparation of strategic plans and the vision for their local areas represents a key change in the new planning system and will be an integral part to making key planning decisions that affect local communities.
- A wider range of tools and techniques will be designed to engage broad community interest while ePlanning initiatives will transform paper based consultation methods to more meaningful consultation methods enabling the community to better visualise growth.
- A Community Participation Charter will be created and enshrined in law. The Charter will guide planning authorities including state agencies and local government on standards of engagement.
- Councils and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure will each prepare a Community Participation Plan to detail how and when communities will be informed on development applications, processes for participation, ways in which feedback can be provided and how information can be accessed.
- 3762 NSW NOW CAMPAIGN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- *3763 OPAL CARD—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

In reference to the Government's plans to roll out the Opal card on the Manly ferry from 8 April 2013:

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When will the Government introduce electronic ticketing on the Bankstown train line?

Answer—

The Opal card is being progressively introduced and started with a Customer Trial on the Neutral Bay ferry service from 7 December 2012. On 8 April 2013, the Customer Trial on ferries was extended to the Manly ferry service.

The Opal card provides the following fare incentives:

- a weekly reward providing free travel after eight paid journeys in a week;
- a \$2.50 daily cap on Sunday; and
- a daily travel cap of \$15.00 from Monday to Saturday.

Following the customer trial, the Opal card will be progressively rolled out across the train network, including the Bankstown line.

*3764 PUNCHBOWL TRAIN STATION CAR PARK—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport—

Given the demand for parking spaces and the availability of land in the vicinity of Punchbowl train station:

Will the Government expand the car park at the station?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 23 April 2012, the NSW Government announced a new Transport Access Program which will deliver accessible, modern, secure and integrated transport infrastructure where it is needed most. This includes station upgrades, better interchanges, ferry wharf upgrades and commuter car parks. The Transport Access Program includes a commitment of more than \$770 million prioritised against specific criteria.

More planning and design work will now occur to see which projects will come next. Punchbowl Station is being considered as part of this process.

*3765 TREE MUTILATION—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) What processes are in place to respond to complaints about tree mutilation or removal?
- (2) Which authority has responsibility to respond to complaints about tree mutilation or removal?
- (3) What processes are in place to follow up on a complaint relating to tree mutilation or removal on a social or public housing property?
- (4) What penalties are associated with tree mutilation or removal?
- (5) How are these penalties applied in instances where trees on public or social housing are mutilated or removed?
- (6) Where tree mutilation or removal has been perpetrated by an individual who is not the owner of the property, how is this matter handled?
- (7) Where tree mutilation or removal has been perpetrated by a tenant in a public or social housing property, how is the matter handled?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

Councils have a range of powers to manage trees in their areas.

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, councils may order the preservation of a tree or trees. Questions regarding the powers under this Act should be directed to my colleague, the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure.

Additionally, under the Local Government Act 1993, councils may issue an order to the owner or occupier of land to take action to ensure that the land is kept in a safe condition. Questions relating to such orders should be directed to the individual council in question.

Nuisance or risk to public safety presented by trees on private land is generally a civil matter between the affected parties which may be resolved via negotiation or civil action under the Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006. The Act, which commenced in 2007, provides a cost-effective mechanism for resolving disputes such as these, and is the responsibility of my colleague, the Attorney-General.

3766 RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

- 3767 STUDENT ENROLMENTS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3768 GREAT TEACHING GREAT LEARNING REFORMS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3769 INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3770 SCHOOL CLOSURES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3771 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3772 SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNTS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- *3773 MARRICKVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) When will Marrickville Public School get flashing lights for 40 km per hour school zones?
 - (2) Will the school zone be extended to Victoria, Illawarra and Sydenham Roads near Marrickville Public School?
 - (3) Will the current school zones be extended to cover the whole of Chapel, Farr and Thompson Streets?
 - (4) Will flashing lights be installed on Victoria, Illawarra and Sydenham Roads near the school?
 - (5) Given that a child was hit by a vehicle on 22 March 2013:
Will Marrickville Public School be appointed a School Crossing Supervisor at Chapel Street?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) Marrickville Public School did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the 2013-14 rollout of flashing lights, but will be re-assessed for future rollouts.
 - (2) School zones are intended for close proximity to school access points, not for routes to school. As Victoria, Illawarra and Sydenham roads are located considerable distances from the access points into Marrickville Public School, school zones are not considered appropriate at these locations.
 - (3) Roads and Maritime Services will inspect the school zones on Chapel, Farr and Thompson streets to ensure they are located appropriately with respect to school access points. This inspection will occur after the April 2013 school holidays.
 - (4) Please refer to (2) above.
 - (5) Roads and Maritime Services has not received a request for a School Crossing Supervisor from Marrickville Public School. However, traffic and pedestrian counts will be undertaken in the new school term to assess the crossing against the criteria for appointing a supervisor.
- 3774 MARRICKVILLE AND NEWTOWN FIRE STATIONS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- *3775 VACANT DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTIES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- How many Departmental properties are vacant in the following suburbs:
- (1) Heckenberg;
 - (2) Villawood;
 - (3) Fairfield;
 - (4) Smithfield;
 - (5) Mount Druitt;
 - (6) Parramatta?
- Answer—
- This question should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Services.
- 3776 MERRYLANDS EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY FINISH TRIAL TIMETABLE—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3777 MERRYLANDS EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOOL ZONES COMMUNITY CONSULTATION—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—

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- 3778 MERRYLANDS EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL TIMETABLE IMPLEMENTATION—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- 3779 FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3780 CANTERBURY HOSPITAL INTERPRETERS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 3781 A-LEAGUE AND WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS GAMES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 3782 SYDNEY FC SPONSORSHIP—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

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- 3783 HOME POWER SAVINGS SCHEME—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to the Office of Environment and Heritage's Home Power Savings Scheme:

- (1) What feedback has the Government received about this program?
- (2) How many households have received assistance?
- (3) When is the program due to end?
- (4) What evaluation has been carried out on the program?
- (5) What plans do the Government have to extend and expand this program?

- 3784 MAIN ROAD 195 FLOOD MITIGATION—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the area surrounding Main Road 195 (formerly known as State Road 135) at Testers Hollow between Cliftleigh and Gillieston Heights:

- (1) Has any previous state governments commissioned flood mitigation measures for the flooding area?
- (2) If yes, when?

- 3785 MAIN ROAD 195 FLOOD MITIGATION—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With regard to the area surrounding Main Road 195 (formerly known as State Road 135) at Testers Hollow between Cliftleigh and Gillieston Heights:

- (1) Has either Cessnock City Council or Maitland City Council requested previous state governments to explore flood mitigation measures for the flooding area?
- (2) If yes:
 - (a) When?
 - (b) Which Council?
 - (c) On how many occasions where the requests received?

- 3786 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT FACILITIES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport—

With regard to community transport facilities utilised by the elderly within our communities:

- (1) How many facilities are there across NSW?
- (2) On average, how many community members use these facilities per annum?
- (3) What funding has been provided for these facilities for the financial years:
 - (a) 2009-2010;
 - (b) 2010-2011;
 - (c) 2011-2012?

- 3787 REDIRECTION OF AIRCRAFT TO BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the Government rule out the redirection of any passenger or freight aircraft servicing rural or

- remote areas from Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport to Bankstown?
(2) If not, why not?
- 3788 WEST DAPTO HOUSING ACCELERATION FUND—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- (1) What is the progress of the Housing Acceleration Fund project at West Dapto?
(2) What is the estimated time-frame for completing the project?
(3) What is the estimated cost of the project?
- 3789 RAILWAY PLATFORM SMOKING FINES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- With regard to the enactment of the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Act 2012:
- (1) Have any commuters been fined or charged under any act for smoking on a railway platform or train since 1 July 2012?
(2) If so, how many?
- 3790 BUILDER SHORTAGES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- In regard to Master Builders Association estimates that 80,000 builders throughout Australia will retire by the end of the decade, what action will the Government take to address the possible shortage of builders in NSW?
- 3791 COAL SEAM GAS EXPLORATION LICENCE PEL 267—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- With regard to the coal seam gas exploration licence known as PEL 267:
- (1) Will PEL 267 be affected in any way by The Strategic Regional Land Use Policy which was released 11 September 2012?
(2) Will PEL 267 be affected in any way by measures to further strengthen the regulation of the Coal Seam Gas industry in NSW announced by the Premier and Deputy Premier on 19 February 2013?
- 3792 HOUSING NSW TENANT FRAUD UNIT—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- Will the Minister invest any surplus funds derived from the recent amnesty by the Housing NSW Tenant Fraud Unit to help address the housing affordability crisis in South-West Sydney?
- 3793 WATER SUPPLY DISCONNECTION—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- How many persons have had water supply disconnected for non payment of accounts for addresses in the 2770 postcode area in the last two years?
- 3794 CESSNOCK TIMBER BRIDGES PROGRAM—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- With regards to funding available to Cessnock City Council for the Timber Bridges Program:
- (1) What funding has been made available to the Council over the last seven years?
(2) (a) Have the Council expended their funding?
(b) Does it still retain some funding for future works?
(3) (a) What bridges have been worked on in this period?
(b) What are expected to be worked on in the future?
(4) (a) Does the RMS still have a Timber Bridge Funding Program?
(b) To what value?
(c) Will Cessnock City Council be entitled to apply?
- 3795 CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION CTP CATEGORY—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- With regard to the Conditional Registration CTP Category:

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- (1) What areas are classified as "Other"?
- (2) What areas are classified as "Country"?
- (3) Why does "Other" classified Conditional Registration cost approximately 120% more than "Country" classified Conditional Registration?
- 3796 WESTERN SYDNEY OUTFALL PIPES—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Does Sydney Water have any plans to make Western Sydney Outfall pipes inaccessible as they cross the Cooks River?
- (2) Is Sydney Water aware of the practice of young men using the exposed pipes as a bridge?
- 3797 487 CAMPSIE TO BANKSTOWN BUS SERVICE—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport—
- In regard to the 487 Campsie to Bankstown bus service:
- (1) How does the State Transit Authority (STA) define a late running bus service?
- (2) What is the benchmark or target performance indicator for on-time running of STA bus services?
- (3) In the 12 month period from April 2012 to April 2013:
- (a) How many times has the 487 bus service run late, according to the STA's definition of a late running service?
- (b) What causes were identified which contributed to the service running late?
- (4) In the 12 month period from April 2011 to April 2012:
- (a) How many times has the 487 bus service run late, according to the STA's definition of a late running service?
- (b) What causes were identified which contributed to the service running late?
- (5) In the 12 month period from April 2012 to April 2013:
- (a) How many times has the 487 been cancelled?
- (b) What were the reasons why the service was cancelled?
- (6) In the 12 month period from April 2011 to April 2012:
- (a) How many times has the 487 been cancelled?
- (b) What were the reasons why the service was cancelled?
- 3798 487 CAMPSIE TO BANKSTOWN BUS SERVICE COMPLAINTS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport—
- In regard to complaints received about the 487 Campsie to Bankstown bus service:
- (1) What is State Transit's benchmark or target performance indicator for customer complaints?
- (2) How many customer complaints were received about the 487 bus service in the 12 month period from April 2012 to April 2013?
- (3) How does the rate of complaints for the 487 bus service compare to the average rate of complaints for STA services for the period from April 2012 to April 2013?
- (4) What were reasons given for customer complaints during the period from April 2012 to April 2013?
- (5) How many customer complaints were received about the 487 bus service in the 12 month period from April 2011 to April 2012?
- (6) How does the rate of complaints for the 487 bus service compare to the average rate of complaints for STA services for the period from April 2011 to April 2012?
- (7) What were the reasons given for customer complaints during the period from April 2011 to April 2012?
- (8) What actions have been taken or what actions are proposed for the 487 service to address customer complaints?
- 3799 BELMORE RAILCORP FREIGHT LINE—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport—
- In regard to the Belmore RailCorp Freight Line:
- (1) How does RailCorp identify that the rolling stock of a private sector rail freight operator is producing abnormal levels of noise?
- (2) Has RailCorp identified that the rolling stock of any private sector freight rail operators using the Metropolitan Freight Network in the vicinity of Paxton Avenue is producing abnormal levels of noise?
- (3) If RailCorp has identified that the rolling stock of a private sector rail freight operator is producing abnormal levels of noise:

- (a) What communication has RailCorp had with those private sector rail freight operators;
- (b) In what form was the communication made?
- (c) When was the communication was made?

3800 MAINTENANCE REPAIR AND UPGRADE OF ROAD PAVEMENTS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Can the Minister advise:

- (1) In regard to the maintenance, repair and upgrade of road pavements on state roads, what is the basis for prioritising road pavement repairs and maintenance?
- (2) Has the Road and Maritime Service undertaken an assessment of the condition of the road pavement of Canterbury Road between King Georges Road and Bexley Road?
 - (a) If yes, what was the result of the assessment?
- (3) Has any sections of the road pavement on Canterbury Road between King Georges Road and Bexley Road been identified for repair, maintenance or upgrade?
 - (a) If yes, when will the works be undertaken?

3801 BARANGAROO SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Noting that the Department of Finance and Services is reviewing its properties in Millers Point:

- (1) What affordable housing is planned for the Barangaroo Central development?
- (2) What social housing is planned for the Barangaroo Central development?
- (3) What further action will the Government take to provide low cost housing at Barangaroo?

3802 CHILDCARE FACILITIES—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Education—

With respect to analysis in The Australia Institute report "Trouble with childcare affordability, availability and quality":

- (1) What programs does the Government provide to help parents and guardians locate childcare that meets their needs, including waiting lists and vacancies?
- (2) What data does the Government have about childcare demand in the inner city?
- (3) What data does the Government have about future demand for childcare in the inner city?
- (4) What support does the Government provide to increase the availability of flexible and responsive childcare options?
- (5) How does the Government support the provision of appropriate land and buildings for childcare facilities?
- (6) What other support does the Government provide to help the establishment of new childcare facilities in high demand area?
- (7) What action has the Government taken with the Commonwealth Government to increase childcare in areas of high need?
- (8) What further action will the Government take to improve childcare affordability, availability and quality?

3803 PENSION RATE CONCESSIONS—Mr Ron Hoenig to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to the Independent Local Government Review Panel report released last week which proposed abolishing the \$250 council rate concession for pensioners:

Will the Minister give an assurance that council pension rate concessions will not be abolished?

3804 AMENDING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT—Mr Ron Hoenig to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

Is the Minister in considering the report of the Independent Local Government Review Panel, amending the Local Government Act to enable Councils to construct, fund and run light rail systems in their local government areas?

3805 STOCKTON CENTRE NURSE TO PATIENT RATIO—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) What is the nurse to patient ratio at the Stockton Centre?
- (2) What is the recommended nurse to patient ratio?

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- 3806 POLICE TO POPULATION RATIO NEWCASTLE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- (1) What is the police to population ratio in the Newcastle Local Area Command?
 - (2) How does this compare with the NSW ratio and the police to population ratio in other Australian states?
 - (3) Will the Minister employ more police in the Hunter Region considering its rates of crime are above the state average in 12 out of 17 categories, according to the most recent figures from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics?
- 3807 MAINTENANCE ON DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING HOMES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) What is the current budget for maintenance on Department of Housing homes in the Hunter region?
 - (2) (a) Has this budget increased from previous years?
(b) If not, why not?
- 3808 GLOUCESTER AND MANNING HOSPITALS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Will the Government reduce services, including maternity services, at Gloucester and Manning hospitals?
 - (2) Will the Government downgrade Gloucester and Manning hospitals?
- 3809 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Why are there no palliative care staff specialists based at Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital?
 - (2) Are there plans to rectify this situation?
(a) If so, when?
(b) If not, why not?
 - (3) Will funding for existing palliative care services in the Hunter Region be maintained or increased?
- 3810 OVERPASS BRIDGE - STEWART AV AND HANNELL ST—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) Does the Government plan to build an overpass bridge connecting Newcastle's Stewart Avenue and Hannell Street?
 - (2) If not, does it have any other plans to alleviate congestion at this intersection?
- 3811 FRONTLINE HEALTH SERVICES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Does the Government's definition of "frontline health services" include emergency room nurses?
 - (2) (a) Is the Government planning to reduce emergency department nursing staff levels at the John Hunter Hospital by one nurse every morning and one nurse after midnight about four days a week?
(b) If so, why is the Government breaking its promise not to axe frontline health services?
- 3812 DAYS SPENT IN HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) Did the Premier promise, before he was elected Premier, to spend at least one day a month in the Hunter?
 - (2) How many days has the Premier spent in the Hunter since the March 2011 election?
- 3813 STATEWIDE COMMUNITY AND COURT LIAISON SERVICE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) At which local courts do the Statewide Community and Court Liaison Service operate?
 - (2) What is the cost of the program at these locations?
- 3814 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT NO 137—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- What is the response of the Government to the recommendations of NSW Law Reform Commission Report No 137 'Security for costs and associated orders'?

3815 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT NO 136—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the Government response to the recommendations of NSW Law Reform Commission Report no 136 Jury Directions?

3816 REPLY TO STEVE CANSDELL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

When does the Director of Public Prosecutions propose to reply in relation to the advice of Greg James QC concerning Mr Steve Cansdell?

3817 MONITORING - BETTER PRACTICE REVIEW REPORT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

(1) (a) Has any monitoring been carried out of the implementation by Liverpool Council of the recommendations of the Better Practice Review Report?

(b) Have these recommendations been implemented?

3818 LINDA MARKOU—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

(1) Have you responded to the letter to you from Linda Anne Markou?

(a) If so, what was your response?

3819 INVOLVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE - BRINGELLY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Has NSW Animal Rescue approached the Minister or Juvenile Justice concerning their site in Bringelly and the involvement and/or training of young people there involved with Juvenile Justice?

(a) If so, what was the Government's response?

3820 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

(1) Has the NSW Police force implemented recommendations (i) to (v) inclusive of the Ombudsman's Report dated February 2013 into the monitoring of the police investigation into the death of Roberto Laudisio-Curti?

(a) If not, why not?

(2) What is the Government response to recommendation (vi) and (vii) in the Report referred to above?

3821 COST ORDERS MADE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) Will the Minister agree not to pursue the enforcement of the costs order made against the plaintiff in the proceedings brought on behalf of a forensic patient by his tutor Brett Collins against the Mental Health Review Tribunal in the Supreme Court?

(a) If not, why not?

3822 GUIDELINES TO CRIME COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

(1) Has the Management Committee of the NSW Crime Commission issued guidelines to the Crime Commission concerning Criminal Assets Recovery?

(a) Do any such guidelines comply with the recommendations in the report by the Police Integrity Commission in Operation Winjana?

(2) Where may such Guidelines be viewed?

3823 SURGICAL WAITING TIMES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Surgical waiting times on the "Find your health service" website where the reported quarter is for 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2012 as of 30 April 2013:

When will the latest available data be updated on the site?

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- 3824 CREMORNE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regards to the Minister's pre-election commitment, when will the Cremorne Community Mental Health Centre be re-opened?
- 3825 SURGICAL WAIT TIME EXPLANATION—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regards to the Surgical waiting times on the "Find your health service" website.
- (1) Is this reported waiting time
 - (a) Median wait time.
 - (b) Mean wait time.
 - (c) 90th centile wait time.
 - (2) Where on the website is this wait time explained?
- 3826 NSW AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- As of 1 April 2013:
- (1) How many fully qualified paramedics are employed in front line roles by NSW Ambulance Service?
 - (2) How many paramedics in training are employed in front line roles by NSW Ambulance Service?
 - (3) How many vacancies currently exist for qualified paramedics?
- 3827 NEPEAN HOSPITAL MATERNITY UNIT BIRTHRATE PLUS STAFFING—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regards to the Maternity Unit at Nepean Hospital.
- (1) How many Full Time Employment nursing and midwifery staff would be required to fully staff this unit, using Birthrate plus as the format?
 - (2) When will Birthrate plus staffing be implemented in the Nepean Maternity Unit?
- 3828 NEPEAN HOSPITAL MATERNITY UNIT STAFF—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- With regards to the Maternity Unit at Nepean Hospital.
- (1) What is the Nursing and Midwifery Full Time Employment establishment of this unit?
 - (a) How many of these positions are filled?
 - (b) How many are vacant as of 1 April 2013?
- 3829 NEEDLE EXCHANGE MACHINE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) After a meeting with local business owners of Redfern community, did the Minister assure Ben Fordham that extra needle bins would be installed, before the needle vending machine was turned on?
 - (2) When did this needle exchange machine begin operating?
 - (3) When were these extra needle bins installed?
- 3830 RAILWAY STATION PAINTED SMOKING SIGNS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) Has consideration been given to painted signs on the ground at either the pedestrian entrances to, or on the platforms of railway stations (similar to those on the entrance to Sydney University) indicating that railway stations are smoke free?
 - (2) If no, will the Minister instruct Cityrail to investigate this option?
- 3831 ALCOHOL PRODUCT ADVERTISING—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- In reference to the NSW Alcohol Summit 2013:
- What is the Government's position on the proposal to prohibit advertising of alcohol products?
- 3832 VEHICLE OFFENCES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

How many fines have been issued in the last two financial years for the following offences:

- (1) Not restrain vehicle properly?
- (2) Not remove ignition key (vehicle unattended)?
- (3) Not secure windows/lock doors (vehicle unattended)?
- (4) Driver splash mud on bus passengers?

3833 VEHICLE OFFENCES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

How many fines have been issued in the last two financial years for the following offences:

- (1) Not restrain vehicle properly?
- (2) Not remove ignition key (vehicle unattended)?
- (3) Not secure windows/lock doors (vehicle unattended)?
- (4) Driver splash mud on bus passengers?

3834 ALBION PARK MEDICAL HELICOPTER—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In relation to the Medical Helicopter based at Albion Park Airport, when will the Minister inform the community about:

- (1) The future of this service?
- (2) The future location of this service?

3835 RESOURCES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

In relation to the Resources for Regions program:

- (1) How were the Illawarra region and the Wollongong Local Government area excluded in the first two rounds?
- (2) What specific data and information did the Minister receive to change the decision and announce that they will now be included?
- (3) What changes have been made to the criteria for determining what Councils will be included in the future rollout of this program?
- (4) Will Cessnock and Maitland Local Government Areas be now included?

3836 WYEE SEWERAGE SERVICES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

Does the Priority Sewerage Scheme still operate outside of the Sydney metropolitan region?

3837 VACANT DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTIES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

How many Departmental properties are vacant in the following suburbs:

- (1) Heckenberg;
- (2) Villawood;
- (3) Fairfield;
- (4) Smithfield;
- (5) Mount Druitt;
- (6) Parramatta?

3838 MERIT PROGRAM AT LOCAL COURTS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What is the cost of the MERIT program at the following local courts?

Albion Park	Coffs Harbour	Kogarah	Newtown	Singleton
Ballina	Cooma	Kyogle	North Sydney	Sutherland
Bankstown	Downing Centre	Lismore	Nowra	Tamworth
Bathurst	Dubbo	Liverpool	Oberon	Toronto
Blacktown	Fairfield	Maclean	Orange	Tweed Heads
Blayney	Forbes	Maitland	Parkes	Wagga Wagga
Broken Hill	Gosford	Manly	Parramatta	Wauchope

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Tuesday 30 April 2013

Burwood	Grafton	Milton	Penrith	Waverley
Byron Bay	Hornsby	Mt Druitt	Port Kembla	Wellington
Camden	Junee	Mullumbimby	Port Macquarie	Wilcannia
Campbelltown	Katoomba	Murwillumbah	Queanbeyan	Wollongong
Casino	Kempsey	Muswellbrook	Raymond Terrace	Woy Woy
Cessnock	Kiama	Newcastle	Ryde	Wyong

3839 HOUSING NSW HANDYMAN PROJECT—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the handyman project for Housing NSW properties:

- (1) How many projects have been undertaken by the handyman in the Keira electorate in this financial year?
- (2) What is the funding allocation for handyman projects in the Keira electorate and the Illawarra?
- (3) What is the overall funding allocation in NSW for handyman projects?