



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 102**

TUESDAY 10 JULY 2012

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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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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 90 (Including Question Nos 2163 to 2199)	26 June 2012
Q & A No. 91 (Including Question Nos 2200 to 2211)	27 June 2012
Q & A No. 92 (Including Question Nos 2212 to 2245)	28 June 2012
Q & A No. 93 (Including Question Nos 2246 to 2272)	03 July 2012
Q & A No. 94 (Including Question Nos 2273 to 2284)	04 July 2012
Q & A No. 95 (Including Question Nos 2285 to 2322)	05 July 2012
Q & A No. 96 (Including Question Nos 2323 to 2343)	17 July 2012
Q & A No. 97 (Including Question Nos 2344 to 2369)	18 July 2012
Q & A No. 98 (Including Question Nos 2370 to 2420)	19 July 2012
Q & A No. 99 (Including Question Nos 2421 to 2447)	24 July 2012
Q & A No. 100 (Including Question Nos 2448 to 2461)	25 July 2012
Q & A No. 101 (Including Question Nos 2462 to 2499)	26 July 2012
Q & A No. 102 (Questions—Nil)	-

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**22 MAY 2012**

(Paper No. 90)

\*2163 GUN-RELATED CRIMES—Mr Richard Amery 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) How many gun-related crimes have been reported in the electorate of Mount Druitt in the 12-month period ending 22 May 2012?
- (2) How many of these offences involved the use of a firearm on a residential property?
- (3) Have any persons been arrested and charged for any of these offences?
- (4) In relation to (3) above, how many of these persons were registered gun owners using a firearm registered in their name?

Answer—

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics and can provide the numbers of crimes in an area. These statistics are available on the BOCSAR website at [www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au).

On this occasion I am advised the NSW Police Force had to undertake a manual search of records to determine in which electorate they occurred to provide the following information. Based on this manual process, fourteen gun-related criminal events were identified in the electorate of Mount Druitt, eight of which involved the use of a firearm on residential property. Of these, six events have resulted in a person being arrested and charged, as at 29 May 2012. None of the events involved registered gun owners using a firearm registered in their name.

\*2164 PROPOSED CONCRETE BARRIERS—WARRIMOO—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In reference to the proposed concrete barriers proposed for the Great Western Highway Warrimoo:

- (1) When did works for the project begin?
- (2) What is the amount of funds allocated to this project?
- (3) When was the project suspended?
- (4) Why has the project been suspended?
- (5) What is the amount of funds so far expended on the project, up to the day the project was suspended?
- (6) What criteria were used to make the decision to build a concrete barrier at this site?
- (7) What other safety treatment options were considered?
- (8) Why were these other safety treatments not chosen?
- (9) What is the crash data for the site?
- (10) How does this crash data compare with similar sites?
- (11) When will the program of works be made publicly available?
- (12) What are the standards and guidelines used by Road and Maritime Service (RMS) in evaluating sites for the black spots programs?
- (13) What are the standards and guidelines used by RMS to determine the most appropriate safety treatments for identified sites?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Planning work for the median safety barrier began in mid 2011. Construction commenced on Monday 2 April 2012.
- (2) \$385,000 has been approved.
- (3) and (4) Following concern from a resident regarding the proposed concrete barrier, in May 2012 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) put construction on hold. RMS committed to further investigation into the type of barrier along the median of the Great Western Highway from 500 metres north to 900 metres north of Baden Place, Warrimoo, and validation of the crash data.
- (5) \$195,000 was spent by May 2012.
- (6) RMS developed the proposal of the central safety barrier on the Great Western Highway at Warrimoo from 500 metres north to 900 metres north of Baden Place to address head-on crashes. Three head-on crashes occurred at the site during the period between 2006 and 2010. The proposed safety barrier on the

median is intended to reduce the severity of this crash type, thereby improving road safety. This project has a calculated safety Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR) of 7.0.

(7) Two types of safety barriers were investigated for this site:

- Wire rope safety barrier
- Concrete barrier.

(8) The wire rope safety barrier option was not favoured, due to the ongoing safety risks to maintenance crews needed to maintain the wire rope in the event of impacts. Additionally, the option of wire rope safety barrier on a narrow median was not supported as the flexible barrier may deflect outside of the median, resulting in a head-on crash.

(9) See (6) above.

(10) This cluster of crashes was identified as part of the investigation of the Great Western Highway following a fatal crash in 2011. As part of an ongoing road safety program, clusters of head-on and off carriageway crashes are identified for investigation and remedial works. Each site is assessed on a case by case basis and funding is determined by a benefit to cost ratio.

(11) Announcement of the federal blackspot program typically occurs the weeks following the release of the federal budget.

(12) Eligibility for funding of projects under the blackspot program is as follows:

- Minimum of three casualty crashes (up to three kilometres) OR Black length: minimum of 0.2 casualty crashes per kilometre per year in the five year period.
- Benefit-to-cost ratio (BCR) of greater than 2.0 based on the total cost of project (includes any other contributions), calculated using the BCR spreadsheet.
- Minimum project cost of \$20,000 (urban areas).
- Maximum federal contribution to project of \$2 million.

(13) The primary factors that determine safety barrier types are crash analysis, BCR value, site constraints, road geometry, maintenance accessibility and worker health and safety, constructability, ongoing maintenance costs and surrounding speed limit.

\*2165 SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In reference to the re-analysis of all speed camera locations using five years of data conducted by the NSW Centre for Road Safety in September 2011:

- (1) When will the findings of the re-analysis be made publicly available?
- (2) (a) Has the proposed program of works for safety treatments at sites where cameras have not had a significant impact, been completed?  
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) Will the program of works be made publicly available?
- (4) When will the program of works be made publicly available?

Answer—

- (1) July 2012.
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The program of works was made available on the NSW Centre for Road Safety website from 1 June 2012.

\*2166 SCHOOL ZONE PENALTY NOTICES—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many penalty notices have been issued in the 2010-2011 financial year for school zone offences on days when schools did not operate but were gazetted school days?
- (2) How many penalty notices have been issued in the 2009-2010 financial year for school zone offences on days when schools did not operate but were gazetted school days?

Answer—

School zones are enforced on all gazetted school days including School Development Days. Schools operate on School Development Days because teachers and students can and do attend on these days.

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\*2167 SCHOOL ZONE SURVEYS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Have any surveys been conducted to gauge how well-informed the general community is in relation to the rules operating around school zones?
- (2) If surveys have been conducted, what are the findings?
- (3) If surveys have not been conducted, are there any proposals to conduct such research?
- (4) Are there any proposals to improve education and ensure better dissemination of information about how and when school zones operate?

Answer—

- (1) There are two ongoing surveys to gauge how well-informed the general community is about rules operating around school zones.
- (2) Key findings were that there is a good understanding and support for school zone initiatives within the community.

Respondents who had heard the school zone awareness radio advertisement understood the need to slow down to 40km/h in school zones.

Speed surveys show that drivers travel at a speed which is much lower than the regular (non school zone) speed limit during school zone times and there has been a general downward trend in the proportion of drivers speeding in school zones.

- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The NSW Government conducts a number of initiatives to ensure drivers are aware of school zone operations in the run up to the end of term and beginning of school terms.

Current school zone safety campaigns focus on key back-to-school and end-of-school weeks, in each school term. This attempts to raise awareness school speed zones and their operations. State wide radio and press is used to reinforce awareness of when school zones are operating, what times they are in place and the zone speed limit.

Evaluations of these campaigns have shown they increase public awareness of school zones.

The Government has made a \$17 million commitment to fast track the rollout of flashing lights in school zones in NSW over four years. This includes both the original \$13 million commitment plus the recently announced \$4 million to rollout additional flashing lights in country regional schools.

\*2169 WORKCOVER AUTHORITY JOBS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many WorkCover Authority jobs in Gosford does the Government intend to relocate to Sydney?
- (2) What will be the impact on these workers who were relocated from Sydney to Gosford 10 years ago?

Answer—

In 2002, when WorkCover relocated its Head Office from Kent Street, Sydney to the current site in Gosford, it was planned that approximately 500 people would be relocated.

WorkCover confirms that its head office will remain in Gosford where it is a major employer and staff numbers will remain above this level.

WorkCover recently announced changes to the Director roles within the Workers Compensation Insurance Division. Three of the four new Director roles in the Workers Compensation Insurance Division, each with its own Executive Assistant, will be based in Sydney. In total these changes will involve six roles being moved from Gosford to Sydney.

At this time, the specific number of roles which may move to Sydney is unknown. It cannot be assumed that all staff reporting through to each Director in Sydney will have their role relocated to Sydney. Once the new Directors have been appointed, they will develop their proposed structures to understand what other roles will be required to be based in Sydney.

As the future impact of the movement of roles to Sydney is not yet known, the impact on workers who may have relocated from Sydney previously is unable to be determined.

\*2170 STAFFING LEVELS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How will the Government address the concerns of nurses and midwives in regards to the interim Audit Commission Report, specifically in regards to recommendation 22 of that report?

- (2) (a) Will the Government remove legally enforceable minimum staffing levels as the recommendation advocates?  
(b) If so, how will the Government ensure that safe and adequate levels of patient care are maintained across the State?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Public Health System Nurses' and Midwives' (State) Award and the staffing arrangements in it are legally enforceable.

There are no plans to change these arrangements.

\*2172 VACANT PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why are there 77 vacant public housing properties in the Hunter when 4,400 families are queuing for much-needed shelter?  
(2) Why were two properties in Kurri Kurri vacant for between one and two years?

Answer—

- (1) With more than 120,000 public housing properties across NSW, vacant properties are a normal feature of the housing tenancy cycle.

The number of public housing properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis due to the churn in the system as well as properties earmarked for redevelopment and renewal purposes.

Tenants leave public housing or transfer to alternate premises for many reasons including commencing private rental or home ownership or requiring a higher level of care provided through aged care or other facilities.

As houses are vacated by tenants, they are cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant, as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act and are then re-occupied.

NSW has consistently achieved high occupancy rates across the social housing sectors. It has the highest public housing occupancy rate of the Australian states and territories

- (2) The Department of Finance and Services is unable to identify the properties referred to in the question.

\*2173 WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Why is there a review of the whooping cough vaccine program that allows parents, grandparents and carers of infants under 12 months of age free access to the vaccine?  
(2) When will the results of the review be released?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) NSW Health commenced a review of the whooping cough program for carers of infants under 12 months of age for a number of reasons. These include the 2011 assessment by the Australian Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee that adult whooping cough vaccines for new parents had uncertain clinical effectiveness and highly uncertain cost effectiveness, and the declining whooping cough epidemic in NSW.

Until more definitive evidence from its research is available, NSW Health will refocus funding of the vaccine on new mothers soon after the birth of the child.

- (2) The results of the review were released on 22 June 2012.

\*2174 CANCER TREATMENT CRISIS—HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Why has the Minister not provided more funds to tackle the Hunter Region's cancer treatment crisis?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Hunter New England Local Health District's Cancer Services Strategic Plan for the next 5 years is due for completion in July 2012. Any service development priorities arising from the Plan requiring financial resources will be considered alongside other priorities for the District.

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- \*2176 COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES—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—

In light of the speech on 12 May 2010 in the Legislative Council by Hon Melinda Pavey MLC, what steps does the Minister propose to take in relation to the complaints and grievances of ex-firefighter Gregory Lynch and firefighter Dean Webb?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) has advised me:

Disciplinary matters have been dealt with by FRNSW. The ICAC report and FRNSW's response to its recommendations are available on FRNSW's website, [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

- \*2177 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE MEMBER FOR ALBURY—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—

In light of repeated representations from the Member for Albury, what steps does the Minister propose to take in relation to the complaints and grievances of ex-firefighter Gregory Lynch?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to his Written Question No. 2176 on this subject.

- \*2178 ICAC REPORT—FIRE AND RESCUE NSW—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—

In light of the s14 (2) ICAC report concerning Fire and Rescue NSW dated June 2011, what steps does the Minister propose to take in relation to the complaints and grievances of senior firefighter Dean Webb?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to his Written Question No. 2176 on this subject.

- \*2179 ICAC REPORT—FIRE AND RESCUE NSW—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—

In light of the s14 (2) ICAC report concerning Fire and Rescue NSW dated June 2011, what steps does the Minister propose to take in relation to the complaints and grievances of ex-firefighter Gregory Lynch?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to his Written Question No. 2176 on this subject.

- \*2180 RESPONSE TO ICAC REPORT BY MINISTER—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—

(1) What is the Minister's response to the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption under s14 (2) of the ICAC Act dated June 2011 concerning Fire and Rescue NSW?

(2) Where can the response be viewed?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW has responded comprehensively to the ICAC report of June 2011. The ICAC report and FRNSW's response to its recommendations are available on FRNSW's website, [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

- \*2181 LIVERPOOL RAILWAY TURNBACK—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Liverpool Railway Turnback:

(1) When is the construction to be completed?

(2) When will it be operational?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) As listed in Budget Paper 4, all Clearways projects will be completed in 2014.

\*2182 GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP SQUADS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Which rotary clubs has the Government funded for graffiti clean-up squads since 1 April 2011 and what amount was allocated to each club?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 28 May 2012, my Department has provided funding under the NSW Volunteer Graffiti Removal Squads Program to the Turrumurra Rotary Club (\$3689) and the Dapto Rotary Club (\$5000). The funding agreement with Turrumurra Rotary Club was made in July 2011 and the funding agreement for the Dapto Rotary Club commenced in March 2012.

Funding has also been provided under this program to non-Rotary organisations. Several more applications for funding are anticipated from other Rotary Clubs and non-Rotary organisations.

\*2183 ATTEMPTED ESCAPE FROM PARKLEA GAOL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In relation to an attempted escape from Parklea Gaol in April 2012 (Sunday Telegraph 20 May 2012):

- (1) What was the date of the incident?
- (2) What injuries, if any, were sustained by prison officers as a result of the incident?
- (3) (a) Were inmates out of their cells?  
(b) If so, how many?  
(c) If so, how did they come to be out of their cells?
- (4) What steps have been taken to prevent such as incident reoccurring?
- (5) What sanctions will the Minister impose upon the operations of the gaol as a result of this incident?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 25 April 2012.
- (2) The officers did not sustain any physical injuries during the incident. They were monitored after the incident and provided support as required.
- (3) to (5) The investigation into this incident is ongoing, and it is inappropriate to comment at this stage.

\*2184 LAND AT WONGA ROAD, LURNEA—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the parcel of land owned by Housing NSW at 188-192 Wonga Road, Lurnea:

- (1) When were the properties demolished?
- (2) What are the plans for redevelopment of this parcel of land?
- (3) When will redevelopment commence?

Answer—

- (1) The properties at Nos 188-192 Wonga Road Lurnea were progressively demolished between February 2010 and March 2011.
- (2) The current proposal is for a Seniors Living development.
- (3) The target for commencement is during the 2014-15 financial year, subject to funding availability.

\*2185 HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to hip replacement surgery:

- (1) How many total hip replacements were performed in NSW public hospitals in:
  - (a) 2009;
  - (b) 2010;
  - (c) 2011?
- (2) (a) Were "metal on metal" hip replacements used during each period?  
(b) If yes, how many of these replacements were of the "metal on metal" type?
- (3) Are "metal on metal" hip replacements still performed?

Answer—



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I am advised:

- (1) (a) 4,997  
(b) 5,305  
(c) 5,436
- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) The level of detail sought by the Member is unable to be determined from data held by NSW Health.
- (3) Yes.

\*2186 X-RAYS—LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the 79,000 X-rays reportedly awaiting radiologist review at Liverpool Hospital (SMH 15 May 2012):

- (1) Exactly how many X-rays are awaiting formal review and report by a specialist radiologist?
- (2) Are these all plain X-rays, or are there other imaging types (e.g. ultrasound/MRI/CT scans)?
- (3) How many of these date from:
  - (a) 2010 or before;
  - (b) January to March 2011;
  - (c) April to June 2011;
  - (d) July to September 2011;
  - (e) October to December 2011;
  - (f) January to March 2012;
  - (g) after 1 April 2012?
- (4) What is the current average waiting time for a consultant radiologist report on a plain X-ray at Liverpool Hospital?
- (5) To ensure X-rays are promptly reported on by a consultant radiologist, what plans does the Minister have in place to rectify this problem?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The South Western Sydney Local Health District is sourcing additional resources to expedite the review of unreported plain X-rays.

The backlog consists of plain X-rays only.

The information requested by the Member is not readily available. Development of this level of detail would divert valuable local resources from assisting in addressing the backlog.

(4) and (5) Plain X-Rays are currently reported at Liverpool Hospital within clinically appropriate timeframes.

\*2187 BONALBO HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Bonalbo Hospital:

- (1) When was the night nursing shift removed from Bonalbo Hospital?
- (2) What plans does the Minister have to re-instate the night nursing shift at Bonalbo Hospital?
- (3) Given that it is 90 minutes from Lismore Hospital, in the absence of a night shift, what emergency medical care will be provided to the patients at Bonalbo between 11 pm and 7 am?
- (4) What advertising has been tried to find a replacement doctor for Bonalbo?
- (5) Does this include advertising internationally?
- (6) Have nurse practitioners been considered as a long-term solution for Bonalbo?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The Hon Member is referred to the response to an earlier question on notice in the Legislative Council, LC 1511.

(4) and (5) Together with the Northern Rivers General Practice Network, the Northern NSW Local Health District continues to actively recruit to attract a Medical Officer to work and live in Bonalbo. The Northern NSW Local Health District has advertised in the following employment sites:

- Career 1
- Seek
- NSW Health Website

In addition, the Bonalbo General Practitioner position is listed in both the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine sites. All the above sites are open to international applicants.

(6) Nurse Practitioners as a model was considered but not progressed due to the limited availability of accredited Nurse Practitioners to undertake the role at Bonalbo Hospital.

\*2188 CAMPBELL HOSPITAL, CORAKI—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Campbell Hospital, Coraki:

- (1) What NSW Health-funded services are currently in place in Coraki?
- (2) What plans are in place for the future of NSW Health-funded medical services at Coraki?
- (3) (a) Has a "HealthOne" been considered?  
(b) If not, would a "HealthOne" be considered?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Community Nursing, Child and Family Health Nursing, Adult Occupational Therapy, Adult Physiotherapy, Child and Family Counselling and Child and Family Speech Pathology.
- (2) The Northern NSW Local Health District Board has approved the establishment of an Urgent Care Centre at Coraki for a three month trial. Arrangements are being made to provide this service from a suitable venue on the Campbell Hospital Campus.
- (3) (a) and (b) The development of a Coraki and Surrounds Clinical Services Plan has commenced with the first Steering Committee meeting held on 29 May 2012. This process will consider the options that can best meet the health needs of the Coraki and Surrounds population, including consideration of a HealthOne facility.

\*2189 SOUTH WEST RAIL LINK—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Transport—

With regards to the South West Rail Link:

- (1) When is the current planned finish date?
- (2) When is the current planned commencement of regular services for the SWRL?
- (3) (a) How many trains per hour are expected to run in peak hour from Leppington direct to the City Circle?  
(b) Will these trains travel via the South Line or the East Hills Line?
- (4) What service frequency is planned for after hours and weekends?
- (5) When will timetable planning commence for the introduction of services on this line?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) The South West Rail Link is scheduled to have trains operating in 2016. Service levels on the South West Rail Link will be driven by the needs of our customers, with planning work already underway.

\*2191 VISIONCARE PROGRAM FUNDING—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to the funding for the VisionCare Program:

- (1) How much money is being put towards the VisionCare program between July and August 2012?
- (2) How is this amount being determined?
- (3) For the period between 1 July and 30 August, will the Government provide additional funding for those who were eligible for the program prior to the program suspension, but missed out because of the suspension?
- (4) For the period between 1 July and 30 August, will the Government provide addition funding for (3) above, on top of the funding proposed?
- (5) Given that that program will be reviewed:
  - (a) Who is doing the review?

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- (b) (i) Has the review commenced?
- (ii) If not, when will it commence?
- (c) (i) Will the review be publically available?
- (ii) If the review is not made public, why not?
- (d) Who is being consulted for the review?
- (e) (i) Are external consultants undertaking the review?
- (ii) If external consultants are undertaking it, how much will it cost?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The 2012-13 budget for the NSW Spectacles Program is \$4.5 million. VisionCare, the current provider, will receive \$750,000 as a proportion of the budget for July and August, under the contract designed and agreed to by the previous Government.

(3) and (4) The budget allocation for the Spectacles Program was overspent consistently and unsustainably under the previous Government. It exceeded its budget every year for the past 14 years, other than in 2000-01, by a total of \$8 million.

The Government was not prepared to keep overspending the Spectacles Program's in the Community Services' budget which funds programs for vulnerable children, as the previous Government did.

The Government made the right decision that the NSW Spectacles Program live within its budget in 2011-12 and to reform to improve services.

(5) A review of the Spectacles Program was well overdue. Community Services conducted an assessment and concluded that a refreshed open tender would invite proposals for improved services for the benefit of clients.

Information regarding the tender is currently available on the Government's e-tendering website at [www.tenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au)

\*2192 NSW SPECTACLES PROGRAM TENDER—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

In terms of the tender for the NSW Spectacles program:

- (1) Will the tender change the spectacle program from being a demand-driven program based on strict eligibility requirements to another model?
- (2) On what criteria will the tender be determined?
- (3) Is funding specified in the tender?
- (4) When will the results of the tender for the program be known?
- (5) Who is evaluating the tenders?
- (6) If an external party is evaluating the tenders, who are they?
- (7) If an external party is evaluating the tenders, how much are they being paid to do so?

Answer—

(1) The Spectacles Program will be changed from being a financially unsustainable, mismanaged program, to better support low income NSW residents to access basic optical aids. The Department of Family and Community Services is seeking innovative proposals to improve services and lives.

(2) and (3) Information regarding this tender has been available since 1 June via the NSW Government's e-tendering website at [www.tenders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tenders.nsw.gov.au)

(4) Tenders close on 2 July 2012 and results will be determined following assessment of applications.

(5) Community Services will convene a single panel for the tender that will include internal and external members. Membership is still being finalised.

(6) See answer (5).

(7) See answer (5).

\*2193 OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SERVICE PROVIDERS—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Education—

Do all out of school hours (OOSH) service providers take children who have a disability such as autism?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education and Communities administers the legislation that regulates the provision of early childhood education and care services, including out of school hours care. This legislation does not expressly require services to provide places for children with disabilities.

The decision to provide care for children with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, rests with service providers, to be made in accordance with Commonwealth and State anti-discrimination legislation.

\*2194 OUT-OF-HOME-CARE TRANSFER—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) (a) Are family restoration programs included in unit cost price negotiated with the non-government organisations (NGOs)?
  - (b) If so, how much funding will go into family restoration programs?
  - (c) If it is not part of the negotiated price, how much funding is being made available for family restoration programs?
- (2) When will information about family restoration programs be available?
- (3) (a) Will there be incentives built into the contracts for delivery of services for out-of-home care (OOHC)?
  - (b) If so:
    - (i) What are they?
    - (ii) How will the Minister ensure that there are no perverse incentives or unintended consequences of putting children in situations where they are at risk of harm or significant harm?
- (4) How will the Minister ensure that children remain with the same NGO caseworker while they are in OOHC?
- (5) (a) Who will assess whether a child should be restored to or preserved with their family?
  - (b) On what criteria will this occur?
- (6) What is the Minister doing to ensure that there is adequate oversight of children in OOHC, for whom she has parental responsibility, when they are placed with NGOs?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.
  - (b) and (c) Family restoration programs are part of normal casework and not separated out in the unit cost for funding purposes. Improving and focusing early intervention services on the most vulnerable families and communities will increase the capacity and responsibility of families to care for their children and young people before removal becomes necessary. The Government is developing new services for families where there is a risk of significant harm to children and young people including \$10 million for work with adolescents aged 9 to 15 at risk of significant harm. Strengthening Families will be a mandatory program for parents to assist them to build their capacity to parent effectively.
- (2) The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) will provide \$2.3 billion to non-government organisations (NGOs) in 2012-13 to deliver a range of specialist services, including family preservation and restoration services. This accounts for 46.1 per cent of the total FACS budget. Community Services is currently trialling four Family Preservation and Restoration Program pilot sites. An external evaluation of the sites will be undertaken.
- (3) (a) and (b) Extra payments are being developed for NGO service providers who find an adoptive family for children who can never go back to their parents. The option for incentive payments for adoptions is included in the new improved Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) contracts. Consideration is being given to building in models for other kinds of payments within OOHC contracts to maximise appropriate permanency outcomes for children and young people.

The previous Government left NSW with the highest number and proportion of children and young people in Australia in OOHC. When this Government was elected, there were 17,900 children and young people in OOHC. That was 11 in 1,000 children and young people, or more than 1 in 100.

So called emergency placements or individual client agreements appear to have resulted in an increase in the number of children and young people in high cost residential placements, even when that level of care was unnecessary. The number of children requiring an OOHC residential care placement has increased from 325 children and young people as at 30 June 2009 to 402 children and young people as at 30 June 2011. This Government is working closely with the sector through

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working groups such as the Ministerial Advisory Group to ensure improved practice and principles collaboratively.

The Office of the Children's Guardian also monitors the responsibilities of all agencies providing OOHC services under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. Only accredited agencies can arrange placement of children and young people in statutory OOHC. To maintain accreditation standards, OOHC providers are required to provide both indirect and direct evidence, such as policy and procedures and casework practices that comply with the NSW Standards for Statutory OOHC.

OOHC NGOs also have program and funding requirements set out in their contracts which will be monitored by Community Services.

- (4) Community Services caseworkers change regularly. The former Government was not concerned that children often didn't remain with the same caseworker while in OOHC. Indeed, many children in care of CS were rarely seen by CS caseworkers.

Caseworkers may continue to change for many reasons outside the control of government or an NGO, such as staff relocating or working for another agency or maternity, or other types of leave. Therefore it cannot be ensured that children will remain with the same caseworker while in OOHC, just as the previous Government could not ensure it.

Nevertheless, NGOs will be aware of how many children and young people are placed with them to improve services through greater consistency and staff planning according to casework load.

- (5) (a) and (b) Community Services caseworkers and the NGO OOHC providers with case management responsibility will jointly assess whether children should be restored to their birth families. Magistrates can also make a decision to restore a child. Community Services will continue to be responsible for the assessment of parental capacity and seeking any variations to a Care Order with the Children's Court.

The best interests of the child are at the forefront of restoration decisions.

- (6) See answer (3).

\*2195 COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFFING—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) (a) What is Community Services current staffing establishment?  
(b) What are the current staffing numbers by region and district office?  
(2) What is the number of employees by role (e.g. the number working in prevention and early intervention, child protection, out-of-home care, adoption), broken down by region and district office?  
(3) (a) What is the number of filled positions against the agency's staffing establishment?  
(b) What roles do they have per district office and region?  
(c) What counting rules have been used?

Answer—

- (1) (a) The 2010-11 Annual Report of the Department of Family and Community Services states that Community Services had a total number of 4,842 staff.  
(b) Community Services' operations are facilitated from a number of offices. Staffing in regions can change due to leave, maternity leave and resignations, as they did under the previous Government.  
(2) The 2010-11 Annual Report of the Department of Family and Community Services provides data on the number of staff including the number of caseworkers (2,320).  
(3) See answer (1).

\*2196 COMMUNITY SERVICES CASEWORKER DATA—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) (a) How many caseworkers left Community Services between July 2010 and July 2011?  
(b) How long had the caseworkers worked for Community Services?  
(2) (a) How many caseworkers left Community Services between July 2011 to date?  
(b) How long had the caseworkers worked for Community Services.  
(3) How many caseworkers were employed by Community Services between July 2010 and July 2011?  
(4) How many caseworkers were employed by Community Services between July 2011 to date?  
(5) How many vacant caseworker positions were there for each month from July 2011 to date, by region

and by district office?

- (6) How many vacant caseworker positions were there between July 2010 to July 2011?
- (7) How many unallocated files are there in the system from July 2011 to date, by region and district office?
- (8) (a) How many files and or notifications were closed without being allocated a caseworker due to competing priorities or lack of resources between July 2011 to date?  
(b) What category of risk were they, by region and district office?

Answer—

(1) (a) and (2) (a) Community Services' workforce levels continue to fluctuate as they did under the previous Government. The Department of Family and Community Services' 2010-11 Annual Report contains official data on casework numbers. The report states that there were 2,320 caseworkers.

(1) (b) and (2) (b) The average tenure of caseworkers who left Community Services between July 2010 and July 2011 was 4.7 years. The average tenure of caseworkers who left Community Services in the period sought in question (2) (b) was 5.45 years.

(3) According to the 2010-11 annual report there were 2,320 caseworkers employed.

(4) Data on the number of caseworkers employed for 2011-12 will be available in the 2011-12 annual report.

(5) and (6) The number of caseworker positions to be filled can be varied and moves between locations to meet service needs.

(7) and (8) Only real reform and time can reverse the previous Government's legacy of only 1 in 5 children and young people reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH) being seen with a comprehensive face-to-face assessment, as the Ombudsman reported in 2011.

The data requested is only available to December 2011. From 1 July to 31 December 2011 there were a total of 51,505 ROSH reports. Of these, 9,545 were closed due to competing priorities without secondary assessment. Of these, 5% had a response priority of less than 24 hours.

\*2197 REFERRALS TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) By month and by region, how many referrals have Family and Community Services made to non-government organisations between July 2011 to date?
- (2) How many were for children under 12 months old?
- (3) How many were for children over 12 months old?

Answer—

(1) to (3) In 2012-13 almost half the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) budget will go to non-government organisations (NGOs).

FaCS will provide \$2.3 billion to non-government organisations to deliver specialist services. This accounts for 46.1% of the total FaCS budget.

Around 4,000 NGOs will be funded to provide a range of services to clients including children and young people and their families and carers; seniors; people with a disability; people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; Aboriginal people; women; and people who are homeless or in housing need.

Because of the range of possible referral mechanisms, it is not possible to provide more detailed information.

\*2198 QUARTERLY STATISTICAL DATA REPORT—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

When will the next Community Services quarterly statistical data report be published?

Answer—

The December 2011 quarterly statistical reports have been prepared and will be published by 30 June 2012.

\*2199 LITERACY AND NUMERACY ACTION PLAN—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What is the Government's expenditure on its Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan since 1 July 2011?

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(2) What is the breakdown of this expenditure?

Answer—

- (1) In the 2012-13 Budget, the NSW Government is spending \$26 million as part of the five-year \$261 million Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan. This is the start of NSW Government delivering on its commitment to provide 900 extra teachers across NSW schools. Expenditure for the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan since 1 July 2011, as at 31 May 2012, was \$764, 833.
- (2) The breakdown of this expenditure is \$600,000 to support literacy programs as part of the Government's commitment and \$164,833 to conduct consultations with key stakeholders and to develop the framework for the Action Plan.

**23 MAY 2012**

(Paper No. 91)

\*2200 CARLISLE AVENUE, MOUNT DRUITT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What is the current assessment of the condition of the road surface of Carlisle Avenue, Mount Druitt?
- (2) When was the last time the surface of the road was resealed?
- (3) In relation to (2) above, what section of Carlisle Avenue was resealed?
- (4) When will the section of Carlisle Avenue, between the railway overbridge and the Great Western Highway, be resealed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Carlisle Avenue between Roper Road and the Great Western Highway is considered to be in good condition. Carlisle Avenue is considered to be in fair condition between the Great Western Highway and Woodstock Avenue. Carlisle Avenue north from Woodstock Avenue is managed by Blacktown Council.

(2) and (3) Carlisle Avenue was strengthened and resurfaced between Roper Road and the Great Western Highway in 2007-08. The road was also locally strengthened between the Great Western Highway and the railway overbridge in 2008-09. In 2011-12 the road was locally strengthened and resurfaced between the railway overbridge and Luxford Road. Resurfacing is scheduled for Carlisle Avenue between Luxford Road and Woodstock Avenue in 2013-14.

(4) No specific pavement maintenance is scheduled between the railway overbridge and the Great Western Highway in the current and forward maintenance programs. However, Roads and Maritime Services will continue to monitor Carlisle Avenue over its entire State road length between Roper Road and Woodstock Avenue to ensure that it is managed to a safe and serviceable level.

\*2201 X-RAY REVIEWS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the 6,000 X-rays that have been reviewed and, by your report, "no cause for alarm has been found" (SMH 15 May 2012):

- (1) In which hospitals are these 6,000 X-rays?
- (2) Who reviewed these 6,000 X-rays?
- (3) When where they reviewed?
- (4) Were the request forms, actual films (or digitised images) and provisional reports provided to reviewing radiologists at the time of the review?
- (5) What reports for individual patients were produced after this review?
- (6) How many of these 6,000 X-ray reviews found:
  - (a) missed abnormalities;
  - (b) issues that may have required investigation or further attention?
- (7) What action was taken to deal with any abnormalities that were found?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) These X-rays relate to hospitals in Central Coast and South Western Sydney Local Health Districts (LHD).

(2) and (3) Commencing in late April/early May 2012, external radiologists and internal staff and visiting medical officers have been used to expedite the reporting of unreported plain X-Rays.

(4) and (5) Request forms together with digitised images were provided to radiologists. Formal radiology reports were produced for all reported films.

(6) (a) and (b) The Districts have developed audit processes, endorsed by the expert panel convened by the Clinical Excellence Commission, to review their X-ray backlogs. As part of the ongoing review a small number of radiologist reports have warranted further investigation to exclude unanticipated illness. This review process is ongoing.

(7) Where required a District contacts relevant general practitioners, specialists and/or patients to progress clinical review and further investigation.

\*2202 NEWCASTLE PHARMACOTHERAPY SERVICE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Regarding access to the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service for clients of Justice Health:

- (1) How many persons on methadone maintenance are released from gaol each month, on average, in the region covered by the Hunter New England Local Health District?
- (2) How many referrals were made from gaol releases to the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service from 1 July 2011 to 31 March 2012?
- (3) How many places does the Ministry of Health fund for these clients in the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service each month?
- (4) What selection criteria are used to assess a person's eligibility for inclusion in the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service when released from gaol in the Hunter/New England region?
- (5) If a person does not qualify in the first instance, but is assessed as meeting the criteria for priority treatment, do they go on a waiting list?
- (6) Are they referred to other services:
  - (a) in the Newcastle region;
  - (b) outside the Newcastle region?
- (7) What is the average waiting time for released Justice Health clients for inclusion into the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service?
- (8) If classified as non-priority, what assistance are these Justice Health clients offered?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) On average 11 patients on methadone maintenance are released from custody each month into the region covered by Hunter New England Local Health District.
- (2) Hunter New England Local Health District records indicate that 49 referrals from Justice Health were made to the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service from 1 July 2011 to 31 March 2012. Of the total referrals made by Justice Health, 73.5% were accepted into treatment at Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service.
- (3) Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service has received dedicated funding to take four patients per month on release from Justice Health. Additional funding has been received to accept a further 48 patients per annum into pharmacotherapy services.

Patients of Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service who go to gaol for less than three months are accepted back into treatment upon release - this is in addition to the above numbers.

- (4) All people released from gaol are considered as "priority" patients. However, people with HIV or serious medical or mental health issues will be triaged as urgent. Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service patients who are incarcerated for less than three months are also accepted back into treatment post release.
- (5) If a person elects to do so their name will be placed on the waiting list. If a person's condition changes while on the waiting list they will be assessed and managed accordingly.
- (6) If the patient contacts Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service they are provided with a letter identifying options such as:
  - They are offered to have their name placed on the waiting list and offered referral to other drug and alcohol services and private prescribers.
  - The patient is also informed they should make contact with their own GP to discuss treatment and if their GP chooses to prescribe for them the doctors at Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service will support the GP.
  - The patient is also offered information regarding drug and alcohol clinics in Sydney.



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- (7) and (8) If accepted into treatment, this will commence as soon as the patient is released from gaol. In non-urgent cases, where a Justice Health patient contacts the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service, the patient is offered to have their name placed on the wait list which has an estimated wait time of up to two years. Patients are offered assistance through other drug and alcohol services, such as counselling and withdrawal management services. They are also offered options as in part (6) above.

\*2204 TREE PRUNING MONITORING—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) How many qualified arborists are employed by Ausgrid to monitor the vegetation management work of its contractors?
- (2) (a) How many instances have there been in 2011-12 of work failing to comply with clearance guidelines?  
(b) What action was taken in instances where work was found non-compliant with clearance guidelines?
- (3) (a) How many instances have there been in 2011-12 of work failing to comply with the Australian Standard for Pruning?  
(b) What action was taken in instances where work was found non-compliant with the Australian Standard for Pruning?
- (4) (a) How many instances have there been in 2011-12 of work failing to comply with Ausgrid's Vegetation Management Plan, as regulated under the Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008?  
(b) What action was taken in instances where work was found non-compliant with Ausgrid's Vegetation Management Plan?
- (5) How many complaints has Ausgrid received in 2011-12 regarding tree pruning in NSW?
- (6) Has consideration been given to the option of Ausgrid funding the installation of aerial bundled cable to reduce the need for tree trimming and reduce the likelihood of a power interruption?
- (7) Has consideration been given to the option of Ausgrid co-funding with councils the installation of aerial bundled cable to reduce the need for tree trimming and reduce the likelihood of a power interruption?

Answer—

- (1) 35.
- (2) and (3) Ausgrid does not monitor performance specifically in relation to clearance guidelines or the Australian Standard for Pruning. Instead it conducts routine random sample audits at worksites and prepares a written inspection report against 26 key performance indicators (KPIs).  
Poor KPI performance may result in financial cost recovery being applied to a subsequent quarter's contracts.
- (4) (a) and (b) Nil.
- (5) Less than five per week.
- (6) Aerial bundled cables are Ausgrid's standard low voltage mains construction.
- (7) The conversion of cables is considered contestable work. Any proponent is able to engage an Accredited Service Provider of their choice to provide a competitive quotation to perform this work.

\*2205 GREENWAY AND INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL CONSTRUCTION COSTS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What is the updated cost estimate for the construction of the GreenWay integrated cycling and pedestrian corridor?
- (2) What is the updated cost estimate for the completion of the Inner West Light Rail Extension from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill?
- (3) What has the Government spent to date on the GreenWay project?
- (4) What has the Government spent to date on the Inner West Light Rail extension?
- (5) What process did the Department of Transport undertake to calculate the estimated cost of the Light Rail Extension at \$176 million (as stated in the Minister for Transport's press release on 6 September 2011)?  
(a) Is the documentation relating to this calculation publicly available?  
(b) If no, why not?
- (6) What process did the Department of Transport undertake to calculate the estimated cost of \$37

million for the Greenway project?

- (a) Is the documentation relating to this calculation publicly available?
- (b) If no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) On 6 September 2011, the Government confirmed construction costs for the Greenway had increased to \$37 million, and \$176 million for the Inner West Light Rail Extension.

On 31 May 2012, the Government announced that, following a competitive tender process, John Holland would deliver the Inner West Extension with early works commencing in June.

Services are anticipated to commence in early 2014.

\*2206 FREE WI-FI ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has there been a review of the trial of free Wi-Fi on some NSW buses, trains and ferries?
- (2) Has the Government considering expanding the trial to provide free internet on all NSW buses, trains and ferries?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A range of factors are being considered in the use of technology to improve the customer experience.

\*2207 DISABLED SPORT CENTRE—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) Did the former Government commit \$10 million for a disabled sport centre to be constructed in the Harold Park Tram Sheds, Glebe?
- (2) If so, will the Government honour this funding commitment?

Answer—

Please refer to Written Question No 2354 regarding sports facilities which is addressed to the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

\*2208 DEMOUNTABLE SCHOOL CLASSROOMS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

Regarding demountable school classrooms in the electorate of Keira:

- (1) (a) Will any of the existing demountable structures be replaced over the 2012-13 financial year and the 2013-14 financial year?
- (b) If yes, which schools will have this work undertaken?
- (2) What is the approximate timeframe for this work?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department continues to maintain demountables in schools on a regular basis. Well maintained demountables continue to provide teaching spaces which are consistent with contemporary educational delivery requirements.

There are currently no plans to replace demountable buildings, in the electorate of Keira, in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.

\*2209 GUIDELINES ON SUN PROTECTION—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Are there any plans by the department to review the current guidelines in relation to sun protection for primary school students in NSW?
- (2) If yes, can the Minister detail what these plans are and the timeframe to complete this work?
- (3) if not, why, given the guidelines are now 15 years old?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to Written Question No 1686.

The Department is reviewing its Protection from the Sun Guidelines for all students in NSW public schools. Advice has been received from groups such as the Cancer Council NSW which is being considered as a part of this work. It is anticipated that the work will be finalised in semester 2, 2012.

\*2210 ART FACULTY AT WOLLONGONG CAMPUS OF TAFE ILLAWARRA—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

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Are there any plans to make changes to the Art Faculty at the Wollongong campus of TAFE Illawarra?

Answer—

There is currently no Art Faculty at Wollongong Campus.

\*2211 JURISDICTION OF NSW POLICE—ROSEHILL RACECOURSE—Mr Greg Piper 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) Was Ms Sandra Jorgensen ejected from the dining room of Rosehill Racecourse and the racecourse premises by NSW Police on 25 February 2012?
- (2) If so:
  - (a) For what offence or offences was she ejected?
  - (b) Was her ejection at the request of racecourse security officers/Australian Turf Club officials?
  - (c) Had the jurisdiction of the NSW police officers who were on duty in the grounds of Rosehill Racecourse on 25 February been ceded to the Australian Turf Club?
- (3) Will police who are assigned duties at NSW racecourses enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979?
- (4) Over the last five years, on how many occasions have NSW Police acted on cruelty to horses at NSW racecourses?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Due to privacy considerations, it is not appropriate to comment on individual incidents. Should Ms Jorgensen wish to raise any issues with the actions of NSW Police Force officers in relation to this incident she can do so by writing to the Customer Assistance Unit at PO Box 3427, Tuggerah, NSW 2259, contacting the Unit on 1800 622 571 or online at:

[https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/services/additional\\_services/complain\\_about\\_a\\_police\\_officer/lodge\\_a\\_complaint](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/services/additional_services/complain_about_a_police_officer/lodge_a_complaint)

(3) and (4) Police can take action if breaches of the Crimes Act 1900 or Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 are detected. NSW Police Force officers work in conjunction with The Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) on the prevention of cruelty to animals. Police regularly liaise with the RSPCA and community organisations to ensure an adequate response to any allegations of animal cruelty and will respond as appropriate where offences are detected.

**24 MAY 2012**

(Paper No. 92)

\*2212 TRAFFIC SPEED CAMERA—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Is there a traffic speed camera situated on the Great Western Highway, Eastern Creek, east of the intersection with Walgrove Road?
- (2) If so:
  - (a) How many speeding motorists have been detected by this camera during the past twelve months?
  - (b) When was this camera first installed?
  - (c) What was the annual accident rate at this location just prior to the installation of the camera?
  - (d) What impact on the accident rate has occurred as a result of placing a speed camera at this location?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

\*2214 ALTERNATE VENUES FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

What alternate venues are proposed for community events such as Premier's Seniors Week Gala Concerts

and Premier's Christmas Gala Concerts when the Entertainment Centre is closed in late 2013 to 2016?

Answer—

The Government is currently considering alternative venues.

\*2215 "EVERY STUDENT, EVERY SCHOOL"—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

Following the implementation of "Every Student, Every School", will any student be disadvantaged by the introduction of the program?

Answer—

Through the National Partnership, More Support for Students with Disabilities, a learning and support framework is being implemented in 2,240 public schools in NSW through Every Student, Every School. This transformational change will build the capacity of all our public schools to better understand and meet the learning and support needs of students with disability, wherever they enrol, while also meeting our obligations under the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005.

With the allocation of specialist teacher positions and flexible funding directly to regular schools, Every Student, Every School will improve the availability and quality of additional support for students and their teachers in all public schools, where and when it is needed.

\*2216 HOUSING PATHWAYS—NEW BOND LOAN SCHEME—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regards to Housing Pathways introduction of a new bond loan scheme effective 1 May 2012:

- (1) Were new forms that are required provided to all offices?
- (2) When were the new forms made available on the website?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Yes, applications forms were available prior to 1 May 2012 at Housing NSW offices and participating Housing Pathways community housing providers plus on the Housing NSW website.

\*2217 HOUSING PATHWAYS—TRAINING OF STAFF—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regards to Housing Pathways changes effective 1 May 2012 and the introduction of a new bond loan scheme:

- (1) Was training provided to all staff to enable them to assist clients?
- (2) How was the training introduced?
- (3) What mechanisms were implemented to ensure training was done prior to introduction?

Answer—

- (1) Training was provided to Housing NSW client service staff and Housing Contact Centre staff.
- (2) Housing NSW employed various workplace learning methods.
- (3) A Training Working Group was responsible for monitoring the delivery of all training prior to 1 May 2012.

\*2218 FUNDING AVAILABLE AND DISTRIBUTED—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to NSW Ministry of Health/Hunter New England Health Non Government Organisation (NGO) Program funds, what was the amount of funding available and distributed for the financial years:

- (a) 2008-09;
- (b) 2009-10;
- (c) 2010-11;
- (d) 2011-12?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details in relation to annual funding are published in NSW Health's Annual Report, available on the NSW Health website ([www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)) and in the Financial Statements tabled in Parliament each year.

\*2219 SECURITY MEASURES AT HUNTER HOSPITALS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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What security measures has the Government put in place at Hunter hospitals to ensure the security of patients property.

Answer—

I am advised:

The Member is referred to my response to an earlier question concerning this issue, Written Question No. 2083.

\*2220 MOTORWAY PRIORITY BREAKDOWN RESPONSE TEAMS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the proposal to set up Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams announced on 8 March 2011:

- (1) How many Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams are currently operating?
- (2) For how long have the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams been operating?
- (3) If the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams have not been established, when will they start to operate?
- (4) Where are each of the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams located?
- (5) Which roads do each of the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams service?
- (6) How many staff does each Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Team have?
- (7) What equipment does each Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Team have?
- (8) What is the cost of operating the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams?
- (9) (a) Are more Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams planned for the future?  
(b) If so how many are planned for the future and which roads will they service?
- (10) Is data being collected how quickly the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams are clearing accidents and the impact the Teams are having on congestion?
- (11) (a) Will the data collected on the operation of the Motorway Priority Breakdown Response Teams be publicly available?  
(b) If so when?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (7) The Transport Management Centre (TMC) utilises a range of field staff and resources, including 12 mobile Traffic Commanders, eight Traffic Emergency Patrol (TEP) crews, and a network of both light and heavy vehicle tow trucks positioned on motorways, freeways and other main roads during peak travel times.

These field resources also support tow and recovery resources provided by operators on private motorways such as the M5 East and M7 motorways.

In addition, a specialised F3 Field Response Unit was established at a purpose-built depot on the F3 Freeway late last year. The unit was set up to enable a faster and more efficient response to incidents on the F3, particularly the critical stretch of road between Berowra and Mount White. It consists of two full-time Traffic Commanders, light and heavy vehicle tow trucks, traffic cones and barriers, signs and other essential traffic management equipment. A TEP vehicle is also housed at the depot when not on patrol.

The Emergency Transport Management Centre (eTMC) based on the M4 Motorway at Auburn is now also the base for a heavy vehicle tow truck, which patrols the M4 between Concord and Minchinbury, and responds to incidents on other nearby main roads such as Silverwater Road, Homebush Bay Drive and Parramatta Road.

Both these sites on the F3 and M4 were identified as having a need for localised bases for recovery resources, due to their distance from the city, the consistently high volumes of heavy vehicles that use these roads and the impact incidents have on these key routes.

The remainder of Sydney's motorways are serviced by the network of mobile recovery resources, and the TMC has a strategy to increase the number of field resources patrolling the network responding to and clearing incidents.

There are currently five locations across Sydney's motorways that are patrolled by standby heavy vehicle tow trucks, with a regular response time of less than 20 minutes. These locations are:

- M5 East Motorway at Arncliffe.
- Pennant Hills Road at Thornleigh.

- Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel.
- F3 Freeway at the Hawkesbury River.
- M4 Motorway at Auburn.

(8) The total cost to maintain the TMC/RMS field resources, including Traffic Commanders, Traffic Emergency Patrols and Heavy Vehicle Towing, is approximately \$15,700,000 per year.

(9) Yes. Details will be announced in the near future.

(10) Yes.

(11) Yes. This information is published as part of the annual NSW 2021 Performance Report, which was released on Tuesday 12 June 2012.

\*2221 HUNTER PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that recent research indicates the Hunter community is waiting longer periods for social housing, will the Minister increase the number of public housing properties in the Hunter?

Answer—

The NSW Government is increasing the supply of social housing, improving existing social housing through upgrades, maintenance and repairs and rejuvenating housing communities, such as large scale housing estates. Information regarding public housing expenditure is available in the 2012-13 Budget Papers.

\*2222 GUISE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Education—

With regards to the new "Every Student, Every School" disability funding structure for NSW schools:

- (1) What is the total Government budget for Guise Public School in 2011-12?
- (2) How much of this funding relates to students diagnosed with intellectual or mental disabilities?
- (3) By what amount is funding expected to fall under the "Every Student, Every School" policy?
- (4) How was this amount calculated?
- (5) Has the Minister's department done any specific investigation or inquiry into the rates of undiagnosed or under-diagnosed disabilities at Guise Public School?
- (6) When did the Minister last visit Guise Public School?
- (7) When is the Minister planning to visit Guise Public School?

Answer—

(1) to (5) The Every Student, Every School initiative will be implemented in NSW public schools from the start of Term 3, 2012, in the 2012-2013 financial year. In the 2011-2012 financial year, an annual funding allocation of \$13,646 has been made to support students with disability and additional learning needs at Guise Public School.

Of this funding, \$6,760 has been allocated on the basis of students with mental health issues. No funding has been allocated for students with intellectual disability.

Under the Every Student, Every School initiative, Guise Public School has an annual flexible funding allocation of \$13,230 to support students with lower level support needs, as well as continuing targeted funding of \$6,490 for individual students. In 2012 a total annual funding allocation of \$19,720 to support students with disability and those with lower level support needs has been made to Guise Public School. This is an annual increase of \$6,271

A school's flexible funding allocation is based upon the total number of students in regular classes and the number of students identified with lower level additional learning and support needs. Targeted funding is based upon students in regular classes with disability and specific additional learning and support needs.

I have no knowledge of any study into diagnosed or undiagnosed disability at Guise Public School.

(6) and (7) While I have not visited Guise Public School, since becoming Minister I have met with over 300 principals and countless teachers, parents and students. I look forward to meeting staff and students of Guise Public School when an opportunity arises.

\*2223 STACEY STREET LAND CORRIDOR—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Will the Government work with Bankstown City Council to develop a master plan to properly utilise the Stacey Street land corridor?

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Answer—

Relevant Government agencies, including Roads and Maritime Services and Transport for NSW, work with local councils on a regular and ongoing basis. These agencies are available to liaise with Bankstown City Council as required.

- \*2224 WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON STACEY STREET—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What works, if any, will be undertaken on Stacey Street in the 2012-13 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

Resurfacing of Stacey Street between Wattle Street and Stanley Street at Bankstown is scheduled to be carried out in 2012-2013.

The work will be subject to available funding.

- \*2225 PREVENTION TRAINING FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Given Minister Gallacher's speech in reply for the Tattoo Parlours Bill 2012 stated, in reference to prevention training for infectious disease:

"... we will need to take advice from the Minister for Health on whether a suitable and accredited training scheme is available. If so, we will make evidence of completion of such a course a precondition of issuing a tattooist's licence."

Will the Government require tattooists to undertake training to prevent the spread of infectious disease as a precondition of receiving their tattooist licence?

Answer—

The issue of appropriate health training and/or qualifications under the Tattoo Parlours Act 2012 is currently under consideration. In this regard, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and I are seeking advice from the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education in relation to this issue.

- \*2226 PROTECTION FOR OWNERS OF STRATA TITLE FLATS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

In relation to legal action by owners of strata title flats in response to alleged building defects, what action will the Government take to protect consumers who purchase strata title flats from inappropriate building practices?

Answer—

All homeowners, including those living in strata title buildings, are provided with strong protections against defective building work under the Home Building Act 1989.

All licensees undertaking residential building work must warrant that the work is, among other things, done in a good and workmanlike manner. Homeowners have a specified period of time from completion within which these statutory warranties may be enforced where defects become apparent. The Act also provides that developers and builders are equally responsible to homeowners for these statutory warranties. This maximises homeowners' chances of successfully recovering any losses.

NSW Fair Trading provides free dispute resolution services to all homeowners, which may include on-site inspection by building inspectors. Complaints regarding home building work that is part of common property in a strata scheme can be made to Fair Trading by any owner. If any work inspected is found to be defective, the building inspector can issue a rectification order to the licensee. Homeowners may also lodge an application for a hearing with the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal if the value of the work under dispute is less than \$500,000.

Fair Trading also recommends that consumers intending to buy a property including those in strata title buildings should undertake appropriate building inspections prior to purchase.

The Government is committed to reforming the home building and strata management legislation and is undertaking reviews of the Home Building Act 1989 and Strata Schemes Management Act 1996 during 2012 to ensure that the legislation is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.

- \*2227 REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR SUN PROTECTION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Will the Minister direct the Department of Education to review its guidelines for sun protection to make broad-brimmed hats and 30+ SPF sunscreen readily available during the summer in all NSW Public Schools?  
(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Department is reviewing its Protection from the Sun Guidelines for all students in NSW public schools. Advice has been received from groups such as the Cancer Council NSW which is being considered as a part of this work. It is anticipated that the work will be finalised in semester 2, 2012.

- \*2228 FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

Will the Minister reinstate cuts to funding for students with disabilities and special needs to Bass Hill Public School and Bankstown South Infants School?

Answer—

The allocation of flexible funding to Bass Hill Public School and Bankstown South Infants School is consistent with the schools' student enrolments and the number of students with identified learning and support needs at the schools.

A reduction in funding at Bass Hill Public School of \$873 reflects a drop of more than 30% in the number of students with identified learning and support needs since 2006.

A reduction in funding at Bankstown South Infants School of \$2,847 reflects a drop of 17% in student enrolments since 2006.

- \*2229 RESPONSE TO MINISTERIAL AUDIT OF POLICING RESOURCES—Ms Tania Mihailuk 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—

Given that the response by the NSW Police Force to the Ministerial Audit of Policing Resources was due to be submitted in May 2012 (Questions 1710 and 1711):

- (1) When was the response by the NSW Police Force received by the Minister?  
(2) When will the response to the report be released to the public?  
(3) Will the Minister release the entire response received by his office?

Answer—

I received the NSW Police Force response to the audit on 1 May 2012. A decision on its release will be made following Government's consideration of the response.

- \*2230 PROPOSALS WITHIN THE PARSON'S REPORT—Ms Tania Mihailuk 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—

Given that the response by the NSW Police Force to the Ministerial Audit of Policing Resources was due to be submitted in May 2012 (Questions 1710 and 1711):

- (1) Have front line police officers, including those in the Bankstown and Campsie Local Area Commands, had a chance to have their say on the proposals contained within the Parson's Report?  
(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The consultation process of both the audit and the police response has been extensive and has included officers of the NSW Police Force.

- \*2231 PROPOSAL FOR A SINGLE POLICE DISTRICT—Ms Tania Mihailuk 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—

Given that the response by the NSW Police Force to the Ministerial Audit of Policing Resources was due to be submitted in May 2012 (Questions 1710 and 1711):

What has been the Government's response to the proposal to create a single Police District comprising both Bankstown and Campsie Local Area Commands, detailed on page 74 of the Parson's Report?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to her Written Question No. 2229 on this subject.



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\*2232 LATE NIGHT TRANSPORT BY PRIVATE OPERATORS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard to interest from private operators to run frequent late night transport on weekends, such as pre-paid mini bus/van services to take people home from a set location in inner city hot spots such as Kings Cross, Taylor Square and George Street:

- (1) What research has the Government done on the potential for private late night transport services?
- (2) What action will the Government give to introducing a legislative definition that would allow for such operations given that current bus, taxi and charter service definitions are not appropriate?
- (3) What other barriers have been identified and what action will the Government take to remove them?
- (4) What comparisons has the Government made between the costs associated with facilitating private late night transport services and running Niterider services?
- (5) What comparisons has the Government made between the quality and frequency of services that private operators could provide and Niterider services?
- (6) How has late night transport in Kings Cross improved in the last 12 months?

Answer—

(1) to (5) Senior officers from Transport for NSW recently attended a community workshop on late night trading issues in Kings Cross. A number of transport matters raised at the workshop, including proposals to allow private operators to run late night transport from Kings Cross, are being jointly considered by TfNSW and the City of Sydney.

(6) In October 2011, the Government introduced additional N100 NightRide services between Town Hall and Bondi Junction in both directions on Thursday nights/early Friday morning. These services operate via Bayswater Road, Kings Cross.

\*2233 LIGHT RAIL STUDENT CONCESSIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

Noting that the Government has bought Metro Transport Sydney, the light rail owner and operator and integrated light rail into MyZone ticketing system:

- (1) What assessment has been made of barriers to including light rail into the School Student Transport Scheme?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made of the impacts on student travelling time of light rail being excluded from this scheme?
- (3) What steps has the Government taken to include light rail in this scheme?
- (4) When will the Government fully integrate light rail into Sydney's public transport system?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The School Student Transport Scheme provides free travel for eligible students between their home and school. In determining the transport services students are entitled to use to make their journey, Transport for NSW takes travel time and the number of interchanges required into account.

As light rail is not the lowest cost transport option, it is not a mode used to transport students under the School Student Transport Scheme.

(4) In July 2011, the Government expanded the coverage of the Pensioner Excursion Ticket, the Family Funday Sunday Ticket and MyMulti passes to the light rail network. The Government is also committed to including light rail in the Opal electronic ticketing system.

\*2235 SHARED ZONES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Noting the December 2009 Staysafe Committee Report on Pedestrian Safety reported a high rate of pedestrian casualties, and recent tragic incidents where pedestrians have been killed or injured:

- (1) What trends does the data since 2009 show about the incidence and severity of pedestrian accidents in NSW?
- (2) What action has been taken to:
  - (a) train early childhood centre staff, primary school teachers and parents of young children on road safety (Recommendations 5 & 6);
  - (b) provide greater funding and support for the Road Safety Officer Program (Recommendation 9);
  - (c) increase safety programs and public awareness campaigns for older pedestrians (Recommendation 10);
  - (d) expand the number of scrambled crossings at intersections (Recommendation 13), and how

- many have been introduced since 2009;
- (e) extend shared zones to reduce conflict between motor vehicles and pedestrians in high pedestrian activity areas (Recommendation 14), and how many have been introduced since 2009;
  - (f) extend the pedestrian phase of signals at intersections with high pedestrian traffic and during peak pedestrian commuter times (Recommendation 16);
  - (g) introduce pedestrian user-friendly intelligent crossing technology (Recommendation 17), and countdown timers (Recommendation 18);
  - (h) consult better with local councils on speed zones in their local government areas (Recommendation 22);
  - (i) provide road safety education on pedestrian injuries and deaths (Recommendation 23 & 24)?
- (3) What further action will the Government take to prevent death and injury in high pedestrian activity areas?

Answer—

- (1) From the record low result of 49 pedestrian fatalities in 2008, pedestrian fatalities increased to 59 in 2009, remained at 59 for 2010 and then decreased to 51 (provisional figure) in 2011.

Pedestrian injuries have been trending downwards since 2008. From 2,085 injuries in 2008 there were 1,933 injuries in 2009, 1,871 injuries in 2010 and 1,846 injuries in 2011 (preliminary figure).

Collectively the annual pedestrian fatality and injury results from 2008 through to 2011 have all been at historically low levels.

However, preliminary data for 2012 covering the period 1 January to 29 May show that there have been 26 pedestrian fatalities, up by 12 (86 per cent) on the same period in 2011. This 2012 result suggests that the 2012 pedestrian road toll could be higher than the 2011 result and more in line with the 2009 and 2010 results.

Preliminary injury data for 2012 are largely incomplete and are not available at this time. Please note that preliminary data are as at 30 May 2012 and are subject to change. Provisional data for 2011 are as at 1 January 2012 and are subject to change upon finalisation of the data.

- (2)
- (a) Transport for NSW funds the NSW Road Safety Education Program which as one of its components addresses child pedestrian safety in the Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary School settings.

The Road Safety Education Program is delivered to early childhood centres and schools through a network of Transport for NSW funded road safety education consultants and advisers working within each NSW education sector.

The NSW Early Childhood Road Safety Education Program offers professional development workshops to all early childhood education services in NSW. Early childhood educators in these services as well as the families of the children in their care are invited to attend road safety workshops.

Designated workshops in early childhood road safety education are also offered to NSW early childhood students in universities and in TAFE colleges and other Registered Training Organisations.

To ensure the program can effectively support the professional development of educators and help them remain up-to-date in road safety education, it offers seven different workshops. All workshops address the three road safety issues of child passenger safety, pedestrian safety and safe play and equip educators with learning experiences and support materials in each of these road safety areas to use with young children and their families. Driveway safety is also featured in the workshops and alerts educators, families and other adults to the risks moving vehicles pose to child pedestrians and cyclists on driveways.

In NSW schools, road safety is addressed as a part of the NSW Board of Studies Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Syllabuses and as such is mandatory in all NSW schools.

Program resources meeting the outcomes of the appropriate PDHPE syllabuses are developed by Transport for NSW in conjunction with the NSW educational agencies, and are available free of charge for teachers, students, parents and school communities throughout NSW.

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The Kindergarten Orientation Day road safety resource provides information on road safety to parents at a time when their child will have a greater exposure to the traffic environment as a school student. Simple main pedestrian safety messages are highlighted and each family is provided with a road safety pack of brochures, stickers and a fridge magnet outlining the main road safety messages for future reference.

In primary school, pedestrian safety is addressed through the Move Ahead with Street Sense road safety education resource. The stage-appropriate, research-based main pedestrian safety messages are explored in teaching and learning experiences and in the wide variety of available resource components. Resources include teacher booklets and student videos, worksheets, full-colour photographs, story books, song and story cassettes and CDs, DVDs, board games, posters and stickers, all developed to ensure the effective communication of each main pedestrian message to students. The NSW Road Safety Education Program catalogue provides early childhood services and schools with ongoing access to these resources.

The Centre for Road Safety recently worked closely with the Daily Telegraph on a driveway safety campaign that focussed on delivering key messages to the community. The campaign was run over a number of weeks and, as part of the campaign, a handout containing key messages and in-vehicle stickers was distributed free with the Saturday Telegraph on 10 March 2012.

Key messages include active supervision and to hold young children's hands or hold them close when in the road environment. Other strategies also include separating play areas from driveways and garages. This is a community wide issue because often drivers involved in these types of crashes are visitors rather than the child's parents or primary carers.

As children up to at least ten years of age have not developed the maturity to operate independently in the traffic environment, materials provide parents and carers key pedestrian safety messages aimed to ensure that young children are accompanied by an adult in the traffic environment.

- (b) The NSW Government supports the continued operation of the Local Government Road Safety Program, which is an important road safety partnership with local councils.

From 1 July 2013, Transport for NSW is seeking to implement a revised delivery model to deliver greater road safety outcomes for local communities.

It is proposed that the revised model establish project funding agreements with councils for up to three years. Road Safety Officers will be maintained within this model, however the scope of projects in the program, which is currently limited to behavioural and educational activities, will be extended to include infrastructure, maintenance and communication projects.

Projects will focus on Government road safety priorities, including pedestrian safety, according to crash data for each local council.

- (c) Transport for NSW has developed a Walking Safely communication resource for older pedestrians and motorised wheelchair users across NSW. The resource provides two presentations on pedestrian safety and safe motorised wheelchair use. The presentations are delivered by Council Road Safety Officers through the Local Government Road Safety Program to groups of older road users i.e. retirement villages, Probus, and University of the Third Age. The presentations are also of interest to health professionals and other people working with older road users.

The presentations seek to provide older road users with information about strategies for safer travel. Key messages are to plan your trip, take the safest route, wait for cars to stop, look both ways and use a marked pedestrian crossing.

Transport for NSW also reinforces these key messages through radio, visual display message boards in clubs and advertisements in targeted publications for seniors.

Roads and Maritime Services' regions may also reinforce the "Look" message through stencilling of the word "Look" on the kerb in key locations.

- (d) Since 2009, Roads and Maritimes Services (RMS) has introduced three scrambled crossings at intersections in the City of Sydney local government area (LGA).  
(e) Since 2009, RMS has introduced four 10 km/h shared zones in the City of Sydney LGA.

It should be noted that many applications for 10 km/h shared zones from City of Sydney Council have been approved in principle by RMS. The in principal approval is pending completion of road works by Council to create an environment suitable for a 10 km/h shared zone.

Additionally, RMS installed a 40 km/h High Pedestrian Activity Area along Glebe Point Road

between Parramatta Road and Hereford Street, Glebe in June 2009.

- (f) The Walk signal is extended at a few hundred locations during peak pedestrian times. This number is continually expanding in response to changing pedestrian demand.
- (g) Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services will continue to investigate the potential application of technologies to make our road network safer for all road users, including pedestrians.

Roads and Maritime Services is currently trialling infra-red pedestrian/bicycle detection technology on the Kent Street cycleway in Sydney.

Roads and Maritime Services will soon be trialling the introduction of Wait Indicator Lights, which advise the pedestrian after they push the traffic signal's pedestrian crossing button that their call has been acknowledged and that they are to wait until the green person appears. This indicator light should encourage pedestrians to cross only when safe to do so.

Roads and Maritime Services has continued to install audio-tactile devices throughout the state (currently almost 100% of all traffic signal sites). These devices allow visually and intellectually impaired pedestrians to cross roads with greater safety.

Roads and Maritime Services has been assessing Puffin Crossings at two Sydney locations, which to date have demonstrated little to no benefit over current NSW traffic signal systems.

In 2011, the then Roads and Traffic Authority, in conjunction with Sydney City Council completed a trial of pedestrian countdown timers in the Sydney CBD. Pedestrian countdown timers were installed to operate in the Flashing Don't Walk interval of signalised pedestrian phase. The Flashing Don't Walk interval was selected as the phase that was compatible with the SCATS adaptive traffic control system operating in NSW.

In summary, the trial showed that there is no conclusive evidence that the installation of pedestrian countdown timers for operation during the Flashing Don't Walk interval of signalised intersection traffic management increases the safety of pedestrians.

- (h) Last year, a review of NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines was undertaken with engagement of key internal and external stakeholders. The revised guidelines were published on 30 September 2011. Some of the key changes incorporated in the revised guidelines were focussed on enhanced community engagement protocols, including improved engagement of local councils in the speed review process, including council officer attendance at speed zone review site inspections.

Further, the Government has launched the Safer Roads NSW website to enable the community to submit their concerns about speed zones/signs, obtain information on speed zoning in NSW and register for an email alert service providing updates about any changes to speed zoning in their area.

- (i) The "Walking Safely" presentations for older road users provide current NSW road crash statistics for the 5-year period (2007-2011) concerning older pedestrians and motorised wheelchair users. The survival statistics for pedestrians are also examined.

Transport for NSW also funds the Youthsafe "Travel to High School" parent information sheet. This sheet which is distributed to over 12,000 parents through high schools annually outlines the pedestrian safety statistics for young people.

The Roads and Maritime Services website also provides a range of information in the pedestrian safety section of the website

- (3) In addition the measures outlined above, the Government is implementing a number of other key programs across the state to protect pedestrians.

One of the key initiatives to reduce pedestrian crashes is applying a lower (40 km/h) speed limit in areas of high pedestrian activity such as shopping and business precincts.

A reduced speed limit of 40 km/h has been installed at more than 130 high pedestrian activity areas in NSW. The key objective of high pedestrian activity areas is to provide an environment that is safer for all road users. It is expected that in these areas drivers will be driving at a lower speed and should be able to sufficiently control their vehicle and safely avoid other road users. If there is an impact between a vehicle and a pedestrian in these areas, the risk of serious injury is minimised.

The 40 km/h high pedestrian activity zones and school zones are treated with traffic calming measures that create a self enforcing low speed road environment and safe pedestrian crossing points.



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Fatal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	16	16	20	11	12	12	22	13	19	16	19	13
Total	16	16	20	11	13	12	22	13	19	16	19	13

## Rest of Sydney Metropolitan Area

Reporting year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Degree of crash												
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	35	33	40	28	28	34	35	32	27	35	45	29
Non-casualty (towed away)	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Total	35	33	40	29	28	35	36	32	28	35	46	29

## Rest of NSW

Reporting year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Degree of crash												
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Injury	10	21	14	17	15	16	12	9	17	16	10	12
Total	10	21	14	17	15	16	13	11	17	16	10	12

\* Crashes in which at least one person was killed or injured or in which at least one motor vehicle was towed away.

Data for 2011 is preliminary and subject to change.

(c) Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services do not compile data about hospitalisations.

(d) There have been five deaths (all pedal cyclists) recorded from these crashes. One of the five pedal cyclists was not wearing a bicycle safety helmet at the time of the crash.

(2) During the period 2000-2011, a total of 768 crashes have been recorded on NSW roads where a pedal cycle collided with an open vehicle door. This is an average of 64 crashes per year. Seventy-eight per cent of these crashes occurred within the Sydney metropolitan area, including twenty-five per cent within the City of Sydney local government area.

Of the vehicles impacted by a pedal cycle, 74 per cent were light passenger vehicles, 11 per cent were light trucks and 8 per cent were taxis.

Of the 779 casualties reported from these crashes, 773 were sustained by pedal cyclists; five by motor vehicle drivers or passengers; and one by a pedestrian.

Fifty-nine per cent of the pedal cycle riders involved in this type of crash were aged 20-39 and 80 per cent were male.

In statistical terms the counts of these crashes, being relatively small, does exhibit an expected variation from one year to the next. However, there has been no discernible trend over the period 2000-2011.

(3) to (6) Transport for NSW takes all road users' injuries seriously.

To address road hazards such as cyclists hitting open vehicle doors, Transport for NSW has developed an educational brochure "Share and be aware - travelling together safely", which is made available to both motorists and cyclists.

The brochure includes advice and handy tips for motorists and cyclists on sharing the road safely, addresses hazards to cyclists such as opening vehicle doors, and teaches motorists to be more aware of cyclists when opening their door.

The brochure is distributed to motor registries, bicycle shops across the State, medical clinics, local councils and at community cycling events.

"Watch out for cyclists" is also one of the messages displayed on variable message signs on the road

network.

The Roads and Maritime Services handbook for bicycle riders also provides comprehensive information relating to road rules and road safety suggestions for cyclists. It includes recommendations on hazard perception and detection.

All brochures and handbooks can be downloaded from the NSW Government bicycle information website at [www.bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au)

With respect to engineering solutions, the standard drawings used to design bike paths were updated in 2009 by Austroads, an amalgamation of Australian road authorities. Consideration is given to the space required for an opened door in these drawings.

(7) This is a matter for the State Debt Recovery Office.

(8) The Government is investigating ways to improve the interactions between road users, including between motorists and cyclists, and to emphasise the importance of safely sharing our roads.

\*2237 WOOLLOOMOOLOO HOUSING SECURITY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Given Woolloomooloo public tenants' reports of break and enter offences and noting that many properties in this area are heritage terraced homes built on the footpath or close to the roadway:

- (1) How many reports have been made of break and enters to Housing NSW properties in Woolloomooloo in 2012?
- (2) How many of these properties did not have security screens and doors?
- (3) What is Housing NSW policy about ensuring properties are secure, including target hardening measures to prevent further break-ins?
- (4) What information or other measures does Housing NSW take to help tenants improve security for their homes?
- (5) Will the Government provide Woolloomooloo tenants who have suffered from break-ins security window screens and doors to prevent further break-ins and damage to Housing NSW properties?
- (6) What advice has the Government obtained from Crime Prevention Officers about target hardening and preventing break-ins in Woolloomooloo?
- (7) What further action will the Government take to prevent break-ins of Housing NSW properties?

Answer—

(1) and (6) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services who has responsibility for such matters.

(2), (3) and (7) Housing NSW fulfils its obligations under the Residential Tenancies Act which prescribes that locks must be provided and maintained to ensure that the residential premises are reasonably secure.

(4) Housing NSW works in partnership with NSW Police to address any identified issues as they arise and holds regular discussions on maintaining a secure home at various tenant meetings and forums.

(5) Security window screens are not provided as a standard fitting on properties managed by Housing NSW. However, tenants can seek approval from Housing NSW to install additional security measures at their own cost.

\*2238 VICTORIA STREET FLOODING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the City of Sydney and Sydney Water have agreed to jointly fund a six-month study on the cause of recurrent flooding in Victoria Street Potts Point:

Will the Minister ensure the study is completed urgently and commit to funding identified solutions immediately, given serious flooding has occurred three times in the past six months?

Answer—

The study will be carried out in two stages. The first stage will analyse flooding issues and constraints in the existing drainage system. In the second stage, flood management options will be identified, analysed for effectiveness and prioritised.

When the study is complete, Sydney Water will work with the City of Sydney to implement feasible solutions.

\*2239 CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mrs Barbara Perry asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many children are currently under the parental responsibility of the Minister?
- (2) How many children were under the parental responsibility of the Minister from July 2011 to date?
  - (a) What type of care do these children receive (i.e. foster care, residential care, kinship care etc.)?
  - (b) How many of these children are Aboriginal children?
  - (c) Are the children placed with Family and Community Services (FACS) or with a non-government organisation (NGO)?
- (3) How many children were under the parental responsibility of the Minister from June 2010 to July 2011?
  - (a) What type of care do these children receive (i.e. foster care, residential care, kinship care etc.)?
  - (b) How many of these children are Aboriginal children?
  - (c) Are the children placed with FACS or with a NGO?
- (4) As of 1 May 2012, how many children in out-of-home care (OOHC) were placed with FACS?
- (5) As of 1 May 2012, how many children in OOHC were placed with NGOs?
- (6) As of 1 May 2012, how many foster carers are with FACS?
- (7) As of 1 May 2012, how many foster carers are with NGOs?
- (8) How many kinship carers are with FACS?
- (9) How many children will be transferred from FACS to NGOs by July 2012?
- (10) How many children will be transferred from FACS to NGOs by July 2013?
- (11) How many and what are the names of residential care providers in NSW?
  - (a) How many of these providers are accredited by the Children's Guardian?
  - (b) How long they have been accredited?
- (12) As of 1 May 2012, how many children under the care of the Minister are currently in residential care, including NGO and FACS placements?
- (13) As of 1 May 2012, how many children in residential care are under 12 years old?
- (14) As of 1 May 2012, how many children in residential care are over 12 years old?

Answer—

(1) to (8) and (12) to (14) Community Services publishes quarterly information in relation to its child protection and Out-Of-Home Care services on its website which is available at [http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/docs\\_data.html](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/about_us/docs_data.html)

The most recent quarterly information is available for 31 December 2011.

The March quarterly statistics will be available in August 2012.

The Annual Statistical Report (2010-11) can also be found on the Community Services website.

(9) By 1 July 2012, the estimated cumulative transfer from Community Services to NGOs for children and young people in statutory foster and statutory relative kinship care will be up to 390.

(10) By 1 July 2013, the estimated cumulative transfer from Community Services to NGOs for children and young people in statutory foster and statutory relative kinship is hoped to be around 2,000.

(11) Information regarding designated agencies is available on the Children's Guardian website.

\*2240 REVIEW OF NSW GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has the Government received the Review of NSW Government funding for early childhood education from Professor Deborah Brennan?
- (2) If so, when will the Government release it?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) The report will be released with a Government response later this year, once it has been fully considered.

\*2241 REDEVELOPMENT OF KAMIRA COURT—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that WATPAC is currently undertaking market analysis with the community and private housing sectors (Question 1117):

- (1) What stage is WATPAC at with the market analysis for the redevelopment of Kamira Court?
- (2) When will this analysis be completed?

Answer—



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- (1) Watpac were to develop the Affordable Housing component of the project in partnership with UnitingCare Ageing, however UnitingCare Ageing decided not to proceed with the project. Since UnitingCare Ageing withdrew from the project Watpac have been undertaking market soundings to identify a potential alternative project partner.
- (2) Watpac are currently in advanced discussions with a Class 1 Community Housing Provider and it is anticipated this process will be concluded in the near future.

\*2242 STAFF GUIDELINES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—

What guidelines are in place that governs how staff of NSW Government agencies interact with people who have a mental disability?

Answer—

Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Family and Community Services, is committed to achieving the best outcomes and quality service for people with disability. NSW Health has primary responsibility for providing supports and services to people with a mental health diagnosis.

All staff working at Ageing, Disability and Home Care are subject to the relevant legislative frameworks and the Agency's Code of Conduct when working with all people with disability and their families, including those with a mental health diagnosis. Ageing, Disability and Home Care staff also utilise a range of other internal and external resources to support person centred approaches when supporting all people with disability.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care also recognises that employees should not be subject to restrictions due to their employment in the public sector particularly if they have a mental illness.

This is achieved through a network of relevant legislative frameworks and the Agency's Code of Conduct and Dignity and Respect - Anti-Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment and client support policies and procedures.

\*2244 ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

Given the Government's appeals to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for Sydney Water to increase prices by 30%, what State assistance will be given to large sole income families to aid in meeting these rising costs of living?

Answer—

The question raised by the Member for Fairfield falls under the administration of The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for the Finance and Services, and should be directed accordingly for response.

\*2245 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS—REPLACEMENT—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What alternative means of providing future funding assistance for community groups and organisations are being considered to replace the current Community Building Partnership Grants?
- (2) What are the details of how each of the alternate programs being considered will be administered?

Answer—

This question does not relate to the Finance and Services portfolio and should be directed to the Minister for Family and Community Services as the responsible Minister.

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\*2246 STAMP DUTY CONCESSION FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) (a) Did the Government abolish the stamp duty concession for first home buyers earlier this year?  
(b) If so, what impact will this policy change have on the number of new home buyers entering the market in Western Sydney?
- (2) Has the number of new/first home buyers entering the market this year been reduced on the corresponding period last year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) and (b) No.
- (2) Data on the provision of First Home Owner Grant Scheme payments and the First Home Plus Scheme (stamp duty exemptions) is available on the Office of State Revenue website at [www.osr.nsw.gov.au](http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au). This data is updated on a monthly basis.

\*2247 COST OF PLANNING REVIEW—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

- (1) What was the total financial cost of the Planning Review process?
- (2) Is the consultation process complete?
- (3) Is the Minister's stated timeline of 18 months for a completion of the whole review, including having legislation through the Parliament, still the Government's intention?

Answer—

- (1) The total cost incurred will be known when the review is completed.
- (2) Consultation is ongoing.
- (3) The NSW Government is on track with the NSW Planning System review.

\*2248 HUNTER WOMEN'S CENTRE CASEWORKER—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given that the Hunter Women's Centre requires \$55,000 to continue funding a caseworker, will the Minister support the funding request?

Answer—

I am advised:

Decisions regarding the allocation of funds under the Hunter New England NGO Grant Program are determined by the Hunter New England Local Health District.

\*2249 REPORT FROM HALCROW PACIFIC—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the initial report that was due from Halcrow Pacific in November 2011, the consultants engaged by Roads and Maritime Services to examine greater contestability for road maintenance:

- (1) When was the initial report released?
- (2) If the initial report has not been released, when will it be released?
- (3) What options have been identified by Halcrow Pacific for greater contestability of road maintenance?
- (4) Which organisations and stakeholders did Halcrow Pacific consult in preparing its report?
- (5) What are the report's findings in relation to the employment impact of greater contestability on rural and regional councils?
- (6) What are the Government's plans for introducing greater contestability of road maintenance?
- (7) Has an assessment been done of how each council will be impacted and how they will be impacted by the introduction of greater contestability?
- (8) What did the assessment find?
- (9) If an assessment has not been done, when will it be done?
- (10) Has the Government advised local councils about the details of its plans to introduce greater contestability of road maintenance?
- (11) If the Government has not advised local councils about the details of its plan to introduce greater contestability of road maintenance, when will the Government brief councils?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government is examining options for greater contestability in the provision of road maintenance.

As part of the examination, RMS engaged Halcrow to explore the options that are available. As part of this process there has been extensive consultation with New South Wales Treasury, the Local Government and Shires Association, the New South Wales Division of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, Roads Australia, the NSW Commission of Audit and contracting representatives at all levels.

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Following from the initial report and consultation, I asked for further work to be undertaken before a final set of options is considered by Government.

I have also met with the Local Government and Shires Association and a number of regional councils to discuss options and to ensure their views are considered and understood before a decision is made by the Government.

The NSW Government will make an announcement in the near future about the rollout of maintenance contestability, and following on from this decision, further consultation will be undertaken.

\*2250 MOTORCYCLE SAFETY STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the Motorcycle Safety Strategy that was due at the end of 2011:

- (1) Has the strategy been completed?
- (2) When will the strategy be released?
- (3) What was the consultation process undertaken in the development of the strategy?
- (4) What organisations and stakeholders were consulted during the development of the strategy?
- (5) What actions has the Government committed to under the strategy?
- (6) What is the timeline for the full implementation of the strategy?
- (7) What funding has been allocated to implement the strategy?

Answer—

The NSW Government will shortly release a draft NSW Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021 for community consultation. The draft Road Safety Strategy incorporates key components of the NSW Motorcycle Safety Strategy.

Elements of the Strategy have already commenced. For example, the Centre for Road Safety has implemented numerous motorcycle safety initiatives, including expanding the Check Twice for Bikes campaign; distributing the Good Gear Guide to Motorcycle Training Centres; conducting research into fatigue, returning riders and international helmet standards; and releasing the CRASH (Consumer Rating and Assessment of Safety Helmets) website to assist consumers choose the safest motorcycle helmet.

The draft NSW Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021 has been developed in consultation with the Road Safety Advisory Council. In relation to the Motorcycle Safety Strategy, four stakeholder consultation workshops were held in 2010 and 2011.

They included three stakeholder consultation workshops with the Motorcycle Council of NSW, Transport for NSW, NSW Police Force, the Motor Accidents Authority, Australian Motorcycle Council, Local Government and Shires Association, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Roads & Maritime Services, and NRMA Motoring and Services.

A fourth workshop was held with the broader motorcycle rider community in collaboration with the Motorcycle Council of NSW.

The draft NSW Road Safety Strategy 2012-2021 incorporates motorcycle-specific actions in the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020. It will be subject to community consultation and I encourage you to review it and make a submission.

Strategy initiatives can be funded from existing road safety program budgets, or will be scoped and costed for funding approval where appropriate.

\*2251 ANCAP RATING OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

With regards to the NSW Government fleet:

- (1) What ANCAP rating are vehicles in the NSW Government fleet required to meet?
- (2) (a) Are there any plans to review the ANCAP requirement for vehicles in the NSW Government fleet?  
(b) If so when will the review be complete?

Answer—

- (1) The ratings as per the Labor Government's contract which commenced on 1 April 2008, range from 3 to 4 stars depending on the type of vehicle.
- (2) ANCAP requirements will be reviewed for incorporation into the new vehicle purchasing contract scheduled to be in place by 1 April 2013.

\*2252 NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS, STAGE 4—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that the Government terminated its contract with Reed Constructions on 28 May 2012 and that Reed Constructions was building the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Stage 4 from Shortland to Sandgate with a scheduled completion date of June 2013, what is the new scheduled completion date for the road?

Answer—

I announced on 26 June 2012 that Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will partner with the Hunter Expressway Alliance contractor, Thiess Pty Ltd, to complete the Shortland to Sandgate section of the Newcastle Inner City Bypass.

Thiess will commence activity on site immediately and assess the work required to complete the project. This will determine the expected completion date for the project and put an end to the disruption and impact on the community and residents.

\*2253 CONTRACTOR JOBS WITH REED CONSTRUCTIONS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Will contractor jobs with Reed Constructions, who were building the Newcastle Inner City Bypass, Stage 4, be transferred to the new successful tenderer?

Answer—

See answer to Written Question No 2252.

\*2254 JOB LOSSES FOR TRAIN GUARDS AND STATION ATTENDANTS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Will the "biggest shake-up to the State's railways in a generation" lead to job losses for train guards and station attendants?

(2) If so, when and how many?

Answer—

The "Fixing the Trains" announcement made on 15 May 2012, including up to 750 voluntary redundancies from middle management, does not include frontline staff.

\*2255 MORE FREQUENT AND RELIABLE JOURNEYS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

How will the "biggest shake-up to the State's railways in a generation" lead to more frequent and reliable journeys?

Answer—

The Fixing the Trains initiative announced on 15 May 2012 will give the people of NSW the world-class rail system they deserve. This program is supported by important actions such as:

- Delivering 63 additional weekly rail services in October 2011;
- Adding 30,000 seats each week on selected Newcastle & Central Coast line services;
- Completely re-writing the CityRail timetable to deliver additional express and semi-express services; and
- Constructing 35 station upgrades and 9 commuter car parks as part of the Transport Access Program.

\*2256 COUNTRYLINK TRAINS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Will the Government be purchasing more CountryLink trains?

(2) If so, when and how many trains will be purchased?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) On Tuesday 15 May 2012, the Government announced a new program, "Fixing the Trains". The "Fixing the Trains" program will break up RailCorp to create two new customer-focused organisations - Sydney Trains and NSW Trains - to service the different needs of Sydney and intercity/regional customers.

The planning processes being led by Transport for NSW and NSW Trains will outline requirements and likely timeframes for purchase of new CountryLink trains.

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\*2257 ENROLMENT VACANCIES—HUNTER GOVERNMENT PRESCHOOLS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

Which Hunter Government preschools had enrolment vacancies at the beginning of 2012?

Answer—

Enrolment data is collected by census in August each year.

\*2258 GATESHEAD WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

Will the Minister maintain the current funding for students with disabilities and special needs at Gateshead West Public School under the Every Student, Every School policy?

Answer—

The specialist teacher and flexible funding learning and support allocations at Gateshead West Public School have been based upon the number of students in regular classes and the number of students identified with additional learning needs.

These allocations are appropriate and reflect a 12% decrease in student enrolments since the last specialist teacher allocation and a reduced number of students with identified additional learning and support needs.

The school will continue to receive targeted funding of \$24,080 for the remainder of this year to support identified students with disability and additional learning and support needs, as well as flexible funding of \$8,678 to support students with lower level support needs.

At the beginning of next year Gateshead West Public School will amalgamate with Gateshead Public School. Funding for students with disabilities and special needs at the amalgamated school will continue to be allocated according to student learning and support needs.

\*2259 MACULAR DEGENERATION FOUNDATION—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given that macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia, how much funding does the NSW Government allocate to the Macular Degeneration Foundation to help reduce the incidence and impact of this condition?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2011-12, the Macular Degeneration Foundation received a grant of \$317,300 from South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, via the NSW Ministry of Health NGO Grant Program.

\*2260 MEETINGS WITH ROGER NORMAN—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

On how many occasions has the Attorney General met with Roger Norman since 1 January 2007?

Answer—

Once.

\*2261 MEMBERSHIP OF ROTARY CLUBS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Is or has the Attorney General at any time since 1 January 2007 been a member of a Rotary Club?
- (2) If so, which club or clubs?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, an honorary member.
- (2) Epping Rotary Club.

\*2262 REIMBURSEMENT BY CORRECTIVE SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does Corrective Services reimburse the NSW Police Force when adult prisoners are transported to and from court by police?
- (2) Is there an agreement for such reimbursement to be made?
- (3) How often and over what distances have such transports been carried out from 1 July 2011 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Corrective Services NSW does not receive or maintain this data.

\*2263 REIMBURSEMENT BY JUVENILE JUSTICE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Does Juvenile Justice reimburse the NSW Police Force when juvenile detainees are transported by police rather than by Juvenile Justice staff?
- (2) Is there an agreement for such reimbursement to be made?
- (3) How often and over what distances have such transports been carried out from 1 July 2011 to date?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Juvenile Justice and NSW Police that provides a fee for service, or cost recovery arrangement, for transporting juvenile detainees in instances where Juvenile Justice staff and detainees fly to rural areas where there is no Juvenile Justice presence.
- (2) See response to question (1).
- (3) There have been 85 instances of police providing transport from a rural airport to a court from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. The furthest distance travelled was approximately 15 km, taking 20 minutes, with the average transport being approximately 7 km in distance, taking 10 minutes.

\*2264 CLOSURE OF CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

As a result of new correctional facilities opening in Cessnock, what other correctional centres, or portions of other correctional centres, will be closed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Reviews of the operational requirements of Corrective Services NSW are ongoing. Details of any changes to operational requirements which affect correctional facilities will be announced if and when they occur.

\*2265 APPROVAL TO PROVIDE CHAPLAINCY SERVICES IN NSW CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) (a) Has Darulfatwa (Islamic High Council of Australia) been approved to provide chaplaincy services in NSW correctional centres?  
(b) If not, has it been rejected?
- (2) If no to both (1) (a) and (b), what steps are required for this organisation to be approved?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) No.  
(b) No.
- (2) To be able to provide chaplaincy services in NSW correctional centres, an organisation needs to apply for membership of the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee NSW. A letter requesting membership should be addressed to The Secretary, Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee, 9/107 Henry Parry Drive, Gosford NSW 2250.

\*2266 PRIVATISATION OF PRISON ESCORT DUTIES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the Minister's response to the proposal in the Peter Parsons Audit of the NSW Police Force to privatise adult prison escort duties to and from court?

Answer—

I am advised:

The key criterion determining the delivery of court escort services will be "best practice" rather than whether such services should be delivered by Corrective Services NSW or the private sector.

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\*2267 HAMBURGER REVIEW—STAFF REDUCTIONS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

By how many will staff positions be reduced in Corrective Services as a result of the implementation of the Hamburger Review?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Independent Review of Corrective Services NSW Organisational Management Structure conducted by Knowledge Consulting Pty Ltd recommended a number of further reviews of some functions within Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) to achieve the most cost effective agency structure. The staffing requirements of CSNSW will not be known until those further reviews are completed.

\*2268 AMALGAMATION OF BLACKTOWN REGIONAL OFFICE OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

(1) When will the amalgamation of the Blacktown Regional Office of Correctional Services into the Metropolitan Regional Office be completed?

(2) How many FTE positions will be lost from Blacktown as a result of this amalgamation?

(3) What will become of the current Blacktown premises when the amalgamation is completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The amalgamation was completed in mid-May 2012.

(2) 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions were deleted.

(3) An alternate use for the premises is being investigated in consultation with the State Property Authority.

\*2269 "EVERY STUDENT, EVERY SCHOOL" DISABILITY FUNDING—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Education—

With regards to the new "Every student, Every school" disability funding structure for NSW schools:

(1) Did the Minister seek advice from any external consultant on the likely funding outcomes for NSW schools?

(2) If so:

(a) Which company did he consult?

(b) How many schools did this advice suggest would suffer reduced funding?

(3) What action is being taken to appeal decisions where funding cuts would adversely affect frontline services?

Answer—

(1) No advice was sought from any external consultant on funding outcomes for NSW schools.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Additional funding provided through the More Support for Students with Disabilities National Partnership will support schools in the transition, including substantial professional learning for teachers. If necessary, schools are accessing supplementation through their regions to support their transition to the new arrangements.

\*2270 ULTRASOUND SERVICES AT GOULBURN HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to ultrasound services at Goulburn Hospital:

(1) Has a new ultrasound machine been purchased by Greater Southern Area Health Service for Goulburn Hospital?

(2) Is this a replacement for the currently used four-years-old Philips RU 22 machine?

(3) What will happen to the current machine?

(4) When will the smaller portable machine be configured to print films on the computer, allowing this machine to be used for the wards and emergency department?

(5) When will the CT scanner be installed and available for use?

(6) When will the warranty period on this CT scanner expire?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) A new ultrasound machine purchased through a grant from Health Workforce Australia is not a replacement for the current machine but is specifically aligned to the clinical placement in the sonography training program. The current machine will continue to be used in the ultrasound department.

(4) The smaller portable machine is used in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Operating Theatre. It is used to guide central line insertion and for rapid abdominal and obstetric scans when a trained physician is available. There is an ultrasound machine in the ultrasound department which can be transported to the Emergency Department or Intensive Care Unit if printed images are required.

(5) and (6) Negotiations are underway to extend the warranty period following installation of the machine. Installation of the CT is on track for completion at end October 2012. The machine will be available for use following installation.

\*2271 MARLOWE HAMPSHIRE CONSULTANCY REPORT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to alleged bullying at St George Hospital and the Marlowe Hampshire consultancy report:

- (1) When was this report commissioned?
- (2) When was this report completed?
- (3) When was it received by the NSW Ministry of Health?
- (4) When did the Minister first see it?
- (5) When was it made available for the staff at South Eastern Sydney Local Health District to review?
- (6) What was the total cost of this report?
- (7) In what forum will this report be released?
- (8) What action will be taken to address the issues raised?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (7) An external review of St George Hospital commissioned in May 2011 by the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District was completed on 31 July 2011, with the final report dated 5 August 2011. SESLHD did not provide a copy of the report to the Ministry or the Minister.

The LHD developed an action plan in response to the recommendations of the report. The action plan was provided to the Hospital Clinical Council and the New South Wales Nurses Association in December 2011. In May 2012 a further progress report was provided to the Clinical Council and subsequently to the NSWNA.

The Ministry of Health publishes the use of consultants each year in its Annual Report, which is available on the NSW Health website: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

(8) Although the review found no evidence of bullying and harassment at the Hospital the following actions are being implemented or are ongoing:

- A number of workshops have been arranged and externally facilitated to improve working relationships between respective roles.
- Human Resources provide regular training workshops including Bullying and Harassment, Workplace Grievance Management, Disciplinary Process, Managing Difficult Employees.
- Conflict resolution skills are offered as a training program for hospital management.
- Staff are provided with an orientation program before taking up the role and are assigned an experienced Nurse Unit Manager as a mentor for the first 12 months in the role.
- Existing processes include staff annual reward and recognition awards, staff service awards. Nursing hold awards at each International Nurses Day.

\*2272 PROTOCOL FOR ON CALL DOCTORS AND STAFF—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to doctors (or other staff) on call for NSW public hospitals:

- (1) What protocol is to be followed if the doctor (or other staff) on call cannot be found for any reason?
- (2) Where is this protocol available for front line staff to view?
- (3) What record is kept of instances where doctors (or other front line staff) on call cannot be found for any reason?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) On call arrangements are determined by an individual health facility in consultation with



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affected staff.

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\*2273 SPEED CAMERAS SWITCHED OFF AND/OR REMOVED—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the 38 speed cameras that were switched off and/or removed in July 2011:

- (1) Since July 2011, how many accidents have occurred within 500 metres of sites where cameras have been switched off and/or removed?
- (2) Since July 2011, how many injuries have been recorded from accidents that have occurred within 500 metres of sites where cameras have been switched off and/or removed?
- (3) Since July 2011, how many fatalities have been recorded from accidents that have occurred within 500 metres of sites where cameras have been switched off and/or removed?
- (4) Of the 38 sites where speed cameras were switched off and/or removed, how many of these sites have had alternative safety measures implemented?
- (5) If alternative safety measures have been implemented at any of the 38 sites, what are the safety measures that have been implemented at each of the sites?
- (6) Of those that have not had safety measures implemented, how many accidents have occurred within 500 metres of the site since the cameras were switched off and/or removed?
- (7) Of those that have not had safety measures implemented, how many fatalities and injuries have been recorded from accidents within 500 metres of the site since the cameras were switched off and/or removed?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Crash and casualty data for the lengths covered by fixed speed cameras is only complete until the end of 2011.

Preliminary data for the period since the cameras have been switched off (July 2011) until December 2011 show there have been seven speed related casualty crashes in the one kilometre length around the fixed speed cameras that were switched off. These crashes have not resulted in any fatalities.

While some data is available for 2012 it is too early to accurately analyse crash and casualty data until it is complete.

(4) and (5) I refer you to my answer to your Written Question No 1558.

The safety treatments for the 38 decommissioned fixed speed camera sites are listed on the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

(6) and (7) See response for (1) to (3).

\*2274 FIXED SPEED CAMERAS SWITCHED TO WARNING MODE—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the locations where fixed speed cameras were switched to "warning mode":

- (1) In July 2011, how many fixed speed cameras were removed and what were the locations?
- (2) In July 2011, how many fixed speed cameras were switched to "warning mode" and what were the locations?
- (3) As at 30 May 2012, how many fixed speed cameras have been removed and at which locations have they been removed?
- (4) As at 30 May 2012, how many fixed cameras are in "warning mode"?
- (5) At the sites where fixed cameras are currently in "warning mode", how many accidents, injuries and fatalities have occurred since they were switched to "warning mode"?
- (6) At the locations where fixed speed cameras are currently in "warning mode", how many warning letters have been issued since July 2011?
- (7) What has been the cost of issuing warning letters at the sites where fixed cameras have been switched to "warning mode"?

Answer—

On 27 July 2011, following the release of the NSW Auditor-General's audit of speed cameras, I instructed Roads and Maritime Services to deactivate fixed speed cameras that were found to not be delivering the expected road safety benefits.

The locations of the deactivated speed cameras are as follows:

- President Avenue, Gymea
- Carlingford Road, Epping
- Bangalow Road, Clunes
- Pacific Highway, Urunga
- Balgownie Road, Fairy Meadow
- Spit Road, Beauty Point/The Spit
- Woy Woy Road, Kariong
- Blackwall Road, Woy Woy North
- Ocean Beach Road, Woy Woy
- Central Coast Highway, Bateau Bay
- Newcastle Road, Lambton
- Warringah Road, Frenchs Forest
- Sherwood Road, Merrylands West
- Great Western Highway, Parramatta
- Manns Road, West Gosford
- M4 Motorway, Wentworthville/Greystanes
- Hume Highway, Burwood
- General Holmes Drive, Botany
- Princes Highway, Angledale
- Brunswick Valley Way, Ocean Shores
- Pacific Highway, Kundabung
- New England Highway, Tilbuster
- New England Highway, Murrurundi
- New England Highway, Quirindi
- New England Highway, Scone
- New England Highway, Llangothlin
- Princes Highway, Broughton
- Princes Highway, Nowra
- Bolong Road, Shoalhaven Heads
- Delhi Road, Macquarie Park
- Eastern Arterial Road, Gordon
- Eastern Valley Way, Willoughby North
- Bruxner Highway, Alstonville
- Hume Highway, Tarcutta
- Pacific Highway, Banora Point
- Pacific Highway, Herons Creek
- Hume Highway, Coolac
- Pacific Highway, Bundagen

As at May 2012, ten fixed speed cameras had been removed: Bruxner Highway, Alstonville; Hume Highway, Coolac; Hume Highway, Tarcutta; Pacific Highway, Banora Point; Pacific Highway, Herons Creek; Pacific Highway, Bundagen; New England Highway, Tilbuster, Llangothlin and Quirindi; and the Princes Highway, Angledale.

As at 30 May 2012, four fixed speed cameras were operating in warning mode. These locations were switched to warning mode due to community concerns: Bangalow Road, Clunes; Pacific Highway, Urunga; President Avenue, Gymea; Carlingford Road, Epping.

Preliminary data show there have been no fatalities in the one kilometre length around the speed cameras in warning mode since they were switched to warning mode. There has been one speed related casualty crash at Carlingford Road, Epping. No other sites have had speed related casualty crashes since the cameras were switched to warning mode.

Between August 2011 and May 2012, 9778 warning letters have been issued at the four fixed speed camera locations in warning mode.

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I am advised that Roads and Maritime Services has the responsibility for issuing warning letters. The cost for issuing warning letters is no more significant than the usual cost of issuing infringements and has been delivered within the current budget of the fixed speed camera program.

Further information is available on the RMS website about the NSW Speed Camera Strategy.

\*2275 ELECTRICITY BILLS AND TRANSPARENCY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

With regard to requirements on electricity retailers as of 1 July to include the statement that the NSW Government estimates that Federal carbon tax and green energy schemes add about \$315 a year to a typical 7 MWh household bill:

- (1) How will retailers be required to include specific calculations on each bill that identifies the carbon tax contribution to that bill, given contributions will be different for different bills depending on individual circumstances and usage?
- (2) How will bills be required to identify compensation to each household for the carbon price impact through the Household Assistance Package?
- (3) How will bills be required to break down information that indicates the contribution to costs of:
  - (a) investment in the "poles and wires" network;
  - (b) generation;
  - (c) profit?
- (4) How will this information define differences in price increases between the carbon price and State-based green energy schemes?
- (5) What requirements will there be on energy retailers to specify which green energy schemes commenced as of 1 July and which already existed?
- (6) How will the Government ensure information does not breach ACCC guidelines on carbon price claims, which warn about claims that "the whole amount of a price increase is due to a carbon price, when in fact only a proportion of the total price increase is attributable to a carbon price" or "[overstating] the impact of a carbon price"?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) The carbon tax and other green schemes figure required to be printed on the front page of customer bills has been independently determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as part of its annual review of electricity prices.

Information on bill composition is publicly available on IPART's website.

As you would be aware the Household Assistance Package is a Commonwealth initiative.

\*2276 ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

Given the NSW Government has plans for additional power generation at Bayswater, Mt Piper and Cobbora:

- (1) What assessment has the NSW Government made on the increase in greenhouse gas emissions that will result from these plans?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made on the potential for energy efficiency, demand management schemes and renewable energy to prevent or postpone these plans given baseload electricity demand has reduced in the last two years and Origin Energy's CEO recently said NSW does not need new baseload power stations until at least 2020?
- (3) What action has the NSW Government taken to apply for Federal Government funding from the \$2 billion Clean Energy Future Package set aside for the early retirement of dirty power stations?
- (4) What assessment has the NSW Government made on the impact the Bayswater, Mt Piper and Cobbora projects will have on the ability for NSW to meet its own 20 per cent renewables target?
- (5) (a) Given Australia's Renewable Energy Target will require electricity retailers to buy 20 per cent of power from renewable sources by 2020 and that this is in line with the State Government's renewable energy election commitment, is the NSW Government committed to ensuring NSW generates 20 per cent of its power from renewable sources by 2020?
  - (b) If not, what plans does the NSW Government have for retailers to source renewable power elsewhere?
- (6) When will the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan be released?

Answer—

(1) and (2) As these power stations are to be sold, the private companies who purchase the development sites will decide when to progress these projects based on electricity market conditions.

(3) NSW black coal-fired power stations are not eligible for funding as the Federal Government set the criteria so only Victorian brown coal power stations could apply.

(4) and (5) The NSW Government's 20 per cent renewable energy target is a consumption target, not a production target.

(6) The Government will release the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan at the appropriate time.

\*2277 ELECTRICITY PRICES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

Given the Australian Energy Market Commission projects that new infrastructure will account for 33 per cent of electricity price rises with only 2.5 per cent caused by demand management expenditure, 2.8 per cent by rooftop solar panels and 8 per cent by a carbon price:

- (1) What new initiatives is the Government considering to reduce the need for network expansions?
- (2) What consideration will the Government give to requiring a minimum proportion of electricity companies' budget expenditure on energy efficiency and demand management to help slow the need for network expansions?
- (3) What consideration will the Government give to reducing its \$500 million annual dividend intake from NSW electricity networks to reduce increasing electricity bills?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to change the business model of the networks from one based on increasing consumption, which increases prices, to one based on energy efficiency and related services?

Answer—

- (1) NSW has a legislated electricity network demand management obligation requiring non network solutions to be considered prior to expansion of both the transmission and distribution systems. The NSW regime is the basis for the proposed change to the National Electricity Rules which will result in demand management reviews being required from all electricity distributors.
- (2) Electricity business Boards of Directors set or allocate electricity business budget expenditures, not the NSW Government. This is done as part of the five-yearly economic regulatory determination process overseen by the independent Australian Energy Regulator.
- (3) State owned electricity business dividends are fixed at current levels and a change would not affect the amount of revenue the Australian Energy Regulator has approved for each business.
- (4) Electricity networks respond to community demand for electricity supply. Expenditure is overseen by the independent Australian Energy Regulator.

\*2278 HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to inner city high schools and noting that additional school capacity will be needed from 2016 (Question 1792) and also recognising that obtaining new properties, sites or adapting other sites will take some time and be expensive:

- (1) What options for additional classrooms or facilities at existing high schools are being investigated?
- (2) What barriers and lead-in time is needed for these options, and what will they cost?
- (3) What inner city school properties does the Government own that could be used for additional high school capacity?
- (4) What barriers and lead-in time is needed for these options, and what will they cost?
- (5) What other Government-owned properties could be used to increase inner city high school capacity?
- (6) What options for additional high school sites are being investigated?
- (7) What barriers and lead-in time is needed for these options, and what will they cost?
- (8) What further action will the Government take to ensure high school student places are available before 2016?

Answer—

- (1) The answers for Question 1792 did not state that additional capacity will be needed from 2016. Based on projected demand, the Department of Education and Communities is not currently investigating any options for additional high school facilities in the inner city.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) There is currently spare capacity across the existing inner city high schools to meet projected demand to 2016.
- (4) Not applicable.

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- (5) Based on projected demand, the Department of Education and Communities is not currently investigating any options for additional high school facilities in the inner city.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Additional high school student spaces are not required before 2016, based on current projections.

\*2279 TAFE FEES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education—

With respect to the recently signed COAG skills agreement:

- (1) Will the Government undermine public TAFE institutes by allowing profitable courses to be funded through private operators and leave public providers as "last resort" operators?
- (2) Will TAFE Advanced Diploma student fees increase from \$55 concession or \$1,570 to \$5,000 in July 2013?
- (3) Will new Income Contingent Loans apply for Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses, and what repayment rules will apply?
- (4) What protections will the Government provide to ensure access to TAFE programs for low income and disadvantaged students?
- (5) Has the Government determined to go ahead with these additional costs to TAFE students?
- (6) Will the Government continue to provide TAFE programs through public TAFE institutes?
- (7) Will the Government provide concessions for low income students, those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those unable to pay high fees?
- (8) What action will the Government take to ensure the continued viability of public TAFE institutes?
- (9) What action will the Government take to ensure that post secondary education remains accessible and affordable to all students?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The COAG National Partnership anticipates student loans will be extended to government subsidised Diploma and Advanced Diploma students. Repayment rules are set under the Commonwealth's VET FEE-HELP Scheme.
- (4) Support for low income and disadvantaged students to access TAFE NSW will be considered in the development of the Implementation Plan for the National Partnership Agreement.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students with a disability and government benefit recipients are eligible for fee exemptions and/or concessions.
- (8) There is a crucial role for our high quality and world class TAFE Institutes to play in providing training in New South Wales and, in particular, in rural and regional areas.
- (9) VET Students in NSW have a range of options as to which providers they enrol with, and options for payment of their fees. In addition, eligible students receive fee exemptions and/or concessions. In signing up to the National Agreement on Skills Reform, New South Wales has also agreed to offer income contingent loans for government subsidised Diploma and Advanced Diplomas by 2015.

\*2280 ASHMORE TRANSPORT PLANNING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

Given the Ashmore renewal project will provide 3,200 new homes and existing public transport is near or at capacity:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to support its commitment to increase rail capacity at Erskineville, St Peters and Macdonaldtown stations?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to provide additional bus capacity and routes in Erskineville and Alexandria?
- (3) How many of these additional services are cross-regional?
- (4) How many of these additional services are off-peak?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Transport for NSW is undertaking a major review of the CityRail timetable. Options for improving services on the Bankstown Line, which serves Erskineville and St Peters stations, are being investigated as part of this review.
- (2) Transport for NSW undertakes bus service reviews on an ongoing basis. Options for improving services in Alexandria and Erskineville will be considered as part of this review process.

(3) and (4) Any requirements for additional transport services will be considered by Government following the outcome of reviews of CityRail and bus services and in light of development activity.

\*2281 COWPER STREET GLEBE HOUSING PROJECT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the status of the development for the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (2) When is the development application for this site expected to be lodged?
- (3) What is the updated cost estimate for the construction of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (4) When is the development estimated to be completed?
- (5) What is the estimated total gross floor area of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (6) What was the total gross floor area of the social housing properties previously on that site?
- (7) What is the estimated gross floor area to be allocated to social housing as part of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (8) What is the number of social housing dwellings in the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (9) What is the estimated gross floor area to be allocated to affordable housing as part of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (10) Have any organisations been approached regarding the management of the proposed affordable housing component of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
  - (a) If yes, which organisations?
  - (b) If yes, has any organisation been awarded a contract to manage the affordable housing component of the site?
- (11) What is the estimated gross floor area to be allocated to private housing as part of the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (12) What is the estimated average purchase price for a private dwelling in the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (13) What is the estimated average purchase price for an affordable housing dwelling in the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?
- (14) How many of the social housing dwellings are to be one-bedroom units?
- (15) How many of the social housing dwellings are to be two-bedroom units?
- (16) How many of the social housing dwellings are to be three-bedroom units?
- (17) How many of the affordable housing dwellings are to be one-bedroom units?
- (18) How many of the affordable housing dwellings are to be two-bedroom units?
- (19) How many of the affordable housing dwellings are to be three-bedroom units?
- (20) What was the mix of social housing dwellings previously on this site (studio/one/two/three/four-bedroom units/houses)?
- (21) How many social housing tenants were relocated due to the demolition of the social housing properties previously on this site?
- (22) How many social housing tenants are expected to be housed in the Cowper Street Glebe Housing Project?

Answer—

- (1) Civil engineering, social and affordable housing design work is currently being progressed so development applications can be submitted to City of Sydney Council.
- (2) The stage 1 concept development application was approved in December 2011. Development applications for civil works, social and affordable buildings are anticipated to be lodged in late 2012.
- (3) The estimated construction cost (including consultants) of civil works including demolition, site remediation, subdivision works, roads, drainage and service utilities and the construction of social dwellings and affordable dwellings is estimated by Davis Langdon quantity surveyors and City West Housing to be \$88 million including GST. There is no updated figure on the private dwellings.
- (4) Completion is anticipated by late 2015.
- (5) 38,175 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (6) 134 units totalling 11,865 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (7) and (8) 153 units totalling 11,043.8 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (9) 8,046.6 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (10) Negotiations are underway, however no Deed of Agreement has yet been executed.
- (11) 19,084.6 m<sup>2</sup>.
- (12) Sales prices for private dwellings will be set by the private sector proponent and ultimately by the

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market place.

(13) Affordable housing will be rented, not sold.

(14) 125.

(15) 28.

(16) Nil.

(17) 25.

(18) 41.

(19) 24.

(20) The previous mix of dwellings consisted of 13 bed-sits, 14 one-bedroom, 59 two-bedroom and 48 three-bedroom units, a total of 134 units.

(21) 208.

(22) 225.

\*2282 PUBLIC PRESCHOOLS—ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE REBATE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

What action is being taken to enable public preschools to become eligible for the child care rebate, in the same way that long day care services are eligible for the rebate?

Answer—

The factors determining approval of services by the Australian Government for the purposes of the child care rebate include operating hours, days and weeks. For example, to be approved as a long day care service, services need to be open for at least 8 hours per day, 48 weeks per year.

Preschools generally do not qualify for approved child care status because they typically operate for 6 hours per day, 40 weeks per year in line with school hours.

\*2283 OFFERS OF REDUNDANCY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

(1) How many staff have been offered a redundancy package in the 2011-12 financial year in the Department of Education and Communities?

(2) In what sections of the department has redundancy been offered and what are the job titles of the positions made redundant?

Answer—

(1) 179 staff have been offered a redundancy package in the 2011-12 financial year in the Department of Education and Communities.

(2) Redundancies have been offered in the following areas:

- Department of Education and Communities - 110
- TAFE Commission - 35
- Adult Migrant English Service (AMES) - 34

These redundancies are across a range of job titles and positions in the Department of Education & Communities.

\*2284 STATE CONTRACTS CONTROL BOARD—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

Which items are excluded by the State Contracts Control Board from the Local Schools, Local Decisions reforms to allow principals to have more choice in suppliers for purchases up to \$5,000?

Answer—

The following items of State Contracts are excluded from the Local Schools, Local Decisions purchasing reform: electricity and gas; school maintenance and cleaning; facilities management; insurance, liability and advice services for construction works; computer, servers and software; telecommunications; imaging devices - printers, copiers, fax machines; cars - purchase, rental, disposal, insurance and fuel; international air travel; professional print services - the Department's Print Services Team; fire fighting and rescue equipment; oils and greases; machine tools and learning tractors.

\*2285 INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION CONFERENCES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Does the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) host conferences and seminars to discuss corruption issues?
- (2) Does the ICAC contribute financially to visitors/participants to these conferences from overseas corruption authorities?
- (3) (a) Are all such ICAC seminars and conferences conducted in New South Wales?  
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) that:

In addition to the regular training and speaking programs it conducts for NSW public officials and relevant peak bodies and professional groups, the ICAC plans, organises and hosts a number of conferences and seminars with partner organisations. Current initiatives include:

- (a) the ICAC's biannual Outreach Program for regional NSW communities;
- (b) Corruption Prevention Network (CPN) free lunchtime and post-work talks on anti-corruption issues and the CPN Annual Forum;
- (c) the biennial National Investigation Symposium (NIS), which is run in partnership with the NSW Ombudsman and Institute of Public Administration Australia (NSW Branch);
- (d) the biennial Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference (APSACC), which is run in partnership with the Crime and Misconduct Commission (Qld) and the Corruption and Crime Commission (WA).

The Australian National University delivers the Corruption and Anti Corruption course each year. The course is at masters level and is run through the Crawford School of Economics and Government. The course is not hosted by the ICAC. ICAC officers teach on the course in return for 10 scholarships valued at \$5,500 each. The ICAC makes the scholarships available to NSW public officials through a competitive application process.

(2) The ICAC does not contribute financially to visitors/participants from overseas corruption authorities. Speakers are not paid a fee for preparation and delivery of papers, although the APSACC and NIS organising committees may pay the registration and/or travel costs of speakers and presenters. These costs are funded from delegate registration fees as part of the expenses of running the conferences. The next APSACC will be held in Sydney in 2013. The organising committee for APSACC 2013 has determined that, for the first time, a reduced registration (at cost price) will be made available to up to 20 delegates from countries designated by the United Nations as least developed countries (LDCs).

As to the arrangements for the Corruption and Anti Corruption Course delivered by the Australian National University, see the answer to (1) above.

(3) Yes, except for the APSACC and the Corruption and Anti-Corruption Course. The APSACC is a joint initiative of the ICAC, the Crime and Misconduct Commission (Qld) and the Corruption and Crime Commission (WA), and the location of the conference alternates between each the host agencies' State capital cities. The inaugural conference was held in Sydney in October 2007, Brisbane hosted in 2009 and Perth in 2011. Planning has begun for the next APSACC, which will be held in Sydney in November 2013. The Corruption and Anti-Corruption Course is an Australian National University course delivered at the Crawford School of Economics and Government in Canberra.

\*2286 MEETINGS WITH HYDRO SMELTER MANAGEMENT—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With regard to Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri:

- (1) Since March 2011, how many times has the Premier met with the management of the Hydro smelter?
- (2) Which of the Premier's ministers was given the overall task and responsibility of the Hydro matter?
- (3) How many times has that minister provided the Premier with briefings?

Answer—

I am advised:

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner and Minister Chris Hartcher have facilitated ongoing communication with the management of the Hydro Smelter since April 2011 and provided the Premier with ongoing briefings.



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\*2287 RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND MEETINGS WITH HYDRO SMELTER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regard to Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri:

- (1) Since March 2011, has the Minister held responsibility for the management of Government relations with the Hydro smelter?
- (2) Since March 2011, how many times has the Minister met with the management of the Hydro smelter?
- (3) (a) Has the Hydro smelter been offered an energy contract at any time in the past 15 months?  
(b) If so, when?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government has facilitated ongoing communication with the management of the Hydro smelter since April 2011.
- (3) On two separate occasions.

\*2288 RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND MEETINGS WITH HYDRO SMELTER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

With regard to Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri:

- (1) Since March 2011, has the Minister held responsibility for the management of Government relations with the Hydro smelter?
- (2) Since March 2011, how many times has the Minister met with the management of the Hydro smelter?
- (3) (a) Has the Hydro smelter been offered an energy contract at any time in the past 15 months?  
(b) If so, when?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government has facilitated ongoing communication with the management of the Hydro smelter since April 2011.
- (3) On two separate occasions.

\*2289 NEW APPRENTICES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

How many new apprentices were employed in the Government owned or controlled energy sector in the years:

- (a) 2009-2010;
- (b) 2010-2011;
- (c) 2011-2012?

Answer—

- (a) to (c) Information on apprentices is available in the annual reports of state-owned corporations.

\*2290 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regards to regional infrastructure and services for the electorate of Cessnock:

- (1) What and how much has been provided for the financial year 2011-12?
- (2) What and how much is proposed for the financial year 2012-13?

Answer—

Capital expenditure data for the Cessnock electorate is available in the Capital Expenditure report provided to members of Parliament on Budget Day.

\*2291 MERGER OF RTA AND MARITIME SERVICES COMPUTER SYSTEMS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What is the expected completion date for the merger of computer systems between RTA and Maritime Services which will allow residents to pay in cash or eftpos for new boat licences at RTA offices?

Answer—

I am advised:

Vehicle and boat licence and registration records are held in two separate databases. The two computer systems will not be merged, however, they will run in parallel at a registry workstation terminal. This will allow cash, cheque and EFTPOS payments across the full suite of vehicle and boat licensing and registration transactions at consolidated sites by November 2012, and the remaining registries will continue to process boat licence and registration renewals by cash, cheque or EFTPOS. All other maritime transactions, including new boat licence applications, will be accepted with cheque and credit card payments.

\*2292 PASSENGER SAFETY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

How will passenger safety be ensured for those passengers disembarking at unmanned stations when transit officers/police are not allocated to their train?

Answer—

The establishment of a new dedicated Police Transport Command will ensure greater security on the transport network. There is nothing more reassuring than a strong police presence.

The increased police presence will build on existing security measures, including:

- 9,300 CCTV cameras targeting crime and commuter safety;
- 750 customer help points visible on CCTV which allow a person to communicate directly with CityRail staff, and
- 7,000 high intensity lights.

The NSW Government also created a \$40 million Park and Travel Safety fund to further improve CCTV on station platforms, on trains and in car parks; improve lighting in and around train stations; and increase help point reliability.

\*2293 TRANSIT OFFICERS ON HUNTER VALLEY TRAINS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

With regard transit officers on trains which stop at Hunter Valley stations, how many transit officers have been tasked to Hunter for the years:

- (a) 2009-2010;
- (b) 2010-2011;
- (c) 2011-2012;
- (d) 2012-2013 (after the rollout of the new dedicated Police Transport Command)?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) to (d) Transit officers and the new Police Transport Command are deployed based on available intelligence to improve safety and security across the transport network.

\*2294 STATE-OWNED TRANSPORT—NUMBER OF DAILY TRIPS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) How many complete trips are scheduled for the following State-owned modes of transport each weekday:

- (a) buses;
- (b) trains;
- (c) ferries?

(2) How many complete trips are scheduled for the following State-owned modes of transport each weekend day:

- (a) buses;
- (b) trains;
- (c) ferries?

Answer—

Public transport timetables are available from [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)

\*2295 TOUKLEY AMBULANCE STATION—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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With regards to ambulance services at Toukley Ambulance Station:

- (1) How many staff are employed?
- (2) How many of these are:
  - (a) general duties paramedics;
  - (b) intensive care paramedics?
- (3) How many vehicles, and what type (i.e. general duties/intensive care) are available on the:
  - (a) day shift;
  - (b) night shift?
- (4) What was the total budget expenditure for 2010-11?
- (5) What is the total planned budget for 2011-12?
- (6) Have any roster changes been implemented since 1 December 2011?
- (7) Are any roster changes planned for the next year?
- (8) What will be the budget implications of any planned/implemented roster changes?
- (9) Will there always be two vehicles rostered at all hours on the night shift?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) As of the end of May 2012 there were 22.95 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff employed at Toukley Ambulance Station:

- 11.47 FTE are general duties paramedics, which include two trainee paramedics and two paramedic interns.
- 7.47 FTE are Intensive Care Paramedics.

(3) Toukley Ambulance Station has five frontline ambulance vehicles:

- (a) Two ambulance crews are deployed on day shift, consisting of one general duties crew and one Intensive Care Paramedic crew.
- (b) Two ambulance crews are deployed on night shift, consisting of one general duties crew and one Intensive Care Paramedic crew.

(4) and (5) Ambulance stations across NSW are resourced at an appropriate level to meet operational requirements.

(6) to (8) No roster changes are currently planned. The Ambulance Service monitors emergency responses to the people of NSW. Rosters are developed to support client need. The Ambulance Service monitors demand across the State to ensure rosters support appropriate emergency response.

(9) Refer to answer (3).

\*2296 REVIEW OF NSW HOSPITALS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Government's pre-election commitment to an independent review of NSW hospitals equipment and technology:

- (1) When was the report completed?
- (2) What were its findings?
- (3) Where is this report publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The report is being considered by the Government.

\*2297 FUNDING OF HEALTH CARE—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Minister's statement that "There will be far more transparency about what aspects of health care are funded. We will be able to see how much money a hospital or local health district receives" (Hansard 31 May 2012):

In what forum will these individual hospital budgets be published?

Answer—

I am advised:

Local Health Districts are responsible for publishing hospital budgets in consultation with their respective

Boards.

\*2298 OCCUPANCY RATE OF ACUTE OVERNIGHT BEDS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the occupancy rate of acute overnight beds and given that bed number and bed occupancy rates will be publicly reported on a regular basis (Question 1440):

- (1) Where is the report of the Audit Taskforce on Bed Numbers and Occupancy Rates publicly available?
- (2) When will the bed numbers and bed occupancy rates be reported on a regular basis?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The report of the Audit Taskforce on Bed Numbers and Occupancy Rates is not publicly available.
- (2) The bed numbers and bed occupancy rates will be published in the Ministry of Health's 2011-12 Annual Report.

\*2299 WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL FUNDING—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and given the changes after 1 July 2012 to activity-based funding:

- (1) What will be the estimated budget for this hospital in 2012-13?
- (2) What percentage increase will this represent on the 2011-12 budget?
- (3) What percentage of this hospital's budget will be:
  - (a) activity-based;
  - (b) block funding?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Wagga Wagga Base Hospital is administered by the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (LHD). Budgets are allocated by the Ministry of Health to LHDs on a whole of LHD basis for all facilities under their control. Decisions regarding facility budgets are made at the local level allowing resources to be allocated where they are most needed. Local Health Districts are responsible for publishing hospital budgets in consultation with their respective Boards.

\*2300 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Local Government, and Minister for the North Coast—

What will be the impact of the decision to cut funding for the Community Building Partnerships Program on the local government sector in NSW?

Answer—

The Community Building Partnership will continue, with approximately \$90 million committed over the next four years in NSW.

Further details will be available shortly at [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au)

\*2301 NSW DENTAL TASKFORCE REPORT—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Given that the Ministry of Health is currently considering the advice of the NSW Dental Taskforce (Question 1741):

- (1) Why will the Government not release the NSW Dental Taskforce Report in its entirety?
- (2) Will the Government provide a formal response to this report?
- (3) If so, when will this response be made publically available?
- (4) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The Ministry of Health is currently finalising the NSW Dental Health Action Plan taking into consideration the advice of the NSW Taskforce, the National Advisory Council on Dental Health report and the recently announced Federal Budget initiatives.

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\*2302 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the Government cut \$100,000 from Bankstown under the Community Building Partnerships Program as part of the upcoming budget?
- (2) (a) If so, will the Government:
  - (i) seek submissions from the public regarding the Community Building Partnerships Program;
  - (ii) hold public forums to hear directly from the NSW public regarding the Community Building Partnerships Program;
  - (iii) seek submissions from individuals and organisations who rely on the Community Building Partnerships Program for funding?
- (b) If no to (i)-(iii) above, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Budget 2012-13 confirms that more than \$90 million is allocated to the Community Building Partnerships Program over the next four years.

\*2303 STAMP DUTY CONCESSIONS FOR EXISTING DWELLINGS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the Government re-establish the stamp duty concessions for existing dwellings that were cut last year as part of the 2012-13 budget?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Stamp duty concessions continue to be targeted to new homes and vacant land as part of the Building the State package in the 2012-13 Budget.
- (2) Home buyer benefits have been targeted to newly constructed dwellings and vacant land so as to encourage housing construction and boost housing supply.

Under the previous package, NSW Treasury found the mortgage size of first home buyers increased sharply with no boost to housing supply.

\*2304 UPGRADE OF STACEY STREET, BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to upgrade Stacey Street, Bankstown?
- (2) If so, will funding be provided to cover the open drain between McCauley Avenue and Stanley Street?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Roads.

\*2305 IMPROVEMENTS TO HENRY LAWSON DRIVE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to improve Henry Lawson Drive?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Roads.

\*2306 M5 EAST DUPLICATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to the M5 East duplication?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Roads.

\*2307 LIFT INSTALLATIONS AT YAGOONA AND PUNCHBOWL TRAIN STATIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to install lifts at Yagoona and Punchbowl train stations?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

\*2308 BANKSTOWN TRAIN STATION UPGRADE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to upgrade Bankstown train station in recognition of Bankstown as a major transport hub?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

\*2309 EFFICIENCY TARGETS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

What are the efficiency targets that the Department's Director-General is required to meet?

Answer—

The Director-General is required to meet her Department's budget.

\*2310 WATER EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Does Housing NSW have a policy regarding the use of dual-flush toilets in public housing properties?
- (2) Does Housing NSW replace broken toilet systems in public housing properties with the more water efficient dual-flush toilet systems?
- (3) Is it the public housing tenant's responsibility to replace the toilet flushing system with a dual flush system if they so wish?
- (4) Do the tenancy agreements for Housing NSW properties stipulate that when a tenant vacates a property it must be handed back with identical fixtures as when it was first occupied?
- (5) Does Housing NSW replace/repair broken toilet systems with the same type of toilet system as the existing system, even if it is less water efficient?
- (6) Does Housing NSW have a program for updating to the more water efficient dual-flush toilet system between tenants in public housing?
- (7) (a) How many queries or complaints regarding water charges did Housing NSW receive from public housing tenants in 2009-10?  
(b) Of these queries/complaints, how many public housing tenants were found to have been overcharged?
- (8) (a) How many queries or complaints regarding water charges did Housing NSW receive from public housing tenants in 2010-11?  
(b) Of these queries/complaints, how many public housing tenants were found to have been overcharged?
- (9) (a) How many queries or complaints regarding water charges has Housing NSW received from public housing tenants so far in 2011-12?  
(b) Of these queries/complaints, how many public housing tenants have been found to have been overcharged?
- (10) How are water charges for public housing tenants currently being formulated?
- (11) What is the average weekly water charge for public housing tenants?
- (12) How many investigations has Housing NSW undertaken into water leaks in public housing properties?
- (13) How many water leaks has Housing NSW found in public housing properties?
- (14) Does Housing NSW have any policies in place to improve the water efficiency of public housing properties?

Answer—

- (1) Yes. Dual flush toilets are installed in new properties and retrofitting in existing properties when existing single flush toilets require replacement.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) No.
- (5) No. Single flush toilets that cannot be repaired are replaced with dual flush toilets.
- (6) Yes. Dual flush toilets are installed when single flush toilets cannot be repaired.

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- (7) to (9) The number of queries or complaints regarding water charges is not separately recorded by Housing NSW.
- (10) Tenants living in homes with separate water meters pay for the actual water they use. Tenants in homes where the water meter is shared currently pay 4.7% of their net rent capped at \$7.00 per week.
- (11) \$6.13 per week in 2010-11.
- (12) and (13) NSW Land and Housing Corporation has investigated and repaired 44,233 water leaks since 1 July 2009.
- (14) NSW Land and Housing Corporation's Environmental Sustainability Strategy contains an action to implement programs to improve the water efficiency of new and existing properties. Water savings showerheads and tap flow restrictors have been retrofitted in over 100,000 properties since 2006. NSW Land and Housing Corporation's Design Requirements specify new dwellings shall have access to a non-potable rainwater supply for toilet, washing machine and outdoor tap of 2 KL/dwelling minimum volume.
- \*2311 CABRAMATTA HIGH SCHOOL UPGRADE—STAGE 3—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) What progress has been made with the Cabramatta High School Upgrade - Stage 3 announced in the 2011-12 budget?
  - (2) How much has been expended so far on this project?
- Answer—
- (1) The upgrade at Cabramatta High School Stage 3 is on track.
  - (2) \$303,295.92.
- \*2312 HURSTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL UPGRADE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) What progress has been made with the Hurstville Public School Upgrade announced in the 2011-12 budget?
  - (2) How much has been expended so far on this project?
- Answer—
- (1) The project is on track.
  - (2) The expenditure on the project as at 12 June 2012 is \$251,679.
- \*2313 NEPEAN CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL— NEW PERFORMING ARTS FACILITY—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) What progress has been made with the Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School - New Performing Arts Facility announced in the 2011-12 budget?
  - (2) How much has been expended so far on this project?
- Answer—
- (1) The project is currently on track.
  - (2) Total expenditure to the end of May 2012 is \$714,000 for construction and fees.
- \*2314 ORAN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- (1) What progress has been made with the Oran Park Public School announced in the 2011-12 budget?
  - (2) How much has been expended so far on this project?
- Answer—
- (1) The project to construct Oran Park Public School is on track.
  - (2) \$271,845.
- \*2315 OTHER MINOR WORKS—PROJECTS FUNDED—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—
- What projects have been funded by the \$42,748,000 allocated in the 2011-12 budget for Other Minor Works and how much has been allocated to each project?
- Answer—
- The 2011-12 budget allocation for Other Minor Works provides funding for various programs and initiatives that support the provision of education services in NSW schools across the State.

To provide a detailed response in respect of every project would involve considerable time and the diversion of resources away from the core responsibilities of the Department of Education and Communities that cannot be justified.

- \*2316 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES—PROJECTS FUNDED—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

What projects have been funded by the \$89,290,000 allocated in the 2011-12 budget for School Infrastructure Upgrades and how much has been allocated to each project?

Answer—

The 2011-12 budget allocation for School Infrastructure Upgrades provides funding for various programs and initiatives that support the provision of education services in NSW schools across the State.

To provide a detailed response in respect of every project would involve considerable time and the diversion of resources away from the core responsibilities of the Department of Education and Communities that cannot be justified.

- \*2317 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING STAFF—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

What procedures or processes are in place to guide Department of Housing staff in assisting housing applicants who suffer from a nonphysical disability?

Answer—

Housing NSW staff will endeavour to assist a client where it is recognised that the client requires assistance, or where a client seeks assistance with the completion of forms or applications.

Housing NSW is a signatory to the Housing and Mental Health Agreement. This Agreement provides the overarching framework for planning, coordinating and delivering mental health, accommodation support and social housing services for clients with mental health problems and disorders who are living in social housing or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The Agreement also provides staff with guidance about what they need to do, what support is available and from where and how staff or clients can access this support if needed. It also provides a mechanism for services to work together at the local level to improve client outcomes.

- \*2318 VILLAWOOD RAILWAY STATION—EASY ACCESS PROGRAM—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

Has Villawood Railway Station been included for review for an upgrade under the recently announced \$30 million injection to the Easy Access program?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to improving public transport services and providing a world-class transport system people want to use.

On 30 April 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 more than \$770 million over four years.

Over \$100 million was allocated in the first round of the Transport Access Program, which will see improvements at over 35 locations in coming months.

On 29 May 2012 the NSW Government announced an additional \$170 million commitment to build nine new commuter car parks, providing more than 1,200 additional car spaces at train stations across the CityRail network.

More planning and design work will now occur to see which projects will come next. Villawood Station will be considered as part of this process.

- \*2319 HELP FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer—

Given reports of a 60 per cent drop in home loan approvals since the Government axed the Stamp Duty Exemption Scheme in December 2011, what does the Government propose to help first home buyers re-enter the housing market?

Answer—



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While the NSW Government acknowledges the need to boost housing construction, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows first home buyer approvals were 7 per cent higher in the first quarter of 2012 than they were in the same quarter in 2011.

The NSW Government is determined to ensure grants and concessions provided to first home buyers are effective. Under the previous package, NSW Treasury found the mortgage size of first home buyers increased sharply with no boost to housing supply.

That is why the centrepiece of the NSW Budget 2012-13 is the Building the State package aimed at stimulating housing construction. This package delivers the most generous first home buyers scheme in the country for new properties and a new grant of \$5000 to all non-first home buyers of new properties up to \$650,000.

The Building the State package also provides \$561 million for additional infrastructure to boost housing supply and accelerate the release of up to 76,000 new housing lots.

\*2320 DELAY TIMES FOR EMERGENCY PATIENTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given reports that indicate that the delay time to treat patients with a life-threatening condition at Fairfield Hospital was well above the recommended periods by health experts, what is the Minister doing to improve recommended times for treating emergency patients at Fairfield Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since March 2012, two new Emergency Department Staff Specialists have been appointed at Fairfield Hospital as well as a new Emergency Department Director. There has been increased senior cover in Emergency Department after hours with senior staff allocated in fast track to help patient turnover and reduce waiting times.

In addition, nurse staffing has increased including advertising for a Nurse Practitioner position.

\*2321 SPECIALIST RADIOLOGISTS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

(1) Will the Minister put more specialist radiologists in NSW hospitals to clear the current backlog of 83,000 unchecked X-rays?

(2) If so, what provisions are or have been put in place to deal with the backlog?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) There is no significant backlog of unreported plain X-Rays in the majority of public hospitals in NSW.

Where an individual Local Health District identifies a backlog they employ a range of strategies to address the backlog including use of external contractors, increased staff specialist overtime, and/or additional sessions by Visiting Medical Officers.

\*2322 CUTS TO TEACHERS AIDES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

Why is the Government cutting costs to teachers aides under the Every Student, Every School program from the beginning of term 3 this year?

Answer—

Every Student, Every School is not about cutting costs. It is increasing the State's total funding allocated directly to regular schools by \$69 million.

It brings the total annual spend in NSW public schools on learning and support to more than \$219 million.

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(Paper No. 96)

2323 RE-ANALYSIS OF SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

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- 2324 SPEED CAMERA STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2325 ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2326 FIXED SPEED CAMERAS SWITCHED OFF AND/OR REMOVED—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2327 FUNDING FOR ONCOLOGY SERVICES IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- \*2328 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE NEWCASTLE AREA—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—
- (1) What is the Minister doing to improve public transport and the reliability of rail services from Maitland to Newcastle?
  - (2) How will the Minister improve vehicle access across the railway lines in the Newcastle area?
- Answer—
- (1) and (2) The Government is committed to improving public transport services in the Hunter.  
Newcastle train customers are benefitting from the addition of nearly 20,000 extra seats a week on selected services as more carriages are added to services in the Hunter.  
The Hunter region will benefit from \$177 million allocated in the 2012-13 Budget to fund bus services in the outer metropolitan area. \$21 million has also been provided for 45 new buses to replace ageing vehicles in the outer metropolitan area.  
The Hunter is also benefitting from a number of improvements under the Transport Access Program, including an upgrade to Cardiff Station, improved access at Greta Station and other improvements to Scone, Singleton and Hamilton Stations.  
In addition, the Government has directed Transport for NSW to undertake a major re-write of the train timetable to deliver more services. This will improve the customer experience by easing crowding, reducing travel times and improving connections to other modes.  
Finally, the establishment of NSW Trains as part of the Fixing the Trains initiative means that, for the first time, regional and country areas will benefit from a new dedicated rail organisation focused on their specific needs - more comfortable service services, with on-board facilities.
- \*2329 PRIVATISATION OF HUNTER BUS SERVICES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—
- (1) Will the Minister be privatising public bus services in the Hunter?
  - (2) If so, which services and when?
- Answer—
- (1) and (2) The Government has no plans to privatise bus services in the Hunter.
- 2330 FUNDING FOR MAJOR WORKS ON HUNTER ROADS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2331 REVENUE GENERATED FROM SAFETY CAMERAS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer—
- 2332 SAFETY CAMERA FINES—RUSHCUTTERS BAY—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- \*2333 REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UAE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) On the Premier's recent trip to the UAE, did he make representations to UAE officials concerning the UAE's role in suppressing the democracy movement in Bahrain?
  - (2) If so, what was the nature of those representations?
  - (3) If not, why not?
- Answer—
- I am advised:

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- (1) No
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) The purpose of the mission was to further economic and trade relations between NSW and the UAE.

\*2334 COMPLAINT BY CHIEF MAGISTRATE GRAEME HENSON—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What action has been taken in response to the complaint by Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson by letter dated 26 April 2012 to the Director General Department of Attorney General and Justice?

Answer—

I am aware that the Director General of the Department of Attorney General and Justice has discussed this matter in detail with the Chief Magistrate.

I can assure you that there is a productive working relationship between the Chief Magistrate and Director General. They continue to remain committed to working together to improve the NSW Local Court system.

\*2335 MEETING WITH NSW CHIEF JUSTICE TOM BATHURST—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Did the Attorney General have a meeting with NSW Chief Justice Tom Bathurst on 1 June 2012?
- (2) What changes does the Attorney General propose to the way in which the Judicial Commission deals with complaints against judicial officers, including those suffering mental stress?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Several proposals for change have been raised in the media and elsewhere. The need for change is currently being considered.

\*2336 LIVERPOOL COURT HOUSE—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

When will the refurbishments and renovations to Liverpool Court House be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The project is currently on track for completion at the end of January 2013.

2337 ELECTRONIC TRACKING BRACELETS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

2338 FUNDING FOR SOUTH WEST YOUTH PEER EDUCATION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

\*2339 LIVERPOOL POLICE STATION—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—

When will the refurbishments and renovations to Liverpool Police Station be completed?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that it is reviewing the ongoing use and future of the Liverpool police station site in consultation with local police.

2340 RESPONSE TO EMAIL—ROYAL PACIFIC TOURIST RETREAT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

2341 AUSTRALIAN REGISTRARS' NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING COUNCIL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

2342 PAYROLL TAX REBATE—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer—

2343 BASS SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—

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(Paper No. 97)

- 2344 SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2345 ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 2346 INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN HOUSING SITES—Mr Clayton Barr 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—
- 2347 HUNTER TRANSIT OFFICERS—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—
- 2348 PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- \*2349 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) (a) Will the Premier fund the Community Building Partnership Program for the 2012-13 financial year?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (2) Will funding for the Community Building Partnership Program be maintained at the same level per electorate as the 2011-12 financial year?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) The Community Building Partnership will continue, with approximately \$90 million committed over the next four years.
- (2) Further details will be available shortly at [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au).
- 2350 SUN PROTECTION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2351 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2352 FIREARMS ACT 1996—SECTION 6B REVIEW—Ms Clover Moore 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—
- 2353 REDFERN AND SURRY HILLS BUSES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2354 SPORTS FACILITY FOR ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 2355 FITTING OF SPRINKLERS TO AGED CARE HOMES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2356 FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2357 REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2358 UPGRADES TO LOCAL SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2359 WOLLONGONG LOCAL AREA COMMAND—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—
- 2360 BULLI HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 2361 BULLI HOSPITAL NURSE NUMBERS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2362 COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 2363 PAYMENTS TO SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORE AUTHORITY—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2364 MACQUARIE BANK AND KPMG SITE—FEES PAYABLE—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2365 MONITORING OF SPEED LIMITS IN BALMAIN—Mr Jamie Parker 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—
- 2366 RENT INCREASE FOR SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2367 LEND LEASE OCCUPANCY OF DARLING WALK—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 2368 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES—FTE EMPLOYEES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2369 HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

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(Paper No. 98)

- \*2370 ROOTY HILL RAILWAY STATION—EASY ACCESS FACILITIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

Given that Rooty Hill Railway Station is being considered for easy access facilities (Question 2106):

- (1) Has there been any advancement in the consideration for easy access facilities at Rooty Hill Railway Station arising from the State Budget?
- (2) If so, what are the details?

Answer—

On 30 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 more than \$770 million over four years.

Over \$100 million was allocated in the first round of the Transport Access Program, which will see improvements at over 35 locations in coming months.

On 29 May 2012 the NSW Government announced an additional \$170 million commitment to build nine new commuter car parks, providing more than 1,200 additional car spaces at train stations across the CityRail network.

More planning and design work will now occur to see which projects will come next. Rooty Hill Station will be considered as part of this process.

- 2371 NEW MRI MACHINES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2372 OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2373 FUNDING FOR TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

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- 2374 NORTHNET—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2375 SPECTACLES PROGRAM FUNDING—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2376 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 2377 RESOURCES FOR REGIONS FUND—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 2378 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2379 GRANTS TO SPORTING GROUPS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 2380 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 2381 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 2382 INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2383 PHASING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2384 M5 TUNNEL CLOSURES—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2385 DAILY ROAD TOLL UPDATE—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2386 NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS COMPLETION DATE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2387 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS IN THE HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2388 WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2389 CENTRAL COAST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2390 ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT NURSES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2391 PATIENTS WALKING OUT OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2392 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CAR PARK—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2393 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT NURSES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2394 MULLUMBIMBY HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2395 BROKEN HILL MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2396 BUDGET ALLOCATION—LAND ACQUISITION—WARATAH—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 2397 BUDGET FUNDING FOR BASS SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer—
- 2398 SMOKING RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2399 INVESTMENT IN STACEY STREET BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2400 INVESTMENT IN HENRY LAWSON DRIVE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2401 INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISHONEST BUSINESS OPERATORS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 2402 NSW FAIR TRADING JOB LOSSES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 2403 CONSUMER, TRADER AND TENANCY TRIBUNAL—REGISTRY CLOSURES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 2404 NSW FAIR TRADING—OFFICE CLOSURES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 2405 DEPARTMENT OF FAIR TRADING CUTS TO PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 2406 MILLERS POINT HOUSING SALES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- \*2407 URANIUM EXPLORATION LICENCES—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- Has the Minister received advice from the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services recommending a process for the issuing of uranium exploration licences?
- (a) If yes, has the Minister responded to the recommendation?
- (b) If no, why hasn't the Minister responded to the recommendation?
- Answer—
- I announced the new process for uranium exploration licences at a uranium conference in Adelaide in mid-June 2012.
- 2408 FUNDING FOR SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING TEACHERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2409 FUNDING FOR BEST START LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2410 FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2411 FUNDING FOR STUDENTS IN REGIONAL AND RURAL AREAS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2412 FUNDING FOR TRANSITION TO YEAR 7 INITIATIVE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2413 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SPORTS INITIATIVE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2414 YEAR 12 HSC PORTFOLIOS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2415 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE SCHOOLS—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2416 HSC ADVICE LINE—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Education—

- 2417 BUDGET FUNDING FOR POLICE SERVICES—Mr Guy Zangari 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—
- 2418 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2419 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2420 BUDGET FUNDING FOR ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

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- 2421 PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ALONG COOKS RIVER—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 2422 FUNDING FOR TEACHERS' AIDES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2423 CYCLING ROUTES DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2424 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY MEASURES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2425 PLAN-IT YOUTH PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2426 POLICE RESOURCES FOR 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—
- \*2427 PRICE HIKE IN POWER BILLS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

What is the Minister doing to off-set the 18% price hike in NSW power bills?

Answer—

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has confirmed that Labor's carbon tax will force up power bills from 1 July.

Increased network charges are a result of network overspending approved by the former Labor Government which issued Licence Conditions locking in huge capital expenditure on the electricity network until 2014.

The former Labor Government also ripped \$14.2 billion in dividends and tax equivalent payments from the electricity businesses while watching electricity prices rise by over 60% in its last five years in office.

The best way to stop electricity prices from rising is to stop the carbon tax - a policy which has the full support of the NSW Labor Party.

- 2428 PAY AND CONDITIONS FOR CLEANERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2429 HUNTER SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2430 FUNDING FOR HUNTER WOMEN'S CENTRE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2431 TEMPE RAILWAY STATION—Ms Kristina Keneally to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2432 LEGAL AID COMMISSION CIVIL LAW AND CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—



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- 2433 LEGAL AID COMMISSION SERVICE GROUP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2434 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2435 COURT SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2436 CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- \*2437 RISK MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS—GRAFFITI ACTION DAY—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What risk management protocols have been put in place by the successful tenderer for Graffiti Action Day for the implementation of programs?
  - (2) What steps has the Attorney General taken to ensure that such protocols have been adopted and implemented?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The Department of Attorney General and Justice identified risk management measures and incorporated these in the contract with the successful tenderer. The measures included a methodology for site selection, site risk assessments, staff and volunteer induction procedures and a management plan for individual sites.
- The Department is responsible for the ongoing management of this contract and will ensure compliance with these requirements.
- \*2438 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS—GRAFFITI ACTION DAY—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- Regarding the allocation of funds to Rotary rather than Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) for Graffiti Action Day:
- (1) Who allocated the funding?
  - (2) What position does he/she hold?
  - (3) What was the date when this funding was allocated?
  - (4) Who were the tenderers for such funding?
- Answer—
- I approved the use of a tender process to select an organisation to coordinate the implementation of Graffiti Removal Day 2012.
- Funding was allocated to the successful tenderer following a competitive tender process. The contract was awarded in May 2012.
- Four tenders were received from organisations including Rotary Down Under Incorporated, VandalTrak Ltd, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and Steve Brien Communications Pty Ltd.
- 2439 USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY—GRAFFITI ACTION DAY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2440 CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—STAFF OVERPAYMENT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2441 PET SCANNER FOR THE ILLAWARRA—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2442 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2443 OFFICE REFURBISHMENTS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2444 DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION STAFF—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—

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- 2445 SOCIAL HOUSING UPGRADES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2446 SHOOTING IN NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 2447 EXPANDED CARE SERVICES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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(Paper No. 100)

- 2448 FIRST HOME OWNERS GRANT—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2449 PUBLIC HOUSING RENT INCREASES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2450 RELOCATION OF WANGEE PARK SCHOOL—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2451 REVIEW OF THE MOBILITY PARKING SCHEME—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2452 MAITLAND/NEW HUNTER HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2453 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2454 BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2455 HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2456 PARKES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2457 FORBES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2458 NSW HEALTH BUDGET—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2459 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL MATERNITY SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2460 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL SURGICAL SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2461 BAYS PRECINCT TRANSPORT OPTIONS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

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(Paper No. 101)

- 2462 ROOTY HILL RAILWAY STATION PATRONAGE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2463 MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

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- 2464 CHILDREN IN CARE—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 2465 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer—
- 2466 FISCAL IMPACT OF CARBON TAX—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Treasurer—
- 2467 ADDITIONAL BUSES FOR THE HUNTER—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2468 FUNDING FOR EVENTS IN THE HUNTER—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—
- 2469 FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2470 REPLACEMENT OF DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2471 PROVISION OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 2472 PUBLIC SECTOR JOB CUTS—Mr Clayton Barr 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—
- 2473 PRICE INCREASES FOR WATER—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2474 COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 2475 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL PARKING—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2476 ADDITIONAL SPEED CAMERAS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2477 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2478 FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR GROUPS—Ms Tania Mihailuk 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—
- 2479 ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer—
- 2480 NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer—
- 2481 BASS HILL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- 2482 WOMEN'S HEALTH—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 2483 SUPPORT FOR TENANTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- 2484 INNER CITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
- 2485 RENEWABLE ENERGY PRECINCTS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 2486 GREEN SQUARE TRANSPORT PLANNING—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—

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- 2487 POLICE CYCLING EDUCATION—Ms Clover Moore 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—
- 2488 BAYS PRECINCT LEASES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 2489 BAYS PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2490 ROZELLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 2491 BARANGAROO—PREFERRED DESIGN SCHEME—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 2492 ROZELLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2493 CALLAN PARK MASTER PLAN—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- 2494 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO HOUSING NSW PROPERTIES—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 2495 BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAM—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- 2496 WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 2497 PRIVATISATION OF CITYRAIL NETWORK—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 2498 ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- 2499 SYDNEY WATER—PLANNED FUNDING CUTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—