



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 31

TUESDAY 9 AUGUST 2011

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

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 0423 to 0473)	06 September 2011
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 0474 to 0497)	07 September 2011
Q & A No. 28 (Including Question Nos 0498 to 0521)	08 September 2011
Q & A No. 29 (Including Question Nos 0522 to 0540)	09 September 2011
Q & A No. 30 (Including Question Nos 0541 to 0575)	12 September 2011
Q & A No. 31 (Including Question Nos 0576 to 0597)	13 September 2011

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- 0423 CONVEYANCE OF INMATES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0424 CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER POSITIONS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 0425 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF—Mr Michael Daley to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0426 COMMUNITY-BASED ADDICTION PROGRAMS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0427 BUS SERVICE 235—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0428 FIXED SPEED CAMERA—NEWCASTLE ROAD, JESMOND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0429 HOMELESSNESS IN THE HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0430 ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COMMUNITY SERVICES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0431 CABRAMATTA COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0432 CANLEY VALE COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0433 FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0434 CLOSE THE GAP STRATEGY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 0435 REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PLUMBING ISSUES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0436 CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHIEF JUSTICE BATHURST—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0437 EMPLOYEES ON "UNATTACHED LIST"—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0438 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ORDERS AND PERIODIC DETENTION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
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- 0444 APPLICATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0445 CHARGE BARGAINING—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

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- 0446 WORK PERFORMED BY HUGO HALLIDAY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0447 COTTAGE FAMILY CARE CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0448 WILLIAM CAREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL—DEDICATED BUS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0449 BRIDGE OVER CAMBRIDGE AVENUE CAUSEWAY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0450 READING RECOVERY PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0451 FUNDING OF LOCAL SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0452 REDUCTION OF RED TAPE—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—
- 0453 CYCLEWAY NETWORK—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0454 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0455 REDUCTION OF PRISON POPULATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0456 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI FROM PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0457 JOBS CREATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
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- 0461 PRIMARY HEALTH FACILITY—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
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- 0468 REAL ESTATE AGENTS—COMPLAINTS—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 0469 PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

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- 0471 VACANCIES AND TURNAROUND TIME—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0472 OUT OF HOME CARE PROGRAM—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
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- 0475 STUDENT VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE LEARNING—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0476 ILLAWARRA ADVANTAGE FUND—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0477 AMBULANCE BLOCK—WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
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- 0482 COST OF BOTTLED WATER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
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- 0494 WALSH BAY BUSES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—
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- 0496 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
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- 0502 PAYROLL TAX REBATE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer—
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- 0504 PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0505 FREE BANKSTOWN SHUTTLE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0506 SOUTH WEST RAIL LINK PROJECT—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0507 BANKSTOWN LINE SERVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
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- 0520 OAK FLATS POLICE STATION PARKING—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
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- 0535 CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0536 CANLEY VALE RAILWAY STATION UPGRADE—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
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- 0543 MEALS ON WHEELS—TRANSFER OF OVERSIGHT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—
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- 0545 PARLIAMENT HOUSE CAR PARK FEE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
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- 0558 HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0559 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE CALL CENTRE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0560 ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON POLICE—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—
- 0561 NEW POLICE STATION—NORTHERN ILLAWARRA AREA—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—
- 0562 MEALS ON WHEELS FUNDING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—
- 0563 FUNDING FOR FILM ILLAWARRA—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 0564 HANDYMAN SERVICE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0565 GARRAWARRA HOSPITAL—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0566 GENERAL ASSISTANTS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0567 ILLAWARRA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—
- 0568 REVIEW OF THE PLANNING ACT—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 0569 SEWERFIX PROJECTS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0570 LAND AT BELLAMBI POINT—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0571 GWS GIANTS—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0572 WOMEN'S SPORTS—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0573 LONDON OLYMPICS TEAM—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0574 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES CASEWORKERS—Mr Andrew Rohan to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0575 CARBON TAX—IMPACT ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Mr Andrew Rohan to ask the Minister for Transport—

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- 0576 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) In relation to the proposed North West Rail Link, how many rail stations are planned for this line?
 - (2) What are the proposed locations for these stations?
 - (3) (a) Will these stations each have a commuter car park?

(b) If so, what will be the capacity of these car parks?

0577 HYDRO-ELECTRIC GENERATION—Mr Kevin Conolly to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) What plans, if any, does the Government have to increase hydro-electric generation capacity in NSW?
- (2) Is it possible to increase capacity for hydro-electric generation at dams that already produce hydro-electricity?
- (3) Are there existing dams in NSW that do not currently have hydro-electric generation capacity but that could play a useful role in this regard in the future?

0578 PLANNING FOR FLOOD EMERGENCIES—Mr Kevin Conolly 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—

What steps are being taken to ensure that lessons learned by emergency authorities in Queensland arising from the severe floods there in late 2010 and early 2011 are incorporated into planning to address flood emergencies in New South Wales?

0579 CARDIFF RAILWAY STATION—EASY ACCESS UPGRADE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—

When will the easy access upgrade be completed at the Cardiff Railway Station?

0580 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—

When will the board of the Hunter Infrastructure Fund advise the community of the Hunter projects they are funding and building?

0581 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What roads in the Newcastle City Council and Lake Macquarie City Council local government areas will be part of the review of speed limits across the State?

0582 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL—ADDITIONAL BEDS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) When will bed numbers be increased at the John Hunter Hospital?
- (2) How many additional beds will be provided?
- (3) How many additional clinical staff will be employed to accommodate the extra beds?

0583 CALVARY MATER HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE—ADDITIONAL BEDS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) When will bed numbers be increased at the Calvary Mater Hospital, Newcastle?
- (2) How many additional beds will be provided?
- (3) How many additional clinical staff will be employed to accommodate the extra beds?

0584 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) When will police develop the Standard Operating Procedures referred to by the Attorney General in debate in the House on 4 August 2011 concerning the Summary Offences Amendment (Intoxicated and Disorderly Conduct) Bill 2011?
- (2) What public consultation will be involved in the development of those procedures?
- (3) How will those procedures be made publicly available?

0585 GRAFFITI OFFENCES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many young people have been apprehended, cautioned or charged with graffiti offences from 26 March 2011 to 26 July 2011?

0586 MONA VALE HOSPITAL MATERNITY SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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Given advice the Government is "developing an appropriate model of care that ensures the ongoing success and viability of maternity services at Mona Vale Hospital" (Question 0033), and the Minister's statement that "it's vital that the delivery is alongside a fully functional maternity ward, with qualified obstetricians and paediatricians" (press release 9 November 2010):

- (1) How many extra consultant obstetricians, anaesthetists and paediatricians are proposed to be appointed to the maternity service?
- (2) How many extra obstetric, anaesthetic and paediatric junior doctors are proposed to be appointed to the maternity service?
- (3) Has a committee been appointed to investigate the reopening of the maternity ward?
- (4) Who is on this committee?
- (5) How often has the committee met?
- (6) When is a report expected?
- (7) When are deliveries likely to recommence?
- (8) Has the Minister taken any other action to return delivery services to Mona Vale Hospital?

0587 FTE NURSE POSITIONS—NEPEAN HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Nepean Hospital:

- (1) How many FTE Nurses are funded in the Maternity Unit?
- (2) How many FTE Nurses are employed in the Maternity Unit?
- (3) How many FTE nursing jobs are currently vacant in the Maternity Unit?
- (4) How many FTE Nurses are funded in the Emergency Department?
- (5) How many FTE Nurses are employed in the Emergency Department?
- (6) How many FTE nursing jobs are currently vacant in the Emergency Department?

0588 BED OCCUPANCY RATES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to the 85 per cent bed occupancy rate in hospitals that the Government has agreed to in principle:

- (1) How many extra beds will be required by the NSW health system to achieve an 85 per cent occupancy rate?
- (2) Where will these beds be required?
- (3) What enhancements are planned by the Government in the 2011-12 budget for extra beds?

0589 RYDE HOSPITAL UPGRADE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to Ryde Hospital and the Minister's "five point plan to improve Ryde Hospital by:

- Upgrading the aged care and surgical wards;
 - Upgrading the coronary care area;
 - Transforming Ryde Hospital into the network's specialist hospital for elective orthopaedic surgery;
 - Relocating family day care cottage onto the hospital site; and
 - Improving access to Ryde Hospital by conducting a feasibility study into a new parking station" (press release 26 September 2008):
- (1) When will these works begin?
 - (2) What budget allocations for these enhancements are available in the 2011-12 budget?
 - (3) Will the Minister permanently maintain the acute emergency services at Ryde as a 24-hour seven days per week department?

0590 BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In view of the Minister's previous assertion that "nurses shouldn't have to put up with being physically abused in the workplace" (press release 4 May 2008):

- (1) Will the Minister institute permanent 24-hour security guards at Blacktown Hospital Emergency Department in view of the recent assault of a nurse on duty in that unit?
- (2) What other security enhancements to Blacktown Hospital are part of the 2011-12 NSW budget?
- (3) Will the Minister commit to the expansion of Blacktown Hospital as a matter of urgency, including the \$250 million upgrade promised by the previous Government?

- 0591 AFFORDABLE HOUSING—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Noting that that the latest study by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling has again identified that Sydney is the least affordable Australian city, and is now categorized as "severely unaffordable":

- (1) What programs does the Government offer to provide incentives for the supply of affordable housing?
- (2) What programs does the Government provide to enable long-term inner Sydney residents on low incomes to remain living in the inner city as rents increase?
- (3) What programs does the Government provide to ensure a supply of affordable housing for key workers such as police, nurses, and cleaners?
- (4) What assessment has the Government made of housing affordability in inner Sydney?
- (5) What action has the Government taken to increase the supply of affordable housing in inner Sydney?
- (6) What further action will the Government take to increase the supply of affordable housing in inner Sydney?

- 0592 FOOTPATH AND ROAD TRENCHES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Noting the impact of the lack of coordination between utility providers resulting in different contractors excavating trenches in roads and footpaths for different agencies after permanent reinstatement of the footpath or roadway:

- (1) How does the Government ensure coordination of excavation required for water and energy utilities and road/footpath works;
- (2) How do those agencies contracting for trenches ensure that contractors carry out work needing excavation as promptly as possible to reduce impacts?
- (3) What review has been carried out to identify measures to streamline this excavation and closing of trenches?
- (4) What strategies have been examined that might improve coordination?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to improve coordination amongst agencies and contractors to reduce duplication, limited access, residential amenity impacts and costs?

- 0593 ELECTRICITY PILLARS AND KIOSKS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

With regard to the installation of electricity pillars and kiosks in the public domain, which impact on public access, pedestrian movement and visual amenity in the inner city where there are narrow footpaths and a high density of retail outlets and pedestrian activity:

- (1) What assessment did the Ausgrid make of options for underground kiosks and pillars before installing a new program of above-ground electricity pillars and kiosks in the inner city;
- (2) How many pillars and kiosks does Ausgrid intend to install across the City of Sydney and Woollahra Council areas;
- (3) What feedback has the Government received from Councils, residents and businesses where above-ground pillars and kiosks are being installed;
- (4) Is it true that the installation of some above-ground facilities has resulted in removal of green plantings, reduced heritage values and pedestrians being forced onto the roadway;
- (5) Has the Government reviewed this practice against Disability Discrimination Act guidelines, which support clear access along property lines, and what was the outcome of any assessment;
- (6) How does the Government ensure that adjacent residents and business operators have a say on where these facilities are located in order to reduce impacts;
- (7) Is it true that all electricity kiosks and pillars in Victoria are placed underground without reducing safety or service reliability, and what assessment has the Government made of applying this approach in NSW; and
- (8) What action will the NSW Government take to locate electricity kiosks and pillars underground and reduce the impacts of electricity pillars and kiosks?

- 0594 NANOTECHNOLOGY ACTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regard to the Standing Committee on State Development 2008 report recommendation that the NSW Government work with federal agencies to develop a national mandatory labelling scheme for

engineered nanomaterials used in the workplace and, in the absence of a national scheme, investigate the development of its own mandatory labelling scheme:

- (1) To what extent does the NSW Government agree with this recommendation?
- (2) What action will the NSW Government take to push for a national mandatory labelling regime of nanomaterials used in the workplace?
- (3) If a national labelling regime is not achieved, what action will the Government take to develop a NSW scheme?
- (4) What other action will NSW Government take to improve consumer information about products like sunscreens that contain nanomaterials?

0595 PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION AND PRIORITY SYSTEM—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Has there been any evaluation on the Public Transport Information and Priority System (PTIPS) in delivering more reliable bus services and maintaining scheduled timetables?
- (2) If yes, can the Minister advise of the effectiveness of the system in delivering more reliable bus services and maintaining scheduled timetables within the Balmain electorate?

0596 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS—Mr Mark Speakman to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

How many reported traffic accidents have occurred at or around the intersection of Taren Point Road and Bay Road, Taren Point in:

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

0597 POLICE BUILDINGS—HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) Will the Minister provide details of all police buildings (including stations and officer residences) within the New England, Oxley and Barwon commands that fail to meet health and safety standards?
- (2) Where are these buildings located?
- (3) What is the Government doing to address this urgent issue and when will this be done?