



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2007-08

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 73

TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 2836 to 2864)	10 June 2008
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 2865 to 2926)	11 June 2008
Q & A No. 63 (Including Question Nos 2927 to 3014)	12 June 2008
Q & A No. 64 (Including Question Nos 3015 to 3064)	13 June 2008
Q & A No. 65 (Including Question Nos 3065 to 3087)	17 June 2008
Q & A No. 66 (Including Question Nos 3088 to 3125)	18 June 2008
Q & A No. 67 (Including Question Nos 3126 to 3185)	19 June 2008
Q & A No. 68 (Including Question Nos 3186 to 3238)	20 June 2008
Q & A No. 69 (Including Question Nos 3239 to 3267)	08 July 2008
Q & A No. 70 (Including Question Nos 3268 to 3310)	09 July 2008
Q & A No. 71 (Including Question Nos 3311 to 3369)	10 July 2008
Q & A No. 72 (Including Question Nos 3370 to 3440)	11 July 2008
Q & A No. 73 (Including Question Nos 3441 to 3463)	22 July 2008

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

6 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 61)

*2837 YARRAWONGA-MULWALA BRIDGE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Further to the response to Question 1741 and a meeting with Corowa Shire Council representatives in March, has the Minister been advised that the Victorian Minister for Roads has confirmed a commitment to deliver a new bridge linking Yarrowonga and Mulwala by 2020?
- (2) What progress has been made on commissioning a Route Selection Study to identify a preferred option?
- (3) Will funding be allocated in the next financial year to facilitate this assessment process?
- (4) When will a funding timeline be determined?

Answer—

I am aware of a commitment by the Victorian Minister for Roads to deliver a new bridge linking Yarrowonga and Mulwala by 2020.

The NSW Government will work with the Victorian Government to meet this target. I am advised The RTA and VicRoads are in preliminary discussions regarding the way forward.

*2838 MUDGEES CSC—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With respect to the Minister's announcement on 2 May 2008 regarding five additional caseworker positions at the Mudgee CSC, how many caseworker positions are now allocated to the Mudgee CSC?
- (2) How many of these positions are full time positions?
- (3) How many of these positions were actually filled as of 6 May 2008?

Answer—

- (1) There are 9 caseworker positions including a regional foster care support caseworker.
- (2) All caseworker positions are full time positions.
- (3) As at 6 May 2008, 6 caseworker positions were filled.

*2839 YOUNG HOSPITAL MAMMOGRAM X-RAYS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As of 6 May 2008, how long has the mammogram x-ray machine at Young District Hospital been unserviceable?
- (2) Is this machine scheduled to be either (a) repaired or (b) replaced?
- (3) When will this repair or replacement be completed?
- (4) If the x-ray machine is not being repaired or replaced what actions have you taken to ensure that Young District residents requiring mammograms are able to access this service?
- (5) What was the average monthly usage of this service when the machine was operational?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive, Greater Southern Area Health Service:

- (1) to (5) The Area Health Service is investigating a replacement machine and expects to be able to re-establish the service shortly.

Women booking screening appointments are advised that there is a delay and are offered a service through the ACT. For women booking diagnostic screening, referrals are made to Wagga Wagga or the ACT.

*2842 HORNSBY HOSPITAL MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

What timeframe is involved with the occupancy of all the 12 beds at Hornsby Hospital Mental Health Intensive Care Unit (MHICU)?

Answer—

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

Subject to the success of recruitment processes, 12 beds for intensive care patients are expected to be available shortly.

*2843 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) (a) How many demountable classrooms are there in schools in the Hornsby electorate?
(b) Which schools and how many in each?
- (2) With regard to each school, how old are the demountables?
- (3) How many demountable classrooms have been replaced with permanent classrooms across the Hornsby electorate in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (4) (a) How many demountables will be replaced in 2008?
(b) In which schools?

Answer—

There are currently 70 demountable classrooms at public schools in the Hornsby electorate, as follows:

Asquith Public School	2
Berowra Public School	1
Brooklyn Public School	1
Cowan Public School	2
Middle Dural Public School	2
Mount Kuring-gai Public School	1
Normanhurst West Public School	3
Hornsby North Public School	6
Wideview Public School	1
John Purchase Public School	8
Hornsby South Public School	4
Clarke Road School	6
Asquith Girls High School	4
Cherrybrook Technology High School	29

The Department of Education and Training does not hold records to indicate when a demountable was manufactured.

No demountable classrooms have been replaced with permanent classrooms across the Hornsby electorate in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and 2007-08. In 2006-07, two demountable classrooms were replaced with a Modular Design Range building at Hornsby North Public School.

The 2007-08 Iemma Government committed \$10 million to state-wide demountable replacement projects. By the end of 2007-08 the government will have spent in the order of \$55 million to replace 185 long-term demountables with permanent facilities. In the 2008-09 program the government committed to eleven new demountable replacement projects.

*2844 ST IVES SHOWGROUND—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) What plans are being considered for alternative or changed uses of land at St Ives Showground (a Crown Lands Reserve owned by the Lands Department with Ku-ring-gai Council as custodian)?
- (2) What discussions have taken place in the past year between the Lands Department and Ku-ring-gai Council or any sporting bodies regarding potential future uses of St Ives Showground?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of Ku-ring-gai Council negotiations with the AFL or other sporting groups which the Lands Department is not actively involved in?

Answer—

- (1) Ku-ring-gai Council has been approached by a number of sporting groups representing AFL and cricket with upgrade proposals for the showground. Council has resolved to prepare a new plan of management that will provide opportunities for all stakeholders, including the general community to formally comment on these proposals.
- (2) Council has made the Department of Lands aware of these approaches.
- (3) Council, as reserve trust manager, is entitled to discuss these proposals with the proponents without the need for the Department of Lands to be actively involved.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*2845 ROAD LINK BETWEEN THE F3 AND M2—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Regarding the project to build the missing road link between the F3 and M2:

- (1) (a) Is it true that your department asked the Federal Government to again check modelling to see if it was necessary?
- (b) If so, why?
- (2) What is the total average weekly vehicle flow using the F3?
- (3) What is the average weekly vehicle flow using the F3 to travel to or from the Central Coast?
- (4) What is the average weekly vehicle flow using the F3 to travel to or from the section of the Pacific Highway south of the F3 (heading towards or away from Chatswood)?

Answer—

I am advised:

After the release of the Review of the F3 to M7 Corridor Selection Report (Hon Mahla Pearlman AO, August 2007), the former Department of Transport and Regional Services requested that the RTA progress the F3 to Sydney Orbital Link project through a review of traffic demand cost estimates and financial forecasts.

Further information is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au and www.infrastructure.gov.au

*2846 COST PLUS RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) What problems, if any, is the Government aware of regarding the use of Cost Plus Residential Building Contracts in NSW?
- (2) Given that the Queensland State Government has regulated use of Cost Plus Residential Building Contracts, what plans has the NSW Government to do likewise in order to better protect consumers?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) There is some evidence to support that Cost Plus Contracts are resulting in problems for both builders and consumers in the New South Wales residential building industry.
- (2) As part of the current review of the Home Building Act 1989, Cost Plus Contracts will be examined to ensure that they are fair to both consumers and builders in New South Wales. Any complaints should be referred to the Office of Fair Trading for investigation.

*2848 CROSS-BORDER HEALTH AGREEMENT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Minister has advised in previous correspondence that validated financial expenditure data concerning the Cross-Border Health Agreement between New South Wales and Queensland would not be available until February 2008, what is the total expenditure in the last financial year, and also the year-to-date expenditure for the current financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The advice previously provided was that 2006/07 data relating to the NSW – Queensland cross border health agreement was not due to be exchanged until February 2008. Both NSW and Queensland then conduct extensive reconciliation checking of the data. Consequently validated financial data for 2006/07 is not yet available.

For similar reasons, year-to-date data for 2007/08 is not currently available.

*2849 RESURFACING OF THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that a spokesperson for the RTA has advised "The RTA is assessing tenders and will determine when the work will be carried out once the tender process is complete":

- (1) Who is the accepted tenderer for the resurfacing of the 7km section of the Pacific Highway between Chinderah and Sexton Hill?
- (2) How much is this tenderer being paid for this project?
- (3) How long does the RTA anticipate it will take for this project to be completed?
- (4) What are the proposed start and finish dates for the completion of this project?

Answer—

I am advised:

The project is being undertaken in two stages along the Pacific Highway. Stage 1 (Sexton Hill) extends north from Barneys Point bridge to the start of the concrete pavement south of the Tweed Heads turnoff. Resurfacing of both carriageways will be undertaken.

Stage 2 (Chinderah Bypass) involves resurfacing the northbound carriageway only and extends from Barneys Point Bridge to just before the South Tweed Heads turnoff, which is approximately 6 km past the Heavy Vehicle Inspection Bay.

Work will be undertaken at night to minimise disruptions to traffic. Appropriate notice will be given to residents advising them of the works.

*2850 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—ROTARY WING HELICOPTER—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Has the current National Parks and Wildlife Service rotary wing tenderer (contractor) provided an appropriate helicopter as stipulated in the tender documentation?
- (2) If so, what helicopter has the successful tenderer supplied?
- (3) If not, has the interim helicopter been certified by the aircraft manufacturer authorised maintenance organisation as was required in the tender?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The tenderer has supplied a Squirrel helicopter model AS350SD which will shortly be replaced by a Squirrel helicopter AS350SD2 for the remainder of the contract (to 2010). Both aircraft are compliant with essential criteria.

*2851 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—ROTARY WING TENDER—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why does the current National Parks and Wildlife Service rotary wing tender specify that up to three rotary wing aircraft and a total of 180 hours should be supplied per annum over the six-month tender, when this is clearly not a viable proposition for a commercial operator?
- (2) Given that this is not commercially viable, does the National Parks and Wildlife Service expect to receive a good pool of tenderers?
- (3) How many operating hours will the successful tenderer receive outside the fire season?
- (4) Will all potential tenderers be made aware of the existence of these additional operating hours?

Answer—

- (1) The tender is for a minimum of 180 hours payment for each aircraft, not a total of 180 hours.
- (2) The pre-tender briefing attracted a good pool of potential tenderers, indicating strong market interest.
- (3) and (4) Operating hours outside the service period between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2009 are not specified. The service period is one month longer than the official fire season to allow pre-season training and aircraft fit-out.

*2852 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—ROTARY WING TENDER—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is there currently an ad hoc arrangement for the provision of helicopters to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and if so are they only leased from operators with helicopters that meet all required tender specifications?
- (2) Does the current chief pilot at the National Parks and Wildlife Service have full authority to choose the ad hoc operator or does his decision have to be ratified by a superior?
- (3) In the previous tender for rotary wing helicopters for the National Parks and Wildlife Service did the chief pilot have any direct or indirect involvement in choosing the successful tenderer?
- (4) Is the chief pilot free to have himself and any other pilot of his choosing use flying hours to become endorsed on all aircraft that are provided through the tender process?
- (5) Is the chief pilot to be involved either directly or indirectly in the choosing of successful tenders for the current tender that closes on 21 May 2008?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) Aircraft may be engaged by designated National Parks and Wildlife Service personnel, as required, from the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List. These aircraft have been assessed as meeting minimum interagency safety and operational criteria.
- (2) All designated National Parks and Wildlife Service personnel, including the chief pilot, may engage aircraft from this list.
- (3) Yes. The chief pilot was on the Selection Panel because of his specialist skills.
- (4) The chief pilot is responsible for the appropriate training of aircrew to meet current and future needs.
- (5) Yes. The chief pilot is on the Selection Panel because of his specialist skills.

*2853 INCIDENTS OF ASSAULT IN JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How many incidents of assault on detainees of Juvenile Justice Centres have occurred in NSW Juvenile Justice Centres between:

- (a) July 2007 to date;
- (b) July 2006 to June 2007;
- (c) July 2005 to June 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) 249 - to May 2008;
- (b) 285;
- (c) 261.

*2854 INCIDENTS OF CONTRABAND IN JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How many incidents of contraband entering NSW Juvenile Justice Centres have been recorded on the Department's Central Information Management System (CIMS) between:

- (a) July 2007 to date;
- (b) July 2006 to June 2007;
- (c) July 2005 to June 2006?

Answer—

I am advised the CIMS system does not measure the level of contraband entering juvenile detention centres. There is no separate figure for detection on entry.

*2855 INCIDENTS OF ASSAULT ON STAFF IN JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRES—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

How many incidents of assault on staff of the Department of Juvenile Justice have occurred in Juvenile Justice Centres between:

- (a) July 2007 to date;
- (b) July 2006 to June 2007;
- (c) July 2005 to June 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) 9.8 per 1,000 admissions;
- (b) 7.7 per 1,000 admissions;
- (c) 15.4 per 1,000 admissions.

NB: Assaults on staff includes matters such as spitting and verbal threats.

*2856 DAWN SERVICE AT GALLIPOLI—Mr George Souris asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Why was a wreath not laid on behalf of the New South Wales Government at the dawn services held at Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux?

Answer—

The Anzac Day Dawn Service at Gallipoli is a national ceremony organised by the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs. The Australian Government attends that ceremony on behalf of the Australian people.

I am advised by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet that it is not aware of any previous NSW Government attending the Anzac Dawn Ceremony to lay a wreath. However, I announced on 24 April 2008 a new scheme to enable NSW School students to visit significant sites in Australia's military history, commencing with a visit to Gallipoli for Anzac Day 2009.

The Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarships will fund tours for up to 10 young people, along with their teachers.

The 2009 mission will be led by myself and the NSW President of the RSL.

My announcement also indicated that the NSW Government will consider widening the scope of the program in future years to include other theatres of war such as France/Belgium, Kokoda, North Africa, the Thai-Burma Railway and Vietnam.

The New South Wales Government's commitment to our returned servicemen and women has continued the bipartisan approach to honouring their service. As part of the 2008 Anzac commemorations I attended the:

- Archbishop of Sydney's Requiem Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on 24 April
- Sydney Anzac Day Dawn Service on 25 April
- 12.30pm Anzac Service on 25 April
- The Dedication Ceremony to the New Zealand soldier on the Anzac Bridge on 27 April

I have asked the Department of Premier and Cabinet to liaise with the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs over any scope for the New South Wales Government to participate in any future ceremonies at Villers-Bretonneux.

*2857 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE TYPE REVIEW—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How has the Community Transport Service Type Review resulted in providing better public transport to frail older people, younger people and people with a disability and their carers?
- (2) How will the outcomes of the review impact on the public bus transport provided to serve the rapidly increasing population of frail older people in Pittwater?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Community Transport Service Type Review is being led by the Ministry of Transport's Local and Community Transport branch. The primary aim of the review is the development of community transport service type guidelines, including good practice principles, in respect of the special services provided for people who meet the eligibility criteria for community transport.

The Ministry of Transport is committed to getting the best results possible from the review, which is in progress. The review does not include a review of public transport.

*2858 BUS TRAVELLING TIMES—E88 SERVICE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) (a) Does the RTA monitor bus-travelling times into the Sydney Central Business District from various locations in the Sydney Metropolitan area?
 - (b) If so, what is the time it takes for the E88 service leaving North Avalon (Careel Head Road) at 7.21 am to Central Station on weekdays?
- (2) On how many occasions has this service arrived at Central Station more than 5 minutes past the scheduled arrival time during the past 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) and (b) Questions regarding the roles and functions of the Roads and Traffic Authority should be directed to the Minister for Roads.
- (2) Information regarding departure and arrival times for State Transit's E88 service from North Avalon can be accessed via the Transport Infoline on 131500 or www.131500.info

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*2859 COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT MANUAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

When will notice of the publication of the proposed coastal zone management manual be provided in the NSW Government Gazette?

Answer—

The Coastal Zone Management Manual is currently being reviewed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, prior to the release of a draft revised manual for public comment.

Once this public consultation phase has been completed, and public comments have been considered and incorporated as necessary into the document, the Government will be in a position to gazette the new Coastal Zone Management Manual.

*2860 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE NEAR WARRELL CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to your recent decision to change the previously approved route for the Pacific Highway upgrade near Warrell Creek:

- (1) (a) Are you aware very few details of the approved route are publicly available?
(b) If so, is this the result of Ministerial policy or instruction?
- (2) Will the Minister guarantee full and prompt compensation to those persons disadvantaged by their investments since 1999 on the advice that the Warrell Creek Section has had Ministerial approval and if necessary, will the Minister guarantee full legal assistance for a class action by those claiming losses due to the misleading advice received from RTA or its website?
- (3) Is the statement by the Pacific Highway Upgrade project manager from Grafton, when asked if RTA intended to honour its assurance regarding the Ministerial Approval of the Warrell Creek Section, that: "We don't have to honour our assurance if we can find a better way", a standing policy of the RTA with Ministerial knowledge and approval?

Answer—

As previously advised information regarding the Pacific Highway at Warrell Creek is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

The RTA acquires land required for road works in accordance with the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991. The Act provides for compensation for the acquisition of land for a public purpose. While the RTA does not seek to acquire properties that are not required for a project, it is required to minimise impacts to amenity (including visual, noise and access) on adjoining properties as part of the environmental assessment for a project.

*2861 EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY—APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Were any members of the staff at Edith Cowan University (excluding any staff in any extension or outreach programme) approached to provide a reference for the appointment of the new Principal, Dr Curry?
- (2) How was the current Principal assessed for suitability to the position?
- (3) Who were the three referees provided for Dr Curry?

Answer—

It is inappropriate to give details of the referees' names and the referee checking process for a particular position. Such details are confidential.

Appropriate referee checks were conducted for the position in accordance with normal Departmental policy, as they would be for any other principal's position.

All candidates for positions within the NSW Department of Education and Training are assessed against the selection criteria, by their application, by interview with the candidate and interviews with referees.

*2862 REPRESENTATIONS—MR ROHIT PATHIK—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

When will a response to a letter sent to the Minister on 7 March 2008 regarding funding for urgent modifications to a home on behalf of a constituent, Mr Rohit Pathik who is suffering spinal cord injuries, be sent?

Answer—

A response to representations on behalf of Mr Rohit Pathik was sent to Mr William's Parliament office on the 7 May 2008.

*2863 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Does the current tender for the provision of helicopters to the National Parks and Wildlife Service include the provision of rotary wing aircraft for the protection of the Sydney catchment area and will the aircraft be on standby in those areas?
- (2) Why is the Sydney Catchment Authority not tendering directly for the provision of helicopters for their areas of protection as it has previously done?
- (3) Will National Parks and Wildlife Service charge the Sydney Catchment Authority for the use of those aircraft and will that charge be greater than the fee paid by NPWS to lease those aircraft?

Answer—

- (1) The current tender for the provision of helicopters to the National Parks and Wildlife Service is for the protection of the Sydney drinking water catchment areas. Aircraft will be on standby during the fire season at Bankstown Airport or at the Nepean Dam helipad.
- (2) Procurement and management of these helicopters has been undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service since 2000. The current arrangement where the National Parks and Wildlife Service provides fire fighting services within the Special Areas is in accordance with a Joint Management Agreement and Service Contract for the catchment lands, and is similar to arrangements which exist in other states such as Victoria.
- (3) The Sydney Catchment Authority contracts the National Parks and Wildlife Service to provide this service and is charged actual costs to an upper limiting fee negotiated each year. There is no profit or mark up levied by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

*2864 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE—HELICOPTERS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Does the current arrangement for the supply of helicopters to the National Parks and Wildlife Service allow the NPWS Aviation Division to on-charge individual regions of national parks for the supply of helicopters and is that charge greater than the fee paid by the Aviation Division to lease those aircraft?
- (2) Will regions be allowed or encouraged to get quotes for cheaper helicopter services so that there is more money available in regions for actual on the ground works?

Answer—

- (1) Aviation charges are evenly applied across the Department of Environment and Climate Change. These charges are set to recover the recurrent costs involved in the management of aviation services and aim to achieve a net neutral position for the Flight Operations Unit at the end of the financial year.
- (2) The Department of Environment and Climate Change purchases all goods and services in accordance with NSW Government procurement policies and Treasury directions. Regional offices may use any aircraft operators from the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List, as these operators meet minimum safety and operational criteria.

7 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 62)

*2865 NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Given advice from the Minister for Climate Change and Environment that the Federal Government may discontinue the jointly funded Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, what steps have been taken to ensure funding levels are maintained to assist local communities to prepare for natural disasters?

Answer—

The Federal Government has announced continued funding for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program in the 2008/09 Federal Budget. The NSW Government will also continue to support the program in conjunction with the Federal Government and local agencies.

*2866 CROSS-BORDER POLICING AGREEMENT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the reasons for the cancellation of the signing of the Cross-Border Policing Agreement in Corowa on 7 May 2008 by the NSW and Victorian Police Commissioners?
- (2) What steps are being taken to implement this agreement?
- (3) What joint operations are to be introduced or facilitated under the proposed agreement?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The signing of the Cross Border Policing Agreement was postponed in order to clarify some minor issues.
- (2) The NSW Police Force is working with the Police Association and the Crown Solicitor's Office to bring this project to fruition.
- (3) The Agreement aims to formalise and standardise existing practices to provide consistent decision making in response to incidents or emergency situations, particularly in remote areas, and to resolve or minimise any conflicts that may arise.

*2867 GLENREAGH POLICE STATION NIGHT SHIFT—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many general duties police officers are on duty night shift Friday and Saturday at Glenreagh police station?
- (2) How many general duties police officers are on night shift other nights of the week, i.e. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday?
- (3) What surrounding communities are these officers expected to respond to and patrol?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander. Commanders routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response. Staffing allocations may therefore vary according to operational requirements.

*2868 RENEWAL OF BOAT LICENCES—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Why does Maritime Services not send out renewal notices for boat licences?
- (2) Why is the cost of "reinstating" a boat licence once the renewal date is passed more than double the cost of the annual licence fee?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his question, No. 2636.

*2869 YAMBA POLICE STATION—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many general duties police officers are assigned to Yamba Police Station?
- (2) Are they exclusively assigned to the Yamba police station?
- (3) If not, what other police stations or precincts are these officers expected to patrol?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander. Commanders routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response.

*2870 GLENREAGH POLICE STATION—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many general duties police officers are assigned to Glenreagh Police Station?
- (2) Are they exclusively assigned to the Glenreagh police station?
- (3) If not, what other police stations or precincts are these officers expected to patrol?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) to (3) Staffing allocations within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander. Commanders routinely explore a range of options to provide the most effective policing response.

*2871 DADHC FUNDED RESPITE CARE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In relation to DADHC funded respite care in NSW:

- (1) How many individual respite beds in NSW are currently blocked by a client in both adult and children's services that are operated by DADHC or funded through NGOs by DADHC?
- (2) What is the longest time that an entire respite care facility funded by DADHC through NGOs or operated by DADHC has remained unable to be accessed for respite services due to any reason in the past five years?
- (3) Which facilities have been closed for access in this time period, with multiple closures of the one facility to be counted for each and every separate closure?
- (4) What is the total number of respite days that have been lost in NSW due to blocked DADHC funded beds, [including each bed for multiple bed closures within one facility for whatever reason] for the nearest 12-month period figures are available for?
- (5) How many clients who have been made homeless are currently spending week days or weekends at more than one respite care facility or short term stay accommodation facility?
- (6) How many clients who were blocking DADHC operated beds have been transferred into the NGO sector in the last 12 months or the nearest 12-month period figures are available for?
- (7) How many clients have been accommodated in motels, caravan parks, holiday camps or holiday facilities in NSW in the past 12 months or for the nearest 12-month period figures are available for?
- (8) What has been the total cost to DADHC for this type of accommodation (Q7) for the past 12 months or the nearest 12-month period that figures are available for and is it funded with the respite budget or the accommodation budget?
- (9) How many respite hours in total have been serviced in motels, caravan parks or holiday camps/facilities in the past 12 months or for the nearest 12-month period figures are available for?
- (10) Have any DADHC clients made homeless been accommodated in either adult justice facilities or juvenile justice facilities in the past five years?
- (11) If yes, how many and what has been the length of time for each client, broken down to show numbers for each adult justice/juvenile justice placement?
- (12) Does DADHC ever use respite care facilities, motels, caravan parks and holiday camps for the care of clients who normally reside in funded accommodation services?
- (13) If yes, does any of this funding come from the respite budget?
- (14) If yes, how much has this cost in the past 12 months or for the nearest 12-month period figures are available for?

Answer—

(1) I am advised that at 31 March 2008, there were 31 clients blocking respite beds in the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (DADHC) operated services and 8 clients in non-government (NGO) services for both adults and children.

I am further advised that at this time there was a total of 38 unavailable beds in DADHC operated services. It should be noted that some clients reduce capacity by more than one bed.

(2) I am advised that a DADHC operated respite facility at Paterson Road, Springwood which was opened in late 1997 was continuously blocked from its opening until its closure in September 2006.

(3) I am advised that for DADHC operated services for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 March 2008 there have been 8 instances where a facility has been temporarily closed for access.

I am further advised that the method of reporting data prior to 1 January 2006 was in a different format and that this information is unable to be provided.

Region	Centre	Number of closures
--------	--------	--------------------

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Metro South	Croydon - Chelmsford Avenue	1
Metro North	Springwood - Paterson Road	1
	Cranebrook - Cooper Street	1
Hunter	Metford - Willow Drive	1
Western	Dubbo - Fitzroy Street "Carinya"	1
Northern	Port Macquarie - 6 Warlters Street "Seabreezes"	1
	Armidale - St Andrews Avenue "Cooinda"	1
		.
Southern	Balgownie - Temporary Care Unit, 2 Margaret Street	1

I am advised that there were no instances of NGO Services being closed for access during this time.

(4) I am advised that for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 there were 18,069 days of unavailable respite beds in DADHC operated services, which represents approximately 20% of all available respite days. During this period I am advised there were up to 44 clients in blocked beds. I am further advised that at the 31 March 2008, there were 31 clients blocking respite beds, this is a 30% reduction in the last 12 months and a 10 year low for the number of clients blocking a respite bed. Each client in a DADHC service has an exit plan to transition to longer term supported accommodation or to return home with additional support services

I am further advised that data is not collected for the NGO sector. Reporting is based on client numbers as in question (1).

(5) I am advised that there are currently 10 clients in this situation.

(6) Eight.

(7) I am advised that for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008:

Western - 1
Northern - 2
Metro South - 4
Southern - 1
Hunter - 9

(8) I am advised that:

Western - approximate cost \$5,000 funded by Aboriginal Home Care.
Northern - \$5,190 Emergency Response Interim Funding.
Metro South - \$198,165 Emergency Response Interim Funding (\$196,665) and NGO brokerage funds (\$1,500).
Southern - \$275 funded by the Regional Behaviour Intervention Team.

(9) I am advised that 590 hours of respite across the state have been serviced in this manner.

In addition, 19,573 hours for 13 respite holiday camps have been provided.

(10) I am advised that there has been no instance of this occurring.

(11) Refer to answer (10).

(12) In extreme circumstances DADHC has used this form of accommodation as a short-term measure to ensure client safety and well-being.

(13) No.

(14) Refer to answer (13).

*2872 EOI TENDERS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

(1) Why, at a meeting with Nardy House Inc members held on 13 February 2008, which meeting was specifically requested to discuss funding of Stage 2 of the project (Permanent accommodation for people with complex needs), were members not alerted to two processes available for funding access; the first a scoping submission related to supported accommodation and young people in aged care facilities (closing on 29 February 2008), and second an EOI tender RFEOI DADH 08.19 related to the same for capital works (closing on 18 April 2008) released by the Minister the following week in Bathurst?

- (2) What were the details of the consultancy procedure and the consultancy questions put to residents in nursing homes and their carers/guardians to garner the figures that indicate the areas of greatest need in this document EOI RFEOI DADH 08.19?
- (3) Why were hospital residents with disabilities not included in the statistics related to this EOI RFEOI DADH 08.19?
- (4) Why were present support accommodation waiting lists not incorporated into the statistics related to this EOI RFEOI DADH 08.19?
- (5) What is the explanation for the apparent contradiction in the EOI RFEOI DADH 08.19 that asks for unique models of infrastructure and operation, only to set a definite descriptive graded clientele list in its Indicative Funding Section?
- (6) How would a six bedroom group home with the SNAP mix of clients described in the Indicative Funding Section of EOI RFEOI DADH 08.19 be staffed, and how would this staffing meet the Disability Standards Act and OH&S requirements?
- (7) Will the Minister explain how the SNAP mix of clients described in the Indicative Funding Section benefits the residents with the most complex levels of support?

Answer—

- (1) I met with Nardy House Inc. members at their request.

The scoping to inform service planning for large and small residential centres operated by non-government organisations (NGOs) was a tender in relation to existing centres and therefore not within the stated aims of Stage 2 of Nardy House Inc.

I am advised that Nardy House Inc. members have previously been encouraged by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to utilise the DADHC website for information, including advice on invitations to tender for new services.

- (2) The NSW Younger People in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) Program provided figures that were derived from applications received by the Program and subsequent assessments that are reviewed by the Program's Advisory Panel. This information has then been used to inform the data provided in the RFEOI DADHC.08.19.
- (3) The YPIRAC Program has initially focused on applicants aged under 50 years, currently residing in residential aged care facilities (RACF) as per the agreement in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Bilateral Program.
- (4) The YPIRAC Program is specifically aimed at clients aged under 65 years (with the initial target group of clients aged under 50 years) who are currently in an RACF or at risk of inappropriate entry to an RACF as per the agreement in the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Bilateral Program.
- (5) The applicants from the YPIRAC Program's current target group are graded based on a residential classification system, indicating the level of support required from the Australian Government. This indicates that the majority of the Program applicants have high to very high support needs, as represented in the RFEOI documentation.
- (6) The staffing of a six bedroom group home with the Service Needs Assessment Program (SNAP) mix of clients would be staffed according to the residents' needs, in compliance with the Disability Services Act and Occupational Health and Safety requirements.
- (7) The information in the Indicative Funding section only provides an indication of the mix of clients that may receive disability support through the YPIRAC Program. The Program will focus on ensuring the disability support received is necessary, reasonable and equitable.

*2873 LEASE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARKS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the breakdown of the location of the sources of the \$12 million recurrent-funded parks lease revenue received by the Government in the 2006-2007 financial year?
- (2) What is the process for granting of these lease agreements?
- (3) Will the Minister provide information on the commercial rate as declared by the Department of Commerce and the rate charged by the Department of Environment and Climate Change?
- (4) Is the \$12 million put into a fund for specific projects or is it carried over into general revenue?

Answer—

- (1) The figure quoted in the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Annual Report for 2006-2007 is \$13 million, which includes commercial leases, licences and other property rentals. The majority of the revenue is generated in Kosciuszko National Park (approximately 68 per cent), Sydney Harbour National Park (approximately 8 per cent), Myall Lakes National Park

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

(approximately 5 per cent), and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (approximately 4 per cent), with the remainder coming from other parks.

(2) The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 allows the granting of leases and licences for the provision of visitor services and amenities. Commercial leases are granted either through a competitive tender process or through direct negotiations with existing lessees. In the case of direct negotiations, the Department follows ICAC guidelines and secures expert valuation or consultant advice to ensure market-based rentals are negotiated.

(3) While the Department's policy is to secure market-based rentals for the assets it leases, it is not possible to publish a commercial rate as each lease is negotiated on its individual circumstances.

However, for telecommunication facilities, the Department has adopted the recommendations of an IPART review which incorporates a "published" schedule of rentals to be charged for occupations on reserved lands.

(4) All revenue generated from leases, easements and licences is retained by the Department and allocated to fund the operation and management of lands reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

*2874 NEGLIGENCE SETTLEMENTS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

How many patients in Goulburn and Bowral hospitals have had claims of negligence settled with monetary payments and been required to sign confidentiality clauses in order to receive the settlement?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to Question No. 0992 - Negligence Claims. The response was published in Questions and Answers Paper No. 38.

*2875 AWARENESS OF UNSAFE DRUG USE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

What efforts is the New South Wales Government making to promote awareness of the fertility, child bearing and infant health consequences of unsafe drug use among young women?

Answer—

Whilst this is primarily a health portfolio issue, the Department of Community Services has implemented strategies to address the complex issues facing young drug using women. The Drug and Alcohol Expertise Unit, established in 2006, provides training, resources, assessment tools and advice to support frontline workers in assessing and managing risk where parental drug use may impact upon the health and safety of infants and children.

Training sessions have been delivered to all Community Services Centres across NSW in on neonatal abstinence syndrome: the impact of drug and alcohol use in pregnancy and the possible implications for newborn babies.

*2876 TREATMENT IN ACT HOSPITALS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

(1) How much did the New South Wales Government pay the ACT Government for the treatment of residents of New South Wales in ACT hospitals in 2006-07?

(2) How many New South Wales residents were treated in ACT hospitals in 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Under the cross border agreement between NSW and the ACT, final acquittal of payments for 2006-07 is still being finalised.

(2) Information on the number of NSW residents treated in ACT hospitals is not provided by ACT to NSW. The number of ACT public hospital separations for NSW residents in 2006-07 will be finalised at the same time as the cross border payments.

*2877 MOTORCYCLE GREEN SLIPS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to Motorcycle Green Slips in New South Wales:

(1) What is the trend in total quantum dollars of CTP premiums collected annually from motorcycle CTP policy holders?

(2) What is the trend in the dollars quantum paid out of the CTP and/or LTCS schemes for claims against motorcycle CTP policy holders?

- (3) Will the Minister provide me with a copy of the 2007 MAA Relativity Survey?
- (4) Are claims made against the scheme(s) by riders of unregistered motorcycles?
- (5) When will the results regarding current motorcycle claims experience in its current relatives review be released?

Answer—

I am advised this question is more appropriately directed to The Honourable John Della Bosca, Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance.

*2878 MATERNITY PROCEDURES—GOULBURN BASE HOSPITAL AND BOWRAL HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the following rates for surgical/medical procedures for maternity cases at Goulburn Base Hospital and Bowral Hospital and how do these compare with state and national average:
 - (a) Episiotomies;
 - (b) Forceps enabled deliveries;
 - (c) Caesarean sections (planned);
 - (d) Caesarean sections (emergency);
 - (e) Epidural anaesthetics?
- (2) What is the range of stays and average number of stay-days in maternity of these two hospitals compared with state and national averages?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the latest publically available information in the Department of Health's "Mothers and Babies Report 2005" available at:

<http://internal.health.nsw.gov.au/im/ims/mdc/mdc-publications.html>

National statistics are available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's "Australia's Mothers and Babies 2005" report at:

<http://www.npsu.unsw.edu.au/NPSUweb.nsf/page/ps20>

*2879 FERRY/ZOO PASS FOR SENIORS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Will the Minister investigate allegations that Sydney Ferries engaged in deceptive advertising directed at seniors stating a Zoo and travel pass for \$30 is somehow discounted when an individual general entry ticket to Taronga Zoo for seniors is \$23 and an all day travel pass for seniors on Train/Bus and Ferry is \$2.50?
- (2) Will the Minister investigate the \$30 Zoo and Ferry pass offered by Sydney Ferries during Seniors Week this year when Taronga Zoo offered a discounted general entry ticket for seniors week at \$10 and the usual all day travel pass for Train/Bus and Ferry was available at \$2.50?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that matters relating to ferry/zoo passes for seniors should be addressed to my colleague, the Hon J A Watkins MP, Minister for Transport.

*2880 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) What is the projected cost to Sydney Water of water per cubic metre from the Kurnell desalination plant once operational?
- (2) What will the projected cost per kilowatt hour of energy from renewable sources be for the Kurnell desalination plant, once operational?
- (3) What is the projected cost to Sydney Water per kilolitre price to the consumer of water from the Kurnell desalination plant, once operational?
- (4) How many kilolitres of brine will be returned to the South Pacific Ocean each year from the Kurnell desalination plant, once operational?

Answer—

- (1) Based on projected operating costs in Sydney Water's pricing submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in September 2007, if the desalination plant was operating at full capacity, desalinated water would cost around 60 cents per kilolitre.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (2) Sydney Water has selected a preferred tenderer for the supply of renewable energy and renewable energy certificates (RECs) to provide power for the desalination plant. The RECs demonstrate that the desalination plant is powered by an accredited, renewable energy source. It would be inappropriate to comment on commercial terms.
- (3) There is no per kilolitre price to the consumer of desalinated water, as the water supply system is integrated such that consumers receive water from a variety of sources. Those customers who do not receive desalinated water directly benefit because less water is drawn from the dams. That is why the price for desalinated water is shared across Sydney Water's customer base.
- (4) If the desalination plant was operating at full capacity, approximately 110 to 128 billion litres per year of seawater concentrate would be returned to the Tasman Sea, where it would be diluted to background levels within 50 to 75 metres of each of the four outlet points. In planning the desalination plant, Sydney Water gave consideration to reuse opportunities for the seawater concentrate. No viable opportunities were identified.

*2881 CENTRAL COAST ROADWORKS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When did roadworks on the Central Coast Highway between Tumby Road and Ocean View Drive commence?
- (2) When will they be complete?
- (3) Will the businesses along the affected area of the road, some of which have had their business income cut in half, be compensated?

Answer—

I am advised:

The roadworks on the section of the Central Coast Highway between Pitt Road and Tumby Road commenced on 26 June 2007, and were opened to traffic on 20 December 2007.

The roadworks on the section between Ocean View Drive and Pitt Road commenced on 1 May 2007, and are scheduled for completion in late 2008.

During the work, access to properties has been maintained as much as possible, and where direct access could not be maintained, alternative access and/or remote parking has been provided. Where access to businesses has been impacted, appropriate signage has been provided.

Any claim for loss of income received by the RTA will be appropriately and independently assessed by the relevant insurer.

*2882 RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENT—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why is there no publicly available radiotherapy treatment for cancer sufferers at Gosford Hospital?
- (2) When will this service be made available? What is the estimated cost?
- (3) How many patients from the Central Coast travel each day to Royal North Shore Hospital for radiotherapy treatment?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Public inpatients at Gosford Hospital are transported by ambulance for treatment at the Central Coast Radiation Oncology Centre under a service agreement.
- (2) The needs of residents in areas such as the Central Coast are recognised and will continue to be considered as funding becomes available.
- (3) The Member has not specified a time period for the required data. However, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service advises that during 2005/06 and 2006/07 the average number of patients from the Central Coast that attended radiotherapy at Royal North Shore Hospital was 2 per day.

*2883 TERRIGAL BEACHFRONT/CBD CRIME—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many reports of (a) assault (b) robbery with violence at Terrigal beachfront/CBD were made in (i) 2005 (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007?
- (2) How many arrests for (a) assault (b) robbery with violence at Terrigal beachfront/CBD were made in (i) 2005 (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007?

Answer—

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

*2885 DAUGHTER OF JULIE BROWN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Revd G Capsis has stated that he believes that the daughter of Ms Julie Brown has been further abused since being returned to DoCS in October last year?
- (2) Have any reports to this effect been made to either DoCS staff or the NSW Police?
- (3) If so have any members of this child's family been notified of these reports?
- (4) On what date was the last visit by Ms Julie Brown to her child?
- (5) Was this visit supervised or unsupervised?
- (6) On how many occasions has Ms Julie Brown visited her daughter in the past 3 years?
- (7) Will DoCS seek independent examination of Ms Brown's daughter to ascertain her wishes for future care and guardianship before she appears before the Guardianship Tribunal?

Answer—

This Question and Answer Paper is not an appropriate forum for the discussion of individual cases. Casework matters involve confidential details regarding children and their families that should not be made public.

*2886 COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) How many complaints of workplace harassment and bullying have staff at the Commission for Children and Young People made during:
 - (a) 2004;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2006;
 - (d) 2007;
 - (e) to date in 2008?
- (2) How many of these complaints have been substantiated?
- (3) Why, as of 28 March 2008, has the former employee of the Commission, Mr G Payton of Redfern, been unable to obtain a termination of employment salary advice, despite several verbal and oral requests for this information to be provided?
- (4) Has this information been provided to Mr Payton as of 6 May 2008?

Answer—

- (1) (a) None.
(b) None.
(c) One: a supervisor complained of bullying by one of her subordinates.
(d) None.
(e) One: a former staff member complained of bullying by his supervisor, six months after his resignation.
- (2) None.
- (3) The Commission for Children and Young People's corporate service provider sent a Final Payment Summary Report was to Mr Payton's home address in late November. He wrote to the Commission on 21 December 2007 advising that he had not received this advice. The Commission for Children and Young People advised this to its corporate service provider on 7 January 2008, the day it re-opened after the Christmas break. The Central Corporate Services Unit sent a second Final Payment Summary Report to Mr Payton's home address on 8 January 2008.
- (4) Yes.

*2887 PLAN-IT YOUTH PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) On what date does the current funding for the Plan-It Youth Mentoring Plan expire?
- (2) How many students access this program in:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (a) Young;
- (b) Harden-Murrumburrah;
- (c) Cootamundra?
- (3) Will the Minister give a commitment that this important program will continue with at least the current level of support when the current funding expires?

Answer—

- (1) Funding for the Plan-It Youth program has been extended until July 2009.
- (2) Currently seven students access the program in Young and Harden-Murrumburrah. Students in Cootamundra will access the program in Semester 2.
- (3) Funding for the Plan-It Youth program will continue to be assessed in the context of related priorities, particularly those concerning retention and support for students at risk.

*2888 WATER QUALITY MONITORING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Now that the sewerage treatment plant at Brooklyn is operational, when will the department vary the environmental protection licence to require regular water quality monitoring of the exclusion zone at the outfall site under the Hawkesbury River Bridge?

Answer—

The Environmental Protection Licence for the Brooklyn Sewage Treatment Plant requires Sydney Water to develop a water quality monitoring program to assess the effects of the discharge, and to validate the predictions made in the environmental assessment for the sewerage scheme, by 30 June 2008. In developing the program, Sydney Water is required to consult with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Department of Primary Industries and Hornsby Shire Council.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change anticipates that the licence will be varied after 30 June 2008 to require the implementation of the monitoring program.

*2889 KURING-GAI AND EASTWOOD LOCAL AREA COMMANDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the current police numbers in the Kuring-gai and Eastwood Local Area Commands (LACs)?
- (2) How many extra police will be added to the staff establishment of the above LACs?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au
- (2) Kuring-Gai Local Area Command has been allocated 1 Probationary Constable from the latest graduating class on 9 May 2008.

Eastwood Local Area Command has been allocated 5 Probationary Constables from this class.

*2890 HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL INVESTMENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) (a) In relation to Hornsby Shire Council, and after being informed that none of the council funds had been utilised in the USA subprime area, have any funds been allocated in related investments?
- (b) If so, what are these investments?
- (2) Has Hornsby Shire Council lost or gained any income related to these investments?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

Hornsby Shire Council's Investment and Borrowing Report March 2008 was presented to Council and is available from Council and a copy has been provided on its website.

*2891 EARLY STARTERS PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the criteria for enrolment of students in the Early Starters Program in NSW public schools?
- (2) Are students allowed to enrol in "out of school zone" programs?
- (3) What funds have been allocated for this program for the schools in the Hunter Region?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training's policy: Enrolment of Students in Government Schools: A Summary and Consolidation of Policy, states that a child may enrol in a government school if they turn five years of age on or before 31 July in that year.

Some schools operate local initiatives for young children before they commence their formal schooling including transition to school programs and playgroups. Information is not collected centrally on these local initiatives.

The "non local enrolment" procedures are to be followed by government schools for all children who reside outside the school's designated intake area. The procedures are also detailed in the Department's policy document.

The Department has not allocated specific funding to schools in the Hunter region to operate Early Starters classes.

- *2892 CRONULLA STATION PARKING—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What was the cost of building the staff parking area at Cronulla Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

The staff parking area at Cronulla Railway Station is being provided as part of the design and construct contract for the \$231 million Cronulla Line Upgrading and Duplication Project.

- *2894 HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many highway patrol officers were on active duty in the Miranda Local Area Command on:

- (a) 31 October 2007;
- (b) 7 December 2007;
- (c) 1 January 2008;
- (d) 15 January 2008;
- (e) 26 January 2008;
- (f) 3 February 2008?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the authorised strength of the Sutherland Highway Patrol, which patrols Miranda Local Area Command, stood unchanged at 24 officers throughout the specified period.

- *2895 MAN: A COURSE OF STUDY (MACOS)—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) (a) Does the Department of Education currently sanction or approve the use of the course, Man: A Course of Study (MACOS), in New South Wales Government schools?
- (b) If so, how many schools are using this course in 2008?
- (2) Are parents advised of this course and offered an alternative for their children if they object?
- (3) If this course is not now being used in state schools, how long is it since it was used?
- (4) What were the reasons for its withdrawal?
- (5) Are there any plans to revive its use?

Answer—

Man: A Course of Study was used as a supplementary teaching and learning resource at upper primary and lower secondary levels for social studies in New South Wales schools from the mid 1970s up to the mid 1980s.

The resource was superseded by resources which have much greater contextual relevance to contemporary students in New South Wales.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*2896 DISCOVERY CENTRE—CAPTAIN COOK'S LANDING PLACE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What items of historical significance are stored in the vault at the Discovery Centre at Captain Cook's Landing Place, Kurnell?
- (2) When and where will these items be again available for the public to view?

Answer—

- (1) Just over 500 items of varying historical significance are located in a secure storage room at the Discovery Centre at Kurnell. A large number of these items are memorabilia such as stamps, coins, medals and souvenirs. Items also include Aboriginal artefacts and handicrafts, photographs, park management records, plaques, replicas, artworks and books. The items have been professionally assessed and very few are of high historical significance. Many of the stored items are not unique to this collection.
- (2) A number of these items have recently been made available to the public as part of exhibitions at regional galleries, for example, the Hazelhurst Gallery in Sutherland and the La Perouse Museum. Objects will continue to be made available to the public in this way. Stored items will be rotated from display to storage and vice versa to ensure they are both available to the public and protected.

*2898 RTA EXAMINERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many RTA testing staff work on Saturdays and Sundays in the Wagga Wagga electorate?
- (2) How much is paid in overtime for their services on Saturdays and Sundays?
- (3) How many RTA examiners are/were there in NSW:
 - (a) currently;
 - (b) in 2007;
 - (c) in 2006;
 - (d) in 2005?
- (4) How many RTA examiners are/were there in the Wagga Wagga electorate:
 - (a) currently;
 - (b) in 2007;
 - (c) in 2006;
 - (d) in 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

Operating hours for Wagga Wagga Motor Registry are Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm and Saturday 8.30am to 12.00pm. Tumut Motor Registry operates Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 4.00pm.

The RTA performs driver testing in each location, based on customer demand and to facilitate community need. This may include testing at times when the motor registry is not normally open.

Driver testing waiting times increases and decreases with seasonal variations and these times are targeted to be within 15 days.

Overtime is paid to employees based on the terms and conditions of their award.

*2899 COUNSELLORS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What resources are available in the Wagga Wagga electorate to deal with juvenile male sexual assault perpetrators?
- (2) What counselling support is available for families of the perpetrator?
- (3) In the absence of a public counsellor with specialist expertise does the Government fund perpetrators to access private counsellors with specialist expertise?
- (4) How many counsellors are available in Wagga Wagga electorate and where are they located?

Answer—

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

- (1) and (2) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates. However, Greater Southern Area Health Service counsellors (from Sexual Assault, Child and Adolescent Mental Health

and Generalist Counselling) have received specialist training in working with children under 10 with sexualised or sexually abusive behaviours.

This question should also be directed to the Hon. Barbara Perry MP Minister for Juvenile Justice as this matter comes within her area of responsibility.

(3) The NSW Commission for Children and Young People has a register of counsellors who are accredited by the Commission to provide treatment for sex offenders. More information can be found at: www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/check/offendercounsellors

This question should also be directed to the Hon. Kevin Greene MP Minister for Community Services as this matter comes within his area of responsibility.

(4) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates. However, there are currently 5 Greater Southern Area Health Service counsellors with specialist training in counselling children under 10 years with sexualised or sexually offending behaviours.

*2900 COMMITTEE MEMBERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are members of the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation Committee paid?
- (2) How much is paid to the Chairman?
- (3) How much is paid to the Members?
- (4) How much is paid to the Deputy Members?
- (5) Are Members paid a set fee per year or per meeting?

Who sets the fee and how are amounts of remuneration set?

- (6) What funds are surplus?

Answer—

I refer to my previous answer to your question on notice 2079.

Financial statements for the Building and Construction Industry Long Service Payments Corporation can be found in their annual reports.

*2901 BUS ROUTES 613 AND 614—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Is the Minister aware of the difficulties and hardships caused to the residents of Belle Vista and adjacent areas as a result of the proposed changes to bus services on routes 613 and 614?

Answer—

I am advised:

As part of the community consultation in Region 4, some concerns about the proposal have been expressed in feedback received. As part of the formal consultation process all feedback will be analysed and any adjustments that need to be made will be done so after all comments have been considered.

*2902 BUS ROUTE 606—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Is the Minister aware of the difficulties and hardships that the proposed changes to bus service 606 will cause to the residents of Winston Hills, including the many elderly people residing at Woodberry Retirement Village?

Answer—

I am advised:

Ministry of Transport and Hillsbus representatives visited Woodberry Retirement Village during the Region 4 community consultation process to meet with the village residents committee to discuss the proposed changes to route 606.

Residents were advised that all comments received would be considered following the completion of the feedback period as part of the consultation process.

*2903 BUS ROUTE REVIEW—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Will the review of Region 4 bus routes include the provision of additional bus services for route 618 to and from the Norwest Business Park, in particular to provide services throughout the day for the many people who work flexible hours, as opposed to traditional working hours?

Answer—

I am advised:

Upon completion of the formal consultation process for Region 4, all comments received will be analysed. As part of this process and in conjunction with information already available such as the household travel survey and the journey to work data, timetables and hours of operation into areas such as the Norwest Business Park will be considered.

*2904 PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGION 4 BUS SERVICES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many people have lodged submissions in respect of the proposed changes to Region 4 bus services in north western Sydney?
- (2) What steps were taken to inform local residents of the changes?
- (3) Did these steps include letter box distribution of information through affected areas?
- (4) If not, what areas were included in any distribution?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that many affected residents are claiming that they had received no notification of the proposed changes?
- (6) Will public meetings be held by the Ministry for Transport to inform residents of the proposed changes?
- (7) In view of the fact that the only form of public transport in many of the areas affected by the changes is by way of bus, will the closing date for submissions, 9 May 2008, be extended?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (5) An extensive community consultation program was undertaken. Approximately 150,000 consultation brochures were distributed throughout the region via letterbox drops to residents.

Consultation brochures were also placed on Hillsbus buses and in shopping centres, council chambers and libraries. Advertisements were also placed in local papers, which were supported by media releases.

The community consultation program was carried out over 7 weeks, from 7 April until 23 May, 2008. The feedback received will be analysed and considered for incorporation into the proposal, prior to the release of the final network.

(6) Representatives from both the Ministry of Transport and Hillsbus have attended public meetings during consultation to discuss the proposed network.

(7) The community consultation period was extended to 23 May, 2008.

*2906 DEVELOPMENT PROFITS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What profit sharing agreements have been entered into by the Government with developers in the past 10 years regarding previously Government controlled land or property?
- (2) Has the Government forgiven any parts of the profit sharing obligations of those developers, thus reducing the return to taxpayers?
- (3) Have any of those developers been afforded any other preferential treatment by the Government?

Answer—

I'm advised:

I am not aware of any profit sharing agreements that have been entered into by the Government with developers in the past 10 years regarding previously government controlled land or property.

It should be noted that it is long standing government policy (articulated in the Treasurer's Direction TD 92/2 made under section 9 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983) that "in the absence of specific approval to the contrary, market values should be realised on the sale or lease of government assets". The direction applies to all assets and assets are widely defined.

*2908 FIRE SERVICES LEVY—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

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

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

Answer—

- (1) to (3) These questions should be referred to the Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer.

*2909 INSURANCE TAXES—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that general insurance taxes in NSW are higher than in any other country in the developed world?
- (2) Does the Minister consider this acceptable?
- (3) (a) Is the Minister going to reduce the excessively high insurance taxes in NSW from the current level given that they are almost three times the level of comparable international average rates?
(b) If not, why not?
- (4) (a) Will the Minister reduce NSW stamp duty on insurance premiums to the "best practice" rate of 7.5%?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to the Hon Michael Costa MLC, Treasurer.

*2910 TAFE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Has the Department of Education implemented the downgrading of future permanent TAFE teacher qualifications from a university qualification to a certificate IV in Training and Assessment?
- (2) How does this change complement the Federal Government's policy to address the skills shortage?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Education and Training has standardised the teacher training requirements for all TAFE teachers. The minimum required qualification for permanent teachers has been aligned with the longstanding requirement for part-time casual and temporary teachers. From the beginning of Semester 1, 2008 all permanent TAFE teachers are required to hold the qualification of Certificate IV in Training and Assessment on appointment.

Many new teachers already hold professional degrees in their teaching area. As part of the new arrangements, new permanent teachers will be encouraged to undertake higher level qualifications at diploma, degree or post-graduate level.

TAFE will support new permanent teachers, including by:

- refunding 100 per cent of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) charges each semester on successful completion
- assisting them to develop a professional learning plan
- providing them with study time each week for their first two years so they can undertake professional development based on their learning plan.

(2) Addressing skills shortages is a key platform of the Iemma Government. One of the most successful strategies is providing training for young people, especially apprentices.

New South Wales is driving national growth in apprenticeships and traineeships. An independent report by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research shows that, in the year to September 2007, while the national net increase in commencements was 12,700, in New South Wales it was 6,300. This means NSW delivered 50 per cent of the national growth in apprenticeships. New South Wales also delivered 58 per cent of the national growth in apprenticeship completions.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

This can't occur without appropriately trained and qualified TAFE teachers. The new arrangements will assist TAFE to continue to recruit new teachers with appropriate industry experience and qualifications to address the common issue of an ageing workforce.

*2911 RAIL SERVICES—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister ensure that services required for participants in the "Loop the Lake 2009" cycle event for Sunday March 8 2009 will be provided by RailCorp as per the Rotary Club of Warner's Bay notification and not affected by scheduled cancellations?

Answer—

I am advised:

Existing Sunday services to and from the Northern and Central Coast line will enable participants and spectators to travel to and from the event by rail.

Additionally, scheduled track work for the weekend of 7 and 8 March, 2009 has been moved to accommodate the event. As a consequence no track work is currently scheduled that would affect the 2009 "Loop the Lake".

RailCorp remains aware of the event for any future changes to the track work schedule.

*2912 CITYRAIL CUSTOMER SURVEY—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Further to the Minister's response to Question 2290, would the Minister advise how many Lake Macquarie and Newcastle users of the Newcastle and Central Coast line were consulted during the 2007 CityRail customer survey?

Answer—

I am advised:

As previously advised, CityRail surveys are conducted on board different trains at different times and target customers randomly.

Passengers from the Central Coast, Hunter, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas were part of this random selection.

*2913 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provost asked the Minister for Health—

Given that a submission made at the Tweed Hospital Inquiry referred to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's guideline of one pharmacist for every 15 specialised care beds:

- (1) Why has the Department of Health failed to adequately staff the Pharmacy Department at the Tweed Hospital, which has over 200 beds but employs only 4 pharmacists leaving a shortfall of at least 3 pharmacists?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that there are no replacements available when any of the pharmacists at the Pharmacy Department take leave?
- (3) Given that a new ward is set to open in the Tweed Hospital containing an additional 40 beds, will additional pharmacists be recruited to the Tweed Hospital to keep in line with the ratio of one pharmacist for every 30-40 beds?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) I am advised the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) guidelines

(<http://www.shpa.org.au>)

state that the primary consideration in establishing and maintaining a staffing structure must be patient focused provision of quality care. The staffing structure required to deliver clinical pharmacy services will be determined by the size and type of the institution, patient case mix and local resources.

I am further advised by the Chief Executive, North Coast Area Health Service that, in addition to the 4.0FTE Pharmacist positions at The Tweed Hospital, the Hospital also employs 3.6FTE Pharmacy Technicians. One Pharmacist who works part time is available for leave relief.

The new ward at The Tweed Hospital is a 30 bed ward. Extra allied health staff, which includes Pharmacy positions will be established and recruited to, to ensure that efficient and effective patient care is maintained on the ward.

*2914 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Given that a submission made at the Tweed Hospital Inquiry by a medical professional stated that "1,237 patients were located on corridors at the time of discharge from the emergency department in 2007" at the Tweed Hospital, how many of these 1,237 patients were never actually assigned to a specific ward at the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) Given that the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department has only 21 beds, how do critical patients who require emergency department facilities receive the necessary level of treatment from a corridor?
- (3) Given that this "corridor ward" situation occurs when all 204 beds at the Tweed Hospital operate in excess of 100% occupancy (with levels sometimes as high as 108%), are any additional medical staff placed on duty to cope with this increased demand?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service has advised that of the patients referred to in the Member's question approximately 20% were discharged home, transferred to another hospital or managed in The Tweed Hospital Emergency Department. 80% of the patients were admitted to a Tweed Hospital inpatient ward.

The Tweed Hospital Emergency Department hospital bed capacity is managed according to the clinical need of the patients. Therefore on extremely busy days, it might be necessary for stable patients to be moved temporarily to accommodate the more critically ill patients. The North Coast Area Health Service management is working with the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department staff to develop alternative models of care to alleviate demand pressures.

In response to the growing demand for services at the Tweed Hospital and an increase in emergency patients, North Coast Area Health Service is currently undertaking a recruitment and selection process for an additional FTE staff specialist Emergency Physician.

*2915 SCRIM TESTING OF THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that Sideways force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine (SCRIM) testing is used to collect skid resistance data to formulate treatment and maintenance plans for roads that are prone to skidding accidents:

- (1) How frequently is SCRIM testing conducted on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill?
- (2) When was the last SCRIM test conducted on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill?
- (3) (a) Have the results of this SCRIM testing been released to the public?
(b) If yes, where can these results be found?
(c) If not, why not?
- (4) Will the Minister provide the SCRIM test results conducted on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill for the past 5 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

SCRIM testing is done annually along the Pacific Highway. The last SCRIM was undertaken on 11 April 2008.

*2916 GRAIN HAULAGE—Mr George Souris asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the NSW Government's plan for the transportation of wheat beyond July 2009?

Answer—

I am advised:

The transportation of wheat is a matter for private parties to resolve on a commercial basis.

The NSW Government will continue to maintain track infrastructure to support whatever above rail operations are privately contracted.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Any future role for the NSW Government will be informed by the recommendations of the Federal Government's grain task force.

*2919 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for the Northern Beaches Local Area Command?

Answer—

The release of such information would be contrary to both Government and NSW Police Force policy.

*2920 RESTRICTIONS ON BUSES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Are there any restrictions relating to the use of buses along Cabbage Tree Road, between Samuel Street and Minkara Road, Bayview?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for Council.

*2921 FORSTER POLICE STATION—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) (a) Are up to six new probationary police officers to be stationed at Forster Police Station?
- (b) If so, when?
- (c) If so, will this provide enough police officers to allow the Forster Police Station to be staffed on a permanent basis as a 24 hour police station?
- (d) If not, why not?
- (2) If six new probationary police officers are not to be appointed to Forster Police Station how many will be appointed?
- (3) When will they be appointed?
- (4) (a) If less than six officers are to be appointed, will there be sufficient officers appointed to allow the permanent 24 hour operation of the Forster Police Station?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I have recently announced that six new police officers will boost numbers in the Forster/Tuncurry area and that the Forster police station will operate on a permanent 24 hour basis from July 2008, following the conclusion of police commitments to World Youth Day. I refer the Honourable Member to my recent reply to his correspondence on this issue for further details.

*2922 ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AT CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What accommodation arrangements are in place for Taree-Wingham patients residing more than 100km from the Calvary Mater Hospital, Newcastle, who require radiation treatment at the Calvary Mater Hospital?
- (2) How many accommodation beds are available for such Taree-Wingham patients at the Calvary Mater Newcastle?
- (3) (a) Is accommodation available over weekends?
- (b) If so, is the accommodation located at the grounds of the Calvary Mater Hospital?
- (c) If not, why not?
- (4) If motel accommodation is available for Taree-Wingham patients, what transport arrangements are provided for travelling to and from radiation treatments at the Calvary Mater Hospital?
- (5) (a) If motel accommodation is provided, is it also provided on weekends if a patient does not or cannot return home on weekends between radiation treatments?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Hunter New England Area Health Service:

(1) and (2) A range of services is available to assist transport-disadvantaged patients to access the health services they need. The NSW Health Transport for Health program integrates all non-emergency health-related transport services into one assistance program available across NSW.

Transport for Health services include amongst other initiatives:

- The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme which provides eligible patients with travel and accommodation assistance;
- Community Transport which funds community transport organisations to provide transport for people to attend medical appointments or health related services; and
- The Inter-facility transport services which provide transport for admitted patients between health facilities for tests or procedures.

Information regarding the NSW Health Transport for Health program and assistance available to eligible patients can be accessed at the NSW Health internet site at www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/transport.

In addition to the various initiatives available to eligible patients through the Transport for Health program Calvary Mater Newcastle has 16 on-site villa units available for people requiring treatment as outpatients. Defined criteria for allocating these units includes:

being a Calvary Mater Newcastle or Hunter New England Area Health Service patient requiring either daily treatment, outpatient hospital services, or diagnostic procedure;

being sufficiently independent or adequately supported by a carer to perform activities of daily living;

living more than 100 kilometres one-way from the treatment centre;

In addition to the on-site villas, 28 rooms are also available on the top floor of another building currently undergoing refurbishment. At the completion of the refurbishment these rooms will once more become available for accommodation purposes.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) N/A.

(4) Patients who cannot make their own way to and from treatment are referred to volunteer community transport services.

(5) (a) While patients make their own arrangements regarding motel accommodation, eligibility for assistance through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme would be subject to the criteria and conditions as detailed in the Transport for Health – An Information Guide for Patients and their Carers available on the NSW Health internet site or from Transport for Health offices located in each of the Area Health Services.

(b) N/A.

*2923 ADMINISTRATION OF CROWN RESERVES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the Minister's response to Question 2244 advised that 33 Crown Reserves were under administration:

(1) What is the hourly rate paid to each administrator?

(2) Where an administrator administers more than one reserve, what is the payment structure for such administration?

(3) How much has been paid to each administrator to date?

Answer—

(1) Administrators are currently paid between \$40 per hour and \$62.50 per hour depending on the particular expertise that each person brings to the position.

(2) The number of reserves managed is immaterial.

(3) The current administrators have received a total of about \$500,000 since July 2004.

*2924 APPLICATIONS FOR WORKS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) How many applications are currently awaiting determination within the Hawkesbury electorate for approval on behalf of residents wishing to:
 - (a) Stabilise bank deregulation and erosion on their properties which front the Hawkesbury River;
 - (b) Build rock retaining walls to prevent further undermining and loss of land to their properties by the Hawkesbury River;
 - (c) Remove trees which are falling into the Hawkesbury River and taking land and soil with them?
- (2) Why was an application for 348 Grono Farm Road Wilberforce for the above mentioned works refused by the Department of Lands when dozens of other properties in Gronos Point which were restabilised by rock retaining walls in the 1980s have not suffered any further bank erosion over the past twenty years?

Answer—

- (1) None.
- (2) This application was refused because it was not accompanied by a permit from the Department of Water and Energy.

*2926 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SUPPLY OF HELICOPTERS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Does the current arrangement for the supply of helicopters to the National Parks and Wildlife Service allow the NPWS Aviation Division to on-charge individual regions of National Parks for the supply of helicopters and is that charge greater than the fee paid by the Aviation Division to lease those aircraft?
- (2) Will regions be allowed or encouraged to get quotes for cheaper helicopter services so that there is more money available in regions for actual on the ground works?

Answer—

Please see my answer to Question on Notice 2864 on the same issue.

8 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 63)

*2928 CHARGES RECORDED—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

Answer—

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

*2930 QUADRUPLICATION WORK—Mr Alan Ashton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the estimated date for the completion of the Kingsgrove to Revesby quadruplication work?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Kingsgrove to Revesby Quadruplication Project is scheduled for completion in 2010.

*2931 PLAN-IT YOUTH PROGRAM—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How much did the NSW Government invest in the Plan-It Youth program in 2006-07?
- (2) How many youth have utilised the program since it began?

Answer—

- (1) In 2006-07 the NSW Government invested almost \$1 million to support the Plan-It Youth program. This figure includes funds to support the employment of regional Plan-it Youth Coordinators and TAFE mentor training.
- (2) Since 2002 almost 3,700 students have participated in the Plan-it Youth program.

*2932 STATE PROPERTY AUTHORITY PROPERTIES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many state-owned properties does the State Property Authority not manage?
- (2) What is the value of these properties?
- (3) How many and what total quantum of leases were negotiated by SPA last year?

Answer—

The State Property Authority falls within the ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Finance and the question should be redirected accordingly.

*2933 BREACHES OF CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

How many employers has the Commission for Children and Young People become aware of that have not complied with their obligations under child protection legislation in each of the past four financial years?

Answer—

Under recent amendments to the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 the Commission for Children and Young People may require employers to comply with their Working With Children Check obligations. Employers generally welcome the Working With Children Check as it helps them to protect the children in their care. Most employers are responsive to the Commission's advice on their obligations. So the Commission's powers to compel action are not often called upon.

There has been one occasion since the amended legislation came into effect in January 2007, when an employer did not respond to advice on his obligations. The Commission commenced action to compel this employer to meet statutory reporting obligations, and the employer then complied.

*2934 CYCLEWAYS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Which new cycleways will be built with the \$15 million allocated to cycleways this financial year?

Answer—

I am advised that details of the RTA's 2007/08 cycleway program are available on the RTA website rta.nsw.gov.au

*2935 MANLY TO CIRCULAR QUAY ROUTE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister commit to maintaining a fast-speed service for the Manly to Circular Quay route after hearing the community's need for such a service at the Manly Ferry Forum in January?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to maintaining an efficient, safe and sustainable ferry service for Manly.

In April 2007, the Government established the Special Commission of Inquiry to conduct a comprehensive top-down review of the entire operations of Sydney Ferries Corporation to ensure commuters benefit from a safe, efficient and customer-focussed ferry service. The Government received the final report of the Inquiry on 31 October, 2007 and copies are available on the NSW Government website at <http://www.nsw.gov.au>

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

In determining its response to Mr Walker's recommendations, the Government aims to ensure the best outcomes for passengers and the community, and to ensure that ferry services remain sustainable.

I expect that the Government's response will be finalised shortly.

*2937 ANGER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Community Services—

Does NSW offer a service to address anger management in men similar to the 'No to Violence Association' in Victoria that represents 35 men's behaviour change programs?

Answer—

The "No to Violence Association" in Victoria is a community based peak organisation of individuals and agencies working for the prevention of male family violence.

The organisation provides a broad range of activities that includes the provision of direct and indirect services to men who have used violence in their family.

*2938 BUS ROUTE 135—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why is the route for the 135 being reduced?
- (2) What consultation was done before the decision was made to change the route?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) State Transit constantly monitors all bus services to ensure passenger demand is being met. As demand for services changes, appropriate consideration is given to making adjustments to frequency, routes, timetables and stopping patterns. State Transit has a communications plan in place to convey service changes to customers. The plan comprises a range of actions to communicate directly with targeted customers and stakeholders on the service changes to be introduced.

*2939 BIOSOLIDS TENDER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) When will Sydney Water issue its tender for the transportation of biosolids for the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant?
- (2) Will the tender state there must be 'no odours' from the trucks transporting the biosolids?

Answer—

- (1) Sydney Water is intending to issue tenders for the collection, transportation and beneficial use of biosolids from all its sewage treatment plants, including North Head, in June 2008.
- (2) In addition to normal requirements, the trucks transporting biosolids will be required to use a special ground operated roll-over tarpaulin system made of water proof PVC material. This tarpaulin system is the same as that currently used for North Head Sewage Treatment Plant, and is effective in preventing biosolids odours escaping from trucks.

*2940 COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL FUNDING—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Community Services—

Regarding Community Pre-school Funding:

- (1) Will the Minister provide information regarding the Government's policy on community pre-schools in New South Wales?
- (2) Has the Government considered increasing the funding for community pre-schools, given the inequity of State Government funding compared to federally-funded childcare services?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that many community pre-schools are struggling to offer subsidies to New South Wales parents, forcing more parents and children into federally-subsidised schemes?
- (4) Is it NSW Government policy to transfer pre-school responsibilities to the Federal Government?

Answer—

The NSW Government recognises the importance of investing in early childhood education programs and is committed to an accessible, affordable and sustainable children's services sector.

In NSW these programs are delivered in a range of early childhood settings, including both long day care and preschool centres. In 2007-2008 the Department of Community Services will provide \$116 million

through its children's services program to support community based and local government early childhood services. Of this amount, around \$75 million is provided to some 780 preschool services across NSW.

In 2006, the Premier announced the Preschool Investment and Reform Plan (PIRP) to strengthen the community based preschool sector in NSW. The \$85 million Preschool Investment and Reform Plan supports the NSW State Plan priority of increasing the proportion of children with skills for life and learning at school entry.

The Preschool Investment and Reform Plan will ensure that every four-year-old in NSW can access a quality, age-appropriate preschool program for two days per week. The Plan will improve access to preschool opportunities by supporting existing preschool services, expanding service provision, and improving access and affordability - especially for disadvantaged families.

From 2008-09, new investment of \$29.8 million a year will include provision of subsidised places for another 10,500 preschool children in the community-based sector, and improve the affordability and sustainability of existing preschools.

From 2008-09, the Department of Community Services children's services expenditure will top \$138 million a year – an increase of more than 36 per cent on the 2005-06 Budget.

Through the Federal Budget the new Commonwealth Government recently announced a major investment in early childhood education, including expanded service provision and workforce development strategies. I look forward to working with the Commonwealth to further improve early childhood services in a way that builds on the strengths of the NSW system, and makes early childhood education and care more accessible and affordable for all families.

*2941 TOMAREE LODGE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Tomaree Lodge is not accepting any new patients?
- (2) Can the Minister provide any explanation as to why the Tomaree Lodge is turning patients away?
- (3) Can the Minister confirm as to whether increased funding or resources would allow the Tomaree Lodge to provide increased patient services, and if so when will these be forthcoming?
- (4) Can the Minister confirm that patients being turned away from Tomaree Lodge are being placed into group housing in Shoal Bay?
- (5) Is it the plan of the Minister to close Tomaree Lodge when it no longer has patients?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) Tomaree Lodge is a facility managed by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC).

The question should be directed to the Hon Kristina Keneally MP Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services.

*2942 TRAVEL CONCESSIONS FOR APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding the issue of NSW Government Travel Concessions for apprentices and trainees in Port Stephens:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the NSW Government Travel Concession scheme for apprentices and trainees is not available to apprentices and trainees in Port Stephens?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that only those apprentices and trainees in Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan NSW can access these concessions, severely disadvantaging apprentices and trainees in rural and regional NSW?
- (3) Why are these concessions not available for use on private bus transport in Port Stephens, given the lack of public transport infrastructure in the area?
- (4) Does not offering regional trainees and apprentices a concession pass affect the retention rate of apprentices and trainees in rural and regional areas?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Apprentices and trainees who live in the area serviced by Port Stephens Coaches are entitled to half fare transport concessions on those services.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

"Fairer Fares" is an important part of the Iemma Government's bus reform program. New performance-based service contracts have been rolled out in metropolitan Sydney, followed by the outer-metropolitan areas of Newcastle, the Central Coast, the Lower Hunter, the Illawarra and the Blue Mountains.

The next step is the roll out of new bus contracts to rural and regional areas. These new contracts will give rural and regional bus users access to the same concession entitlements that metropolitan and outer-metropolitan bus passengers enjoy.

The new concession arrangements will:

- Extend the Pensioner Excursion Ticket to bus services in regional centres, country towns and villages so that pensioners and seniors in these areas can enjoy access to all day travel on these services for \$2.50;
- Extend the half-fare concession for all bus travel to full-time tertiary and senior secondary students, not just journeys to and from university, school and college; and
- Extend half-fare concessions to apprentices and trainees.

*2943 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE LICENSING—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a recent application for a licence to operate a wildlife rescue service in Port Stephens called "Wildlife in Need of Care" (WINC) was declined by the National Parks and Wildlife Service?
- (2) Why was this application denied?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that without accredited wildlife rescue volunteers in the region responsibility for the care of injured animals is shifting back to the National Parks and Wildlife Service who are not adequately staffed or funded to carry out these duties?
- (4) Can the Minister commit to investigating the reason why the application for a licence to operate a wildlife rescue service was declined?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The National Parks and Wildlife Service has not received an application from Wildlife in Need of Care.

There are approximately 60 licensed groups and individuals engaged in wildlife rehabilitation in NSW, including a group already licensed and established in the Port Stephens area.

*2944 CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TOURLE STREET BRIDGE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is the progress of the construction of the new Tourle Street Bridge?
- (2) What is the width of the bridge, the width of the lanes and medians?
- (3) What is to happen to the existing Tourle Street Bridge?
- (4) If the existing Tourle Street Bridge is to be demolished can the Minister detail how a four lane bridge will be constructed in the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

Work is underway on the Tourle Street Bridge upgrade with bridge piles being constructed on the river banks and in the water. The next major stage of works involves the erection of six 55 tonne bridge girders.

Further details on the project are available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*2945 GREATER HUNTER WORKFORCE PLANNING PROJECT—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Given that the Government has announced the creation of a Port Stephens Local Area Command as an outcome of the Greater Hunter Workforce Planning Project or 'Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs', can the Minister inform the House as to when its final report will be delivered?
- (2) Who sat on the inquiry?
- (3) What is the name of the person who chaired the inquiry?
- (4) Which individuals and groups appeared before the inquiry?
- (5) At what location did the inquiry meet?
- (6) Is the Minister aware of any reason why the inquiry would be so confidential that no information

- regarding it is available on the websites of his office, NSW Police, or the NSW Police Association?
- (7) What were the costs of the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs?
 - (8) Is the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs ongoing, or will it conclude at some point in the foreseeable future?
 - (9) On what date did the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs commence?
 - (10) Has the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs ever received any evidence from the community?
 - (11) What are the terms of reference for the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs?
 - (12) Can the Minister provide minutes of meetings conducted of the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs?
 - (13) How many written submissions were requested and how many written submissions were received by the Inquiry into Hunter Policing Needs?
 - (14) How many staff did the Inquiry require the services of, and from which departments were these staff obtained?
 - (15) Is the Greater Hunter Workforce Planning Project and the Inquiry into Hunter Policing the same inquiry or are they two different bodies?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force continually reviews its work practices and conducts needs analyses to meet emerging challenges in policing, in order to improve workload management and to ensure the most efficient deployment of staff and other resources.

The Greater Hunter Workforce Planning Project is a term used to describe the internal planning process examining current and future policing needs in the Hunter area. This process involved consultation with the wider community and the production of a number of internal reports.

It should be noted that the Honourable Member, as the Member for Port Stephens, was part of the consultation process in this instance.

- *2946 RAILWAY CLEARWAYS PROGRAM—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the completion date of each of the projects within the Railway Clearways Program?

Answer—

I am advised:

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

- *2947 NAREMBURN SCHOOLS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What is the Minister's response to community concern about the lack of an infants/primary school in Naremburn?

Answer—

Naremburn is well served by the existing local public schools: Cammeray Public School, Artarmon Public School and North Sydney Public School.

The Department of Education and Training is undertaking investigations with local schools and the broader learning community regarding potential facility development and accommodation capacity at these schools.

- *2948 REGIONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION SPECIALIST POSITIONS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the Minister's plans in relation to the future of 18 regional violence prevention specialist positions?
- (2) What evaluation has been made in relation to the impact of any loss of these positions on domestic violence networks in the Willoughby electorate?

Answer—

In March 2007 the Government commenced a review of violence against women and domestic violence. ARDT Consultants was engaged to review all existing structures and service providers. In November 2007 their final report, Coordinating NSW Government Action Against Domestic & Family Violence, was published.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

In response to the report, the Government is progressing to a more strategic and coordinated approach to tackling domestic and family violence. Nine Region Domestic Violence (DV) Coordinators to be employed by the NSW Police Force will work within an existing strategic and tactical framework dedicated to reducing domestic and family violence.

The DV Coordinators (civilian positions) will answer directly to the Region Operations Manager (Superintendent) and work with Local Area Commanders, Crime Managers and Domestic Violence Liaison Officers at a local level to achieve objectives in line with the State Plan.

The provision of services to the victims of domestic violence will not be adversely affected. On the contrary, it is envisaged that services will be improved as the DV Coordinator role seeks to standardise and better coordinate the provision of services in a cost-effective manner with result-oriented outcomes.

The creation of the Police DV Coordinator positions, and devolution of the Regional Violence Prevention Specialists from the Department of Community Services, form part of a range of strategies which includes :

- the deployment of 35 additional sworn police officers to be sent to identified DV hot spots;
- the creation of the Domestic & Family Violence Team within the Policy & Programs Command;
- the rollout of DV Evidence Kits as funded by NSW Treasury;
- the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model;
- new DV legislation and Standard Operating Procedures.

*2949 PENSIONER EXCURSION TICKET—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the extension of the \$2.50 pensioner excursion ticket be effective from?
- (2) Can the Minister assure the community that all pensioners across New South Wales will be entitled to the \$2.50 excursion ticket?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) As part of the recently approved new contracting and funding arrangements for rural and regional bus services, the NSW Government aims to make the Pensioner Excursion Ticket as well as the improved concession arrangements for tertiary and secondary students, apprentices and trainees available on relevant commercial bus services contracted to the Ministry of Transport from January 2009.

*2950 AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS ON TRAINS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Have all air-conditioning units on CityRail and CountryLink trains been checked following a fire on a train on 9 April 2008?
- (2) What action has been taken to prevent this from happening again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) All trains travelling across the CityRail and CountryLink networks undergo regular maintenance, including the air-conditioning units and compressors.
- (2) RailCorp's train fleet undergoes regular periodic maintenance according to a schedule accommodating network services and prioritising safety.

*2951 TRAIN BREAKDOWNS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

If 30 per cent of incidents on our rail network occur because of train breakdowns, what makes up the other 70 per cent?

Answer—

I am advised:

On occasion a number of unforeseen issues can delay or cancel trains and affect the running of CityRail services. To assist passengers, CityRail regularly monitors the network and notifies customers of any interruptions on its web site www.cityrail.info

Up to date news on the latest service interruptions and development across the transport network is also provided on the Transport Infoline website www.131500.com.au

*2952 TRAUMA COUNSELLING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) (a) Will the Minister provide an independent expert in the area of trauma counselling to support women and their families in the Bega Valley, Monaro and Eurobodalla affected by Dr Reeves?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (2) How many women are receiving assistance through the Government's hotline?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) (a) and (b) In February 2008 the NSW Health Mental Health Helpline was activated to provide expert counselling and support to women and their families in the Bega area and elsewhere in NSW.

Calls to the Mental Health Help Line are managed by mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, welfare workers, and mental health nurses, all of whom have been briefed on the nature of the event and the possible impacts and have broad experience in providing mental health support to people affected by adverse events.

The Service provides:

- Risk assessment;
- Psychological first aid;
- Counselling and support; and
- Referral to Mental Health Services or other key agencies as appropriate.

Where it is determined that the caller requires mental health follow-up beyond the intervention of the Helpline, the caller is informed that the local mental health services will contact them within 12 hours. The Helpline obtains all relevant details and contacts the appropriate Area Mental Health Director. The Area Mental Health Director arranges for the caller to be contacted and coordinates any mental health assistance required.

(2) From commencement of the activation of the Helpline in February 2008 to 19 May 2008, the number of callers who have received assistance from the Mental Health Helpline is 41.

*2953 DRIVER AGED SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Is the Minister aware of problems in Driver Aged Services?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 3 April 2008, the NSW Government announced reforms to the licensing system for older drivers after an extensive public consultation period.

The Government has announced reforms which will balance the safety of road users and the general community with the continuing independence and mobility of over-85 drivers.

The key reforms are:

- Annual medical check-up from the age of 75 to pick up issues like deteriorating eyesight and dementia earlier
- Redesigning the over-85 driving test and making it more practical, with testing every two years
- Introduction of a voluntary driver assessment scheme through accredited driver training organisations like the NRMA and the Australian Driver Trainers Association
- Maintaining modified licence options for over-85 drivers
- The establishment of an Older Drivers Implementation Panel to introduce reforms.

*2954 BATEMANS BAY HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What measures are in place at Batemans Bay High School in relation to fingerprint technologies?
- (2) Is this a pilot program and why was Batemans Bay High School selected?
- (3) When will this come into effect and at what cost?
- (4) How were parents consulted and were all parents approached?
- (5) What other schools were part of the trial?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) Batemans Bay High School has purchased a fingerprint scanner and associated software.
- (2) This is a local school initiative. It is not part of a pilot program or wider trial and it is being introduced with the support of the school community.
- (3) The school intends to commence a trial of the technology from June 2008 for Year 12 only. Students will have the option of using their fingerprint or their student ID card to register their attendance. The attendance software was purchased as a package which included the fingerprint software and scanner at a cost of \$345.
- (4) The school's Parents and Citizens' Association gave its consent to the trial after seeking advice from the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of NSW. All parents of students in Year 12 will be approached in writing and will be asked to give their written consent before the trial can begin. The Principal has provided details to all parents through the school newsletter.
- (5) Refer (2) above.

*2955 SURF BEACH CROSSING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of concerns of residents about a pedestrian crossing at Surf Beach shops near Batemans Bay?
- (2) If not, will the Minister, along with Eurobodalla Council, ensure an investigation is carried out at this site?
- (3) Will the Minister, through the RTA, fund a pedestrian crossing at Surf Beach shops?

Answer—

I am advised:

Beach Road is the responsibility of Eurobodalla Shire Council, and as such, any issues need to be raised with the Council in the first instance.

However, the RTA has discussed this issue with Eurobodalla Shire Council at the Local Traffic Committee.

Should Council determine that pedestrian facilities are required, it would need to prepare a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan for the Surf Beach precinct and submit an application for funding to the RTA for its consideration.

*2956 ASSISTANCE TO IRRIGATORS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area have received assistance under the current drought relief packages?
- (2) How much have they received?
- (3) Can the Department provide details of how the volume of assistance compares to the fixed water charges that irrigators have been charged?

Answer—

These matters are the portfolio responsibility of the Hon Ian MacDonald MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development.

*2957 ASSISTANCE TO IRRIGATORS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) How many irrigators in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area have received assistance under the current drought relief packages?
- (2) How much have they received?
- (3) Can the Department provide details of how the volume of assistance compares to the fixed water charges that irrigators have been charged?

Answer—

(1) and (2) These matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Primary Industries.

(3) Details of fixed water charges can be found in the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's bulk water pricing determination.

*2958 REPRESENTATION OF NESB AND DISABLED WOMEN IN NSW PUBLIC SECTOR—Ms Pru Goward asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) What is the representation of non-English speaking background women in the New South Wales public service by salary level, status, department and hours worked?
- (2) How does this compare with New South Wales averages?
- (3) What is the representation of disabled women in the New South Wales public service by salary level, status, department and hours worked?
- (4) How do these compare with New South Wales averages?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to improving the attraction, representation, development and retention of women in the public sector. In 1995, the Government set a target that by 2003 women would represent 50 per cent of the NSW Public Sector. This target has been met and exceeded. At June 2006, women's workforce participation in the NSW Public Sector was at a record level of 60.4 per cent.

The NSW Government is also committed to the principles of multiculturalism and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).

The NSW Public Sector needs to attract and retain a skilled and diverse workforce in order to deliver high quality services to all communities in NSW. Effective equity and diversity strategies are critical elements of an agency's workforce management plan as well as being a requirement under Part 9A of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

New South Wales is a culturally diverse State. The Government recognises the benefits in employing staff from non-English speaking backgrounds, and is committed to responding to the needs of a culturally diverse community when delivering programs and services. In the NSW Public Sector, the skills, experience and linguistic abilities of employees are valued.

People with a disability are an important part of our community. The NSW Government is working to improve representation of people with a disability at all levels of its workforce.

The percentage of NESB employees and employees with a disability is publicly reported in agency annual reports.

*2962 YOUTH REFUGES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many Youth Refuges in NSW does DoCS provide recurrent funding for their operation?
- (2) In what suburbs, localities or towns are these refuges located?
- (3) How many clients do these refuges support?

Answer—

(1) and (2) A list of youth supported accommodation assistance services funded under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is published in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Reports which can be found at www.community.nsw.gov.au

(3) The number of clients being supported by refuges fluctuates from night to night. This information is not readily available.

*2963 AIR-COOLING OF SCHOOLS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) With reference to your 11 January 2008 reply to my Question on Notice 2023 on what date was air-cooling installed at:
 - (a) Boorowa Central School;
 - (b) Bribbaree Public School;
 - (c) Cootamundra High School;
 - (d) Cootamundra Public School;
 - (e) Cowra High School;
 - (f) Eurongilly Public School;
 - (g) Galong Public School;
 - (h) Gundagai High School;
 - (i) Murrumburrah High School;
 - (j) Murrumburrah Public School;
 - (k) Quandialla Central School;

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (l) Wombat Public School;
- (m) Young High School;
- (n) Young Public School?
- (2) Are all teaching spaces in each of these schools fully air-conditioned?
- (3) If not, which schools have not had all of their teaching spaces fully air-conditioned?

Answer—

- (1) Installation of air cooling was completed at Eurongilly Public School on 27 March 2008 and at Murrumburrah Public School on 16 April 2008. Air cooling projects at the remainder of the schools referred to in question 1 are currently under construction, out to tender or under design.
- (2) On completion of the projects referred to in question 1, all teaching spaces in these schools will be fully air cooled, with the exception of Cowra High School.
- (3) Cowra High School.

*2964 P-PLATE EXEMPTIONS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) With reference to your 2 April 2008 response to my Question on Notice 2067 does the RTA specify guidelines as to what circumstances can be considered to be 'exceptional' when considering the provision of an exemption for P-Plate Drivers to drive V8 vehicles?
- (2) If so will you provide me with a copy of these guidelines?
- (3) If not, what specific circumstances have in the past been considered 'exceptional' when approving exemptions?
- (4) How many exemptions has the RTA issued to P-Plate drivers to drive V8 engined vehicles since the introduction of the regulation on 11 July 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has specific guidelines which are available on its website and are also clearly explained on its exemption application form. The RTA considers each application on its merits. In cases where an applicant feels aggrieved by a decision not to issue an exemption, an appeal may be heard by a Local Court.

*2965 MENTAL ILLNESS PATIENTS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

Is there a new policy for accident and emergency departments for the management of people with a mental illness whereby 2 or 4 beds at the rear of an accident and emergency department are allocated to accommodate them?

Answer—

I am advised:

To support Emergency Departments in the management of mental health presentations new service models have been established including the provision of mental health professionals within Emergency Departments, provision of telephone/teleconference mental health advice to rural Emergency Departments and the establishment of a new model of care; Psychiatric Emergency Care Centres (PECCs) in nine metropolitan hospitals.

PECCs are small units of 4-6 designated mental health beds located proximally to the Emergency Department providing short term admission and observation. Consideration is being given to further PECC programs in the future.

*2966 NORTH-WEST RAIL LINK—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the proposed north-west rail link, where is the planned station for Cherrybrook to be situated?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is committed to delivering a world class transport system for Sydney.

The North West Metro is a \$12 billion European-style metro rail line which will service growth areas from the CBD to the city's North West. The project will provide fast, high capacity rail services - independent to the CityRail network.

The project is now in the Project Definition phase. This involves refining the alignment and station locations, identifying further land requirements and commencing the assessment of the environmental impacts of the project.

A Project Overview Report will be prepared at the conclusion of this phase and is expected to be put on public exhibition for comment in late 2008.

Prior to the investigations into a metro system for Sydney, planning had already begun on the proposed North West Rail Link. The planning work already conducted forms a solid foundation for development of the North West Metro.

Further information regarding the North West Metro is available on the Sydney Link website at www.sydlink.com.au

*2967 HORNSBY RAILWAY STATION COMMUTERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many car spaces are currently available at Hornsby Railway Station for commuters?
- (2) How many will be available following completion of the Clearways project?
- (3) What is the average number of commuters accessing Hornsby Station from 6 am to 9 am Monday to Friday in the years:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007;
 - (c) 2008 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Hornsby Station Platform 5 and Stabling Project is part of the NSW Government's Rail Clearways Program, designed to improve capacity and reliability on the metropolitan rail network.

There are currently 351 dedicated commuter car spaces available at Hornsby Station, during construction. Upon completion of the project there will be approximately 475 commuter car spaces available.

(3) Patronage information is reported in RailCorp's annual report, as required by the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2005 and the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984.

*2969 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

What arrangements are in place for operation of the Kurnell desalination plant to avoid causing low oxygen levels in Bate Bay such as occurred with the Perth seawater desalination plant and Cockburn Sound?

Answer—

The environmental regulator in Western Australia placed requirements on the Perth desalination plant to reduce output since Cockburn Sound is a relatively quiescent environment that suffers periods of low dissolved oxygen levels in the water.

Unlike Perth, Sydney Water's regulators have not identified that low dissolved oxygen levels would be a problem in the Tasman Sea. One key reason is that the outlets are in a deep, high-energy environment, where the velocity of the marine currents effectively and quickly mixes the seawater concentrate to background levels.

*2970 RTA EXAMINERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many RTA testing staff work on Saturdays and Sundays in the Cronulla electorate?
- (2) How much is paid in overtime for their services on Saturdays and Sundays?
- (3) How many RTA examiners are/were there in NSW:
 - (a) Currently;
 - (b) In 2007;

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (c) In 2006;
(d) In 2005?
(4) How many RTA examiners are/were there in the Cronulla electorate:
(a) Currently;
(b) In 2007;
(c) In 2006;
(d) In 2005?

Answer—

I am advised:

Operating hours for Miranda Motor Registry are Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm and Saturday 8.30 am to 12.00 pm. Engadine Motor Registry operates Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The RTA performs driver testing in each location based on customer demand and to facilitate community need. This may include testing at times when the motor registry is not normally open.

Driver testing waiting times increase and decrease with seasonal variations and these times are targeted to be within 15 days.

Overtime is paid to employees based on the terms and conditions of their award.

*2971 SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What resources are available in the Cronulla electorate to deal with juvenile male sexual assault perpetrators?
(2) What counselling support is available for families of the perpetrator?
(3) In the absence of a public counsellor with specialist expertise does the Government fund perpetrators to access private counsellors with specialist expertise?
(4) How many counsellors are available in the Cronulla electorate and where are they located?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates. However, NSW Health provides specialist counselling services for families and children under 10 with sexualised or sexually abusive behaviours.

This question should also be directed to the Hon. Barbara Perry MP Minister for Juvenile Justice as this matter comes within her area of responsibility.

(3) The NSW Commission for Children and Young People has a register of counsellors who are accredited by the Commission to provide treatment for sex offenders. More information can be found at: www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/check/offendercounsellors

This question should also be directed to the Hon. Kevin Greene MP Minister for Community Services as this matter comes within his area of responsibility.

(4) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates. However, South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service has 3.5 social workers in sexual assault covering Kogarah, Rockdale, Hurstville and Sutherland. These workers provide a counselling service for victims.

*2972 BANK STREET PARK PYRMONT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of local community concern about plans for the NSW Maritime owned site at Blackwattle Bay?
(2) What consideration has the NSW Government given to removing the NSW Maritime owned site at Blackwattle Bay from the terms of reference of the Bays Precinct Taskforce, which is looking at "development scenarios" for foreshore land?
(3) If the site is not to be removed from the Bays Precinct Taskforce terms of reference, is the NSW Government considering development on the site?
(4) Is the NSW Government committed to removing commercial activities from the NSW Maritime site that are not in line with its public recreation zoning, such as bus and truck parking?
(5) When is work expected to commence on construction of a passive boat-launching ramp on the Bank Street Foreshore site at Blackwattle Bay owned by NSW Maritime?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) and (3) Blackwattle Bay has been included in consideration of the Bays Precinct Taskforce only because of possible implications for the Bay arising from the Taskforce's focus on Glebe Island and White Bay.

(4) and (5) The Master Plan provides for passive recreation. NSW Maritime is committed to providing passive boating facilities and is continuing to consult with key stakeholders.

*2973 GLEBE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Given the serious concerns about crime and safety in Glebe including regular reports of assaults and robberies associated with a small number of residents in Housing NSW properties, and noting that:

- those carrying out a Safety Audit had to stop when threatened by a group of young people;
- the City of Sydney is developing a Safety Plan and considering public domain changes to improve safety;
- the City of Sydney has funded \$150,000 to the Glebe Youth Service;
- Leichhardt Police Command is developing a Case Coordination Plan to match up Government agency action on those families in crisis;

Will the Government provide:

- (a) a security officer on the Glebe Housing estate as an immediate solution;
- (b) funds for the Glebe Youth Service to provide late night and weekend programs;
- (c) intensive case management programs for families in crisis as funded in Redfern;
- (d) early intervention programs for children and young people who are identified as being at risk of developing a career of crime and anti-social behaviour?

Answer—

(a) Significant measures have been taken to improve safety in Housing NSW properties in Glebe. For example, I am advised that the Leichhardt Local Area Command has implemented proactive strategies in Glebe such as:

- initiating high visibility beat policing in Glebe including daily tasking and deployment;
- the creation of a second Youth Liaison Officer position for the area to ensure effective coverage of youth issues;
- the completion of the Glebe Community Safety Audit; and
- the establishment of a residents group for the Housing NSW properties, which holds monthly meetings and discusses law and order issues with police representatives.

I am further advised that Housing NSW has made physical changes to properties to improve safety and conducts daily checks of the properties, removing potentially dangerous items and graffiti.

(b) I am advised that the Department of Community Services has provided \$208,603 to the Glebe Youth Service in 2007-2008.

(c) I am advised that the Glebe Interagency Case Coordination Group is meeting on a monthly basis to identify young people at risk of developing criminal or anti-social behaviour and provide coordinated case management for these young people.

The Group is chaired by the Department of Community Services and includes representatives from Housing NSW, the Departments of Premier and Cabinet, Education and Training, Juvenile Justice, and the NSW Police Force. A total of 14 young people have been identified for coordinated case management.

In addition, the Government has announced the introduction of an Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot Project targeting at-risk youth in the Glebe area. The project will bring together police, Government departments, at-risk youth and their families to create targeted case management plans that address individual needs and reduce anti-social behaviour.

(d) I am advised that in 2007-08 the Department of Community Services provided \$358,263 through the Families NSW initiative and the Aboriginal Child Youth and Family Strategy, for providing early intervention and family support services for children, young people and their families in the Glebe area.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*2974 LATE NIGHT TRANSPORT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given that the Government has declared areas in Kings Cross, Surry Hills, the Rocks and CBD to be 24 hour entertainment zones with late night trading, and following police and community concerns about the crime and anti-social behaviour associated with late trading and entertainment zones:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to provide late night transport to carry visitors and patrons home from the Surry Hills, the Rocks and CBD entertainment zones?
- (2) How will the Government link the welcome 999 late night Kings Cross bus with other late night transport?
- (3) What research has the Government carried out into demand for transport late at night from inner city entertainment zones to the eastern suburbs?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to provide transport from inner city entertainment zones to the eastern suburbs?
- (5) What action has the Government taken to prevent lack of access to taxis during the changeover period at 3.00 am when people in inner city entertainment zones say that they are left stranded with no other transport available?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) State Transit provides a number of late night services on various routes servicing Kings Cross, Surry Hills, The Rocks and the Sydney CBD entertainment zones. Additional services are also available on Friday and Saturday nights to cater for late night commuters in city hot spots.

As the late night 999 service goes to Town Hall, it is able to link up with existing night ride services provided by RailCorp.

(3) Information relating to transport initiatives within and across Sydney can be found in the Urban Transport Statement.

(4) The Transport Infoline provides information on the options available for travel from the inner city to the eastern suburbs. Further information is available at www.131500.info

(5) A large number of taxis are operated under time-restricted licences specifically to provide services during peak evening and night periods. Their hours of operation avoid changeover in the early morning hours.

Additionally, the Government's Secure Taxi Ranks program better matches taxis and passengers in safe locations for late night travel.

There are currently three such ranks in Sydney's CBD and a further two ranks in the Kings Cross area which are supervised on Friday and Saturday evenings and into the early morning.

Each rank is staffed by at least two security guards, making them safer for passengers and drivers, and improving the availability of taxis.

From 1 July new taxi network standards come into effect. From that date networks will be required to meet response time and reliability standards for booked services.

*2976 DRYING WASHING IN APARTMENTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Given the serious need to encourage individual behaviour that reduces greenhouse gas emissions:

- (1) Has the review on washing line strata legislation, as referred to in the Sun Herald of 9 March 2008, commenced?
- (2) If not, when is it due to commence?
- (3) How long is the review expected to take?
- (4) To what extent will the NSW Government consider removing by-laws that ban drying laundry items on any part of a strata scheme that can be seen from outside the building (eg on a balcony) from the Strata Schemes Management Act and the Strata Schemes Management Regulation?
- (5) To what extent will the NSW Government consider prohibiting owners corporations from creating by-laws that include bans on drying laundry items on any part of the strata scheme that can be seen from outside the building (eg on a balcony)?
- (6) To what extent will the NSW Government consider removing by-laws that ban drying laundry items on any part of a strata scheme that can be seen from outside the building (eg on a balcony) from existing strata schemes?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) N/A.
- (3) The review, including a planned period of public consultation, is expected to be completed in the second half of 2008.
- (4) to (6) Consideration of these matters will be subject to comments received during the consultation period.

*2978 MULTI-LINGUISTIC EDUCATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Given the need to have citizens in a multicultural world who can communicate in other languages, and evidence that children who learn more than one language are better students and more creative, get better jobs, have better understanding of other peoples, and are better equipped to function in a global world:

- (1) How many students in NSW learn a language other than English to a level where they can carry out a proper conversation with a native speaker?
- (2) How many students in the Sydney electorate learn a language other than English to a level where they can carry out a proper conversation with a native speaker?
- (3) What programs does the NSW Government provide for studies in additional languages?
- (4) What language programs operate in schools in the Sydney electorate?
- (5) How does the NSW Government ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn languages other than English?
- (6) How does the NSW Government ensure that the language skills and expertise of teachers are harnessed to help language studies to benefit students?
- (7) How does the NSW Government ensure that the language skills and expertise of students and their families and communities are harnessed to help language studies?

Answer—

The New South Wales government provides significant support for the study of languages in NSW schools. In the Sydney electorate, Asian, European, Aboriginal and community languages programs are operating in a large number of primary and secondary schools.

Languages are not compulsory for students in Kindergarten to Year 6. Nevertheless, many primary students study a language through the Community Languages Program K-6 and the Insertion Class Program K-6.

In secondary schools all students are required to study one language for a minimum of 100 hours in one year to qualify for the School Certificate.

The NSW Department of Education and Training provides expanded opportunities for students to study languages through programs and schools that operate outside of school hours through Saturday School of Community Languages centres and under the NSW Community Languages Program.

The NSW Department of Education and Training, through its Curriculum Directorate, provides generic and language-specific curriculum-based support for teachers of all languages in NSW schools, including community languages, languages for second language learners and Aboriginal languages.

*2979 DIABETES IN NSW—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report "Diabetes: Australian Facts 2008," which outlines the most recent data and trends in Diabetes and Diabetes-related illness in Australia:

- (1) What community education programs does the NSW Government carry out to inform NSW residents about the risk factors for Type 2 Diabetes?
- (2) What plan does the Government have to mitigate Type 2 Diabetes risk factors, and what behavioural programs does the Government fund or provide directly?
- (3) What Type 2 Diabetes prevention and early intervention programs does the NSW Government fund or provide directly in the Sydney electorate?
- (4) What new steps has the NSW Government taken to address Type 2 Diabetes in Indigenous communities?
- (5) What prevention and early intervention Type 2 Diabetes programs for Indigenous communities does the NSW Government fund or provide directly in the Sydney electorate?
- (6) What programs does the NSW Government provide to increase early detection of the cardiovascular diseases associated with Type 2 Diabetes?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

(7) Given the increasing rate of hospitalisation due to Type 2 Diabetes, what steps has the NSW Government taken to ensure hospitals can meet the rising demand for inpatient services?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The NSW Diabetes Action Plan (April 2007) details the Government's commitment to the prevention and management of type 2 Diabetes. I refer the Member to the Government's website www.nsw.gov.au/docs/Diabetes.pdf

(3) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates, however, the NSW Government has recently funded a community-based Diabetes Prevention Program Pilot to the value of \$5 million over three years through the Sydney South West Area Health Service. This trial is being conducted to determine the feasibility, effectiveness and cost effectiveness of lifestyle based behaviour change programs promoting physical activity and improved diet amongst those at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes. The results of this pilot will inform future program development in the area of prevention and early intervention in NSW.

(4) The NSW Government has implemented two new initiatives that will address type 2 Diabetes in Aboriginal communities:

- the Aboriginal Renal Health Project comprises a recurrent enhancement to NSW Health of \$2 million in 2007-08 and \$3.5 million subsequently, to fund initiatives in primary health settings to support prevention, detection and treatment of early stage renal and vascular disease - including risk factors relevant to diabetes prevention and management - amongst Aboriginal people, in partnership between Area Health Services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and other stakeholders.
- the Aboriginal Health Promotion Funding Program comprises an allocation of approximately \$6 million to Area Health Services between 2007-08 and 2009-10 for health promotion interventions targeting Aboriginal people which address diabetes/other chronic disease risk factors, specifically tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity, to implemented in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

(5) NSW Health does not allocate resources on the basis of electorates. However, in 2007/08, funding was released to South Eastern Sydney Illawarra and Sydney South West Area Health Services as follows:

- \$290,546 from the Aboriginal Renal Health Project to progress prevention, detection and treatment initiatives in primary health settings for early stage renal and vascular disease amongst Aboriginal people. Funding for these initiatives is ongoing and it is expected that specific conditions such as diabetes and renal disease will be addressed within a chronic disease framework.
- \$333,602 from the Aboriginal Health Promotion Funding Program for health promotion interventions targeting Aboriginal people which address diabetes/other chronic disease risk factors, specifically tobacco use, nutrition and physical activity. Funding for these initiatives is ongoing to 2009-10.

Secondary prevention and chronic care services for Aboriginal people are also provided at the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service through the Aboriginal Vascular Health Project site of NSW Health's Aboriginal Chronic Care Program.

(6) All patients who present to hospital with cardiovascular disease are routinely screened for type 2 Diabetes. All patients with cardiovascular disease who are referred to rehabilitation for chronic disease programs are encouraged through adoption of self management programs to engage with their primary health care providers to ensure that type 2 diabetes screening is carried out. People from both the hospital and community (such as GP settings) can be referred to rehabilitation for chronic disease programs.

There are specific initiatives targeting the Aboriginal population to maximise opportunistic screening for all people with cardiovascular disease related diagnoses including type 2 diabetes. These include educational programs for Aboriginal Health workers and health partners to improve clinical care and interactions with primary health care providers such as GPs.

(7) I refer the Member to my 2008-09 budget media release available on the Department of Health's website www.health.nsw.gov.au

*2980 LUCY OSBURN-NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM SYDNEY HOSPITAL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum at Sydney Hospital, in the Nightingale Wing that was originally part of the Tent Hospital of 1788 and a nurses home, and was the foundation of the nursing profession in Australia:

- (1) What funding has the NSW Government provided to maintain the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Museum, and what funds will be provided in future?
- (2) What commitments has NSW Health or the Sydney Hospital made to support the museum and when were these made?
- (3) How do students, patients and community members use the museum for research and study, and how many people use this facility?
- (4) Has the Government sought the views of the nursing profession and NSW Nurses Association about the value of this museum, and what are those views?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for the future of this museum, and how will the Government ensure that it continues to preserve and record this important social heritage?

Answer—

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

- (1) A seed grant was given by the former South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service of approximately \$30,000. While no future funds have been allocated, the Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital is maintaining the exterior and maintenance of the Nightingale Building. Sydney Hospital Graduate Nurses and associated volunteer groups also assist in maintaining the Museum.
- (2) The former South Eastern Sydney Area Health entered into an "Expression of Interest" with the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation dated 24 July 2001, to provide accommodation. South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health, which includes Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital, maintains its commitment to providing accommodation for the Museum. Accommodation has been provided since July 2001 and is progressing with the recent agreement that the entire first floor of the Nightingale Wing be provided to the Foundation for its sole use.
- (3) The Museum is utilised by students, patients, overseas visitors and community members for historical, social and research interests. The Museum provides viewing of historical documents and guided tours are conducted by trained volunteers who convey the history of Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital since 1788. The number of visitors attending the Museum varies annually. An approximate number of annual visitors to the Museum have been provided:
 - Community Groups - 300
 - Nursing Students/Graduates - 260
 - Research and PHS Students and Historians/Family History Researchers - 50
 - Medical Students - 30
 - Patients - 2
- (4) and (5) The Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service has been working collaboratively with the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation, the Museum Curator and the Graduate Nurses Association, to ensure the preservation of the history of the first nursing school in Australia and to ensure the continued success of the Museum. The Chief Executive has recently met with the Chairman of the Lucy Osburn-Nightingale Foundation and Her Excellency, The Governor of NSW, to further progress the work of the Foundation and to ensure the preservation of the historical significance and the nursing history of the Museum.

*2981 PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) In relation to the Commercial and Private Inquiry Agents Act, are private investigators permitted to access any of the following: Tax, Medicare, Centrelink, Birth, Deaths and Marriages, RTA, Immigration, Veterans Affairs and telephone records, bank and credit card information, electricity, gas and internet provider account details?
- (2) What is the Police Minister doing to prevent private investigators claiming that they can access such information?
- (3) How many private investigators have been successfully pursued for making such claims in the past two years?
- (4) What efforts are currently underway to prevent Mr Frank Monte from operating as a private investigator?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) Whilst various Commonwealth and State instruments govern the release of information pertaining to those government agencies and other institutions, the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 does not confer on a licensee any additional authority to access information than is otherwise articulated by relevant legislation.
- (2) The deceptive advertising of services is governed by the Fair Trading Act 1987. This question would therefore be more appropriately addressed to the Minister for Fair Trading.
- (3) See (2) above.
- (4) It is not appropriate to comment on specific individuals. The NSW Police Force will investigate all complaints of criminal activity, including any allegations against private inquiry agents.

*2983 FOREST WAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given the Minister's answer to Question 2376, which provided information on vehicles turning right from Warringah Road into Forest Way:

- (1) Would the Minister provide information as originally asked regarding traffic turning right from Forest Way into Warringah Road (not the other way around)?
- (2) Are there any plans to improve the flow or merging of traffic heading into Warringah Road from Forest Way towards the Roseville Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised the latest improvement for traffic turning right from Forest Way into Warringah Road is the provision of a "Bus Lane" and "B" traffic signal in order to give buses priority ahead of the other traffic flow leaving Forest Way. There are no plans to provide any further changes at the present time relating to traffic turning right from Forest Way merging into Warringah Road. All future roadwork projects are assessed and prioritised on a statewide basis.

*2984 APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

With reference to advice provided in relation to appointment of administrators (Question 2244), noting Mr Geoff Firkin manages a total of 11 Crown Reserves in Byron Shire, Yamba and Scotts Head and that the administrator is paid \$40 per hour:

- (1) If the administrator is paid \$40 per hour, how much does the administrator get paid for managing 11 Crown Reserves?
- (2) Does the administrator get paid \$40 per hour per Crown Reserve?

Answer—

An administrator's remuneration is calculated on an hourly basis irrespective of the number of reserves under his/her control.

*2986 MORISSET STATION—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Why are the basic facilities of an indicator board and clock not provided at Morisset Station?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that these are provided?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) RailCorp recognises the need for clocks and automated passenger information at stations. Significant expenditure is rolling out each year to provide Station Passenger Information (SPI) systems.

From 08/09 the SPI program will include the rollout of clocks when the station receives passenger indicators.

The SPI program is currently installing indicators on the North Shore and Northern lines. Plans are currently in place to install indicators and clocks on the South Line and the Western Line.

The Newcastle and Central Coast Line are scheduled for beyond this program and will include Morisset Station.

*2987 LAKE MACQUARIE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

When will the authorised strength of the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command be increased to include the twenty-three additional staff announced in June 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Commissioner Scipione agreed in June 2007 for Lake Macquarie Local Area Command to operate at an additional 23 positions - 3 Detectives and 20 General Duties officers - over its authorised strength.

*2988 DOCS POLICIES—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Community Services—

Does DoCs have a formal policy on bullying and responding to suggestions, complaints and allegations from staff?

Answer—

The Department's Code of Conduct and Ethics requires staff to ensure that their conduct does not wilfully distract, or otherwise prevent, other employees performing their duties, such as by bullying or harassing behaviour. The Department also has a Harassment Free Workplace Policy and a Dignity and Respect in the Workplace Charter.

Suggestions, complaints and allegations are dealt with through a number of mechanisms including the Department's Resolving Workplace Grievances Policy and Guidelines, and the Department of Premier and Cabinet Procedural Guidelines for Dealing with Misconduct as a Disciplinary Matter.

*2989 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES - TWEED VALLEY CLINIC—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that a submission was made at the Tweed Hospital Inquiry by the Nursing Unit Manager of the Tweed Valley Clinic concerning the staffing and funding requirements of the facility:

- (1) Why does this facility receive funding equivalent to the budgeted patient occupancy levels of 2002-2004, which was 85%, when the facility is currently experiencing occupancy levels in the region of 96%?
- (2) Given the number of patient admissions to this facility increased from 461 in 2002/03 to a projected figure of 612 in 2007/08; why does the number of allied health staff employed at this facility remain unchanged from when it first opened in 2002?
- (3) Why was the Tweed Valley Clinic informed by Hospital management that they would be allocated \$510,000 in funding for the redevelopment of the clinic, and then later told 'There is no money and you're not going to be getting any renovations'?

Answer—

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

- (1) to (3) The Tweed Valley Clinic is funded on a cost per bed per year basis and not on an occupancy bed model. The numbers of allied health staff (Full Time Equivalent) at the Clinic are based on servicing a 25 bed mental health unit and funding for the Clinic ensures that correct staffing levels are always maintained including backfilling for leave. Improvements in Mental Health staff flexibility allows staff to be deployed from various areas across the Mental Health Service in the Tweed Byron Network when needed.

All inpatient mental health beds in the North Coast Area Health Service operate as area wide beds. The Area Health Service continues to expand its inpatient Mental Health facilities, with the redevelopment of Port Macquarie Unit, development of the new Lismore Mental Health facility and the new Coffs Harbour Rehabilitation Unit. This will increase the bed base across the area from 100 beds to 145 beds by the end of 2008. In addition funding to Community Mental Health Services has also increased.

The Tweed Valley Clinic was not informed that they would receive funding for redevelopment.

*2990 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES - ICU BEDS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that inquiry Chair Peter Garling SC stated in reference to the number of HDU/ICU beds in any hospital that 'around about 10 per cent of the overall total number of beds in a hospital should be allocated to a critical care service' and that the Tweed Hospital has over 200 beds:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) Why does the Tweed Hospital only possess 7 ICU/HDU beds (with one not being funded for ventilation purposes) when given Peter Garling's theory it should have at least 20?
- (2) (a) Will there be funding provisions in the 2008/09 Budget to provide additional ICU/HDU beds to the Tweed Hospital?
 - (b) If yes, how much funding will be provided and how many ICU/HDU beds does this equate to?
 - (c) If no, why not and when can the Tweed Hospital expect to receive the additional ICU/HDU beds it urgently requires?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) Commissioner Garling made no reference to a preferred percentage of HDU/ICU beds at The Tweed Hospital hearing. Although I understand that a witness put forward a personal view.

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

The Critical Care Unit at The Tweed Hospital is a 7 bed Intensive Care/High Dependency Unit (ICU/HDU). North Coast Area Health Service adopts the standard bed modelling formula of 8.6 ICU/HDU per 100,000 adult population to guide ICU/HDU development. The Tweed Hospital ICU/HDU bed allocation adheres to this model.

(2) (a) to (c) North Coast Area Health Service continues to monitor The Tweed Hospital ICU/HDU bed demand and respond according to need. The Area Health Service is working with clinicians and the NSW Department of Health to develop strategies to better manage fluctuating demand for critical care services.

The NSW Government is committed to continuing to enhance our intensive care services and ensuring there is an appropriate ICU bed base to best serve the people of NSW.

Future funding and service enhancements will continue to take into account the need for:

- Additional ICU beds to meet growing demand generated by population growth, demographics and distribution, patient acuity and evolving clinical practice and technology.
- Consideration of the most appropriate configuration of beds, emerging evidence based best practice, patient care technology, clinical support services and workforce.

*2991 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES - DEMENTIA CARE UNIT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that it was stated at the Inquiry into Tweed Hospital that 'in 2006 a submission was made [by staff] to the hospital about the need for a dementia care unit for the hospital' but that no correspondence was given by Hospital management or NSW Health regarding this submission:

- (1) (a) Is the Minister aware of its existence?
 - (b) If yes, why is the Minister yet to initiate plans or allocate funding for the establishment of a dementia care unit?
 - (c) If no, why not?
- (2) (a) Is the Minister aware of the current situation at the Tweed Hospital whereby three dementia patients are being housed indefinitely in the Palliative Care Ward until they appear before the Guardianship Board; with their behaviour causing a great deal of distress to dying patients and their families?
 - (b) If yes, why have these patients not been relocated to a more appropriate facility?
 - (c) If no, when will these patients be relocated to a more appropriate facility?

Answer—

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

- (1) (a) to (c) A number of recommendations were put forward in a project undertaken by an individual staff member in 2006 with a view to enhancing the service provided to patients with dementia and delirium in an acute care environment. The recommendations were not forwarded to the Minister but were considered at the local level. While most of the recommendations have been implemented, the recommendation regarding the creation of a "purpose built unit" has not been actioned at this time due to other competing priorities. However, the Tweed Hospital is currently working to redesign some courtyard areas attached to the Medical Ward (where the patients suffering from dementia are housed) to enhance the environment for these patients.
- (2) (a) to (c) The ward at the Tweed Hospital in which the dementia patients are accommodated is a General Medical ward and is not solely a Palliative Care ward. While the situation referred to in the

Member's questions has been resolved, as a General Medical Ward, it is possible that from time to time patients with dementia will be accommodated with other patients. Dementia patients and those with a tendency to wander are accommodated in single rooms to minimise any disturbance to other patients on the ward and their families. As stated in response to Question 1, the Tweed Hospital is currently working to enhance the environment of dementia patients.

*2992 SIGHTINGS OF EASTERN QUOLLS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Where and when have there been confirmed sightings of Eastern Quolls in NSW since 1963?

Answer—

The last confirmed sighting of the Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) was in 1963 at Vaucluse in Sydney.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change has a number of records of unconfirmed sightings since 1963, the most recent being in October 1999 in the Dorrigo area in northern NSW.

*2993 ZINC LEVELS IN DALPURA CREEK—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) When did the Environmental Protection Authority first become aware of elevated zinc levels in water from Canyon Colliery flowing into Dalpura Creek?
- (2) Why did the EPA not act to stop the pollution?
- (3) What are the effects of elevated zinc levels in Dalpura Creek?
- (4) What tests is the EPA carrying out to confirm Ian Wright's findings?
- (5) When does the EPA expect testing to be completed?
- (6) How long will it take to repair the damage done to the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area?
- (7) Given that the NSW Government has ultimate responsibility for site rehabilitation, what action does it intend to take to stop the pollution continuing?

Answer—

- (1) The Environmental Protection Authority was aware of zinc in groundwater discharging from Canyon Colliery in the mid 1990s.
- (2) Canyon Colliery examined the potential for sealing the adits or treating the adit discharges but neither option was considered feasible, due to the significant environmental impacts of both potential measures.
- (3) Zinc can be toxic to aquatic organisms.
- (4) The Department of Environment and Climate Change carried out an Australian River Assessment Scheme biological rapid assessment in the Grose River in 2005. The Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Primary Industries carried out water sampling for chemical and biological testing in March 2008.
- (5) Testing of the March 2008 sampling is complete.
- (6) Water quality in the Grose Valley is affected by a large number of factors, including human activities and general stormwater runoff. The NSW Government is taking steps to reduce pollutants in the upper catchment of the Grose River and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In the last 10-15 years the zinc levels have fallen significantly. The Government will continue to remain responsive to studies such as those by Dr Wright.
- (7) The Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Department of Primary Industries will appoint an independent expert to review geotechnical, engineering and environmental site concerns and report on options to manage the discharging groundwater from Canyon Colliery.

*2994 KOALA POPULATION IN HAWKS NEST/TEA GARDENS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What was the estimated size of the koala population in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens in July 2003?
- (2) What was the estimated size of the koala population in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens in July 2005?
- (3) What is the estimated size of the koala population in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens today?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) The Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens Endangered Koala Population Recovery Plan was approved by the former Minister for the Environment in July 2003. At that time, the population was estimated to be as low as 12 individuals.
- (2) The size of the population in July 2005 time is not known.
- (3) Estimates of the koala population in Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens have been revised after a number of detailed field surveys. The koala population in north Hawks Nest, Hawks Nest Village and Tea Gardens is believed to be 50–60 animals.

*2995 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ROTARY WING TENDER—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Which name is on the Air Operations Certificate (AOC) for the operation of helicopters provided to the National Parks and Wildlife Service under its Rotary Wing Tender?
- (2) If there is more than one successful tenderer, will the NPWS Chief Pilot be able to direct flying time to the contractor of his choice outside the fire season or will that flying time be fairly distributed amongst the contractors?

Answer—

- (1) The name on the Air Operations Certificate is the State of New South Wales acting through the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW.
- (2) Outside the fire season the Chief Pilot can distribute work to contractors or operators on the NSW Fire Agencies Approved Operators List. The operator selected depends on requirements for the operation to be undertaken and will take into account experience of the pilot and the capability of the aircraft and equipment available.

*2996 ALEXANDRA CANAL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Given that according to the Minister's officers the sediments in Alexandra Canal are amongst the most contaminated in the Southern Hemisphere and pose a significant risk of harm to human health and the environment, does your department intend to issue a direction to Sydney Water, and when will it require the clean-up to be completed by?
- (2) If the Department does not intend to issue a clean-up direction to Sydney Water, when will it require the clean-up to be completed by?
- (3) If the Department does not intend to issue a clean-up direction to Sydney Water, why not?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change regulates the contaminated sediments in Alexandra Canal under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997. Remediation orders issued under this Act may include 'clean-up' requirements such as the removal or capping of the contaminated sediments.
In 2004, the Department issued Sydney Water with a remediation order to manage the contaminated sediments in Alexandra Canal. The remediation order requires Sydney Water to ensure that the contaminated sediments are not disturbed as disturbance of the sediment, for example during removal or capping, has the potential to increase the risk of harm.
- (2) The Department has advised it does not intend to issue any further remediation orders. The remediation order issued to Sydney Water in 2004 is still current.
- (3) The Department has advised that the current remediation order is the most appropriate management action as available clean-up technologies have the potential to increase the risk of harm by disturbing the contaminated sediments.

*2997 PROTECTION OF THE LONG-NOSED POTOROO COLONY—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What has the Department done to protect the long-nosed potoroo colony in the Cobaki Lakes and Tweed Heads West area since the endangered population determination was made in 2004?
- (2) Has all development in this area been banned to protect the potoroo?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change provides advice to Tweed Shire Council and the Department of Planning in relation to proposed developments that may affect threatened species. These include the long-nosed potoroo population in the Cobaki Lakes and Tweed Heads West area.
- (2) Control over development is the responsibility of local councils and the Department of Planning.
- *2998 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—DRUMMOYNE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms are there currently across all public schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
- Answer—
- As at 28 May 2008 there are 15 demountables.
- *2999 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—RYDE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms are there currently across all public schools in the Ryde electorate?
- Answer—
- There are currently 18 demountables across all schools in the Ryde electorate.
- *3000 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms are there currently across all public schools in the Lane Cove electorate?
- Answer—
- There are currently 17 demountables across all public schools in the Lane Cove electorate.
- *3001 REPLACEMENT OF DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—DRUMMOYNE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms have been replaced with permanent classrooms across all public schools in the Drummoyne electorate since 1 January 2007?
- Answer—
- Nil.
- *3002 REPLACEMENT OF DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms have been replaced with permanent classrooms across all public schools in the Lane Cove electorate since 1 January 2007?
- Answer—
- Nil.
- *3003 REPLACEMENT OF DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—RYDE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- How many demountable classrooms have been replaced with permanent classrooms across all public schools in the Ryde electorate since 1 January 2007?
- Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Nil.

*3005 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the current average waiting time for assessment and diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at each hospital in the South West Sydney Area Health Service?
- (2) How many patients are currently waiting for assessment and diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at each hospital in the South West Sydney Area Health Service?
- (3) How many full time equivalent specialist staff are available at Fairfield Hospital for the assessment and diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Sydney South West Area Health Service:

(1) and (2) Assessment and diagnosis services for Autism Spectrum Disorder in Sydney South West Area Health Service are provided by community paediatricians in both hospitals and community health centres. There is no specific Autism waiting list.

(3) Fairfield Hospital has a 0.5 FTE Paediatric Staff Specialist with support from an Area Senior Staff Specialist and a trainee registrar, and access to a Child Psychologist. These staff are available for the assessment and diagnosis of all children with complex developmental needs, not just Autism Spectrum Disorder.

*3006 TARONGA ZOO FERRY—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many times has the Taronga Zoo ferry been cancelled each calendar year from 2003 to date?
- (2) How many times has the Taronga Zoo ferry been late each calendar year from 2003 to date?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Real time information on transport service disruptions is available at the Transport Infoline website, www.131500.info

*3007 RADIOTHERAPY MACHINES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Where will the new radiotherapy machines that the Minister referred to in a letter published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 5 April 2008 be located?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2007-08, 3 linear accelerators will be replaced at Royal North Shore Hospital; Liverpool Hospital and St George Hospital.

*3008 SHIFT HOURS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

How many hours was the longest shift worked by a doctor at Mona Vale Hospital over the weekend of 3-4 May 2008?

Answer—

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service has advised that the longest shift worked by a doctor at Mona Vale Hospital over the period in question was 14 hours from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

Weekend day shifts at Mona Vale are routinely covered using this 14 hour shift from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm with the doctors working a one weekend in seven roster pattern.

*3010 NSW SHERIFF'S OFFICE OPENING HOURS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What are the opening hours of the NSW Sheriff's Office?
- (2) If the opening hours for the NSW Sheriff's Office are not 9am-5pm, what are the reasons for not opening during ordinary business hours?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Opening hours of the NSW Sheriff's Office vary in different locations, depending upon the location of the office, the number of staff in each office, operational requirements and the opening hours of the local court or registry.

Sheriff's Officers in New South Wales are responsible for court security; judicial security; enforcement of court documents and processes; warrants of apprehension and the management of the jury system.

*3011 TRANSPORT FOR HEALTH PROGRAM—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the transport for health program for the North Coast area:

- (1) What is the annual budget and expenditure for:
 - (a) 2004-05;
 - (b) 2005-06;
 - (c) 2006-07;
 - (d) 2007-08?
- (2) How many patients were assisted with transport costs for each of these years?
- (3) What modes of transport are funded under this program?
- (4) What was the expenditure on each mode of transport for:
 - (a) 2004-05;
 - (b) 2005-06;
 - (c) 2006-07;
 - (d) 2007-08?
- (5) (a) Has the Health Transport Unit located at Port Macquarie undertaken "strategic identification, consolidation or integration of a full range of transport services and resources for transport of disadvantaged patients to enhance their access to health care", as required by NSW Health policy directive 2006/068?
 - (b) If so, is this detailed in a publicly available document?
 - (c) If not, why not?
- (6) How does this unit communicate any assistance available to patients?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) The NSW Department of Health does not report or collect this data centrally. The diversion of resources necessary to verify this data which may be kept at a local level within an area health service cannot be justified on this occasion.

(5) (a) In accordance with the Transport for Health Policy Directive 2006 - 2011, North Coast Area Health Service has integrated all Health Related Transport Programs. These programs are strategically and financially managed by the North Coast Area Health Service Area Manager Transport Services. A Health Transport Unit has been established with two offices, one located in Port Macquarie and the other in Lismore.

(b) The Transport for Health Policy 2006 - 2011 (NSW Health) is available to the public through the NSW Health web site and at all Transport for Health offices.

(c) Not applicable.

(6) The North Coast Area Health Service Health Transport Unit has printed brochures and posters which are widely distributed across various locations including Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Non Government Organisations, and other various Government organisations. Transport Information Stalls are also conducted at local shopping centres in conjunction with other transport stakeholders.

The North Coast Area Health Service Area Manager Transport Services provides education sessions to community groups, other government and non government organisations and North Coast Area Health Service staff. Patients with Transport for Health inquiries can phone the Health Transport Unit Telephone assistance line on 1300 552 961 for the cost of a local call.

In addition the North Coast Area Health Service Health Transport Unit works closely with other transport stakeholders, who in turn advise patients of the services provided through the Health Transport Unit.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*3012 MANNING RIVER—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- (1) (a) Did the Minister receive a letter from me dated 5 February 2008 in relation to the Manning River asking for a "briefing by your department as to what has occurred in recent times in relation to your department vis a vis the river and what would be intended to be looked at in relation to the future of the river in particular to ensure that the river is again able to flow environmentally into the ocean"?
 - (b) If so, when will the Minister reply?
 - (c) If so, when will the Minister arrange for the briefing?
 - (d) If so, who will the Minister arrange to brief me on the Manning River?
 - (e) If so, when will my office be contacted in relation to arranging the briefing?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of "my desire to work on a bi-partisan basis to achieve results for the river" as stated in my letter of 5 February 2008?
- (3) (a) Does the Minister intend "to work together in partnership to address the issues, facing the Manning River", as stated in the Manning River Times?
 - (b) If so, in what manner will the partnership take?
- (4) (a) Does the Minister have a plan for the Manning River and sustainability of the Manning River and the industries it supports?
 - (b) If so, what is that plan?

Answer—

I responded to the letter from the Member for Myall Lakes of 5 February 2008 and have asked the Director General of Department of Lands to arrange for a mutually convenient time to meet with the Member for Myall Lakes.

My recent announcements regarding funding for the opening of the Old Bar entrance to the Manning demonstrate the Government's commitment to the sustainability of the Manning and its industries. The Old Bar entrance was reopened on the Anzac Day long weekend and I understand is continuing to operate effectively.

I have instructed the Department of Lands to continue its monitoring of the Manning River and to maintain a dialogue with the industries reliant on the river so that longer term, sustainable outcomes benefit the whole community.

I welcome the local member's interest in the work of the Department of Lands and my Government's commitment to the sustainable management of the river.

*3014 CARETAKER MODE—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Is there potential to argue that a council is not able to adopt its annual management plan because it is in caretaker mode?
- (2) Does the legislation provide a clear and concise process for activities during caretaker mode, e.g. carrying on with or commencing capital works; responding to economic activities; dealing with senior or staff issues?
- (3) Are any restrictions placed on day to day activities?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

It is only with respect to significant or publicly controversial decisions that councils should exercise due caution in pre-election periods. Communities have a right to expect that councils will be transparent and accountable in their decision-making and that major decisions affecting their areas will not be undertaken by an outgoing council immediately before an ordinary election.

The Department of Local Government proposes to issue a circular to councils to remind councils to observe "caretaker government conventions" as an accepted practice of responsible government. The types of major decisions that a council in the exercise of responsible government should refrain from making during a pre-election period would include entering into major contracts or undertakings where tenders have not been called, the employment of a permanent general manager, and the determination of publicly controversial or significant developments.

As a matter of best practice, the general rule with respect to caretaker conventions across all levels of government is that routine business should continue with the important qualifications described above.

9 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 64)

*3015 LOAN SCHEMES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) What role does the Department of Fair Trading play in the administration of the Low Interest Loans Scheme (LILS) and the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS)?
- (2) (a) Is money for these loans provided by banks?
(b) If so, which banks provide this funding?
- (3) (a) Does the Government provide funding to organisations that administer these schemes?
(b) If so, what organisations receive such funding?
- (4) Over the last three years, how many persons were approved for loans from the:
 - (a) Low Interest Loans Scheme;
 - (b) No Interest Loans Scheme?

Answer—

- (1) From 1 July 2008 the Office of Fair Trading will play a role in overseeing the No Interest Loans Schemes (NILS). Fair Trading has no administrative role in relation Low Interest Loans Schemes (LILS).
- (2) (a) Yes.
(b) The National Australia Bank.
- (3) (a) From 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 the NSW Government will contribute \$0.84m towards the cost of administration (i.e. salaries and operating expenses) of NILS including the cost of employing a full-time NILS co-ordinator.
(b) Organisations to be funded has not yet been determined.
- (4) (a) Fair Trading does not have any data on the number of persons approved for LILS loans.
(b) The number of persons approved for NILS loans is as follows:

Year	No. Loans Approved in NSW
2004-05	1,004
2005-06	938
2006-07	1,033

*3016 SPIT BRIDGE-MILITARY ROAD WORKING GROUP - RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Has the Minister seen the recommendations from the Government's Spit Bridge Military Road Working Group?

Answer—

I am advised:

The working group has forwarded its recommendations for improving traffic flow on the Spit-Military Road corridor to the RTA for consideration.

*3017 NEW EQUIPMENT—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is Manly Hospital provided with funds in its budget to pay for new equipment?
- (2) How many pieces of new equipment has it paid for from its budget each year for the past five years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The capital equipment budget is centrally managed by the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service and is used to fund equipment needs of all hospitals across the Area Health Service, including Manly Hospital.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (2) Manly Hospital has purchased 103 items of new capital equipment during the past 5 financial years since 2003/04. These purchases of major capital equipment do not include smaller value items under \$5,000 from 1/7/02 and \$10,000 from 1/7/06. Significant capital items purchased include the Multi-slice CT Scanner, birthing beds, colonoscopes, gastroscopes, electric beds, and ultrasound units.

*3018 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Minister considered installing flashing lights technology at the school zone on Condamine Street in Manly Vale?
(2) When will the Minister respond to all correspondence on this matter?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA will consider installing flashing lights technology at the school zone in Condamine Street in Manly Vale as part of the \$46.5 million four-year program announced in September 2007.

A response to correspondence on this matter has been issued.

*3019 CARINGBAH HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Barry Collier asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the nature of improvements and upgrades to facilities at Caringbah High School completed or underway in each of the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008?
(2) What is the value of each improvement and upgrade referred to in question (1)?

Answer—

The consolidation of facilities at Caringbah High School on the northern end of the school site was undertaken in two stages, commencing with Stage One, which was announced in the 2004/2005 State Budget.

Stage One included the refurbishment of Block G, including the canteen, change rooms, a performance workshop, practice room, two computer classrooms, four general learning classrooms, fitness laboratory, seminar room and storerooms, as well as the refurbishment of general learning spaces, visual arts and science facilities in Blocks D and F, courtyard ramp upgrades, boundary fence replacement, new student entry ramp, associated landscaping and new outdoor learning units.

In addition, the refurbishment of Block D included a science laboratory, general learning classrooms, toilets, a visual arts workshop, a darkroom, kiln room and stores. Block F was also refurbished, including general learning classrooms and a computer learning space. The final handover of Stage One, at a total cost of \$4.125 million occurred on 16 July 2007.

Stage 2 of the consolidation of facilities at Caringbah High School was announced in the 2006/2007 State Budget. This works includes a new 2 storey Block N, including administration and general learning facilities, a new Block S - gymnasium, a covered outdoor learning area, car park, landscaping and security fencing.

Stage 2 also includes the construction of a new games court and cricket nets, the refurbishment of Buildings A, B and C and a covered outdoor learning area to the new canteen.

The estimated total cost of Stage 2 is approximately \$10.39 million. At the completion of Stage Two over \$14.5 million will have been spent upgrading facilities and revitalising infrastructure at Caringbah High School.

These projects are jointly funded by the New South Wales Government and the Australian Government under the Capital Grants Program.

*3020 ENDEAVOUR, WOOLLOOWARE, CARINGBAH AND CRONULLA HIGH SCHOOLS—Mr Barry Collier asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the total number of students at the following schools:
(a) Endeavour High School;
(b) Woollooware High School;
(c) Caringbah High School;
(d) Cronulla High School?

- (2) What number of male and female students attend each of the high schools in question (1)?
 (3) What is the total number of teachers and staff at each of the high schools in question (1)?

Answer—

The answers to questions 1, 2 and 3 are based on the 6 February 2008 enrolment census date.

- (1) (a) The Principal of Endeavour Sports High School reported an enrolment of 914.396 full time equivalent students.
 (b) The Principal of Woolooware High School reported an enrolment of 1,092.392 full time equivalent students.
 (c) The Principal of Caringbah High School reported an enrolment of 910.632 full time equivalent students.
 (d) The Principal of Cronulla High School reported an enrolment of 729 full time equivalent students.
- (2) (a) The Principal of Endeavour Sports High School reported an enrolment of 587.852 full time equivalent male students and 326.544 full time equivalent female students.
 (b) The Principal of Woolooware High School reported an enrolment of 490.392 full time equivalent male students and 602 full time equivalent female students.
 (c) The Principal of Caringbah High School reported an enrolment of 488.936 full time equivalent male students and 421.696 full time equivalent female students.
 (d) The Principal of Cronulla High School reported an enrolment of 411 full time equivalent male students and 318 full time equivalent female students.
- (3) (a) The teacher staffing entitlement for Endeavour Sports High School was 67.8 full time equivalent positions and the school administrative and support staffing entitlement was 12.372 full time equivalent positions.
 (b) The teacher staffing entitlement for Woolooware High School was 70.4 full time equivalent positions and the school administrative and support staffing entitlement was 12.572 full time equivalent positions.
 (c) The teacher staffing entitlement for Caringbah High School was 61.4 full time equivalent positions and the school administrative and support staffing entitlement was 11.772 full time equivalent positions.
 (d) The teacher staffing entitlement for Cronulla High School was 51.1 full time equivalent positions and the school administrative and support staffing entitlement was 9.682 full time equivalent positions.

*3021 AWARENESS OF UNSAFE DRUG USE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Community Services—

What efforts is the New South Wales Government making to promote awareness of the fertility, child bearing and infant health consequences of unsafe drug use among young women?

Answer—

Whilst this is primarily a health portfolio issue, the Department of Community Services has implemented strategies to address the complex issues facing young drug using women. The Drug and Alcohol Expertise Unit, established in 2006, provides training, resources, assessment tools and advice to support frontline workers in assessing and managing risk where parental drug use may impact upon the health and safety of infants and children.

Training sessions have been delivered to all Community Services Centres across NSW in on neonatal abstinence syndrome: the impact of drug and alcohol use in pregnancy and the possible implications for newborn babies.

*3023 BIOBANKING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Will the Minister be releasing all submissions made to the Department of Environment and Climate Change in relation to the proposed biobanking scheme?
 (2) Will the Minister review the Department of Environment and Climate Change's proposed biobanking scheme in light of the submissions made?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Answer—

- (1) A comprehensive list of the issues raised as a result of public exhibition, and responses or changes to be incorporated into the scheme are contained in the document Public exhibition of BioBanking Regulation, Assessment Methodology and Compliance Assurance Strategy: Issues raised and proposed changes. This document is available on the Department of Environment and Climate Change's web site (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/publicconsult.htm)
- (2) The document examines and responds to the comments raised in submissions, and outlines proposed changes to the BioBanking Regulation, Assessment Methodology and Compliance Assurance Strategy.

*3024 SALE OF KINCUMBER POLICE STATION—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Why is Kincumber Police Station being sold?
- (2) How much is the sale expected to raise?
- (3) How will the process of sale be disbursed?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The property is no longer useful for operational policing.
- (2) This information is commercially sensitive as the property is to be auctioned.
- (3) The net proceeds of the sale will be reinvested in the NSW Police Force Capital Investment Program.

*3025 ROAD WORKS—AVOCA DRIVE—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will all road works scheduled along Avoca Drive be completed?
- (2) What is the cost of the outstanding works?
- (3) What are the outstanding works?

Answer—

In March 2007 the NSW Government committed \$21 million to upgrade Avoca Drive between Sun Valley Road and Bayside Drive at Green Point.

I am advised:

Major upgrade works on Avoca Drive are being delivered in two sections. The first section between the Central Coast Highway and Sun Valley Road at Green Point was opened to traffic on 19 December 2007. The works at this site are now complete.

The second section involves upgrading Avoca Drive to four lanes between Sun Valley Road and Bayside Drive, Green Point.

Detailed information on the project is available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*3027 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICES—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Are there any Department of Community Services offices on the Northern Beaches?
- (2) If so, where?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Chatswood Community Services Centre (CSC) provides a service to the Northern Beaches and facilitates meetings at outreach sites within the broader Northern Beaches area.

The nature of casework is such that caseworkers spend a significant part of their day working in the field, visiting families in their homes or at hospitals and visiting children at school or at local child care centres.

*3032 CANCELLED BUS SERVICES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What number of bus services were cancelled in the years ended:(a) 31 December 2006;(b) 31 December 2007;(c) 2008 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

Bus services are regularly monitored to ensure passenger demand is being met. As demand for services change, appropriate consideration is given to making adjustments to frequency, routes, timetables and stopping patterns.

Any service changes made meet the requirements of the current transport planning guidelines.

*3033 NURSING STAFF AT MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many FTE nursing staff were employed from nursing agencies at Manly Hospital during each of the following years:
 - (a) 2008 to date;
 - (b) 2006-2007;
 - (c) 2005-2006;
 - (d) 2004-2005;
 - (e) 2003-2004?
- (2) For the same periods what were the total hours of agency nurses engaged at the hospital?
- (3) What was the total cost of engaging agency nurses in each of the above years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) NSW Health utilises agency nurses on a needs basis to ensure continuity of service provision during periods of staff absences or pending recruitment action to fill vacancies and where appropriate staff from the Area Health Service are unavailable.

The following table details the monthly average full time equivalent (FTE) utilisation of agency nursing staff and the average monthly agency nursing hours utilised at Manly Hospital for the periods in question:

Year	Average monthly agency FTE	Average monthly nursing hours
2007/08 (as at April 2008)	11.79	1,984.3
2006-2007	9.73	1,636.7

Prior to 2006 information was split across differing data sets. To provide a response to this part of the question would, on this occasion, unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

(3) I am advised by the Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service that the total costs of engaging agency nurses for the periods in question are:

- \$740,615 for the 2007-08, financial year to date April 2008
- \$968,070 for the 2006-07 financial year
- \$630,900 for the 2005-06 financial year
- \$578,219 for the 2004-05 financial year
- \$569,463 for the 2003-04 financial year

It should be noted that the above costs include both the wage costs and fees charged for the engagement of agency nurses. The Area Health Service would be required to pay the wage costs component regardless, that is even if the vacancy could be filled by the deployment of existing Health Service staff. The only additional cost of engaging an agency nurse is the fee charged by individual agencies for supplying the nurse.

*3034 NURSING STAFF AT MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many FTE nursing staff were employed from nursing agencies at Mona Vale Hospital during each of the following years:
 - (a) 2008 to date;
 - (b) 2006-2007;
 - (c) 2005-2006;
 - (d) 2004-2005;
 - (e) 2003-2004?
- (2) For the same periods what were the total hours of agency nurses engaged at the hospital?
- (3) What was the total cost of engaging agency nurses in each of the above years?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

I am advised:

(1) and (2) NSW Health utilises agency nurses on a needs basis to ensure continuity of service provision during periods of staff absences or pending recruitment action to fill vacancies and where appropriate staff from the Area Health Service are unavailable. The following table details the monthly average full time equivalent (FTE) utilisation of agency nursing staff and the average monthly agency nursing hours utilised at Mona Vale Hospital for the periods in question:

Year	Average monthly agency FTE	Average monthly nursing hours
2007/08 (as at April 2008)	8.22	1,383.4
2006-2007	6.44	1,084.1

Prior to 2006 information was split across differing data sets. To provide a response to this part of the question would, on this occasion, unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

I am advised by the Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service that the total costs of engaging agency nurses for the periods in question are:

\$737,874 for the 2007/08, financial year to date April 08
\$749,067 for the 2006/07 financial year
\$294,540 for the 2005/06 financial year
\$188,779 for the 2004/05 financial year
\$134,255 for the 2003/04 financial year.

It should be noted that the above costs include both the wage costs and fees charged for the engagement of agency nurses. The Area Health Service would be required to pay the wage costs component regardless, that is even if the vacancy could be filled by the deployment of existing Health Service staff. The only additional cost of engaging an agency nurse is the fee charged by individual agencies for supplying the nurse.

*3035 OURGUNYA WOMEN'S INCORPORATION SAFE HOUSE FUNDING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What was the amount of base funding that the Ourgunya Women's Safe House in Brewarrina received from DoCS during:
 - 2004/05;
 - 2005/06;
 - 2006/07;
 - 2007/08?
- (2) Did this service receive any additional funding from DoCS during these periods?
- (3) How many women did this service provide refuge for during each of these years?
- (4) How many women were unable to be given refuge during each of these years?

Answer—

- (1) This information is contained in the NSW Department of Community Services Annual Reports.
- (2) Additional funding was provided to Ourgunya in 2005/06 and in 2006/07.
- (3) The Department of Community Services has advised that the data available for this service is not of sufficient quality to respond to this question accurately.
- (4) Ourgunya did not record the number of women that it was unable to provide refuge for during these periods.

*3036 DEATH OF CHRISTINE HODDER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Given that Station Officer P Roxburgh has stated in an email sent on 16 April 2008 that the suicide death of NSW Ambulance officer Christine Hodder occurred as a direct result of workplace harassment and bullying by officers of the Ambulance Service of NSW, has this allegation been investigated?
- (2) If so, who conducted the investigation?
- (3) Has the investigation been completed?
- (4) If so, what was the result of this investigation?
- (5) If the investigation has been completed, what were the findings?
- (6) Has any action been taken as a result of these findings, if so what action?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) I am advised by the Ambulance Service of NSW that the allegations and the circumstances of the grievances were investigated in 2005 by a team of investigators coordinated by the Service's Professional Standards & Conduct Unit.

The Ambulance Service accepted and implemented the recommendations of the investigation and the Critical Incident Review. These recommendations included implementing training programs for front-line managers to assist in the management of inappropriate staff behaviour and to performance manage and support staff; mediation for staff at Cowra; changes to the front-line management of Cowra Station and changing the management of workers compensations claims where harassment was alleged.

The investigation and the recommendations were subsequently reviewed by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, which declined to investigate the matter further, and the local Coroner who elected not to hold an inquest.

*3037 CIVILIAN POLICE STAFF—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) With response to your 10 April answer to my question 2273, on what date will the duties of General Support Officers be combined with those of Court Process Officers and Clerical Officers to form the new multi-skilled General Administrative Support Officer positions?
- (2) How many (a) General Support Officers (b) Court Process Officers and (c) Clerical Officers were employed in the Canobolas Local Area Command as of 7 May 2007?
- (3) How many (a) General Support Officers (b) Court Process Officers and (c) Clerical Officers were employed in the Cootamundra Local Area Command as of 7 March 2007?
- (4) How many (a) General Support Officers (b) Court Process Officers and (c) Clerical Officers were employed in the Goulburn Local Area Command as of 7 March 2007?
- (5) If the change referred to in point one has occurred, as of 7 May 2008, how many General Administrative Support Officers are employed in:
- (a) Canobolas Local Area Command;
- (b) Cootamundra Local Area Command;
- (c) Goulburn Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The position of General Administrative Support Officer was implemented at Local Area Commands with effect from 6 April 2008.

(2)

Position	Equivalent Full Time Staff
General Support Officer	1
Court Process Officer	3
Clerical Officer	2
TOTAL	6

(3)

Position	Equivalent Full Time Staff
General Support Officer	2.6
Court Process Officer	0
Clerical Officer	2
TOTAL	4.6

(4)

Position	Equivalent Full Time Staff
General Support Officer	2
Court Process Officer	1
Clerical Officer	2
TOTAL	5

(5)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Command	Equivalent Full Time Staff
Canobolas	6
Cootamundra	5
Goulburn	7

*3038 MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)

In relation to the Mental Health Intensive Care Unit at Hornsby Hospital:

- (1) When will more nursing staff be employed and what category of nurses will they be?
- (2) When will the entire 12 beds be occupied with intensive care patients with a mental health issue?

Answer—

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

The Hornsby Mental Health Intensive Care Unit commenced a staged opening on 25 February, 2008, with rostered staff on duty who have specific skills in high dependency mental health care.

The recruitment of mental health nursing staff for this Unit is ongoing and steady progress is being made. The categories of nurses are registered and enrolled nurses.

The major consideration in the opening of further beds has to be the safe operation of the Unit and the provision of quality care to its patients.

Further bed opening in the Unit will occur as appropriate levels of staffing are reached.

*3039 NURSES AND BUREAUCRATS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

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

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) As the Member has not specified a time period for the data it is not possible to provide accurate data and any interpretation of the question would be subjective.

The Department of Health routinely provides state-wide workforce data in its Annual Report. Similarly, all Area Health Services publish localised workforce data in their Annual Reports. The Member is referred to North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service's publicly available annual reports.

*3040 85 YEARS AND OVER DRIVING TEST—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many people in the Hornsby electorate were required to undertake the mandatory 85 years and over driving test?
- (2) How many people actually took the test?
- (3) How many people took the test and failed:
 - (a) On the first occasion;
 - (b) On the second occasion;
 - (c) On the third occasion?
- (4) How many driving instructors are employed in the Hornsby electorate?
- (5) What is the average waiting time for older drivers who wish to be tested?
- (6) (a) Has the waiting time increased in the past 12 months?

(b) If so, why?

(7) What measures have been taken to reduce the waiting times?

(8) What are the top 10 reasons for drivers over 85 failing their initial test and subsequent second and third attempt if taken?

Answer—

I am advised:

People in the Hornsby electorate are served by Hornsby Motor Registry which is located at the southern end of the electorate. The registry therefore also serves a large number of people living in the Ku-ring-gai area.

The driving instructors who train, prepare and present drivers for a driving test are private operators and as such are not employed by the Roads and Traffic Authority or other government agencies.

Driver testing waiting times increase and decrease with seasonal variations. They are targeted to be kept within 15 days.

*3041 POLICE STATIONS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What are the number and names of the electorates that have zero police stations within their boundaries?

Answer—

Police stations in New South Wales are allocated to Local Area Commands, not electorates.

*3042 NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

How many patients in Sutherland Hospital have had claims of negligence settled with monetary payments and been required to sign confidentiality clauses in order to receive the settlement?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to Question No. 0992 - Negligence Claims. The response was published in Questions and Answers Paper No. 38.

*3043 APPOINTMENT OF MR DUNN—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

Further to question and answer 2046 Question 1 and while acknowledging Mr Dunn's appointment was made in accordance with s87 of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1972:

(1) Was the position advertised or subject to a competitive merit selection process?

(2) Were there any other applicants for the position?

(3) Did NSW Parliamentarians Obeid or Sartor express any view to you on the suitability of this appointment before it was formalised?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his question No. 2046.

*3044 BOAT LICENSES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

Given that in March 2008 the OTSI Maritime Safety Investigation into the collision, a year before, between Sydney Ferries' Harbourcat Pam Burrige and Motor Launch Merinda said "OTSI considers that it is not appropriate for any type of vessel, including rowing boats, kayaks, dragon boats and dinghies (be they powered or otherwise) to be operated at night in NSW by a person who does not hold a boating licence":

What did the Minister do prior to 1 May 2008 to act on this finding and introduce a more effective licensing regime that requires a licence to drive ANY type of vessel at night?

Answer—

In March 2008, The Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI) released a Marine Safety Investigation Report titled "Collision between Sydney Ferries' Harbourcat Pam Burrige and Motor Launch Merinda". The report recommended that NSW Maritime examine the feasibility of permitting only licensed persons to operate a vessel between sunrise and sunset in NSW.

The Honourable Member is referred to the marine safety reforms announced on 4 June 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*3045 BASS AND FLINDERS OH&S—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) What Occupational Health and Safety (OH & S) non-compliance issues have been identified in the past year with the Bass and Flinders operation at Blackwattle Bay?
- (2) What action has been taken to correct any OH & S compliance issues that have arisen, including action by NSW Maritime?
- (3) How has the public been put at risk because of inadequate OH & S management?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Identification and rectification of Occupational Health and Safety issues are a primary responsibility of the licensee of the land. Compliance enforcement is a matter for Workcover NSW. Where potential Occupational Health and Safety compliance issues are raised regarding activities on land leased or licensed from NSW Maritime they are brought to the attention of the lessee or licensee and where necessary, referred to Workcover NSW for appropriate action.

*3047 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES—MIDWIVES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given the Inquiry heard from a midwife that the Tweed Hospital maternity unit has doubled its birth rate since 2002 to the present figure of 1,200 births each year:

- (1) (a) Does the Minister agree that more FTE midwife training places are needed at the Tweed Hospital maternity unit than the two 0.5 FTE positions currently being funded, to cope with the growing number of child births in the Tweed?
 - (b) If yes, will funding be provided in the 2008-09 for additional positions, and if so, for how many?
 - (c) If not, how does the Minister intend to alleviate the demand on Tweed Hospital maternity unit midwives?
- (2) (a) Is the Minister aware that recently-graduated midwives have had applications rejected from the Tweed Hospital maternity unit due to insufficient training positions being available?
 - (b) If yes, why have no additional training positions been created?

Answer—

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

- (1) (a) to (c) The establishment of funded midwives positions is directly linked to activity and this has increased accordingly. All rostered and funded hours are filled by appropriately qualified midwives in accordance with the NSW Department of Health and North Coast Area Health Service policies relating to the ratio of Senior:Junior nursing staff.
- (2) (a) and (b) Recently graduated midwives are fully qualified and as such do not require training positions. I am advised that no recently graduated midwife who has applied for a vacant advertised position at The Tweed Hospital maternity unit has been rejected due to "insufficient training positions being available".

In addition, the NSW Government committed \$2.5 million over 4 years from 2007/08 for 125 scholarships for existing rural midwives for extra training and 125 scholarships to attract midwifery nurses to move to rural NSW. These scholarships will be available for 20 new Student Midwives valued at \$20,000 per student in a rural area.

*3048 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES—RADIATION FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Minister has previously advised "The total projected number of cancer cases for the Lismore Integrated Cancer Unit catchment area are estimated to be approximately 1165 cases by 2011" and that a medical oncologist from the Tweed Hospital stated to the Inquiry that "We have nearly 5,600 patients per year with cancer. Lismore had 3,300 patients with cancer, so our patient numbers are much, much greater than they are for Lismore":

- (1) Why is Lismore set to receive radiation facilities before the Tweed Hospital?
- (2) (a) Given these cancer patient figures, does the Minister agree with the medical oncologist's opinion that the Tweed Hospital has "a stronger case to have a radiation facility available here [rather than in Lismore]"?
 - (b) If yes, when can the Tweed Hospital expect funding and approval for radiation facilities?

- (c) If no, why not?
- (3) Given the Minister has previously advised that "Recent major studies conducted by both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments have assessed the need for additional radiotherapy services on the State's North Coast", what are the names of these studies and are they available for viewing by the public?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The planning and coordination of the expansion of Radiotherapy Services in NSW is undertaken at a State-wide level through a consultative process and is based on nationally agreed planning parameters including cancer incidence, projected cancer cases requiring radiotherapy and machine throughput. This planning also involves discussions with the Commonwealth.

Labor's Plan for Cancer identified funding for the planning of radiotherapy services at Lismore as one of its priorities. The priority for the establishment of radiotherapy services at Lismore has also subsequently been supported by both the previous and current Federal Governments.

Lismore is set to receive Radiation Oncology Service based on sound planning. This is determined using demography, incidence of cancer, the significantly low utilisation rate for radiation oncology and the distance Richmond Valley residents have to travel to access the nearest Radiotherapy Centre.

The NSW population catchment estimated to access the Lismore Radiotherapy Service is approximately 140,000. This is significantly larger than the NSW population catchment for The Tweed Hospital which is approximately 75,000.

Strategic planning of radiotherapy services also recognises that patients generally will access services in closer geographical proximity to their residence, or metropolitan services that provide outreach services.

In an area such as the Far North Coast this will include patients flowing across State borders to access treatment where appropriate. Residents of the Tweed Shire can currently access radiotherapy services in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.

A Joint Planning Study is currently being undertaken by NSW Health and Queensland Health to address the health care needs of residents living in the fast-growing Tweed Shire and South East Queensland area. This aims to ensure an integrated approach to service delivery for the residents of the Far North Coast of NSW and South East Queensland.

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

- (2) (a) to (c) I refer the Member to my previous response to Question 2 of LA Question on Notice 2386.
- (3) The Member is referred to "A Vision For Radiotherapy: Report of the Radiation Oncology Inquiry", 2002, commissioned by Commonwealth and chaired by Peter Baume - available on the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing website.

*3049 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES—CANCER SCREENING FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Manager of Oncology and a Professor of Medical Oncology stated at the Inquiry that Tweed Hospital presently has breast cancer screening facilities, but no assessment facilities and that many patients who require further assessment deliberately choose to bypass Lismore because its too far to travel:

- (1) (a) Does the Minister agree that the Tweed Hospital requires assessment facilities to complement its screening facilities?
- (b) If yes, will funding be provided in the 2008/09 budget for these facilities?
- (c) If no, why not?
- (2) Given that the Tweed Hospital has specialist breast cancer surgeons, does the Minister agree that the Tweed Hospital requires assessment facilities so that the expertise of these surgeons can be taken advantage of, rather than sending patients to Queensland for assessment by general surgeons?

Answer—

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) and (2) The North Coast Area Health Service is currently undertaking recruitment of the additional staff required to develop a screening and assessment service at The Tweed Hospital.

In addition, BreastScreen Services at Tweed Heads will be provided from a fixed site from June 2008. This fixed site service will offer both screening and assessment services.

*3050 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY BORROWINGS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) What capital projects were funded with the Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA) increased borrowings of \$64 million in 2007?
- (2) What institution was this money borrowed from?
- (3) What are the total borrowings for the SCA?
- (4) How much interest does the SCA pay on this debt annually?
- (5) In the Abridged Consolidated Income Statement, what forms of income are included under "Other Income"?

Answer—

- (1) The following major projects were funded in the financial year ending 30 June 2007:

- Prospect Reservoir raw water pumping station
- Tallowa Dam fishway/offtake
- Land acquisition
- Upper Canal fencing
- Shoalhaven System Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- IT system upgrades
- Motor vehicle fleet replacement program
- Ground Water - initial development stages
- Shoalhaven transfers investigations
- Nepean Dam deep storage access
- Warragamba Dam deep storage access
- Warragamba electrical upgrade
- Warragamba Dam spillway gates and operations and visitor building.

(2) to (4) The information is contained in the Sydney Catchment Authority Annual Report 2006-2007 tabled in this House on 27 November 2007.

- (5) Other Income for the year ending 30 June 2007 includes:

- Contracting out revenue
- Rental income
- Conference centre hire
- Gross insurance recoveries
- Interest income
- Licence fees in relation to provision of indefinite easement over SCA lands
- Royalties
- Other (i.e. freedom of information fees, tender submission fees, discounts, fines).

*3051 ACCELERATED SEWERAGE PROGRAM—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) What towns are serviced by the eight sewerage projects under the Accelerated Sewerage Program?
- (2) Which catchments do those towns currently discharge sewerage into?
- (3) When will the last of these projects be completed?

Answer—

- (1) Sewerage works funded through the Accelerated Sewerage Program service, or will service, the centres of Bowral, Bundanoon, Robertson, Lithgow, Wallerawang, Taralga, Kangaroo Valley, Goulburn and Braidwood.
- (2) Sewerage works at Bowral, Bundanoon, Robertson, Lithgow, Wallerawang, Taralga and Goulburn are, or will be, located in the Warragamba catchment. Sewerage works at Braidwood and Kangaroo Valley are, or will be, located in the Shoalhaven catchment. Treated sewage effluent from these centres may be either utilised for irrigation or discharged into streams in the catchments.
- (3) All projects to be funded through the Accelerated Sewerage Program are currently scheduled for completion prior to June 2010.

*3052 MOUNTAIN PYGMY POSSUMS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What has the Department done to protect Mountain Pygmy possums in alpine areas since the Recovery Plan was adopted in 2002?
- (2) What is the estimated number of Mountain Pygmy possums in NSW?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change has worked on a wide range of projects and on-ground actions to protect mountain pygmy-possums in alpine areas in NSW. Since 2002 the Department has:

- completed habitat and population surveys and mapping;
- implemented feral cat, fox and rabbit control programs in the ski resort areas of Kosciuszko National Park;
- overseen the construction of four new possum movement corridors across roads in the Perisher Blue Ski resort and excluded some of the key mountain pygmy possum habitat on Mt Blue Cow from ski sports activities (with the co-operation and assistance of Perisher Blue and Country Energy);
- conducted annual monitoring of the mountain pygmy possum population and habitat, including vegetation condition and availability of food resources such as mountain plum-pine seeds and bogong moths;
- replanted mountain plum-pine habitat on Mt Blue Cow that was killed in the 2003 bush fires, including planting 400 seedlings in 2005 and 800 seedlings in April 2008 (with the support of Conservation Volunteers Australia); and
- identified priority mountain pygmy possum habitats for inclusion in the Kosciuszko National Park Draft Fire Management Strategy as critical environmental asset for protection from fire.

The Department has also conducted several significant research projects since 2002, in association with research institutions, to identify and manage adverse impacts on the mountain pygmy-possum. These include a radio tracking and movements study of possums at Charlotte Pass resort; a radio tracking and dietary study of feral cats; analysis of the last 14 years of possum dietary data; and a comparison of the genetic structure of the NSW and Victorian mountain pygmy-possum populations. The Department recently started a project to collate the last 22 years of possum monitoring data and modelling with respect to snow cover variables and climate change predictions, to assist with identifying key refuge habitats.

(2) The population of mountain pygmy-possums in NSW (all in Kosciuszko National Park) is currently estimated at around 480 adults, of which approximately 65 per cent are female and 35 per cent are male.

*3053 BOTTLED DRINKING WATER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How much money was spent by Government Departments and agencies on bottled drinking water for the financial years:

- (a) 2000-2001;
- (b) 2001-2002;
- (c) 2002-2003;
- (d) 2003-2004;
- (e) 2004-2005;
- (f) 2006-2007;
- (g) 2007-2008 to date?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Departments and agencies receive an annual allocation from the Consolidated Fund for their operating expenses and are responsible for determining, within approved limits of variation, specific operational expenditure.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

*3054 HELICOPTER FLYING HOURS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many flying hours by helicopter were used by NSW Government Departments and agencies for non-emergency purposes for the years:

- (a) 2003-2004;
- (b) 2004-2005;
- (c) 2005-2006;
- (d) 2006-2007;
- (e) 2007-2008 to date?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Agencies receive an annual allocation from the Consolidated Fund for their operating expenses. Department's are responsible for determining the use of these funds between various items.

*3056 PEAK TRAFFIC VOLUMES—GLADESVILLE BRIDGE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the morning and afternoon peak traffic volumes across the Gladesville Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised traffic volumes for major roads, including sections of Victoria Road, are available on the RTA website.

*3059 TAFE COURSES—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

What plans does the Minister have to increase access to, and the variety of, TAFE courses for residents of the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

Residents of the Northern Beaches currently have access to more than 600 courses offered through the seven colleges of TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute. Three hundred courses alone are offered specifically at Northern Beaches College where there is no unmet demand or overcrowding.

Northern Beaches College offers courses in a wide variety of industry areas including Business, Commerce, Construction, Travel, Hospitality, Events Management, Hairdressing, Information and Communications Technology, Automotive, Community Services and Health. The College also delivers vocational education and training for school students at the Freshwater Education Centre in Sport and Recreation, Children's Services, Multimedia and Visual Arts.

The Institute constantly reviews qualifications offered at each college to ensure they meet the needs of emerging industry priorities and skills shortages, and the local community. Since 2006, 18 new courses have been introduced at Northern Beaches College, including courses in Digital Media, Sport and Recreation, Project Management, Landscaping, Marine Studies, Mental Health and Beauty.

To meet increasing demand, new health services and aged care courses will begin in July 2008.

Decisions about new courses to be offered in 2009 are currently being made as part of the Institute's ongoing profile planning process.

Residents of the Northern Beaches area also have the opportunity of enrolling in distance and flexible training options provided by other TAFE Institutes, and the Open Training Education Network (OTEN) which alone offers more than 250 courses and qualifications.

*3060 FUNDING TO NSW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the NSW Government provide funding to the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools?
- (2) If so, how much funding has been provided for each of the last five years?

(3) Is this funding indexed?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) The NSW Department of Education and Training has provided funding to the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools Inc for the past two financial years, ie \$70,000 in the 2006/2007 financial year and \$73,572 in the 2007/2008 financial year.

(3) Yes.

*3061 RURAL HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Is the Minister aware that last week the Federal Health Minister, The Hon. Nicola Roxon, announced the immediate establishment of an Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health and Ageing to drive reform in the rural health sector?

(2) Does the Minister have any plans to establish a dedicated office or directorate of rural health in New South Wales given the obvious dire problems in hospitals and health services across country and coastal NSW?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Yes.

(2) and (3) The NSW Department of Health has a dedicated Rural Health Unit, which was established in 2002.

*3062 MRI APPOINTMENTS AT PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

(1) Does the Port Macquarie Hospital insist that patients requiring an appointment for a MRI make the appointment in person or by faxing a copy of a referral?

(2) If so, why?

(3) If so, why does the hospital refuse to arrange appointments over the phone?

(4) If so, what provision in this procedure is there for assisting patients with chronic illness and limited or no access to a facsimile machine?

(5) If so, what provision in this procedure is there for assisting patients who live outside the Port Macquarie district?

(6) If so, is this standard procedure for all hospitals when patients wish to make an appointment for an MRI or is the procedure only adopted at the Port Macquarie Hospital?

Answer—

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

(1) to (6) All imaging services at the Port Macquarie Base Hospital are provided under contract by Mid North Coast Diagnostic Imaging.

As is common practice, a booking for an MRI can only be made if accompanied by a referral from a Medical Practitioner so that an assessment as to the urgency of the procedure can be made. The referral can be faxed, delivered personally or sent from the rooms of the referring Practitioner.

*3063 IPTAAS APPLICATIONS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

(1) (a) Is there now a ten week turn around for the processing of IPTAAS applications through the Hunter New England Health Service?

(b) If so, why?

(c) If so, what will the Minister do to assist patients with economic hardship who have to wait ten weeks to have part of their costs reimbursed?

(2) (a) Will the Minister put in a process to streamline the application processing so that it has a reasonable turn around time so that applicants will not be out of pocket for long periods of time?

(b) If so, when?

(c) If so, what would be a reasonable time in the Minister's view?

(d) If not, why not?

Answer—

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (1) (a) to (c) The Hunter New England Transport for Health - IPTAAS office has received 9,950 claims year to date for the 2007-08 financial year compared to 9,000 for the same period in 2006/07. At least 40% of the claim forms received are incomplete and/or do not have the necessary receipts or tax invoices attached. Contacting patients, treating doctors, transport providers and/or accommodation providers for this missing information can prolong the assessment of a claim by several weeks. The current assessment turn around time is 10 weeks.

The Hunter New England Transport for Health - IPTAAS office sends acknowledgement letters to each applicant within 2 days of receipt of the claim. This letter gives the current processing turn around time and gives a telephone number for people to ring if they wish to discuss their application or any other aspect of the Scheme.

This initial contact provides an opportunity for applicants to advise the office of any personal circumstances that are not captured on the Transport for Health - IPTAAS claim form. For example, if an applicant needs to travel regularly, the office will make every attempt to assess the claim for trip one and provide the reimbursement in time to pay for trip two, or if a person is experiencing severe financial hardship, the office will process their claim as soon as possible. The Hunter New England Transport for Health - IPTAAS office also takes the opportunity to inform applicants about advance payments for travel and bulk billing for accommodation which reduces the amount an applicant needs to pay up front if they are on a pension or suffering financial hardship.

- (2) (a) to (d) In May 2008 the Hunter New England Transport for Health - IPTAAS office temporarily increased staffing in the office to reduce the assessment turn around time to six weeks. This strategy is being evaluated on a weekly basis and the evaluation will be used to ensure that the office is staffed appropriately.

NSW Health is also redrafting the IPTAAS Application Form that is expected to improve completion rates. The benchmark turn around time that has been set for Transport for Health - IPTAAS offices throughout NSW is 42 days. However, all Area Health Services are encouraged to process applications as quickly as possible.

13 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 65)

*3065 BIDWILL SHOPPING CENTRE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Has the Department of Housing worked to re-establish the Bidwill Shopping Centre?
- (2) When will this shopping centre be re-opened?
- (3) Will local Department of Housing tenants be able to pay their rent at this shopping centre?
- (4) If so, at what location or business will the tenants be able to pay their rent?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An opening date is yet to be set by the centre developer.
- (3) and (4) The developer is currently in the process of negotiating with the Newsagent lessee to accommodate the Post Office agency, where tenants will be able to pay their rent.

*3066 COFFS/CLARENCE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—STAFFING—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the current staffing numbers for the Coffs/Clarence Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the authorised strength for the Coffs/Clarence Local Area Command?
- (3) How many of these officers are on full police duties?
- (4) How many of these officers are on restricted duties?
- (5) How many are on long term sick leave?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au
- (3) to (5) Staffing allocations and leave management within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*3067 RICHMOND LOCAL AREA COMMAND—STAFFING—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What are the current staffing numbers for the Richmond Local Area Command?
- (2) What is the authorised strength for the Richmond Local Area Command?
- (3) How many of these officers are on full police duties?
- (4) How many of these officers are on restricted duties?
- (5) How many are on long term sick leave?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, www.police.nsw.gov.au
- (3) to (5) Staffing allocations and leave management within a Local Area Command are matters for the Local Area Commander.

*3068 MOBILE PHONE DETECTION TECHNOLOGY—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Why do New South Wales gaols have no mobile phone detection technology available to staff when Queensland, Victoria and South Australia do?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Corrective Services has been using mobile phone detectors since early 2001.

*3069 GLASS RECYCLING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the cost of the glass recycling project at WSN's Chullora facility with AGT?
- (2) What are the details of contracts for sale of glass products, in particular sale prices?
- (3) What is the cost/tonne of products produced?
- (4) What was the time taken to develop this facility to operating point?

Answer—

- (1) The cost of the plant is commercial-in-confidence, as WSN operates in competitive markets with the private sector for all its products and services.
- (2) Sale prices vary and are commercial-in-confidence as WSN operates in competitive markets with the private sector for all its products and services.
- (3) This information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (4) The plant was developed over a six-month period.

*3070 VACCINATIONS OF CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE MINISTER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Does the Department of Community Services provide for all age relevant immunisations of children in the 'Care of the Minister'?
- (2) On 29 March 2008 did the Campbelltown Children's Court request DoCS to arrange for the two daughters of Kevin Kemp to be given age relevant immunisations?
- (3) On 23 April 2008 did the Parramatta Children's Court order DoCS to arrange for these two children to be given their age relevant immunisations?
- (4) Why as of 12 May 2008 have these immunisations not yet been done even though the immunisations were due on 15 April 2008?
- (5) Is one of these children now past the date when her immunisation for measles can be given?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, in accordance with Health NSW Immunisation Schedule.
- (2) The Children's Court was not conducted on Saturday 29 March 2008. The children's immunisations were not due prior to 29 March 2008. I am advised that the Children's Court has not made such an order.
- (3) The matter was not before the Parramatta Children's Court on this date. I am advised that the Children's Court has not made such an order.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

(4) The children received their immunisations on 10 May 2008. The children both had colds when their immunisations were due. The foster carer consulted a General Practitioner, who advised that it would be in the children's best interests to wait until they were completely recovered from their colds before being immunised.

(5) No.

*3072 **MOTORISED SCOOTERS**—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

(1) Given the announcement in the Wagga Daily Advertiser of 6 May 2008 about NSW Police enforcing infringement notices regarding the use of unregistered electric motor scooters, does the vehicle sold in Cootamundra as the Easyride KHS Commuter not fall into the Roads and Traffic Authority's exemption category of a motorised pedal cycle with a maximum engine output of less than 220 watts?

(2) Has this decision by the NSW Police been tested in the courts?

(3) If so on what date and in what court were these decisions made?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

(1) Current legal advice is that the Easyride KiHS Commuter is not exempt from Registration Requirements.

(2) and (3) Recent court decisions involving EasyRide bikes have resulted in a range of outcomes.

*3073 **DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES**—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

(a) 2002;

(b) 2003;

(c) 2004;

(d) 2005;

(e) 2006;

(f) 2007?

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

Answer—

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

*3074 **SCHOOL SECURITY FENCES**—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

How many incidents of vandalism, break and enters, and injuries to onsite people have to occur before a school moves up the priority list in consideration for a school security fence?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training's Safety and Security Directorate completes risk assessments that provide schools with proven strategies to minimise the risk of security incidents.

Where appropriate, those strategies may include a recommendation for the installation of a security fence.

The Department's security fencing program is finalised just prior to the commencement of each financial year. This ensures that all schools receive equal consideration for inclusion in the program, based upon the comparative levels of risk that are current at that time.

A school's level of priority for a security fence is not determined by a tally of the number of incidents that may have been experienced at that school alone, but by careful consideration of the levels of risk that exist at schools throughout the state.

*3075 CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Regarding the employment of school crossing supervisors, are independent schools, for example, Catholic schools, eligible for Government payment of these crossing supervisors?

Answer—

The RTA fully funds the School Crossing Supervisor Program for all eligible schools in NSW, irrespective of whether they are Government, Catholic or independent schools. Crossing Supervisors are considered RTA employees and are paid directly by the RTA.

The program currently employs over 1,000 crossing supervisors.

The RTA recruits, trains and outfits every crossing supervisor. All crossing supervisors must pass a criminal records check prior to commencing work.

*3076 FUNDING FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE—WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health—

What funding was allocated to the NSW Ambulance Service for services and projects in the Wallsend Electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ambulance Service of NSW does not allocate funding according to electorates.

*3077 PUBLIC HOUSING IN CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many public housing properties are located in the Cronulla electorate?
- (2) How many people are housed in public housing properties in the Cronulla electorate?
- (3) How many of the public housing properties located in the Cronulla electorate are:
 - (a) 1-bedroom units;
 - (b) 2-bedroom units;
 - (c) 3 or more bedroom units;
 - (d) 1 or 2 bedroom houses;
 - (e) 3 or more bedroom houses?
- (4) Of the public housing properties located in the Cronulla electorate, how many tenants are paying market rent?
- (5) How long is the expected waiting list for maintenance for public housing properties in the Cronulla electorate?
- (6) Of the public housing properties located in the Cronulla electorate, how many are:
 - (a) valued at over \$200,000;
 - (b) valued at over \$300,000;
 - (c) valued at over \$400,000;
 - (d) valued at over \$500,000?
- (7) Of the properties valued at over \$500,000, what is the address of each of these properties in the Cronulla electorate and their individual market value?

Answer—

- (1) 616
- (2) 915
- (3) (a) 219
 - (b) 257
 - (c) 49
 - (d) 34
 - (e) 57
- (4) 39

(5) Urgent maintenance issues of a health and safety nature are carried out within four hours.

Non-Urgent maintenance that is required is carried out within 21 days.

(6) Capital values are approximate and subject to asset changes and market fluctuations.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (a) 289
- (b) 10
- (c) 15
- (d) 13

(7) Housing NSW does not release the individual address or market value of tenant's homes.

*3078 DEMANDING BEHAVIOUR IN SOCIAL HOUSING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

With respect to the AHURI research identifying that a "sustaining tenancies" approach was effective in managing the demanding behaviour of the increasing number of tenants who have a mental illness, alcohol/drug problems, a disability, or have suffered trauma or torture:

- (1) What action has the NSW Government taken to prevent problems by:
 - (a) ensuring support for tenants who need help is provided before any tenancy is approved;
 - (b) including tenants in selection of their future home;
 - (c) ensuring sensitive allocation to match community and building needs;
 - (d) carrying out tenant interviews that identify support needs early?
- (2) What Local Allocation Strategies does Housing NSW use to identify sensitive living environments and precincts and allocate new tenants who will complement rather than conflict with existing tenants?
- (3) What action has the NSW Government taken to identify problems early by:
 - (a) carrying out regular maintenance checks and visits to tenants;
 - (b) arranging early notification of Housing NSW by relevant police, health and welfare agencies?
- (4) What action has the NSW Government taken to respond promptly to problems by ensuring quick investigation, assessment, intervention and evaluation of complaints?
- (5) What action has the NSW Government taken to act decisively in problematic situations by:
 - (a) informing tenants about unacceptable behaviour;
 - (b) using mediation and conflict resolution services;
 - (c) engaging with support services to respond to tenants with high level and complex needs?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Public housing applicants are required to demonstrate that they can live independently before being approved for housing and those with complex needs can be linked to appropriate support services to meet this requirement. This is part of the NSW Housing and Human Services Accord initiative.
 - (b) Offers of housing are based on known housing and locational needs in requested allocation zones. Tenants are allowed two offers of accommodation.
 - (c) Allocations match client need with property availability. Certain properties are restricted to certain groups such as seniors living.
 - (d) Housing NSW officers interview clients when assessing their applications for Priority Housing to determine the urgency of their housing need, their ability to sustain a tenancy and whether there are any unmet support needs.
- (2) In determining a client's suitability to a property, Housing NSW takes into consideration the type of property to be offered, together with the locational needs of the applicant, with the aim of creating a tenancy that is likely to be sustainable. As part of the Older Persons' Strategy, Housing NSW is in the process of identifying seniors' precincts. Certain locations also have specific allocation strategies to address local issues.
- (3) (a) Housing NSW is currently undertaking a Property Assessment Survey of all its properties, to develop a forward maintenance plan.
 - (b) Housing NSW also has agreements in place with a range of agencies including the Joint Guarantee of Service with Mental Health Services, a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Police Force, and the Human Services Accord.
- (4) Client feedback is received through the Housing Contact Centre. The Contact Centre refers the information to the appropriate area and monitors the case to ensure it is responded to promptly.
- (5) (a) and (b) In June 2007, Housing NSW introduced 19 Senior Client Service Officers (Antisocial Behaviour) across the state to assist tenants by:

- providing information on tenant obligations and conflict resolution.
- engaging with local services to ensure that tenants are referred for support.
- Taking Tribunal action if anti-social behaviour persists.

(c) The Housing and Human Services Accord provides an overarching framework for human service agencies to work in partnership to support the most vulnerable in our community and aims to assist social housing tenants with complex needs to receive the support services needed to live independently.

*3079 FUNDING FOR BROOKVALE OVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What funding is the State Government providing for the proposed upgrade of Brookvale Oval?
- (2) What funding support has Warringah Council sought for this project?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) On 4 June 2008, the Premier announced \$6 million for the upgrade of Brookvale Oval.

*3080 ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS—WARRINGAH—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) How many Aboriginal land claims for Crown Land in the Warringah Council area are undetermined, if any?
- (2) For how long have those undetermined claims been outstanding?
- (3) Where is the land relating to any such claims?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) There are twenty-nine undetermined land claims ranging from November 1997 to June 2003. All of the land claims are located in the parish of Manly Cove except one, located in the parish of Harbord.

*3081 BUDGET FOR PREVENTATIVE HEALTH MEASURES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

How much of the NSW health budget is spent on preventative health measures:

- (1) In terms of absolute dollars?
- (2) As a percentage of the total health spend?

Answer—

In 2007-08 NSW Health's expenditure budget is \$12.5 billion. Preventative health care is integrated into all aspects of health service delivery from childhood dental to breast screening, cervical screening, HIV/AIDS, immunisation, drug and alcohol and mental health services.

The latest prevention initiatives build on existing programs and include from 2007-08:

- \$18 million over four years for the Healthy at Home program;
- \$6.5 million over four years to promote physical activity, healthy diet and diabetes prevention as part of the Live Life Well initiative;
- \$14.2 million over four years for the Statewide Eyesight Preschool Screening program; and
- \$20.1 million over four years for health promotion under the Australian Better Health Initiative.

*3082 DISABILITY PARKING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that Queensland authorities have fined numerous Tweed residents who have a NSW disability permit on their vehicle for using disabled parking in Queensland, as their permits are not deemed to be valid in that state:

- (1) What is the progress of discussion with the Federal and other state Governments regarding the establishment of a national parking scheme?
- (2) When is it anticipated that a national parking scheme will become operational?
- (3) Will the Minister seek to have this anomaly corrected to ensure that disabled Tweed residents who travel to Queensland are not unfairly fined for illegal parking?

Answer—

I am advised:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

All Australian jurisdictions currently recognise parking permits issued in other states and territories. On 19 May 2008, RTA officers contacted their counterparts at Queensland Transport and confirmed that the Gold Coast City Council complies with this understanding and recognises NSW Mobility Parking Scheme cards. The difficulties encountered by some Tweed Heads residents with Mobility Parking Scheme cards have been raised with the Council by Queensland Transport.

The Federal Government has recognised the need to harmonise rules for parking schemes for people with disabilities. On 1 February 2008, the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference supported in principle the Commonwealth's proposed objective of harmonising parking access for the disabled across jurisdictions and acknowledged that other Ministerial portfolios would need to be engaged in furthering the process. The RTA is participating in this process.

*3083 CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT ADMINISTERED TO SAM MURPHY—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that Mrs Carol Murphy told the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services at Tweed Hospital in reference to the administration of chemotherapy to her son Sam hours before his death from brain cancer, that Hospital staff advised her "they don't often give [chemotherapy] at this stage it was something new for them to have a try":

- (1) Why was Sam Murphy treated with unnecessary chemotherapy only hours before his death, when it would have had little, if any effect in prolonging his death?
- (2) Is it common practice in the NSW Health system to administer chemotherapy to cancer patients who are only a matter of hours away from death?
- (3) Why has no apology been extended to Mrs Murphy, after she experienced the indignity of seeing her son's body covered in bubble wrap and hazard warning stickers when it was incorrectly recorded that he underwent radiation treatment?

Answer—

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

- (1) Mr Sam Murphy was not prescribed chemotherapeutic agents at any time during this admission to The Tweed Hospital.
- (2) No.
- (3) The issues raised by Ms Murphy at the Special Commission of Inquiry were not raised previously with the management of The Tweed Hospital. Following the Inquiry hearing the Area Health Service immediately commenced an investigation and the General Manager of The Tweed Hospital contacted Ms Murphy to discuss her concerns. A written response including an apology has been forwarded to Ms Murphy.

*3084 MEDICAL RECORDS AT TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given the concerns voiced at the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services at Tweed Hospital by Carol Murphy regarding record keeping, and the statement by the deputy-manager of medical records Kathryn Carmichael, that recruiting staff to her department was difficult as they are "not considered frontline":

- (1) What is the number of non-clinical staff currently employed at the Tweed Hospital, and how many of these staff work in the medical records department?
- (2) Why has the employment of non-clinical staff at the Tweed Hospital not increased to match the growth in patients being treated at the Hospital?
- (3) How many complaints have been received by the NSW Department of Health concerning incorrect medical records at the Tweed Hospital during:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008 year-to-date?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised by the Chief Executive, North Coast Area Health Service that the total number of non-clinical staff employed at The Tweed Hospital is 99.24 FTE. The staffing establishment of the Clinical Information Department at The Tweed Hospital is 10.93 FTE plus one additional administrative officer on a return-to-work program.

In July 2004, the then Minister for Health, the Hon. Morris Iemma MP, announced a range of reforms to improve health administration and the delivery of frontline health services in New South Wales. One of

the key elements of these reforms was the amalgamation of 17 Area Health Services into eight Area Health Services. The restructure of the NSW health system was undertaken to redirect these administration savings to deliver enhanced frontline services.

(3) (a) and (b) I am advised that a review of the department's correspondence management system indicates that no correspondence regarding incorrect medical records at The Tweed Hospital for the periods specified in the member's question has been recorded by the department.

*3085 KULTARR RECOVERY PLAN—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What has the Department done to protect the Kultarr since the Recovery Plan was adopted in 2002?
- (2) Where and when was the last confirmed sighting of a Kultarr in New South Wales?
- (3) What is the estimated number of Kultarrs in New South Wales?

Answer—

- (1) The Actions in the Kultarr recovery plan have been progressed including collection of existing information, targeted surveys, incorporation of habitat data into the property vegetation plan tool and management of habitat and pests in selected areas
- (2) A station property west of Mt Grenfell Historic Site confirmed sighting of a Kultarr in February 2006.
- (3) When the recovery plan was finalised, Departmental records indicated Kultarrs were present at 32 locations. Currently there are 41 records for Kultarr locations. However, accurately determining a population size for the species is difficult as this mammal occurs naturally at relatively low densities and is therefore difficult to detect in field surveys.

*3086 SIGHTINGS OF BRUSH-TAILED BETTONGS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Where and when have there been confirmed sightings of Brush-tailed Bettongs in New South Wales since 1980?

Answer—

The Brush-tailed Bettong is currently listed as presumed extinct in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

There have been only two confirmed sightings of the species in NSW since 1980, at the Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary, and both of these are likely to have been the result of a re-introduction program.

Successful re-introductions from South Australia have occurred at the Sanctuary, a 65,000-hectare property in south-western NSW that is privately owned and managed. The property includes a securely fenced area of 4,000 hectares where re-introductions of a number of native species, including brush-tailed bettongs, have taken place.

Brush-tailed bettongs were first translocated in 1997 and 1998 from Yookamurra and Warramong Sanctuaries in South Australia. Further re-introductions occurred in 2004 and 2005.

Since the later releases, a monitoring program indicates that brush-tailed bettongs are reproducing within the secure reserve.

*3087 SIGHTINGS OF BURROWING BETTONGS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Where and when have there been confirmed sightings of Burrowing Bettongs in New South Wales since 1980?

Answer—

The Burrowing Bettong is currently listed as presumed extinct in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Successful re-introductions from South Australia have occurred at Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary, a 65,000-hectare property in south-western NSW that is privately owned and managed. The property includes a securely fenced area of 4,000 hectares where re-introductions of a number of native species, including burrowing bettongs, have taken place.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

Burrowing bettongs were re-introduced to Scotia Sanctuary between November 2004 and September 2005. Since then, a monitoring program indicates that the population of burrowing bettongs is increasing within this secure reserve, with 150 individuals recorded in March 2007.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change also has a record of a burrowing bettong jaw bone found in 1985 in the Pilliga Nature Reserve.

14 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 66)

*3088 INSPECTIONS OF SEWERAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Does the Local Government Act require local councils to inspect on-site sewerage treatment systems?
- (2) Is the Yass Valley Council undertaking such inspections of on-site sewerage treatment systems in the village of Murrumbateman?
- (3) Are these inspections in preparation for the installation of a water and sewerage scheme?
- (4) Is the Yass Valley Council charging property owners the sum of \$90 for these inspections under their management plan's fees and charges?
- (5) By what authority can a council charge landowners for an inspection which is not sought by the landowner?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) No. Under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 councils are responsible for determining the most appropriate sewage management strategy for their local area, in consultation with the local community. The strategy should identify the varying risks of pollution in the area and outline how the council will manage them. Councils may implement an inspection program to ensure that on-site systems meet minimum operating standards. Most councils include inspections in their on-site sewage management strategy with the regularity of inspections based on local environmental factors and the risk of the system to pollute.
- (2) I am advised that scheduled inspections of on-site sewage systems in the Murrumbateman area were completed in December 2007.
- (3) The Council has advised that the inspections were in no way connected to the reticulated sewage augmentation scheme for Murrumbateman village that is currently being developed and is expected to be completed in 2010 – 2011. Inspections of all on-site sewage systems in the Shire are undertaken to ensure that minimum operating standards are being met and to provide baseline data for the development of a new on-site sewage management strategy.
- (4) Yes. The \$90 inspection fee is set out in the "Fees and charges" of Yass Valley Shire Council's Management Plan, which is available on Council's website.
- (5) Section 608 of the Local Government Act 1993 allows councils to charge fees for inspections relating to council regulatory functions, including the inspection of on-site sewage management systems. All council rates, fees and charges must be published in the council's annual draft management plan, which must be publicly exhibited for a period of not less than 28 days. During this period the community has the opportunity to make submissions to their council regarding the content of the draft plan. The council must consider any submissions made by the public prior to adopting the plan.

3089 CO-LOCATION OF CHILD PATIENTS IN ADULT WARDS AT HUNTER HOSPITALS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—

3090 FUNDING FOR MOTOR-NEURONE DISEASE RESEARCH—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—

3091 FUNDING FOR MOTOR-NEURONE DISEASE SUPPORT—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

3092 POLICE RADIO—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- 3093 PAEDIATRIC REGISTRARS IN THE HUNTER REGION—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3094 TWO PERSON CREWS FOR HUNTER AMBULANCES—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3095 STUDENT ENROLMENT AND TRUANCY LEVELS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3096 SHARED ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3097 EARLY INTERVENTION CASEWORKERS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3098 SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- *3099 SHEPHERDS COTTAGE AT COOMA COTTAGE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Is the NSW Heritage Office providing funding to renovate the Shepherd's (or Coachman's) Cottage on the grounds of Cooma Cottage in Yass?
 - (2) How much is being spent on this project?
 - (3) Given the need for urgent repairs to Cooma Cottage itself, why was work on the Shepherd/Coachman's Cottage prioritised above work on Cooma Cottage?
 - (4) Is this work being carried out in accordance with the Cooma Cottage Management Plan?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) In April 2006 Ministerial approval was given to a 2006-2008 Heritage Incentives Program grant being made to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for conservation works on the c1870 Shepherd's Cottage, located on the National Trust's State Heritage Register listed Cooma Cottage site at Yass.
 - (2) The approved Heritage Incentives Program grant provided for up to \$20,000 of funding. The National Trust estimated the total project cost as \$41,000.
 - (3) This was a decision for the National Trust in assessing its priorities for the overall management of the Cooma Cottage property. The National Trust's identified the Shepherd's Cottage conservation works as one to enable Shepherd's Cottage to operate as short stay accommodation and to help generate revenue for the Cooma Cottage property.
 - (4) Yes, the National Trust confirmed in its application that a Conservation Management Plan had been prepared and that work would comply with the Plan. A requirement of all approved grants is that works be undertaken with the support of a heritage specialist.
- 3100 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3101 DISABILITY HOMES IN HORNSBY—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- *3102 MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- (1) What is the number of hours provided for mental health counselling at:
 - (a) Northern Institute of TAFE;
 - (b) Hornsby campus?
 - (2) For (a) and (b) how many students are accessing this?
 - (3) (a) Has any change in the number of hours for (a) and (b) been reduced since December 2007?
 - (b) If so, to what number of hours?

Answer—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The question should be directed to the Hon. John Della Bosca MLC Minister for Education and Training.
- 3103 FOSTER CARERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3104 MOREE ABORIGINAL LANDS COUNCIL—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 3105 TRUANCY TRENDS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3106 STUDENT DEBT—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3107 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL BUDGET FOR NEW EQUIPMENT—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3108 NANOPARTICLES IN NSW FOOD—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3109 PLASTIC BAG WASTE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3110 LARGE ERECTING SHOP ROLLING STOCK—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3111 NATURAL DISASTERS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- *3113 PLANNING PANEL—KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

Further to Question 2082 regarding the planning panel appointed regarding Ku-ring-gai Council:

- (1) Did the material the Minister based his concurrence on include the same town centre maps that were ultimately gazetted, including for the Pymble Town centre?
- (2) Did the Minister separately concur in writing to the decision on the second panel appointment, before it was made, as well as the first?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) I am advised that this question was determined by the Land and Environment Court of NSW on 21 May 2008. The Court found that the Minister for Local Government gave the concurrence required by section 118(8) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.
- (2) Yes.
- 3114 COST ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT—NSW SUPREME COURT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- *3115 TOWN CENTRE MAPS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) After gazetting the original town centre maps covered by the relevant Planning Panel, did the Minister indicate to the Ku-ring-gai Council Mayor, Nick Ebbeck, that:
- (a) a mistake had been made by the Department of Planning regarding the maps;
- (b) the maps would be corrected?

- (2) Did the Minister direct anyone in the Department of Planning to correct or replace the maps?
- (3) Why were the maps (other than for Pymble) not corrected before being gazetted a second time?
- (4) Why did all the maps need to be gazetted a second time?

Answer—

- (1) No.
 - (2) No.
 - (3) Before I made the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel) Order 2008 on 29 February 2008, I instructed the Department to revise the boundaries of the proposed Pymble Town Centre map, in response to concerns raised by the Council. Apart from the Pymble Town Centre map, I did not consider that any changes were required to the maps for the other Town Centres.
 - (4) The maps were gazetted as they comprise part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (Ku-ring-gai Planning Panel) Order 2008.
- 3116 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3117 SUPPORT FOR DISABLED STUDENTS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3118 TAFE CLASSES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3119 PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3120 HOUSING AVAILABILITY IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3121 CATTLE TICK FEVER—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3122 HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3123 PUBLIC DENTAL TREATMENT IN THE FORSTER-TUNCURRY AREA—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health—
- *3124 LANDS BOARD ORDERS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given Mr Anthony Desposito has had his recently erected boundary fence illegally removed by his next door neighbour and that at a subsequent hearing by the Lands Board 5 months ago an order was made by the Chairman of the Lands Board to re-erect this fence immediately but that draft orders, which do not contain this direction were challenged in January 2008 and remain unanswered and unresolved:

- (1) When will the correct orders be issued to Mr Desposito instructing his neighbour to immediately re-erect their adjoining boundary fence?
- (2) When will action be taken against the neighbour to discontinue further damage to the adjoining boundary fence?

Answer—

- (1) The final orders which are correct were posted out by the Registrar of the Metropolitan Land Board on 5 May 2008.
 - (2) No further action can be taken against the neighbour by the Land Board as the Land Board is *functus officio* and legally cannot reopen the dividing fences dispute. In addition, the Department of Lands has no jurisdiction to take action against Mr D'esposito's neighbour in relation to the dividing fence.
- 3125 CLOSURE OF WISEMANS FERRY ROAD—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

15 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 67)

- 3126 SECONDARY SCHOOLS—ECONOMICS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3127 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 3128 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3129 DISCREPANCY IN PUBLISHED INFORMATION—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- *3130 MARKET VALUE OF STATE-OWNED ELECTRICITY GENERATORS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- In the interests of public transparency, will the Minister release the current mark to market position (i.e. current market value) of the state-owned electricity generators and retailers electricity hedging position and a copy of their overall hedging policy?
- Answer—
- I'm advised:
- The overall mark to market position of the state-owned generators and retailers for the half year ended 31 December 2007 is available from the half-yearly reports of the electricity retailers and generators, tabled in parliament.
- The overall hedging policies for the state-owned generators and retailers are contained in NSW Treasury Policy Publication Energy Trading Policy for Generators TPP 99-6, October 1999 and NSW Treasury Policy Publication Energy Trading Policy for Retailers TPP 99-5, October 1999 which are available on the internet at
- http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/Publications/treasury_policy_papers/tpp_1999/etp_gene
- and
- http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/Publications/treasury_policy_papers/tpp_1999/etp_reta
- 3131 STATE-OWNED GENERATORS—COAL COSTS AND CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3132 STATE-OWNED GENERATORS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3133 VALUATION ADVICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3134 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3135 ENERGY CONSUMPTION—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3136 GREENPOWER SCHEME—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- 3137 IMPACT OF GREENPOWER SCHEME—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3138 CLEAN ENERGY ROUNDTABLE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- *3139 LAND AT FAME COVE—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- With reference to Lots 101, 102, 103 and 104 in Deposited Plan 1049845, 409 ha with foreshore on North Arm Cove, Fame Cove and Nanabah Creek, on Port Stephens:
- (1) Does the Minister recognise the community concern regarding the extreme environmental degradation of the land by the current owner?
 - (2) Will the Minister:
 - (a) immediately call in the 409 ha Fame Cove site as a State significant site;
 - (b) issue a "stop work" order on the site for all activity until an updated and thorough environmental and conservation study can be conducted with the support and input of Great Lakes Council;
 - (c) request Great Lakes Council to immediately restore the site to its draft LEP for rezoning to 7a1 Environmental Protection and progress the LEP as a matter of priority;
 - (d) oversight a NSW Government working party of key departments to develop a case for presentation to the Federal Government on a jointly-funded forced acquisition of Fame Cove lands?
- Answer—
- (1) Yes.
 - (2) (a) Yes, I have declared that development on the Fame Cove site is of State and Regional planning significance and made an Order under section 75B of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 that both current and future applications will be dealt with by me under Part 3A of the Act.
 - (b) DECC are currently investigating alleged actions of illegal land clearing.
 - (c) Future landuse options including conservation outcomes for the site will be considered along with future applications and in consultation with Council, DECC and the owner.
 - (d) No.
- 3140 ENFORCEMENT OF SPEED LIMIT ALONG FULLERS ROAD—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3141 SYDNEY FERRIES REVIEW—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3142 ADVANCE NOTICE OF ROADWORKS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3143 ARTARMON RAILWAY STATION—COMMUTERS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3144 COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3145 ABORIGINAL HOUSING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3146 YASS HOSPITAL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3147 WATERFRONT PROPERTIES—HOUSE/LOT NUMBERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3148 BROOKLYN AND DANGAR ISLAND SEWERAGE SYSTEM—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

3149 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING DWELLINGS IN HORNSBY—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

*3150 BEECHWOOD HOMES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

How many families have been affected in the Wallsend electorate by the Beechwood Homes collapse?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

The home warranty insurer, Vero, has advised Fair Trading that 19 insurance certificates were issued to cover the construction of homes in the Wallsend electorate in the last 12 months.

3151 STUDENTS AT PORT HACKING AND JANNALI HIGH SCHOOLS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

*3152 WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

(1) What is the NSW Government's response to State Ombudsman data showing a drop in the number of protected disclosures from 153 in 2000 to 76 in 2007?

(2) How does the NSW Government ensure that public authorities effectively implement the Protected Disclosures Act 1994?

(3) (a) Given recommendations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and support from the NSW Ombudsman, the Protected Disclosures Act Implementation Steering Committee and the Auditor General, will the NSW Government support a Protected Disclosure Unit in the State Ombudsman office?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Ombudsman notes in his Report that whilst the number of protected disclosures received by his office in 2007 has decreased in comparison to previous years, the Ombudsman is not aware of the reasons for this decrease.

All government departments and agencies are required by law to comply with the Protected Disclosures Act 1994. Public agencies must also ensure that employees are informed of the protection provided by the Protected Disclosures Act and the organisation's procedures for making protected disclosures.

3153 SUPPORT FOR CARERS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

3154 EMPLOYEE NUMBERS OUTSIDE NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Minister for Health—

3155 PREPAID BUS TICKETS—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

*3156 IMPACT ASSESSMENT—RAIL LINK CANCELLATION—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

(1) Has your department conducted an impact assessment of the cancellation of the heavy rail North West Rail Link and CBD Rail Link on the metropolitan strategy?

(2) Has your department conducted an impact assessment comparison between the heavy rail North West Rail and CBD Rail Links and the North West Metro Line on the metropolitan strategy?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) No.

(2) The Department of Planning is working with relevant State agencies to optimise land use and transport outcomes for the North West Metro consistent with principles contained in the Metropolitan Strategy.

*3157 LANDCOM LOTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What was the total number of lots held by Landcom as at 9 May 2008?
- (2) How many lots did Landcom sell in the 2007-08 financial year to date?
- (3) What was the total number of lots held by Landcom at the end of the 2006-07 financial year?
- (4) How many lots did Landcom sell in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (5) What was the total number of lots held by Landcom at the end of the 2005-06 financial year?
- (6) How many lots did Landcom sell in the 2005-06 financial year?
- (7) What was the total number of lots held by Landcom at the end of the 2004-05 financial year?
- (8) How many lots did Landcom sell in the 2004-05 financial year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 222
- (2) 502
- (3) 233
- (4) 626
- (5) 133
- (6) 771
- (7) 242
- (8) 804

- 3158 TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3159 DADHC ACCOMMODATION IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3160 RENAL DIALYSIS AT THE TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3161 SIGHTINGS OF BILBIES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3162 SIGHTINGS OF GOLDEN BANDICOOTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3163 SIGHTINGS OF NUMBATS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3164 WARRAGAMBA DAM AUXILIARY SPILLWAY PROJECT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3165 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY STAFF—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3166 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY DEBT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3167 SES VEHICLES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3168 SES VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3169 SES VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3170 SES VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3171 RURAL FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- 3172 RURAL FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3173 RURAL FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3174 SES EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3175 RURAL FIRE SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3176 ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED STUDENTS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3177 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SCHOOLS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3178 PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY—CURRAWONG BEACH—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3179 REPLACEMENT OF SICK BUS DRIVERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3180 PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—

- *3181 MINISTERIAL REVIEW PANEL ON CURRAWONG—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What remuneration arrangements have been entered into with each of the members of the Ministerial Review Panel on Currawong?

Answer—

The appointment of any Independent Panel is consistent with NSW Government policy namely "Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members - Appointment and Remuneration".

- *3182 APPLICATIONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Is it lawful for an officer of the NSW Ombudsman's Office to alter the wording of an application for information under the Freedom of Information Act 1988 without the approval of the applicant?

Answer—

The Ombudsman has the power to make recommendations regarding the handling of applications by NSW Government agencies when a complaint has been made to his Office. The wording of an application, however, remains a matter for the complainant. If a complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of a review by the Ombudsman, and is still unhappy with a determination of an agency, he or she may consider applying to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for a review of the agency's determination.

- *3183 GROWTH CENTRES CORPORATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What was the total remuneration paid to the Growth Centres Corporation for each of the following years:

- (a) 2005;
- (b) 2006;
- (c) 2007?

Answer—

- (1) There is no authority by the name Growth Centres Corporation. There is, however, an authority named the Growth Centres Commission.

- (2) If the Honourable member is seeking funding provided to the Growth Centres Commission from the Consolidated Fund, I refer the Honourable member to Treasury Budget Papers (Budget Paper Number 3) in respect to the 2005/06; 2006/07; and 2007/08 fiscal years, located on the Treasury website, www.treasury.nsw.gov.au
- (3) If the Honourable member is seeking details of remuneration payments paid by the Growth Centres Commission to its staff or the Growth Centres Commission Board, I refer the Honourable member to the Growth Centres Commission 2005/06 and 2006/07 fiscal years Annual Reports which are available on the Growth Centres Commission website, www.gcc.gov.au. In respect to the 2007/08 Annual Report, this will be available later in the year.

*3184 INDEPENDENT HEARING ASSESSMENT PANEL ON CURRAWONG—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What remuneration arrangements have been entered into with each of the members of the Independent Hearing Assessment Panel on Currawong?

Answer—

The appointment of any Independent Panel is consistent with NSW Government policy namely "Guidelines for NSW Board and Committee Members - Appointment and Remuneration".

3185 FUNDING OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

16 MAY 2008

(Paper No. 68)

*3186 ONE STEEL EXPANSION OF ROOTY HILL PLANT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Has One Steel, the operators of the Sydney Steel Mill, indicated their intention to expand the production at their Rooty Hill plant?
- (2) Has the company indicated its desire to increase production from about 570 kilo tonnes to 750 kilo tonnes per year?
- (3) Has the Director General issued any instructions, guidelines or requirements to this company to advance this proposal?
- (4) In determining this proposal will it be a requirement that noise levels and emissions are not to increase as a result of this increase in production?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The proposed expansion of the mill will only be approved if OneSteel can demonstrate that noise impacts of the mill are acceptable having regard to the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

*3187 STATE-OWNED GENERATORS—MINUTES OF BOARD MEETINGS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In the interests of public transparency, will the Minister release minutes of Board meetings of state-owned generators for the past five years showing how decisions were made in relation to annual dividends?

Answer—

The minutes of the Board meetings of the state-owned generators will not be released because they contain commercial-in-confidence information. The dividends of all state-owned businesses are governed by the NSW Treasury, Financial Distribution Policy for Government Businesses, TPP 02-3, June 2002, which is publicly available on the NSW Treasury website (www.treasury.nsw.gov.au).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- 3188 BLUE POWER—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3189 SOLAR POWER TARIFF—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3190 IPTAAS PAYMENTS—Mr Thomas George to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3191 SNOWY HYDRO CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3192 KANGALOON BOREFIELD—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3193 DESALINATION PLANT—BUNGENDORE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3194 ENERGY USE IN PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCIES—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- *3195 USE OF PAPER BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- (1) How many reams of paper were ordered across all Government departments' public sector agencies through the previous year?
 - (2) Is the Government monitoring and limiting its use of paper?
- Answer—
- (1) Under the NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) government agencies and state-owned corporations are required to report on paper purchased for a continuous 12 month period within a 2-year timeframe. The data from the 2005-07 reporting period is currently being finalised, and will be made publicly available once this is completed.
 - (2) The WRAPP Progress report is released biennially and enables the Government and individual agencies to monitor trends in paper waste generation and disposal, and paper recycling and purchasing. The WRAPP encourages agencies to demonstrate continuous improvement in reducing paper waste and use.
- The NSW Government's new Sustainability Policy requires that a minimum of 85 percent of all copy paper purchased by budget-dependent agencies in 2014 contain recycled content.
- 3196 BOWRAL COURTHOUSE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 3197 GOULBURN WATER SUPPLY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3198 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3199 CARBON EMISSIONS FROM COAL-FIRED ELECTRICITY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3200 RESIDENTIAL REBATE RAINWATER TANK PROGRAMME—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3201 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING HOMES FOR DISABLED TENANTS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- *3202 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN—DEE WHY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Are you aware of community concerns about the proposed Local Environment Plan changes that would facilitate up to 18-storey buildings in the Dee Why town centre, and if so, what issues will you be considering in making a decision on the LEP pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?

Answer—

I am aware of community concerns and will consider the issues raised in public submissions to the draft LEP, when I receive the section 69 report.

*3203 CHANGES TO THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN—DEE WHY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Will the Minister take into account the massive increase in height of the proposed 18-storey buildings in the proposed LEP changes for the Dee Why town centre and what is the time frame for consideration of the proposed changes in the LEP being sent to the Minister by Warringah Council?

Answer—

- (1) The increase in height of the buildings in the Dee Why town Centre will be fully considered.
- (2) As soon as feasible.

*3204 REDEVELOPMENT OF DEE WHY TOWN CENTRE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

As it has been suggested that the redevelopment of Dee Why town centre can be achieved without agreeing to 18-storey developments, will the Minister review the viability of redevelopment of the Dee Why town centre without reliance on increasing heights to 18 storeys?

Answer—

I will consider the draft LEP and public submissions when they are reported to me.

*3205 PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN—DEE WHY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there are concerns amongst residents of Dee Why that the new LEP provisions recommended by Warringah Council will permit substantial development from approximately 8 storeys to 18 storeys?
- (2) What steps will the Minister take to determine the level of community support and community opposition to the proposal before the Minister considers the council's requested changes?

Answer—

- (1) Yes
- (2) I will review the public submissions when reported to me in the section 69 report.

*3206 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What was the total amount spent on infrastructure pursuant to the State Infrastructure Strategy in 2006-07 and what dollar value was expended on what projects in the same period?

Answer—

I'm advised that:

- (a) the total amount spent on infrastructure in 2006-07 is published in the New South Wales Report on State Finances 2006-07; and
- (b) the dollar value estimated to have been spent on specific projects in 2006-07 (other than commercial in confidence projects) can be derived from the estimated expenditure to 30 June 2006 in 2006-07 Budget Paper No.4 - Infrastructure Statement and the estimated expenditure to 30 June 2007 in 2007-08 Budget Paper No.4 - Infrastructure Statement.

*3207 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) In view of the announcement by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, to put high-speed computers in schools, will the State Government cease its commitment to provide 100,000 new high-speed computers as per the State Infrastructure Strategy?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

(2) If so, what are the projected savings of doing so?

(3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Education and Training.

*3208 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What were the specific expenditure projects between 2006-07 which were described in the State Infrastructure Strategy as being "to meet rising demand" for electricity?

(2) For each project what dollar value was expended?

Answer—

I'm advised:

In 2006-07 the electricity State-owned corporations spent \$2,260 million on capital expenditure. Approximately 40 per cent of that expenditure (i.e. approximately \$900 million) was to meet rising demand.

While there are too many individual projects to provide expenditure on each project, capital expenditure in 2006-07 on the two largest electricity projects was \$20.6 million on the Colongra gas turbine power station and \$13.0 million on the western 500 kV transmission line upgrade. Both of these Projects of State Significance are required to meet rising demand.

3209 TAMWORTH FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3210 FAMILIES NSW PROGRAM VISITS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—

3211 GREENETHORPE CENTENARY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

3212 RENAL PHYSICIAN—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

3213 SHORELINK BUS FLEET—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

3214 RESPITE BLOCKED BEDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

3215 DOCS CASEWORKERS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3216 MOREE POLICE STATION—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

3217 HIGHWAY PATROL CARS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

3218 FOSTER CARERS IN CRONULLA—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3219 YOUNG OFFENDERS CLEANUP PROGRAM—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

3220 SURGICAL PROCEDURE AT BATHURST BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Gerard Martin to ask the Minister for Health—

3221 WALSH BAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

*3222 DELEGATION TO CHINA—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

(1) How many people are travelling on the Premier's May delegation to China using taxpayer funds, and at what cost?

(2) How many people travelled on the Premier's delegation to China last November using taxpayer

funds, and at what cost?

- (3) What countries has the Premier visited as Premier between the China trips?
- (4) Is the Premier hosting any major functions during his May trip to China and at what cost?
- (5) Has the Premier upgraded the nature and value of gifts to those he is meeting with in China since his first trip?

Answer—

The New South Wales Government is focused on attracting more investment and job opportunities into this State. China, which is our largest trading partner, will be a strong source of future investment, tourism and students. The booming Chinese economy offers great potential for the future prosperity of the people of New South Wales.

All travel and other arrangements associated with the Premier's trip were made in accordance with relevant Ministerial Guidelines.

The Premier has not visited any countries as Premier between the China/India trip in November 2007 and the China trip in May 2008.

- 3223 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3224 BELL FAMILY JETTY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3225 TENDER PROCESS AT BLACKWATTLE BAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3226 APPOINTMENT OF JOE SCIMONE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3227 TWEED HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3228 KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3229 WATER MONITORING AT CUDGEN LAKE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3230 SES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3231 UNDERAGE DRINKING—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- *3232 FORCED AMALGAMATIONS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- Will the Minister guarantee that Pittwater Council will not be part of any forced amalgamation of local government areas?
- Answer—
- The Government has a policy of no forced council amalgamations.
- 3233 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROJECTS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- *3234 EVENTS STAGED BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to events staged by religious groups, such as World Youth Day:

- (1) (a) Have any other such events over the last 5 years received support from taxpayers in similar ways?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (b) If so, which events and what was the total cost of taxpayer-funded support for each event?
(2) (a) Are there any other such events planned for which taxpayers would contribute support?
(b) If so, which events and what is the estimated total cost of support for each event?

Answer—

The New South Wales Government through the Community Relations Commission conducts an annual Community Development Grants Program. The Program aims to encourage the participation of people from culturally diverse communities in all aspects of life in New South Wales. Details of the grants to community organisations, including religious groups, over the last five financial years may be found in the Community Relations Commission's annual reports. Grants for 2008 may be found on its website.

- 3235 ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE—DUBBO—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3236 DIVIDING LINES—BELLS LINE OF ROAD—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3237 WORKCOVER CLAIM—MR WOODHOUSE-YOUNG—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3238 COLLAPSE OF BEECHWOOD HOMES—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

3 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 69)

- 3239 MOUNT DRUITT MOTOR REGISTRY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3240 SALE OF POLICE BOAT “NEMESIS”—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3241 SYDNEY VISITOR CENTRE—SYDNEY AIRPORT—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3242 POLICE ESCORTS OF OVERSIZED VEHICLES—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3243 COLLINGWOOD ABORIGINAL PLACE NAME NOMINATION—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3244 GUARDIANSHIP HEARING—EMILY BROWN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3245 LEAD CONTAMINATION AT REID’S FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3246 BOOROWA HOSPITAL STAFFING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3247 FUNDING FOR THE NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3248 FEDERAL BUDGET HEALTH SPENDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

-
- 3249 MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AT HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3250 HERITAGE LISTED BUILDINGS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3251 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3252 MARIAN STREET THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3253 MEN'S SHEDS—NORTHERN SYDNEY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3254 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GRAIN LINES—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3255 MATERNITY UNITS AT HOSPITALS IN THE TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3256 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR A QUARRY AT TERRANORA—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3257 MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR TWEED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3258 WARRAGAMBA DAM AUXILIARY SPILLWAY PROJECT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3259 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—CREDIT RATING—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3260 SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3261 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3262 PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL PROJECT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3263 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—SUPPLY ROOM ACCESS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3264 ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER AND ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3265 INCLUSIVE CAP FOR SMALL PRINCIPAL LOANS—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 3266 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3267 CULOUL RIDGE TRACK—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008**4 JUNE 2008**

(Paper No. 70)

- 3268 DESIGN CODES FOR SINGLE STOREY HOUSES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3269 DRAINAGE SYSTEMS—STATE RAIL PROPERTY—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3270 TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3271 RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES—TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3272 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3273 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3274 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 3275 NSW RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY—Mr Thomas George to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3276 REPAIRS TO DAMAGED ROOFS AND INTERIORS—Mr Thomas George to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3277 COMMUNITY MEALS PROGRAMS FUNDING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3278 GRENFELL MPS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3279 SHAKING BOG CREEK PINE PLANTATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3280 KURING-GAI LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3281 NERINGAH HOSPITAL—PALLIATIVE CARE BEDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3282 ALCOHOL RELATED BREACHES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 3283 JUVENILE CONFERENCING—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 3284 CRONULLA POLICE STATION—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3285 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3286 LIQUOR LICENCE BREACHES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

-
- 3287 PRICING SUBMISSIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3288 RELEASING OF PRISONERS ON REMAND IN PRISON ATTIRE—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 3289 LEAD IN SEDIMENT BELOW ROSEVILLE BRIDGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3290 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF MIDDLE HARBOUR CREEK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3291 SUBURBAN RUN-OFF INTO MIDDLE HARBOUR CREEK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3292 MODIFICATION OF VEHICLE TO CARRY TWO WHEELCHAIRS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3293 GAMBLING REVENUE—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3294 LOW DOSE RADIATION BRACHYTHERAPY—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3295 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3296 TWEED HEADS POLICE STATION—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3297 DOCTOR ACCREDITATION TRAINING—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3298 LIDCOMBE RADIATION CONTROL BRANCH—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3299 LIDCOMBE RADIATION CONTROL BRANCH—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3300 RADIOACTIVE STORAGE FACILITIES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3301 PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL FROM BUSHFIRE COMMITTEE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3302 PUBLIC SCHOOLS—OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE WORK—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3303 NORTHERN BEACHES BUS CANCELLATIONS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3304 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3305 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

-
- 3306 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3307 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3308 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3309 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3310 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

5 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 71)

- 3311 LEADER OF THE NATIONALS—BUDGET REPLY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3312 EXEMPTION OF STAMP DUTY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3313 SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT INPATIENT UNIT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3314 GOSFORD HOSPITAL MANDALA MENTAL HEALTH UNIT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3315 PUBLIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS—MANLY ELECTORATE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3316 FUNDING FOR DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3317 FUNDING FOR MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3318 PRIORITY E7—PEAK HOUR TRAVEL SPEEDS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3319 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3320 "DROP OFF AND GO, PICK UP AND GO"—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

-
- 3321 BUDGET FUNDING FOR CYCLEWAYS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3322 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3323 BUS SERVICES—MANLY ELECTORATE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3324 PREMIER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3325 PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR PORT STEPHENS SCHOOL STUDENTS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3326 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT—HEXHAM—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3327 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3328 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3329 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3330 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3331 KOALA POPULATION—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3332 LAND MANAGEMENT—HAWKESBURY NEPEAN CATCHMENT AREA—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3333 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3334 GREEN WASTE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3335 MOTORSPORT SCHOLARSHIP—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3336 CHILD PROTECTION CASEWORKERS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3337 COLONOSCOPY SERVICES IN YASS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3338 POLICE MOBILE PHONES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3339 RAINWATER TANKS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3340 WATER BUY BACK—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

-
- 3341 ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3342 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3343 POPULATION TRENDS—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3344 BUS TRAFFIC AND SAFETY SENSORS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3345 CLOSE THE GAP STATEMENT OF INTENT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3346 ALCOHOL ACTION PLAN—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3347 FOI CONTRACTS DISCLOSURE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3348 FOX STUDIOS FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3349 PROTECTING TENANTS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 3350 SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3351 REGIONAL BUS PLANNING FORUM—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3352 BUS SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3353 INFRINGEMENTS—EWINGSDALE FIXED SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3354 RIPPLE STRIPS—PACIFIC HIGHWAY—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3355 SYDNEY HARBOUR TUNNEL—UNPAID TOLL—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3356 OLDER DRIVERS—PRACTICAL DRIVING TESTS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3357 FORWARDING OF REGULATION—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3358 FUNDING FOR KINGSCLIFF TAFE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3359 PAYROLL TAX—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3360 BUDGET FUNDING—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3361 NELSON PARADE, HUNTERS HILL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

-
- 3362 ALEXANDRA CANAL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3363 HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3364 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—OPENING DATE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3365 CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3366 WAKEHURST PARKWAY UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3367 VINEYARD RAILWAY STATION—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3368 SCHOFIELDS RAILWAY STATION—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3369 REFUND OF ADDITIONAL PAYMENT—FREEHOLD LAND TITLE—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

6 JUNE 2008

(Paper No. 72)

- 3370 PATIENT ADMISSIONS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3371 ALBURY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3372 BIRTHS TO NSW RESIDENTS AT WODONGA DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3373 RELIANCE ON OIL—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3374 COMMUTER CAR PARKING—KATOOMBA RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3375 FIREWEED MANAGEMENT REVIEW—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3376 FUNDING FOR BEGA VALLEY SHIRE HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3377 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3378 CANCER PATIENTS—Mr Andrew Fraser to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3379 TAFE EQUITY UNITS AND PROGRAMS—Mr Thomas George to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

-
- 3380 NSW GOVERNMENT CAR FLEET—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3381 TESTING OF OLDER DRIVERS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3382 WIND ENERGY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3383 ENVIRONMENT FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3384 UNDERAGE DRINKING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3385 OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE WORK—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3386 RESPITE BEDS—WAKEHURST—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3387 FUNDING FOR RESPITE FACILITIES—WAKEHURST—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3388 NARRABEEN LAKE—CATCHMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3389 DIALYSED BEDS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3390 MENTAL HEALTH BEDS—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3391 HOME OWNERS WARRANTY—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 3392 PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3393 STAPHYLOCOCCUS PATIENTS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3394 DEATHS IN MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3395 REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT 1993—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3396 POLICE PROSECUTOR—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3397 MAIN ROAD 54—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3398 PROGRAMS TO COMBAT PROBLEM GAMBLING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3399 RAILWAY STATION CAR PARKS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3400 HOUSING POLICIES—LOCAL COUNCILS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

-
- 3401 ALLEGED ASSAULT BY TEACHER—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3402 SYDNEY WATER CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR WATER USERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3403 PUBLIC HOUSING—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3404 TRANSIT POLICE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3405 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3406 JUVENILE CONFERENCE PROGRAM—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 3407 FLASHING SPEED WARNING SIGNS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3408 NSW MARITIME—STAFF MORALE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3409 BELL FAMILY JETTY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3410 TENDERS FOR OUTBOARD ENGINES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3411 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3412 OXLEY HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3413 3A APPLICATION—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3414 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT REFORMS—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3415 PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3416 DIESEL-FIRED POWER PLANTS—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3417 COUNCIL LAND SALES—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3418 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Robert Oakeshott to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3419 CLOSURE OF NSW TOURISM INFORMATION OUTLETS—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3420 RIPPLE STRIPS—PACIFIC HIGHWAY—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3421 ACUTE CARE BEDS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3422 TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

-
- 3423 TRAIN SERVICES—TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3424 DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM NELSON PARADE, HUNTERS HILL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3425 CASTLEREAGH LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL DEPOT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3426 ALEXANDRA CANAL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3427 SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY ILLAWARRA AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3428 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3429 NORTHERN SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3430 MONA VALE ROAD UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 3431 DIALYSIS PATIENTS—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3432 YEAR 12 GRADUATES—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3433 CROWN LAND—RIVER STREET, MACKSVILLE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 3434 BUS SERVICES—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3435 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3436 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3437 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3438 BUSHFIRE HAZARDS—BURGESS ROAD FORSTER—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 3439 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3440 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(Paper No. 73)

- 3441 CONTRACTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE TENDERS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) What success have New South Wales businesses had in winning contracts for Department of Defence tenders?
 - (2) What role does the State Government play in promoting New South Wales businesses to win such contracts?
 - (3) How has the performance of New South Wales been in this area in comparison to other States?
- 3442 GOVERNMENT GRANTS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- What was the nature and total amount of grants to Wingecarribee, Goulburn, Mulwaree, Palerang and Upper Lachlan councils in 2006-07 and 2007-08 by the State Government?
- 3443 DEFIBRILLATORS AND OXYVIVA POLICY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Has the Greater Western Area Health Service developed a policy on the storage and use of defibrillators and Oxyviva machines by community health centres?
 - (2) If not, is a policy being developed and if so when will this policy be available to community health centres?
- 3444 BROULA KING GOLD MINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- Why has the Minister not replied to my letter of 19 February 2008 on behalf of Mr H Howard of the Bumbaldry and District Residents Sub-Committee regarding the Department of Water and Energy's approval of the Broula King Gold Mine's bore impact management plan?
- 3445 CHILD OF LIDIA ILIEVSKI AND STEPHEN NEWCOMBE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- Given that the Department of Community Services is now in possession of a sworn statement by Pathologist/Haematologist Dr Michael Innis which attributes the problems of the child of the above parents to a Vitamin K deficiency will he now review the necessity of the child remaining in the care of the Minister?
- 3446 SECURITY FENCE—GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1) When will the security fence for Galston High School be commenced?
 - (2) Where in the 2008-09 Budget Papers does this feature?
- 3447 RENAL DIALYSIS TREATMENT—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many spaces for renal dialysis will be created at Royal North Shore Hospital when Mona Vale Hospital Dialysis unit opens?
 - (2) How many patients per week are currently dialysed at Royal North Shore Hospital?
- 3448 SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) What is the cost to the NSW Health system for treating smoking-related illnesses?
 - (2) What is the cost to the John Hunter and Calvary Mater hospitals for treating smoking-related illnesses?
- 3449 HOUSING IN SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- How much additional housing is planned for Sutherland Shire until 2010?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3454 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING DWELLINGS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many Department of Housing dwellings were there in NSW as at 30 June 2007?
- (2) How many Department of Housing dwellings are there in NSW now?
- (3) How many of these are owned by the NSW Government?
- (4) How many of these are overseen by housing co-operatives?

3455 TERM LIMITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What consideration, if any, has the Government given to setting maximum term limits for local government councillors and for the position of mayor?

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

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

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

- (3) Was the loose gravel as a result of the RTA resurfacing the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill the cause of this accident?

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

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

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

3458 TWEED HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

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

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

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

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

3460 SANDGATE RAIL GRADE SEPARATION—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Did the Government use the biobanking provisions to enable development of the Sandgate rail grade separation?
- (2) Why did GHD describe the Sandgate area as 'potential habitat' of the Green and Golden Bell Frog when National Parks and Wildlife Service has recorded 17 actual sightings in the immediate area?
- (3) Why did the national Parks and Wildlife Service and Department of Planning ignore the Environmental Impact Statement's recommendation that compensatory frog habitat be constructed as part of the project?

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

In relation to Aboriginal Service Programs in New South Wales:

- (1) (a) Considering \$29.6 million was allocated in the 2008-2009 Budget for 22 Aboriginal Community Development Programs in New South Wales, will Kempsey be one of the recipients?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2008

- (b) If so, when will the program commence?
- (2) (a) Will any other areas in the Oxley electorate be subject to this funding?
(b) If not, why?
- (3) (a) Considering \$74 million was allocated in the 2008-2009 Budget for indigenous youth programs in New South Wales, will Kempsey be one of the recipients of this funding?
(b) If so, when will the program commence?
- (4) (a) Will any other areas in the Oxley electorate be subject to this funding?
(b) If not, why?
- 3462 MID NORTH COAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—
- In relation to the workbenches in the Officers' stations at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre:
- (1) (a) Did WorkCover inspect the workbenches following reports staff were being injured from hitting their legs on the workbench supports?
(b) If so, what action has Correctional Centre management taken to rectify the problem?
- (2) Did Correctional Centre management give WorkCover a guarantee the workbenches would be repaired even though the work has not been carried out?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that staff at the Correctional Centre are continuing to sustain injuries from the workbench supports?
- 3463 TRAFFIC SUPERVISOR—OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- Given Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School at Kellyville currently has 650 enrolled students attending the school and given that over 100 of these students have to cross Acres Road every morning and afternoon in order to walk to school, will the Minister advise why the RTA will not allow this school to have an approved traffic supervisor to assist children to cross Acres Road in a safe manner?