



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 191

TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2010

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

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 182 (Including Question Nos 9336 to 9385)	13 April 2010
Q & A No. 183 (Including Question Nos 9386 to 9453)	14 April 2010
Q & A No. 184 (Including Question Nos 9454 to 9532)	15 April 2010
Q & A No. 185 (Including Question Nos 9533 to 9593)	16 April 2010
Q & A No. 186 (Including Question Nos 9594 to 9627)	20 April 2010
Q & A No. 187 (Including Question Nos 9628 to 9679)	21 April 2010
Q & A No. 188 (Including Question Nos 9680 to 9733)	22 April 2010
Q & A No. 189 (Including Question Nos 9734 to 9802)	23 April 2010
Q & A No. 190 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 191 (Including Question Nos 9803 to 9855)	25 May 2010

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9 MARCH 2010

(Paper No. 182)

*9336 SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What are the Government's regulations involving school students standing up while travelling on school buses?
- (2) Do these regulations vary from State-owned school buses to privately-owned school buses?
- (3) How are these regulations enforced?
- (4) How often are inspections required to be carried out on the roadworthiness of privately-owned buses transporting school children?
- (5) How is this regulation enforced?
- (6) Noting figures released by the Office of Transport Safety which indicate there have been 10 reports of wheels detaching from buses since 2004, including an incident at Medowie on 8 February 2010:
 - (a) How many of those buses were from privately-owned bus companies?
 - (b) Where and when did the incidents occur?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Under Clause 94 of the Passenger Transport Regulation 2007 the number of seated and standing passengers authorised to be carried on a bus is specified on a certificate issued by the manufacturer of the bus or by a consulting engineer approved by the Roads and Traffic Authority. In addition, every three children who appear to the bus driver to be under 12 years of age may be counted as two passengers. These requirements apply to both Government and privately operated school buses.

(3) Drivers monitor passenger loadings and bus operators have a contractual obligation to ensure the number of school students conveyed does not exceed the authorised capacity of the bus.

(4) Public passenger vehicles including those transporting school children require two inspections within the 12 month registration period. The first inspection must be undertaken between months three and six after the registration renewal. The second inspection must be undertaken no more than three months before the next registration renewal.

(5) If the vehicle has not had an inspection in the three months before the due date of registration, the vehicle will be placed on the suspension/cancellation queue. The registered operator will be sent a letter of intent to suspend, and will have 28 days to have the vehicle inspected before the registration is suspended. If after 28 days the vehicle has still not been inspected, the registration will be cancelled 14 days later.

(6) (a) The Office of Transport Safety Investigations has received nine reports of wheels detaching from buses since 2004. Eight buses were from privately-owned bus companies across NSW.

The Office of Transport Safety Investigations also received one report of suspected vandalism of a bus where the wheel nuts had been loosened. The driver detected a vibration and stopped the vehicle while exiting the depot. This incident did not result in the wheels detaching from the bus, although this report is included in those received by the Office of Transport Safety Investigations.

(b) I am advised the eight incidents involving privately-owned bus companies occurred on the following dates and locations:

1. 3 November 2004 at Mount Druitt,
2. 14 September 2006 at Macksville,
3. 21 February 2007 at Wagga Wagga,
4. 25 May 2007 at Narooma,
5. 12 December 2007 at Pambula,
6. 12 May 2009 at Bossley Park,
7. 3 November 2009 at Eltham, and
8. 8 February 2010 at Medowie.

*9337 DIALYSIS TREATMENT—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

How many people from the Port Stephens electorate receive dialysis treatment within Hunter New England Area Health Service facilities, including but not limited to John Hunter Hospital and Maitland Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

Thirteen patients from the Port Stephens electorate currently receive dialysis treatment within Hunter New England Area Health Service facilities.

*9338 EMERGENCY WARD PATIENTS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many people presented to the Tomaree Community Hospital emergency ward on:
 - (a) 1 January 2010;
 - (b) 2 January 2010;
 - (c) 3 January 2010;
 - (d) 4 January 2010;
 - (e) 5 January 2010;
 - (f) 6 January 2010;
 - (g) 7 January 2010?
- (2) How many people presented to John Hunter Hospital emergency ward on:
 - (a) 1 January 2010;
 - (b) 2 January 2010;
 - (c) 3 January 2010;
 - (d) 4 January 2010;
 - (e) 5 January 2010;
 - (f) 6 January 2010;
 - (g) 7 January 2010?
- (3) How many people presented to Calvary Mater Hospital emergency ward on:
 - (a) 1 January 2010;
 - (b) 2 January 2010;
 - (c) 3 January 2010;
 - (d) 4 January 2010;
 - (e) 5 January 2010;
 - (f) 6 January 2010;
 - (g) 7 January 2010?
- (4) How many people presented to the Maitland Hospital emergency ward on:
 - (a) 1 January 2010;
 - (b) 2 January 2010;
 - (c) 3 January 2010;
 - (d) 4 January 2010;
 - (e) 5 January 2010;
 - (f) 6 January 2010;
 - (g) 7 January 2010?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The number of presentations to the Tomaree Community Hospital emergency ward was:
 - (a) 112
 - (b) 99
 - (c) 99
 - (d) 69
 - (e) 48
 - (f) 59
 - (g) 53
- (2) The number of presentations to John Hunter Hospital emergency ward was:
 - (a) 222
 - (b) 208
 - (c) 175
 - (d) 178
 - (e) 169
 - (f) 179
 - (g) 171
- (3) The number of presentations to Calvary Mater Hospital emergency ward was:

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- (a) 110
 - (b) 104
 - (c) 86
 - (d) 88
 - (e) 82
 - (f) 81
 - (g) 80
- (4) The number of presentations to the Maitland Hospital emergency ward was:
- (a) 139
 - (b) 118
 - (c) 111
 - (d) 128
 - (e) 96
 - (f) 102
 - (g) 106

*9340 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What social housing projects are taking place in the Bega electorate?
- (2) What is the address of each of these projects?

Answer—

- (1) There are 4 projects in the Bega electorate all under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan.
- (2) All approved projects under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan are listed on Housing NSW's website under Planning Determinations.

*9341 NELLIGEN SPEED LIMIT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Will the Minister lower the speed limit on the Kings Highway to 60 km/h through Nelligen?

Answer—

I am advised that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) undertook a speed zone review on the Kings Highway through Nelligen in late 2008. The RTA found that the existing 80 km/h speed zone is appropriate for the alignment and level of roadside development along the Kings Highway through Nelligen.

As there has been no significant change to land use adjacent to the road, I am advised that the current speed limit is still considered appropriate.

*9342 ELECTRICITY UPGRADE WORKS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—

- (1) What electricity upgrade works are planned to the communities of Nelligen, Durras, Long Beach and Maloneys Beach?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of resident concerns about black outs?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Country Energy is significantly upgrading electricity supply to the communities of Nelligen, Durras, Long Beach and Maloney's Beach.

The main overhead power line that provides electricity to Long Beach and Maloney's Beach passes through heavily timbered areas and high winds can blow tree branches and other vegetation debris into the line, causing outages.

Country Energy has already installed a new underground power line that links Surfside to Long Beach and Maloney's Beach, creating a "ring-feed" which has significantly improved power reliability in and around Maloney's Beach. It also enables Country Energy to temporarily transfer Durras residents to the new line in the event of an outage on their main power line.

Country Energy is currently upgrading the Nelligen electricity network, which will improve power supply reliability and capacity in the area.

In another enhancement project, Country Energy is installing a number of remotely operated network protection devices in strategic locations around the area to minimise the number of customers

affected by power supply interruptions and the time it takes to restore power to those who are affected.

I am also advised that Country Energy will also be progressively upgrading power supply to the Durras area from Batemans Bay, placing parts of this network underground to further improve reliability.

- (2) The Government is committed to ensuring that all energy users in NSW have access to a reliable energy supply. That is why we are investing in upgrades across the electricity network. I understand that Country Energy has previously met, and is arranging further meetings, with members of local community associations to listen to residents' concerns and discuss how current and future upgrades will improve electricity supply in the area.

*9343 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—SYDNEY PORTS CORPORATION—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Sydney Ports Corporation to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Sydney Ports Corporation for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Sydney Ports Corporation to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009/10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Sydney Ports Corporation to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Sydney Ports Corporation to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Sydney Ports Corporation to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

I am advised that Sydney Ports Corporation is compliant with the principles outlined in Section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

The importance of multiculturalism is recognised and valued by all NSW government agencies.

The cost to Sydney Ports Corporation of providing services to comply with the principles is estimated as follows:

Service	Cost 2007-08 FY	Cost 2008-09 FY	Cost 2009-10 FY (to date)
Written material	Nil	Nil	Nil
Multilingual telephone support services	Nil	Nil	Nil
Internet based support services	Nil	Nil	Nil

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Other support services	\$2,413.60	\$1,952.69	\$1,486.94 (as at 18 March 2010)
TOTAL	\$2,413.60	\$1,952.69	\$1,486.94 (as at 18 March 2010)

*9344 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—NSW MARITIME—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the NSW Maritime to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the NSW Maritime for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the NSW Maritime to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the NSW Maritime to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the NSW Maritime to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the NSW Maritime to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

I am advised that NSW Maritime is compliant with the principles outlined in Section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

The importance of multiculturalism is recognised and valued by all NSW government agencies, which are required to make the principles part of their core business through the development of a Multicultural Policies and Services Plan.

I am advised that the cost to NSW Maritime of providing services to comply with the principles cannot be determined.

*9345 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—OFFICE OF CHILDREN—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Education and Training representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth, Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Office of Children to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Office of Children for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Office of Children to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Office of Children to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Office of Children to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Office of Children to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

I am advised that the former Office of Children was compliant with the principles outlined in Section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

The importance of multiculturalism is recognised and valued by all NSW government agencies, which are required to make the principles part of their core business through the development of a Multicultural Policies and Services Plan.

The cost to the former Office of Children of providing services to comply with the principles cannot be determined.

The Office of Children was abolished and its branches were transferred to Communities NSW as part of the restructure of Government departments in July 2009.

The cost to Communities NSW in 2009-10 of providing services to comply with the principles cannot be determined.

*9346 BUDGET ESTIMATES—COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Given that the budget estimates papers for 2009-10 for Community Services identify a reduction in property values from \$71,511,000 budgeted for in 2008-09 to \$55,226,000 revised and a further reduction to \$53,452,000 has been budgeted for this financial year, what are the details of the sales or reductions in values for property, plant and equipment in those two years?
- (2) Given that the budget estimates papers for 2009-10 for Community Services identify "Intangibles" of \$4,522,000 in the 2008-09 budget which was revised up to \$16,897,000 in that financial year and in this financial year is expected to total \$23,362,000, what are these intangibles and why has there been such a large increase in their value?
- (3) Given that the budget estimates papers for 2009-10 for Community Services identify "Accumulated Funds" of \$39,152,000, in what form are these funds kept and why have they risen by almost \$1.5 million in a year?
- (4) Given that the 2009-10 budget estimates papers for Community Services identify employee-related expenses as \$409,396,000, what is the breakdown of these expenses between caseworkers plus their immediate supervisors and all other staff in Community Services?
- (5) Given that the 2009-10 budget estimates papers for Community Services identify "Other Operating Expenses" as \$173,563,000 for 2009-10 and \$151,766,000 for the previous year, what are the expenses for both years?
- (6) Given that the 2009-10 budget estimates papers for Community Services "Grants and Subsidies" have risen from \$682,251,000 in 2008-09 to \$727,261,000 in 2009-10, what grants and subsidy schemes are included and what is the amount by scheme for the two years?

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- (7) Given that the 2009-10 budget estimates papers for Community Services "Other Expenses" have risen from \$195,310,000 in 2008-09 to \$229,877,000 in 2009-10, what is the breakdown of these expenses for the two years?

Answer—

- (1) Significant movements are detailed below:

	\$000
Original Budget 2008-09	71,511
Net revaluation increment - June 2008	9,711
Properties vested to State Property Authority	(29,209)
Other movements	3,213
Revised Budget 2008-09 per BP3	55,226
Capital expenditure 2009/10 included in BP4	155
Asset disposals	(317)
Depreciation	(1,612)
Budget 2009-10 per BP3	53,452

- (2) Significant movements are detailed below:

	\$000
Original Budget 2008-09	4,522
Electronic Records & Document Management	1,560
Community Online Management System	1,333
KiD's Core Redesign	1,750
Community Online Management System	3,650
Helpline Technology refresh	4,000
Other	82
Revised Budget 2008-09 per BP3	16,897
Children Services Integrated Licensing system	703
Electronic Records & Document Management	250
KiD's Core Redesign	9,612
Enterprise Architecture	248
Amortisation	(4,348)
Budget 2009-10 per BP3	23,362

- (3) Accumulated funds reflect the net assets of the Department. As set out in Budget Paper 3 the net assets/accumulated funds are as follows:

	\$000
Cash assets	12,928
Receivables	10,090
Land and Buildings	53,452
Plant and Equipment	67,587
Intangibles	23,362
Payables - current	(37,424)
Provisions - current	(35,241)
Provisions - non-current	(199)
Other	(20,052)
Asset Revaluation Reserves	(35,351)
Accumulated Funds	39,152

The \$1.4 million increase in accumulated funds over the 2008-09 projection reflects the net movement in asset and liability values over that period of time.

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(4) Breakdown as follows:

2009-10 Budget	\$000
Caseworkers	204,553
Casework Managers	39,616
Other	165,227
	409,396

It should be noted that the \$165.2 million also includes other direct service delivery staff such as Managers Client Services, who supervise Casework Managers, and Service Support Managers, Customer Service Officers and Senior Customer Service Officers who support Caseworkers and deal with clients over the counter and Psychologists.

(5) Other Operating Expenses includes such items as: Advertising and promotions (including sector wide recruitment of foster carers); Consultants; Utilities; Insurance; Motor vehicle expenses; Property rental expenditure; Telecommunications costs; Travel and accommodation; Shared service fees; Training and development; Professional fees; Stationary, printing and staff amenities; Recruitment and relocation costs; Security services; Legal expenses; Cleaning; Corporate information and technology costs; and Repairs and maintenance.

(6) Breakdown as follows:

	Revised Budget 2008-09 \$000	Budget 2009-10 \$000
Community development & capacity building	42,179	42,276
Crisis support	125,632	127,288
Disaster response services	1,413	1,400
Concessions and charitable programs	8,151	6,731
Pre-school and child care services	142,103	164,246
Contracted early intervention services	38,250	49,870
Contracted child protection services	82,366	89,832
Contracted residential care and support	239,370	242,858
Other minor grants	2,787	2,760
	682,251	727,261

(7) Breakdown as follows:

	Revised Budget 2008-09 \$000	Budget 2009-10 \$000
Foster care allowances & assoc costs	191,249	222,242
Early intervention support for families	1,026	3,777
Child protection support for families	3,035	3,858
	195,310	229,877

*9351 NSW FIRE BRIGADES UNIFORMS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) Are all NSW Fire Brigades uniforms manufactured in Australia?
- (2) If not, in which country/countries are they manufactured?
- (3) Do all NSW Fire Brigades uniforms use Australian fabrics?
- (4) If not, in which country/countries do the fabrics originate?

Answer—

A breakdown of the major items of NSWFB Uniforms and Personal Protective Clothing and their country of manufacture as well as the country of origin of the fabric is shown in the attached table:

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Uniform Item	Country of Manufacture	Country of Origin of Fabric
Shirt - Duty Wear	Australia	Australia
Trouser - Duty Wear	Australia	UK
Turnout Clothing (tunic + overtrousers)	Australia	Australia
Coat - Bushfire	Australia	Australia
Boots - Firefighting	Australia	-
Gloves - Fire fighting	Austria	-
Helmet - Firefighting	New Zealand	-
Hood - Heat Protective	Australia	Australia
Trousers - Dress	Australia	Australia
Skirt - Dress	Australia	Australia
Shirt - Dress	Australia	Australia
Shoes - Men's lace up	Australia	-
Shoes - Ladies' lace up	Australia	-
Cap - Peaked	Sri Lanka	Australia
Coat - Winter	China	Korea
Coat - Galatea	Australia	Australia
Accoutrements - Rank Insignia	Australia	China
Accoutrements - Uniform Buttons	Australia	Australia

*9352 SINKING OF HMAS ADELAIDE—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

- (1) How much will the sinking of HMAS Adelaide off Terrigal cost NSW taxpayers?
- (2) How much did it cost to acquire and make ready HMAS Adelaide for sinking?

Answer—

I am advised:

Under the Deed of Gift between the Australian and New South Wales Governments, the ex-HMAS ADELAIDE was provided to New South Wales at no cost. The Australian Government has provided \$5.8 million to prepare and sink the vessel off the Central Coast.

*9353 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In (a) 2008 and (b) 2009, how many traffic accidents occurred in the electorates of:

- (i) Terrigal;
- (ii) Gosford;
- (iii) The Entrance;
- (iv) Wyong?

[If figures are collated by postcode, please advise for the following postcodes: 2250, 2251, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263].

Answer—

I am advised:

Electorate	Electorate	Total Crashes (Reported)
Terrigal	2008	280
	2009	267
Gosford	2008	632
	2009	588
The Entrance	2008	369
	2009	346
Wyong	2008	354
	2009	353

*9354 NEW TAX LEVY ON CARS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the new tax levy imposed on cars weighing more than 975 kg:

- (1) What is the total number of cars that will be affected by the levy in postcodes:
 - (a) 2250;
 - (b) 2251;
 - (c) 2259;
 - (d) 2260;
 - (e) 2261;
 - (f) 2262;
 - (g) 2263?
- (2) What is the total number of vehicles affected in NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The NSW Government allocated a record \$4.4 billion towards roads in the 2009/10 budget. Rural and regional roads in NSW were allocated \$3.1 billion, or 71% of that funding.

The increase in the motor vehicle weight charge will mean motorists will be paying an increase of between \$5 and \$30 for vehicles over 975 kg which equates to less than 60 cents per week.

*9355 FUNDING FOR WARRAH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Education and Training—

What is the State Grant funding and Recurrent Commonwealth Grant funding for the year 2010 for Warrah School in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

The Warrah School attracts a Supervisor Subsidy and Per Capita Allowance from the NSW Government to support students with an intellectual disability. As at the February 2010 school census, the school had 16 eligible students enrolled. So far in 2010, the school has received \$80,559.02 in NSW Government funding.

Commonwealth funding provided to Warrah School does not come through my Education Portfolio Budget. The information can be obtained directly from the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

*9356 "BETWEEN THE FLAGS"—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

How would the death of Vanessa Anderson have been averted using the new "Between the Flags" observation sheets?

Answer—

The "Between the Flags" program is a key patient safety program to enable earlier recognition and appropriate clinical response to a deterioration in a patient's condition.

I am advised that the program is an Australian first and has been welcomed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality of Health Care.

As noted by the Coroner, the tragic death of Vanessa Anderson was due to a number of factors and I am advised that it is not clinically possible to single out one of these factors as being primarily responsible.

Since 2008 the Government has taken decisive action to improve clinical systems both at local and state level.

*9357 DNA TESTING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

In the light of there being one pathologist to 270 police officers in NSW for DNA testing, with other States having a much higher ratio of pathologists, when will the low NSW ratio of pathologists to police be addressed?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the Division of Analytical Laboratories, the primary service provider for DNA analysis in NSW, is part of NSW Health. The Member's question should therefore be directed to the Minister for Health.

*9361 GROWTH IN CYCLING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Noting that there are increasing reports of increased numbers of people cycling in all Australian cities:

- (1) What data does the NSW Government have about the number of people cycling to work and for recreation over the past 10 years, and is this number increasing or decreasing?
- (2) Noting the release of the 2009 Victorian Cycling Strategy and its action in response to this growth in cycling, what action has the NSW Government taken to:
 - (a) improve the cycling network within 10km of the CBD, as in Victoria;
 - (b) establish a public bike hire scheme, as in Victoria;
 - (c) install bike cages at train stations, as in Victoria;
 - (d) complete cycling networks in central activity districts and regional centres, as in Victoria;
 - (e) develop bicycle facilities as part of major transport projects, as in Victoria;
 - (f) introduce safe cycling programs in schools, road user education and a 'look out for cyclists' campaign to educate other road users about cyclist safety, as in Victoria;
 - (g) review bicycle accident patterns to develop preventive measures?
- (3) Noting the evidence in support of separation of fast-moving heavy vehicles from slow-moving vulnerable cyclists, what plans does the NSW Government have to increase the number and distance of separated cycle routes available in order to reduce potential conflicts?
- (4) What plans does the NSW Government have to implement these and other measures to support cycling?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Government's own relevant datasets show that there has been a net increase across NSW as a whole, in cycling for all purposes over the past 10 years.
- (2) (a) The RTA has allocated approximately \$2.7 million since 2010 to bicycle projects delivered in partnership with local councils within 10 kilometres of (and including) the City of Sydney. As this funding has been provided under a 50/50 program it has resulted in a total value of more than \$5.4 million being completed by the following councils: Ashfield, Botany Bay, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Randwick, Sydney, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra.

In addition under the recently released Metropolitan Transport Plan, the NSW Government has allocated \$158 million towards construction of the major missing links in the Sydney Metropolitan Strategic Cycle Network, including those within the 10km radius of the CBD.

(b) Public bicycle hire or sharing schemes are planned and operated at the local level. The City of Sydney has shown its intention to introduce bicycle hire or sharing scheme, subject to further investigation and potentially in partnership with one or more adjoining local councils.

(c) Through NSW Transport and Infrastructure, the NSW Government has been administering the Bike Locker Scheme at selected train stations across Greater Metropolitan Region. There are now over 1,200 secure bicycle lockers for hire at more than 140 locations across the NSW public transport network allowing people to combine cycling with public transport.

Further, secure bicycle storage, such as bike lockers and/or bike racks will be provided through railway stations upgrades and development of new commuter car parks, where practicable/possible.

(d) The NSW Government continues to assist local councils, through dollar-for-dollar funding, in the development of local cycleway networks. As planning for local cycleways is a matter for individual councils, the implementation of any works is subject to a council's particular priorities. In 2009/10 more than \$4.7 million has been allocated by the RTA to 50/50 fund over 90 discrete local cycleway projects in 77 local government areas across NSW.

(e) The NSW Government is committed to improving cyclist safety via the provision of off-road cycleways wherever practicable when major roads are built or upgraded. These include both sealed shoulders and paths shared with pedestrians. Bicycle facilities have been and continue to be delivered as part of all major road infrastructure projects (e.g. the shared off-road path along the southern side of Epping Road from Mowbray Road to Pacific Highway constructed as part of the Lane Cove Tunnel project) and more recently as part of the new transport interchanges and commuter car parks.

In addition, the NSW BikePlan supports the provision of bicycle parking at major transport interchanges, to facilitate the use of cycling to access other transport modes.

(f) The RTA in partnership with NSW educational institutions has an extensive road safety program regarding safe road use and improving the environment around schools. The program includes a

strong focus on how to get around on foot or by bicycle safely. The RTA undertakes bicycle education programs in primary and high schools and provides safety information to bicycle centres and shops in NSW. The RTA also funds bicycle safety educational initiatives as part of the Local Government Road Safety Program during NSW Bike Week.

The RTA has produced a range of educational and awareness information, including the driver's handbook to highlight the safety of vulnerable users such as cyclists, and a handbook for bicycle riders. The road user handbooks and licence test requirements are regularly reviewed.

Also the RTA provides the "Road User Handbook", available through the RTA website and motor registries, containing safety tips for motorists to consider when driving near bicycle riders. Furthermore, the RTA communicates safety messages about cyclists to drivers via variable message signs on the road network, and on motor vehicle registration stickers.

Under the NSW Road Rules 2008 cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers. All road users must obey the law and drive, ride or walk sensibly.

(g) The RTA constantly reviews its pedal cycle crash statistics to develop preventative measures. Crash trends are used to identify the type of preventative measures that may be needed including education and engineering countermeasures.

- (3) It is NSW Government policy to deliver cycleways as off-road facilities wherever practicable when funded by the RTA or another government agency. Cycleway projects funded on a dollar-for-dollar basis with local councils are delivered by these councils as a mixture of off-road facilities and routes on quiet local streets away from busy traffic.

The 10-year funding program of \$158 million for cycleway construction, recently announced by the NSW Government in the Metropolitan Transport Plan, will deliver cycleway missing links in line with this approach. This will add to the length of the cycleway network available for use by NSW bike-riders who wish to avoid any potential conflict with motor vehicles including trucks.

- (4) The NSW State Plan updated in 2010 includes a new target to increase the mode share of all bicycle trips of less than 10km made in the Greater Sydney region to 5% by 2016.

The NSW BikePlan to be released in 2010 will outline how the Government agencies can work together - and in partnership with local councils, communities and businesses - to grow cycling over the next five, 10 and 20 years.

*9362 FOI APPLICATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Why was it required to send four separate cheques on four separate occasions before being permitted to receive any documents relating to my FOI application concerning Ku-ring-gai planning matters and the Treadstone Report?
- (2) Why has the response to the above FOI application, dating back to mid-November 2009, taken so long to properly address?

Answer—

- (1) The initial cheque was the Freedom of Information application fee required by s.17 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The second and third cheques were advance deposits requested to cover most of the anticipated costs involved in dealing with the application, as provided for in section 21 of the FOI Act. Advance deposits are commonly requested where it appears to the agency that the cost of dealing with the application will exceed the application fee.

The fourth amount was charged on determination of the application, as required by s.28 of the FOI Act, to cover any costs incurred and not covered by the application fee and advance deposits.

The Department does not release documents under FOI until all processing charges have been paid, in accordance with the intent of section 67(2)(b) of the FOI Act.

- (2) As a result of the advance deposit requests stopping the clock on the application, the due date for Mr O'Dea's application was 25 January 2010.

However, due to an influx of applications around that period, the final determination was made on 19 February 2010.

*9363 NSW INFORMATION COMMISSIONER—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

- (1) When was the new position of NSW Information Commissioner announced by the NSW

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Government?

- (2) What is the reason for the long delay in the appointment of this important new position?
- (3) When will the new appointee commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 1 April 2010, the Acting Information Commissioner announced that the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Office of the Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission is considering the Attorney General's recommendation that Ms Deirdre O'Donnell be appointed as New South Wales' inaugural Information Commissioner.

As Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman, Ms O'Donnell has led the TIO scheme through unprecedented growth over the past two years. From 2002 to 2007, Ms O'Donnell was the Western Australian Ombudsman and was the first woman to be appointed to the position. Her other roles include serving as State Records Commissioner, a member of the Western Australian Integrity Coordinating Group, and the Energy Ombudsman Western Australia. Ms O'Donnell received a Public Service Medal in 2008 for her outstanding contribution.

If the Joint Committee does not oppose the Attorney General's recommendation, the proposed appointment of Ms O'Donnell will be referred to the Governor for her consideration.

*9365 BACK TO SCHOOL HOTLINE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many calls has the Back to School Hotline received between its commencement and 12 February 2010?
- (2) Where was the call centre for the Back to School Hotline located?
- (3) How many staff worked in this call centre on a daily basis?
- (4) In total, what were the costs to the NSW Government for this hotline, broken down into the following categories:
 - (a) staff wages;
 - (b) marketing and advertisement costs;
 - (c) other costs?

Answer—

- (1) 562 phone calls and 311 emails.
- (2) Level 3, Department of Education and Training State Office, 33-35 Bridge Street, Sydney 2000.
- (3) One permanent staff member and an additional casual staff member.
- (4) (a) \$11,716 (\$5,858 1 x permanent employee; \$5,858 1 x casual employee).
(b) Nil. Contact details for the service were publicised by way of press release and on the Department's website.
(c) Nil.

*9366 DALWOOD ASSESSMENT CENTRE AND PALM AVENUE SCHOOL—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) Given that the Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School is scheduled to close and a new program would be introduced to cater for children with learning difficulties at Westmead Children's Hospital, what type of program is to replace the program that was in place at Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School?
- (2) What testing and research has been undertaken to indicate that the program to be introduced at Westmead Children's Hospital for the children will be more successful than the program at Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School?
- (3) Which reports (if any) have been produced to indicate that the program in place at Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School is not successful for the children?
- (4) Given the Minister was quoted in the Manly Daily on 14 December 2009 as saying "The advances (the students) make while they're at Dalwood don't necessarily last. (Students) go back to their local school and then when we look at them a year later, they haven't necessarily maintained those gains", will the Minister direct me to the source of this information that indicates that the children are not succeeding in their individual tailored programs?
- (5) Is the program that is to be introduced at Westmead a pilot program?

Answer—

- (1) The joint assessment and intervention services provided by Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School were not and are not scheduled to close. An Expert Advisory Panel is looking at the ways in which services for children with complex reading difficulties who live in remote areas of New South Wales can be improved.
- (2) The Expert Advisory Panel is currently considering how the assessment and interventions services will best operate to support children with complex reading difficulties who live in remote areas of New South Wales. The panel is drawing on national and international research and best practice models to identify the most appropriate assessment and interventions for students with complex reading difficulties living in remote areas.
- (3) In 2008, Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School provided data on students who attended the residential program between 2003 and 2008. Data collected included "pre intervention", "post intervention" and some months later "follow up". The Department provided an analysis of the raw performance and growth data supplied by the joint service in four areas: word identification, word attack, passage comprehension, and spelling.
- (4) The Department's analysis of data, provided by Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School in 2008, from student testing at the conclusion of the residential program ('post test') and again twelve months later ("follow up") showed a significant decline in student outcomes both in terms of percentage of students failing to maintain gains and in mean months below expected performance.

This information was provided in response to Standing Order 52 - Order for Papers - Dalwood Assessment Centre issued on 11 November 2009.

- (5) The Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School assessment and intervention services are not pilot programs.

*9368 ORGAN DONATIONS FROM THE TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

How many organ donations were made from the Tweed Hospital during:

- (a) 2007;
- (b) 2008;
- (c) 2009;
- (d) year to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Federal Government's \$151 million initiative to provide World's Best Practice for organ and tissue donation and transplantation led to the establishment by NSW Health in 2009 of the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service to coordinate organ and tissue donation services in NSW.

NSW Health will continue to work closely with the Australian Organ and Tissue Authority to raise awareness and improve organ donor rates.

The number of donations made from the Tweed Hospital for the period in question was:

- (a) 0
- (b) 1
- (c) 1
- (d) 0

Please note that some patients may be referred to other hospitals for more specialised care and then go on to be organ donors. These data does do include such cases.

*9369 CANCER PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT THE TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients are being treated for breast cancer at the Tweed Hospital during:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) year to date?
- (2) How many patients are being treated for ovarian cancer at the Tweed Hospital during:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) year to date?

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- (3) How many patients are being treated for prostate cancer at the Tweed Hospital during:
- 2008;
 - 2009;
 - year to date?
- (4) How many patients are being treated for bowel cancer at the Tweed Hospital during:
- 2008;
 - 2009;
 - year to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) 197
(b) 276
(c) 233
- (2) (a) 14
(b) 15
(c) 11
- (3) (a) 50
(b) 56
(c) 45
- (4) (a) 145
(b) 170
(c) 126

*9370 MOBILE SPEED CAMERAS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Are there any mobile speed cameras that have been deployed in school zones within the Tweed electorate in the last 12 months?
- (2) If so:
- in which schools they have been used;
 - for what period of time have they been used?
- (3) If not, why?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) I am advised that there are currently no mobile speed cameras operating in school zones in the Tweed electorate. The NSW Police Force operated 20 vehicle mounted mobile speed cameras using radar and outdated wet-film technology until late 2008.

Following the end of this program, there have been no mobile speed cameras operating in NSW, however on 29 March 2010 the NSW Government announced that a mobile speed camera program would be re-introduced to curb the state's rising road toll.

The program will commence on 19 July 2010 and work is now underway to determine suitable locations for mobile speed camera enforcement. The site selection criteria will be developed by the NSW Centre for Road Safety in consultation with the NSW Police Force and the NRMA. Mobile speed cameras will be deployed across NSW, including the Tweed electorate, and school zones will be included for consideration when the crash analysis is undertaken by the RTA.

*9371 BED OCCUPANCY RATE—ROYAL PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What was the bed occupancy rate at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in:

- January 2009;
- February 2009;
- March 2009;
- April 2009;
- May 2009;
- June 2009;

- (g) July 2009;
- (h) August 2009;
- (i) September 2009;
- (j) October 2009;
- (k) November 2009;
- (l) December 2009;
- (m) January 2010?

Answer—

Annual bed occupancy days for each hospital in NSW are reported in the NSW Health Services Comparison Data Book (the Yellow Book) which can be found on NSW Health's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au. Occupancy rates will vary according to the type of clinical service, time of the year, geographical location and models of clinical care for the particular service.

*9372 BED OCCUPANCY RATE—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What was the bed occupancy rate at Sutherland Hospital in:

- (a) October 2009;
- (b) November 2009;
- (c) December 2009;
- (d) January 2010?

Answer—

Annual bed occupancy days for each hospital in NSW are reported in the NSW Health Services Comparison Data Book (the Yellow Book) which can be found on NSW Health's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au. Occupancy rates will vary according to the type of clinical service, time of the year, geographical location and models of clinical care for the particular service.

*9373 BED OCCUPANCY RATE—LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What was the bed occupancy rate at Liverpool Hospital in:

- (a) January 2009;
- (b) February 2009;
- (c) March 2009;
- (d) April 2009;
- (e) May 2009;
- (f) June 2009;
- (g) July 2009;
- (h) August 2009;
- (i) September 2009;
- (j) October 2009;
- (k) November 2009;
- (l) December 2009;
- (m) January 2010?

Answer—

Annual bed occupancy days for each hospital in NSW are reported in the NSW Health Services Comparison Data Book (the Yellow Book) which can be found on NSW Health's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au. Occupancy rates will vary according to the type of clinical service, time of the year, geographical location and models of clinical care for the particular service.

*9374 WARATAH PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

What is the latest information regarding the future plans for Waratah Park (Crown Land Lot 445/824043)?

Answer—

The lease over lot 445 DP824043 will be terminated for non-compliance with the lease conditions. Long term future options for this site are yet to be determined.

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*9375 PRINCES HIGHWAY CLEARWAY PROPOSAL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given that shopkeepers have commissioned McLaren Traffic Engineering to provide a report to the RTA on the plans to introduce a clearway on the Princes Highway through Heathcote, what is the Minister's response to this report?
- (2) Has the Minister read the report?
- (3) Will the RTA continue to introduce a clearway on the Princes Highway through Heathcote?
- (4) What are the most recent daily traffic volume figures on the Princes Highway through Heathcote?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The RTA is continuing to evaluate responses to community consultation regarding the proposed Heathcote Clearway.

*9376 PRINCES HIGHWAY HEAVY VEHICLES DETOUR—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What was the outcome of the meeting between the Minister and Kiama Council staff to discuss heavy vehicle detours on the Princes Highway?
- (2) What advice has the Minister received from the RTA regarding delays for truck drivers in the Kiama area following accidents?
- (3) How many truck stops are located on the Princes Highway?
- (4) For (3), what are the locations of these stops, and approximate distances (km) between them?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) to (4) Officers from the RTA and both Kiama and Shoalhaven Council are working together with regard to incident response plans on the Princes Highway between Nowra and Gerringong.

The Princes Highway between Kiama and Bomaderry currently has no viable detour for heavy vehicles due to the load restrictions placed on The Sandtrack by local councils.

The RTA is working with all stakeholders in altering current practices for use of alternate routes during times of prolonged incidents on the Princes Highway.

There are four major rest stops and a total of 20 informal truck parking bays along the Princes Highway. Early planning work has started on a further five heavy vehicles rest areas.

*9377 PROPOSED M5 EXPANSION—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Does the proposed M5 Expansion plans include noise barriers?
- (2) If no to (1), why?
- (3) If yes to (1), would these plans include noise barriers across the M5 bridge over the Georges River?
- (4) Given that the community has been lobbying the NSW Labor Government and the RTA for noise barriers across the M5 bridge over the Georges River since 2001, why have their repeated requests been denied?
- (5) What are the current average decibel levels along the M5?
- (6) What are the expected average decibel levels along the M5 following the expansion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is currently assessing the environmental impacts of the M5 West Widening proposal between Camden Valley Way, Prestons and King Georges Road, Beverly Hills as part of the NSW Government's expansion of the M5 corridor. These investigations will identify predicted changes to noise levels and will recommend appropriate improvements, which may include noise walls or other forms of acoustic treatment. The need for noise barriers on bridges along relevant sections of the M5 will also form part of the assessment. This includes the Georges River Bridge.

The noise level experienced at any particular property depends on distance from the motorway, topography, road alignment and existing natural or constructed noise mitigation measures. It is therefore not feasible to apply an average noise level to adjacent properties. The current environmental assessment will predict changes to noise levels at affected locations along the length of the motorway.

*9378 NIMBIN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) When will the Nimbin Environmental Centre's move to have cattle farming declared a "key threatening process" under the NSW Fisheries Act go before the expert panel of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the Nimbin Environmental Centre's media representative is Mr Peace Freeborn?

Answer—

This matter is the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Hon Steve Whan MP, Minister for Primary Industries.

*9379 FINES ISSUED—SPEEDING IN SCHOOL ZONE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

How many motorists have been fined for exceeding the 40 km/h speed limit in the school zone outside St Bernadette's Primary School in Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, in each of the following months:

- (a) November 2009;
- (b) May 2009;
- (c) November 2008;
- (d) May 2008;
- (e) November 2007;
- (f) May 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

In relation to the school zone outside St Bernadette's Primary School in Castle Hill, motorists exceeding the 40 km/h speed limit were issued with:

- (a) 290 fines in November 2009;
- (b) 255 fines in May 2009;
- (c) 298 fines in November 2008;
- (d) 280 fines in May 2008;
- (e) 232 fines in November 2007;
- (f) 412 fines in May 2007.

*9380 SPEED CAMERA—BELLS LINE OF ROAD—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

How many motorists were caught speeding by the camera on the Bells Line of Road at Kurrajong in each of the following months:

- (a) December 2009;
- (b) June 2009;
- (c) December 2008;
- (d) June 2008;
- (e) December 2007;
- (f) June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised

In relation to the fixed speed camera on the Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong: 318 fines were issued to motorists in December 2009; 315 fines issued in June 2009; 455 fines issued in December 2008; 393 fines issued in June 2008; 576 fines issued in December 2007; and 409 fines issued in June 2007.

*9381 CARGO ROAD, ORANGE—ROAD ACCIDENTS AND DEATHS—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many traffic/road-related accidents have occurred on the Cargo Road between Orange and Cargo within the current 100 km/h sections in each financial year from 2004-05 to date?
- (2) How many people have died in traffic/road-related accidents on the Cargo Road between Orange and Cargo within the current 100 km/h sections in each financial year from 2004-05 to date?

Answer—

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I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There were 51* crashes within the current 100 km/h speed zones between Cargo and Orange during the period 2004 to 2009 and no fatal crashes.

The number of crashes is recorded in calendar years and are as follows:

- 2004 - 7 crashes.
- 2005 - 13 crashes.
- 2006 - 7 crashes.
- 2007 - 7 crashes.
- 2008 - 8 crashes.
- 2009 - 9* crashes.

* Please note that data for 2009 is provisional only and is therefore subject to change.

*9382 CARGO ROAD, ORANGE—REDUCED SPEED LIMIT—Mr Russell Turner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given that the RTA has signalled that they will reduce the speed limit on the Cargo Road to Orange from 100 km/h to 80 km/h:
- (a) Why was there no formal public consultation held with the Cargo community?
 - (b) Why were local councillors at Carbone Shire Council not consulted about the speed limit change?
 - (c) Who was consulted about the speed limit change prior to the announcement?
 - (d) If a response was received from any consultations, were the parties in agreement to the proposed reduction in the speed limit?
- (2) Given that the RTA admitted that they had reviewed safety issues on the road in August 2009, why did they not hold public consultations about the potential speed limit change during this review?
- (3) How much money would be required to upgrade the road to a satisfactory condition allowing a 100 km/h speed limit?
- (4) How much has the NSW Government spent on road maintenance of the Cargo Road for each financial year from 2004-05 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) In August 2009, the RTA wrote to Cabonne and Orange Councils, and NSW Police regarding the findings of the speed zone review and requesting comments. It was also requested that the Councils pass the review on to their local traffic committees for consideration and comment.

No comment was received from either Council until November (Cabonne) and December (Orange) 2009. NSW Police responded with their comments in September 2009 and the RTA took those comments into account in finalising the review.

NSW Police were in agreement with the speed zone reduction from Orange to Greening Lane, east of Cargo.

Cargo Road is a regional road and Cabonne Council is responsible for its maintenance.

*9383 PURCHASE OF GOLD THROUGH THE MAIL—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

With respect to the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act 1996 Part 3 - 15 and the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Regulation 2008 Part 3 - 18 which states it is illegal to purchase gold through the mail:

- (1) Is currently a company with a website <http://www.goldcompany.com.au> where customers can click on a link to their front page where this company advises that they purchase gold via the post?
- (2) Will the Minister advise what action is being taken to stop this illegal activity?

Answer—

Police are currently investigating new gold trading practices using mail and internet and will take appropriate action where breaches of legislation are identified.

*9384 HAWKESBURY RIVER MARINE PARK—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given the viability of Hawkesbury commercial fishers are currently under threat primarily due to the

creation of recreational havens:

- (1) Are the NSW Government and agencies supporting the Marine Parks proposal put forward by the National Parks Association - Marine plans, in which the National Parks Association plans to create the biggest metropolitan marine park in the world including the Hawkesbury River, which proposal excludes trawling from the river and all estuaries across NSW?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is yes, and given the number of commercial fishermen across NSW has reduced from 6,000 25 years ago to only 1,200 currently, what assurance will the Minister give the commercial fishermen in the Hawkesbury River for the security of their livelihoods and the livelihoods of the many local people employed by these operations?
- (3) Will the Minister impose a moratorium on any future expansion of marine parks into the Hawkesbury River, given NSW Fisheries have significant historical records of the thousands of tonnes of fish sustainably caught by commercial fishers?
- (4) Does NSW Fisheries have the same data from recreational fishers?
- (5) Does NSW Fisheries have an Environmental Impact Assessment of the cumulative pressures on each and every waterway that they fish?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) As advised by my predecessors, the NSW Government has no intention of establishing any more marine parks at this time.
- (4) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Steven Whan MP.
- (5) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Steven Whan MP.

*9385 BED OCCUPANCY RATE—HAWKESBURY HOSPITAL—Mr Ray Williams asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What was the bed occupancy rate at Hawkesbury Hospital in:

- (a) January 2009;
- (b) February 2009;
- (c) March 2009;
- (d) April 2009;
- (e) May 2009;
- (f) June 2009;
- (g) July 2009;
- (h) August 2009;
- (i) September 2009;
- (j) October 2009;
- (k) November 2009;
- (l) December 2009;
- (m) January 2010?

Answer—

Annual bed occupancy days for each hospital in NSW are reported in the NSW Health Services Comparison Data Book (the Yellow Book) which can be found on NSW Health's website at www.health.nsw.gov.au. Occupancy rates will vary according to the type of clinical service, time of the year, geographical location and models of clinical care for the particular service.

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*9386 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—OPERATIONS PERFORMED—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to the Mount Druitt Hospital:

- (1) How many patients underwent an operation in the operating theatres at this hospital in February 2010?

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(2) How does this activity compare to February 2009?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) There were 298 operations performed at Mount Druitt Hospital in February 2010, 26 more than in February 2009.

*9387 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What is the amount of funds spent by the State Government on transport infrastructure in the period 1995 to 2010 relating to:

- (a) new rail lines;
- (b) upgrade of existing rail lines;
- (c) easy access to railway stations;
- (d) transport interchanges at rail stations;
- (e) commuter car parks;
- (f) station upgrades;
- (g) other major works?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on transport infrastructure projects across NSW, in the period 1995 to 2010, is publicly provided in Budget Papers.

*9388 MAINTENANCE OF POLICE STATIONS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) What effect has the extended drought had on rural police station buildings in the Albury Local Area Command?
- (2) Is funding provided to the Albury LAC for maintenance of police stations and residences?
- (3) In the past two financial years what maintenance funding has been allocated for police stations and residences at Corowa, Culcairn, Henty, Holbrook, Howlong, Khancoban, Mulwala, Tumbarumba, and Walla Walla?
- (4) Does the department have an inspection program for rural police stations to assess their condition and recommend repairs and maintenance?
- (5) When were the stations listed above last inspected and what significant maintenance or repairs have since been carried out?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Some ground movement affecting buildings and residue from dust storms have been experienced as a result of extended drought conditions.
- (2) The NSW Police Force annual property budget is statewide and is expended at specific locations based on needs and priorities, in consultation with Regions and Local Area Commands.
- (3) \$253,808 has been spent on maintenance at the nominated locations from July 2007 to February 2010.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The nominated stations were all inspected between 9-12 March 2010. No significant maintenance has been carried out since those dates.

*9389 "BITUMEN BANDITS"—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

Given the Office of Fair Trading has issued 14 media releases since 2007 warning the public about "bitumen bandits" across the State:

- (1) How many prosecutions has the Office of Fair Trading brought against individuals involved in this activity?
- (2) How many of these prosecutions have been successful?
- (3) Of any successful prosecutions, what punishments were recorded?
- (4) If no one has been prosecuted for this activity, what measures are being taken by the Office of Fair Trading to identify the fraudsters and achieve convictions?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Since 2007, NSW Fair Trading has taken enforcement action against fifteen individuals resulting in penalties totalling \$22,510.

(4) Fair Trading is working closely with NSW Police and other law enforcement agencies in NSW, interstate and overseas, to identify itinerant traders engaging in unlicensed building and maintenance work. As a result of information provided by Fair Trading, a number have been arrested in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. Criminal charges have been laid for various offences such as aggravated burglary as well as penalty infringement notices issued for breaches of consumer protection laws.

*9390 PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Following the announcement of a Federal Government proposal to fund health services in NSW under a yet to be defined efficiency standard, will Corowa District Hospital remain fully operational if the scheme is implemented?

Answer—

On 3 March 2010, the Federal Government released its proposal for reform of the Australian health system including significant rebalancing of the roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The NSW Government has said that it is committed to working with the Commonwealth to achieve lasting health reform.

Many hospitals across NSW and Australia face challenging circumstances due to their size, including higher staff costs, lower patient loads, and important community service obligations.

The Commonwealth has said it understands that small hospitals including those in regional and rural areas cannot operate under the same cost structure as metropolitan hospitals, and we will work with them to understand how their proposal safeguards these vital regional services.

We will be analysing the detail of the Commonwealth's proposal and our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of the people of NSW, including those in rural and regional areas.

*9391 PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Following the announcement of a Federal Government proposal to fund health services in NSW under a yet to be defined efficiency standard, will the Henty MPS and Culcairn MPS remain fully operational if the scheme is implemented?

Answer—

On 3 March 2010, the Federal Government released its proposal for reform of the Australian health system including significant rebalancing of the roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The NSW Government has said that it is committed to working with the Commonwealth to achieve lasting health reform.

Many hospitals across NSW and Australia face challenging circumstances due to their size, including higher staff costs, lower patient loads, and important community service obligations.

The Commonwealth has said it understands that small hospitals including those in regional and rural areas cannot operate under the same cost structure as metropolitan hospitals, and we will work with them to understand how their proposal safeguards these vital regional services.

We will be analysing the detail of the Commonwealth's proposal and our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of the people of NSW, including those in rural and regional areas.

*9392 PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Following the announcement of a Federal Government proposal to fund health services in NSW under a yet to be defined efficiency standard, will the Holbrook Hospital remain fully operational if the scheme is implemented?

Answer—

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On 3 March 2010, the Federal Government released its proposal for reform of the Australian health system including significant rebalancing of the roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The NSW Government has said that it is committed to working with the Commonwealth to achieve lasting health reform.

Many hospitals across NSW and Australia face challenging circumstances due to their size, including higher staff costs, lower patient loads, and important community service obligations.

The Commonwealth has said it understands that small hospitals including those in regional and rural areas cannot operate under the same cost structure as metropolitan hospitals, and we will work with them to understand how their proposal safeguards these vital regional services.

We will be analysing the detail of the Commonwealth's proposal and our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of the people of NSW, including those in rural and regional areas.

*9393 PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Following the announcement of a Federal Government proposal to fund health services in NSW under a yet to be defined efficiency standard, will the Tumburumba Hospital remain fully operational if the scheme is implemented?

Answer—

On 3 March 2010, the Federal Government released its proposal for reform of the Australian health system including significant rebalancing of the roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The NSW Government has said that it is committed to working with the Commonwealth to achieve lasting health reform.

Many hospitals across NSW and Australia face challenging circumstances due to their size, including higher staff costs, lower patient loads, and important community service obligations.

The Commonwealth has said it understands that small hospitals including those in regional and rural areas cannot operate under the same cost structure as metropolitan hospitals, and we will work with them to understand how their proposal safeguards these vital regional services.

We will be analysing the detail of the Commonwealth's proposal and our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of the people of NSW, including those in rural and regional areas.

*9394 ACOUSTIC ATTENUATION—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

With respect to a project to construct 14 units at 26 Gwen Parade, Raymond Terrace (2859231) which was given departmental project approval on 4 February 2010, did this approval include acoustic attenuation in accordance with housing that falls between 20 and 25 ANEF contours for RAAF Base Williamtown 2025 ANEF, endorsed in October, 2009?

Answer—

Housing NSW is implementing sound attenuation treatment to meet internal design sound levels specified in AS/NZS 2021-200 under the 2025 ANEF as per the acoustic consultant's report that was included in the Environmental Impact Assessment package for this development.

*9395 AMBULANCE OFFICERS DRIVING OFFENCES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many ambulance officers received a speeding fine while responding to an emergency in 2009?
- (2) How many of these had their fines and penalties dismissed?
- (3) How many ambulance officers received a red light camera fine while responding to an emergency in 2009?
- (4) How many of these had their fines and penalties dismissed?
- (5) How many ambulance officers received a fine for other driving offences while responding to an emergency in 2009?
- (6) How many of these had their fines and penalties dismissed?
- (7) How many ambulance officers were considered at fault in a road accident while responding to an emergency in 2009?
- (8) How many of these had their penalties/fines/charges dismissed?

- (9) What concessions are afforded NSW ambulance officers who are fined for speeding and/or driving through a red light when responding to an emergency?
- (10) What protection and/or support does Ambulance Service of NSW provide ambulance officers who are fined for the above offences while responding to an emergency?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (6) Ambulance paramedics do not receive an infringement for a speeding or red light camera fine or other driving offence if they are responding to an emergency using lights and sirens, as long as the driver is not driving negligently. The Ambulance Service of NSW confirms with the Infringement Processing Bureau that the infringement occurred whilst responding to an emergency.

(7) and (8) Paramedics are required to operate vehicles safely at all times, including when responding to an emergency. Charges for unsafe or negligent driving can be raised by NSW Police if warranted. One Ambulance paramedic was charged with negligent driving in 2009 while responding to an emergency incident. Legal assistance was provided by Crown Solicitor's Office and the charges were withdrawn after representations were made to the Police Prosecutors.

(9) Section 306 of the NSW Road Rules 2008 provides an exemption for drivers of emergency vehicles, which states: A provision of these Rules does not apply to the driver of an emergency vehicle if:

- (a) in the circumstances:
 - (i) the driver is taking reasonable care, and
 - (ii) it is reasonable that the rule should not apply, and
- (b) if the vehicle is a motor vehicle that is moving—the vehicle is displaying a blue or red flashing light or sounding an alarm.

This exemption does not relieve the driver of an Ambulance vehicle from the consequences of negligent driving, and charges for unsafe driving can be raised by the NSW Police Force if warranted.

(10) As long as Ambulance paramedics are not driving negligently, they do not receive a fine in these circumstances. Where an ambulance was responding to an emergency, the Ambulance Service will provide documentation to the Infringement Processing Bureau to prove that the ambulance was responding to an emergency. The fine is then waived.

*9396 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

How many flashing lights have been installed in school zones in:

- (1) Albury;
- (2) Auburn;
- (3) Ballina;
- (4) Balmain;
- (5) Bankstown;
- (6) Barwon;
- (7) Bathurst;
- (8) Baulkham Hills;
- (9) Bega;
- (10) Blacktown;
- (11) Blue Mountains;
- (12) Burrinjuck;
- (13) Cabramatta;
- (14) Camden;
- (15) Campbelltown;
- (16) Canterbury;
- (17) Castle Hill;
- (18) Cessnock;
- (19) Charlestown;
- (20) Clarence;
- (21) Coffs Harbour;
- (22) Coogee;
- (23) Cronulla;
- (24) Davidson;
- (25) Drummoyne;

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- (26) Dubbo;
- (27) East Hills;
- (28) Epping;
- (29) Fairfield;
- (30) Gosford;
- (31) Goulburn;
- (32) Granville;
- (33) Hawkesbury;
- (34) Heathcote;
- (35) Heffron;
- (36) Hornsby;
- (37) Keira;
- (38) Kiama;
- (39) Kogarah;
- (40) Ku-ring-gai;
- (41) Lake Macquarie;
- (42) Lakemba;
- (43) Lane Cove;
- (44) Lismore;
- (45) Liverpool;
- (46) Londonderry;
- (47) Macquarie Fields;
- (48) Maitland;
- (49) Manly;
- (50) Maroubra;
- (51) Murrickville;
- (52) Menai;
- (53) Miranda;
- (54) Monaro;
- (55) Mount Druitt;
- (56) Mulgoa;
- (57) Murray-Darling;
- (58) Murrumbidgee;
- (59) Myall Lakes;
- (60) Newcastle;
- (61) North Shore;
- (62) Northern Tablelands;
- (63) Oatley;
- (64) Orange;
- (65) Oxley;
- (66) Parramatta;
- (67) Penrith;
- (68) Pittwater;
- (69) Port Macquarie;
- (70) Port Stephens;
- (71) Riverstone;
- (72) Rockdale;
- (73) Ryde;
- (74) Shellharbour;
- (75) Smithfield;
- (76) South Coast;
- (77) Strathfield;
- (78) Swansea;
- (79) Sydney;
- (80) Tamworth;
- (81) Terrigal;
- (82) The Entrance;
- (83) Toongabbie;
- (84) Tweed;
- (85) Upper Hunter;

- (86) Vacluse;
- (87) Wagga Wagga
- (88) Wakehurst;
- (89) Wallsend;
- (90) Willoughby;
- (91) Wollondilly;
- (92) Wollongong;
- (93) Wyong?

Answer—

I am advised a list of schools with flashing light warnings is available on the Roads and Traffic Authority website.

*9397 HEALTHONE CLINIC—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Given your advice that construction of the HealthOne Raymond Terrace clinic is expected to be completed by December 2011 (Question 5073):

- (1) When would construction have to begin to meet the promised completion date of December 2011?
- (2) When would tenders have to be called to meet the promised completion date of December 2011?
- (3) When would a DA have to be lodged with Port Stephens Council to meet the promised completion date of December 2011?
- (4) When would planning have to begin to meet the promised completion date of December 2011?
- (5) Could the Minister provide an update on the progress of the Raymond Terrace HealthOne clinic to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (5) There have been significant changes and progress in regards to this project. As previously advised, commencement of construction was dependent on Port Stephens Council confirming the feasibility of the HealthOne proposal within the context of their larger development. In a meeting with Council's representatives, Council's advice in February 2010 to the Hunter New England Area Health Service regarding the expected on-going leasing costs for the facilities indicated that these recurrent costs would be unsustainably high for local GPs and the Area Health Service.

Accordingly, an alternative proposal was developed for construction of the HealthOne facilities under the ownership of NSW Health. Funds of \$1.3M were provided for site acquisition and contracts exchanged for an appropriate site in Raymond Terrace in March 2010. This will provide certainty for the HealthOne project going forward but, as would be expected, this will incur some delay to completion of the project.

At this stage on the basis of the revised project proposal, construction of the HealthOne Raymond Terrace facility is expected to be completed by June 2012.

*9398 HOME INSURANCE PREMIUMS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

- (1) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from stamp duty taxes on home insurance premiums in 2008-09?
- (2) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from stamp duty taxes on home insurance premiums in 2007-08?
- (3) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from stamp duty taxes on home insurance premiums in 2006-07?
- (4) Was this revenue directed to consolidated revenue?
- (5) If not, where and how was this revenue expended?
- (6) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from fire service levies on home insurance premiums in 2008-09?
- (7) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from fire service levies on home insurance premiums in 2007-08?
- (8) How much revenue did the NSW Government generate from fire service levies on home insurance premiums in 2006-07?
- (9) Was this revenue directed to consolidated revenue?
- (10) If not, where and how was this revenue expended?
- (11) What percentage of home owners in NSW have home insurance?
- (12) What is the Government doing to encourage home owners to take out insurance?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Insurance companies pay duty on insurance premiums to the Office of State Revenue. The returns do not specify what kind of premium the duty relates to. Insurance duties are returned to consolidated revenue.

The Fire Services Levy is a surcharge that general insurers impose on their customers to recoup the cost of their contribution to the fire and emergency services. Each insurance company determines how to fund its contribution.

Contributions from the insurance industry to fund the Fire Brigades and Rural Fire Service are deposited into special quarantined accounts in Consolidated Fund.

The amounts of insurance duty and emergency services contributions raised are reported in the Budget Papers.

*9399 SOLAR BONUS TARIFF—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why did the NSW Government discontinue the Solar Bonus Net Feed-in Tariff system?
- (2) How many people signed up to the Solar Bonus Net Feed-in Tariff system?
- (3) How many of those people will now have to transfer to the Solar Bonus Gross Feed-in Tariff system?
- (4) What is the estimated cost to an individual and/or household forced to transfer to the Solar Bonus Gross Feed-in Tariff system?

Answer—

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Energy, the Hon John Robertson MLC.

*9400 DEPARTMENTAL NAME CHANGES—Mr Peter Besseling asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What was the cost to Government of re-branding all uniforms, stationery and any other items with a departmental logo, for the following name changes:

- (a) "NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service" to "Department of Environment and Conservation";
- (b) "Department of Environment and Conservation" to "Department of Environment and Climate Change";
- (c) "Department of Environment and Climate Change" to "Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water"?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (a) In 2003 the National Parks and Wildlife Service was incorporated into the Department of Environment and Conservation. The most significant costs were associated with replacement signage (approximately \$31,000 across the Goulburn Street, Hurstville and regional offices).
The Department continued to use existing branded resources and stationery such as letterhead paper, compliment slips, business cards, envelopes, uniforms etc, until stocks were exhausted. As stocks declined and were reordered the new DEC name was substituted in appropriate artwork.
- (b) In April 2007 the Department of Environment and Conservation was increased in size and had its responsibilities broadened to cover a range of programs to address the causes and impacts of climate change on our environment. The Department was renamed the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The most significant costs were associated with replacement signage (approximately \$13,653 across the Goulburn Street, Hurstville and regional offices).
The Department continued to use existing branded resources and stationery such as letterhead paper, compliment slips, business cards, envelopes, uniforms etc, until stocks were exhausted. As stocks declined and were reordered the new DECC name was substituted in appropriate artwork.
- (c) In 2009, the Department of Environment and Climate Change was expanded and renamed the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. The most significant costs were associated with signage (approximately \$11,000 across Goulburn Street and regional offices).
The Department continued to use existing branded resources and stationery such as letterhead paper, compliment slips, business cards, envelopes, uniforms etc, until stocks were exhausted.

As stocks decline and come up for reorder the new DECCW name is substituted in appropriate artwork.

*9401 PORT MACQUARIE FORESHORE DRAFT PLAN—Mr Peter Besseling asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) When and where will the draft Port Macquarie foreshore plan be placed on public exhibition?
- (2) Should the Port Macquarie Marina lease be sold by Ariadne Australia, what will become of the adjacent public land that was the subject of an Expression of Interest process?

Answer—

- (1) The Land and Property Management Authority's draft plan of management for Crown Lands between Settlement Point and Town Beach, Port Macquarie was exhibited on 17 March 2010. It will remain on exhibition until 23 April 2010. During the exhibition period the draft plan can be viewed on the Authority's website www.lpma.nsw.gov.au at the Port Macquarie Library and at the Historic Court House in Clarence Street, Port Macquarie.
- (2) The Land and Property Management Authority will re-assess the future of the land component of the Expression of Interest when the outcomes of the plan of management are known.

*9402 SECTION 78 BANNING ORDERS—Mr Peter Besseling asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

As the NSW Government committed to Section 78 Banning orders under the Liquor Act 2007 20 months ago, on what date will NSW police officers have access to the form, approved by the authority, which would prohibit a person from entering or remaining on the licensed premises specified in the order?

Answer—

Section 78 of the Liquor Act 2007 enables an application to be made to the Casino, Liquor & Gaming Control Authority for an order that bans a person from a licensed premises for up to six months, provided the Authority is satisfied that the person has repeatedly been intoxicated, violent, quarrelsome or disorderly on or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises.

I am advised that the Authority is currently considering a draft application form that will form the basis of the process for making an application for a banning order under section 78. An application for a banning order may be made as soon as the application form is published.

*9403 SECOND RIVER CROSSING OF CLARENCE RIVER—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the second river crossing of Clarence River in Grafton:

- (1) Given the RTA has recently backed calls for a second crossing of the Clarence River in Grafton, what is the latest on this announcement?
- (2) Given the NSW Government promised funding for this project in 2003, when it was considered urgent, will the project be fast-tracked?
- (3) How much is the second bridge expected to cost?
- (4) What is the expected timetable of construction for the bridge?
- (5) When will the community consultation for this project commence?
- (6) On how many occasions will meetings for community consultation be held?
- (7) Will the community be provided with opportunities to submit written proposals regarding the bridge?
- (8) When the preferred route is selected, when will just terms compensation be available for affected homeowners?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) On 23 February 2010, the RTA announced preliminary options for an extra crossing of the Clarence River at Grafton. These preliminary options are on display until 31 March 2010 for community feedback and consultation. Until funding is confirmed for construction, the next step in the development process is to allow planning to provide clarity for Clarence Valley Council, residents and the community.

(3) The initial options currently on display are based on traffic modelling only, and have not yet been fully costed. Estimates will be available as part of the development of route options, which will be placed on public display later this year.

(4) Once funding is confirmed a timetable for construction will be determined.

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(5) Extensive community consultation was undertaken in 2001 to 2005 and recommenced in December 2009. Feedback from the community is being carefully considered as part of the process. Submissions are invited until 31 March 2010 on the suggested preliminary options. Further consultation will then be undertaken with key stakeholders and the community in developing the route options, which is the next phase of the project.

(6) Since December 2009, there have been two formal information sessions, two workshops, staffed displays and individual meetings with the council, stakeholders and residents. The consultation process is ongoing and will continue throughout the lifecycle of this project.

(7) The community, along with all stakeholders, are encouraged to submit written proposals at all stages throughout the development process.

(8) Under current legislation the RTA will be able to consider hardship acquisition applications once a preferred route is announced.

*9404 SPEECH AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In regards to a position made vacant (Speech and Occupational Therapist) at Grafton Base Hospital:

- (1) Is there a 12-month waiting list for speech and occupational therapy for children at Grafton Base Hospital?
- (2) Are there any plans to advertise this position and fill this vacancy?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Children referred for therapy are prioritised according to clinical need and early intervention principles. The length of the wait for service varies depending on the urgency of the patient's need and the current level of patient demand, which can vary over time.
- (2) and (3) The North Coast Area Health Service has advertised for maternity leave relief for a Full Time Occupational Therapist position. As an interim measure, the vacancy is being covered by two part-time Therapists, with support from the Grafton Base Hospital Occupational Therapist. The Area Health Service is currently undertaking a review of its Community and Allied Health Service. Once this review is completed, the positions in the revised structure will be advertised.

*9405 SILVER SANDS HOLIDAY PARK REDEVELOPMENT—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

In regard to the proposed redevelopment of the Silver Sands Holiday Park at Evans Head:

- (1) Will permanent residents (many who have invested up to and in excess of \$200,000 for their houses) be guaranteed long-term tenure in the Silver Sands boundaries?
- (2) If any houses are relocated in the park, will residents be compensated due to any devaluation of their assets?
- (3) Will all relocation costs and out-of-pocket expenses be covered for permanent residents?
- (4) Will all permanent residents in holiday and relocatable homes be guaranteed tenure at the Silver Sands Holiday Park?
- (5) As Silver Sands Holiday Park is the main funding stream for the Evans Head Recreation Reserve Trust, what guarantees can the Minister give to maintain this level of financial support to:
 - (a) maintenance and improvement programs for the reserve;
 - (b) part funding of Richmond Valley Council's tourism officer;
 - (c) contributions to the Evans Head Surf Life Saving Club?
- (6) Under the new structure, what guarantees can the Minister give residents and holidaymakers that the same opportunities will be available to them as has been the case for many years?

Answer—

As yet, no decision has been made on the draft Masterplan and Business Development Strategy for the Evans Head Recreation Reserve which includes the Silver Sands Holiday Park. Submissions received are still being evaluated and discussions are continuing with the trust manager, Richmond Valley Council. Whilst the Land and Property Management Authority, in principle, supports the need for a buffer zone, to protect both park users and the colony of flying foxes that roost within the park, it does not support the forced relocation of any residents to establish that buffer zone.

*9407 BERMAGUI SURF CLUB FUNDING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

Will the State Government provide funding support of \$120,000 to complete the new surf club at Bermagui, which includes disability access?

Answer—

The State Government has contributed \$350,000 to the new surf club at Bermagui under the Surf Club Facility Development Program.

*9408 GEORGE BASS DRIVE SPEED LIMIT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Will the Minister instruct the RTA to lower the speed limit to 80 km/h on George Bass Drive near Tomakin?

Answer—

I am advised:

A speed zone review was conducted in March 2008 which found the existing speed zone of 100 km/h to be appropriate. Should surrounding development change the speed zone may be reviewed again.

*9409 FLOOD DAMAGE BY LAKES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Is the Minister aware of the concerns of residents adjoining Mummuga Lake and Corunna Lake, near Narooma, about the length of time it took the National Parks and Wildlife Service to open the lakes during the natural disaster that occurred in the week beginning 15 February 2010?

(2) Given the flood damage caused by the lakes, what is the Minister doing to compensate householders and farmers for the damage caused?

(3) Should both lakes have been opened earlier?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Mummuga Lake and Corunna Lake opened naturally to the ocean early in the morning of 15 February 2010. A high tide together with high seas restricted the out flow of water from these lakes and ongoing heavy rainfall resulted in the flooding of some low lying properties. The flooding followed an exceptional rainfall event - heavy rainfall in excess of 250 millimetres fell along parts of the far south coast in a 12-hour period.

(2) The damage was the result of an exceptional storm event and while I sympathise with landholders, the Government is not in a position to pay compensation.

(3) Attempting an artificial opening of a lake when water levels and inflows are low has been demonstrated to be ineffective, and usually leads to the lake closing again in a short time period. It would not have been possible to create an effective opening to these lakes prior to the rainfall event on 15 February 2010.

*9410 BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP—REVIEW OF OUT-OF-HOME CARE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

(1) Will the Minister make a copy of the findings of the Boston Consulting Group's independent review of out-of-home care publicly available?

(2) Will Government funds to non-Government children's agencies, contracted to provide foster care, not be reduced as a result of the Boston Consulting Group's recommendations?

(3) Why was this report a Cabinet-in-Confidence document when it is pivotal to non-Government sector financing?

Answer—

(1) The adopted findings of the review, in particular how these will impact on non-government organisations, have been made publicly available in a number of ways:

- a summary report and factsheet of relevance to the non-government sector has been released;
- the Minister for Community Services has personally met with non-government sector representatives both individually, and as a broader group, and responded to any questions or concerns raised; and
- a representative sample of non-government organisations will form part of the consultative group during the implementation of key reforms.

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- (2) The NSW Government is investing more funding in out-of-home care services than any other jurisdiction in this country and, in accord with "Keep Them Safe", is committed to improving the out-of-home care system to ensure that it is sustainable, robust and viable in the long term. The ultimate goal is to ensure that quality and cost effective services are equitably delivered to all children in need. The Government is committed to transferring more children into out-of-home care provided by the non-Government sector.
- (3) The review was undertaken to provide specific advice to Cabinet. It was directed by a Joint Steering Committee comprising of representatives from Community Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Treasury. The report also contains commercial-in-confidence material.

The implementation of the key reforms, including decisions that impact on the amount of funding that will be applied to particular service models in out-of-home care, will have substantial input from the non-Government sector.

*9411 OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICES—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) With reference to the Official Community Visitors Annual Report 2008-09, that indicates that the number of issues per service relating to services that provide Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) to children and young people has risen to 4.4 per service:
 - (a) Why has this figure risen?
 - (b) Has there been any relaxation of departmental guidelines in recent years relating to Community Services funding of OOHC providers?
 - (c) What action does Community Services take when OOHC providers consistently are found to have ongoing issues are official visits by community visitors?
- (2) As the same report states "Children and young people are generally in care as a result of serious abuse and/or neglect. They have also often experienced multiple placements and placement breakdowns", is this statement an admission that Community Services is consistently failing children and young people in regards to both removal from their parents and finding adequate, long-term placements for them?
- (3) Why did official visits to service providers for children and young people in OOHC fall significantly in 2007-08 before rising significantly in 2008-09?
- (4) Why did the number of "activity hours" dedicated by official visitors to children and young people also fall significantly in 2007-08 before rising significantly in 2008-09?

Answer—

- (1) (a) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.
- (b) No. Community Services has made significant improvements to funding and monitoring processes in accordance with current Community Services' Funding Policy.
Performance based contracting is being rolled out to all of Community Services' major funding programs, with a number of out-of-home care providers now operating under the new performance based service specifications.
- (c) Issues relating to individual children that are identified by community visitors are managed as a casework matter. Where these issues present to Community Services as systemic issues or develop into established trends, these matters are addressed by Community Services through contract management processes and the performance monitoring framework.
- (2) No. Children and young people residing in out-of-home care residential facilities monitored by the Official Community Visitors scheme generally have higher and more complex needs than children and young people in foster care.
- (3) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.
- (4) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.

*9412 COMMUNITY SERVICES EXPENSES—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How much was spent on consultants by Community Services in:
 - (a) 2005-06;
 - (b) 2006-07;
 - (c) 2007-08;
 - (d) 2008-09?
- (2) How much was spent on employee related travel expenses by Community Services in:

- (a) 2005-06;
 - (b) 2006-07;
 - (c) 2007-08;
 - (d) 2008-09?
- (3) How many public servants are currently displaced on the unattached list within Community Services?

Answer—

- (1) Please refer to Community Services Annual Report.
- (2) Please refer to Community Services Annual Report.
- (3) Community Services currently has nine (9) staff that are declared as excess.

*9413 NURSE UNIFORMS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) Are all nurse uniforms manufactured in Australia?
- (2) If not, in which country/countries are they manufactured?
- (3) Do all nurse uniforms use Australian fabrics?
- (4) If not, in which country/countries do the fabrics originate?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (4) NSW Government employee uniforms are sourced in accordance with the NSW Government's procurement policy and guidelines. The policy and guidelines provide the framework for Government agencies to achieve value for money while being fair, ethical and transparent, and can be found on the NSW Government Procurement website.

Nurse uniforms are manufactured in China using fabrics from China and South Korea.

*9414 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PLAN—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Regarding the NSW Government's \$50.2 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan: Connecting the City of Cities, to be delivered over the next 10 years:

- (1) What additional infrastructure/services will be delivered within the South Coast electorate?
- (2) What additional infrastructure/services will be delivered to the Illawarra/South Coast region?
- (3) Under the Government's \$2.9 billion plan to deliver 1,000 additional buses for NSW, will be South Coast electorate receive additional services?
- (4) How much of the Government's \$50.2 billion Metropolitan Transport Plan will be allocated to the South Coast electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The Government has committed to the preparation this year of regional transport Strategies which will address better integration between land use and transport. Initial priorities include the Illawarra region and immediate areas surrounding the region. The Metropolitan Transport Plan provides a significant platform of initiatives for the Regional Strategies to build on.

The Metropolitan Transport Plan includes \$21.9 billion over the next 10 years to increase the efficiency of the road network, for freight, for local residents and for tourists. This includes billions for upgrades to the key highways that connect the regions to Sydney such as the Princes Highway which traverses the South Coast and Illawarra regions.

The Metropolitan Transport Plan includes almost \$2.9 billion for buses. The roll-out of 1,000 new buses will include buses for the Illawarra.

The Government already has major new rail rolling stock programs for Waratahs and OSCARS and a further \$3.1 billion for rolling stock will contribute to additional services from outer Metropolitan and regional areas such as the Illawarra and the South Coast.

*9415 SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What modifications/changes have been made to the original designs for social housing units in Nowra, Bomaderry, Gerringong, Ulladulla and Market Street, Wollongong?
- (2) When were the modifications made?

Answer—

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(1)

Market St, Wollongong

- Decreased the unit yield
- The development has decreased from two buildings to one building
- Increased parking
- Increased side and rear setbacks
- Increased landscaping
- Shielding of side facing windows for privacy into neighbouring properties

Belinda St, Gerringong

- Building moved closer to eastern boundary to create a buffer between the development and the adjoining neighbour on the western boundary
- Roof lines changed and pitch reduced
- Front façade redesigned

Karowa St, Bomaderry

- Changes to southern building unit 1

Ryan Ave, Nowra

- This was a Council approved project and no changes have been made to the original Development Approval.

St Anns St, Bomaderry

- This was a Council approved project and no changes have been made to the original Development Approval

Ritchie Street, Bomaderry

- Additional car spaces allocated
- Additional landscaping and privacy screen to prevent viewing into the private open space of the adjoining dwellings and reconfiguration of pathways

Bunberra Street, Bomaderry

- A footpath across the Bunberra Street frontage
- Additional landscaping to screen the fencing along the northern boundary

St Vincent Street, Ulladulla:

- Site redesigned to align with the street frontage including lowering the roof more in keeping with conventional pitch roofs; also extending the roof line to some balconies
- Changes to levels between front and back buildings to open up the footpath between the two buildings and minor changes to the garbage enclosures
- Minor changes to car parking areas
- Car parking numbers reduced

South Street, Ulladulla:

- This project is still in the determination process.

(2) Project design changes have been made following feedback obtained through the consultation process post notification for each site.

*9416 GOSFORD HOSPITAL—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the current level of Gosford Hospital's status as a "trauma" hospital?
- (2) Has Gosford Hospital lost its status as a "trauma" hospital?
- (3) What is the impact on Gosford Hospital if it was to lose its status as a "trauma" hospital?
- (4) If Gosford Hospital loses its status as a "trauma" hospital, will all major trauma patients need to be transferred to Sydney hospitals?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Under the NSW Trauma Services Plan, Gosford Hospital is designated as a Regional Trauma Service. The role of Gosford Hospital has not changed with the implementation of this Plan.

(3) and (4) As a Regional Trauma Service, Gosford Hospital provides initial assessment, and definitive trauma care, and initiates transfer to the major trauma service when a patient requires services not available at the regional centre.

For the vast majority of patients who sustain minor to moderate injuries, there will be no change to the destination hospital. The smaller, but more critical group of 'major' trauma patients will be transported to a major trauma service.

*9417 RIGHT-HAND TURNING LANE OFF WYONG ROAD—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Does the RTA have plans to upgrade the intersection involving the right-hand turning lane off Wyong Road turning north onto the F3 Freeway?
- (2) If so, when is work set to begin?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of these works?
- (4) When is the work scheduled to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The RTA is undertaking preliminary investigations to identify options to upgrade the interchange of the F3 Freeway and Wyong Road. A construction timetable has not yet been determined. This project will be considered in future works programs along with other State-wide priorities. A detailed cost estimate will be prepared as the project is further developed.

*9418 ROAD WIDENING—AVOCA DRIVE—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the Minister received representations in relation to the difficulties local residents face heading north or south from their properties after road widening from Koolang Road and Bayside Drive on Avoca Drive is completed?
- (2) Does the RTA have any plans to install a U-Turn permitted sign at the intersection of Avoca Drive and Bayside Drive, Green Point, at the traffic lights to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents on both sides of Avoca Drive?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (3) What plans does the RTA have to install U-Turn bays at the above location?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (4) What suppression measures are in place to alleviate the dust caused by the road construction?
- (5) Will the Minister arrange for the RTA to meet with local residents?
- (6) Will the Minister agree to meet with local residents?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I am advised that the RTA is currently upgrading Avoca Drive between Sun Valley Road and Bayside Drive to a four lane road, to improve safety and traffic flow. I am advised that a central median barrier will be constructed as part of the project to improve safety and this will impact on the access to some properties. I understand that wherever possible the RTA has refined its design to improve access for residents.

I understand that u-turn movements cannot be permitted at the traffic lights at the intersections of Avoca Drive and Bayside Drive, and Avoca Drive and Koolang Road, Green Point as it is an illegal movement under NSW traffic laws, and would be unsafe.

- (3) I am advised that a u-turn facility will be constructed in Koolang Road as part of this project. A new set of traffic lights will also be constructed at the Koolang Road intersection. The new traffic lights and u-turn facility in Koolang Road will improve safety and provide an alternate access for residents on the western side of Avoca Drive.
- (4) I am advised that as part of the environmental assessment for the upgrade of Avoca Drive a number of dust control measures were identified. These include keeping areas of gravel surface damp by watering, and ensuring trucks have appropriate covers on their loads, particularly during windy weather conditions.
- (5) and (6) I am satisfied with the level of consultation being performed with residents. Both the RTA and its contractor, Seymour Whyte Constructions, have been in regular contact with residents during

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construction and their representatives are on site and can meet with the residents to discuss their concerns. Furthermore, I understand that residents can contact construction staff to discuss issues about the project.

*9419 EXEMPT AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CODES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) In the SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, Subdivision 12, 2.24 (1) (c) (ii) in relation to satellite dishes, why does the Minister's department allow a 1.8 m satellite dish to be installed up to 0.9 m above the roof line of a property?
- (2) Will the Minister or his department review this section of the code in order to provide a more aesthetically pleasing neighbourhood skyline?
- (3) Has the Minister received any complaints about Subdivision 12, 2.24 (1) (c) (ii) of the SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008?
- (4) If so, what was the nature of the complaint and how was it resolved?

Answer—

- (1) The current development standard for communication dishes contained within State Environmental Planning Policy (exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (the "Codes SEPP") were designed to maximise the effectiveness of communication dishes in low radio-frequency areas.
- (2) I have been advised that the Department has reviewed this provision and will propose to me that the provision be amended so that ground mounted communication dishes of this diameter cannot be erected under the Codes SEPP if they are more than 1.8 metres above the existing ground level.
- (3) No. Concerns were expressed through the Department's Housing Code information line.
- (4) The proposed change will resolve the concerns expressed through Department's Housing Code information line.

*9420 PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister received any representations from, or had any meetings with, the members for Maitland, Swansea or Charlestown in relation to their constituents' concerns with public housing developments?
- (2) If so, what issues did the Minister discuss with them?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning I meet with both Government and non-Government Members of Parliament, on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

*9421 NATION BUILDING AND JOBS PLAN—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister had any discussions with the Member for Kiama in relation to his constituents' concerns with public housing being approved and built within the Kiama electorate under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan Federal stimulus package?
- (2) If so, what issues were discussed?

Answer—

The primary contact for Nation Building and Jobs Plan is the independent Infrastructure Coordinator General.

As Minister for Planning I meet with both Government and non-Government Members of Parliament, on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

*9422 SCHOOL CROSSING AT COOTAMUNDRA—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

With reference to the installation of flashing lights at the school crossing on the Olympic Highway (Parker Street) at the Sacred Heart Central School in Cootamundra:

- (1) Is the installation of these lights scheduled under the RTA's current plan to install flashing lights at school crossings in NSW?
- (2) What priority has been accorded to this installation?
- (3) On what date will work on this installation commence?
- (4) When will the Minister reply to my letter 10A118 dated 15 January 2010, seeking the urgent

installation of flashing lights at this school crossing?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The selection of new school zone sites for flashing lights is based on stringent criteria including crash history and risk, traffic and pedestrian volumes, speed limits, road environment and visibility. Schools on roads with an approach speed of 60 km/h or greater are currently being assessed for priority using these criteria. Sacred Heart Primary School is located on a local road with a 50 km/h approach speed.

(4) A response was sent on 26 March 2010.

*9423 STATE WATER FINANCIALS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Annual Report of the State Water Corporation year ended 30 June 2009:

(1) What was the reason for the expenditure of \$46,942,000 identified as Impairments - Buildings at Note 2(b) on page 149 of the above report?

(2) What was the reason for the expenditure of \$1,978,000 noted as Impairments - Receivables at Note 2 (b) on page 149 of the above report?

Answer—

I am advised by State Water that:

(1) This expenditure is explained in the report on page 139 and 141. The identified expenditure is a book entry, not a cash transaction, much the same as depreciation, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards Board 136.

(2) The identified expenditure does not represent a cash transaction, it is standard accounting practice for provision for bad debts.

*9424 FORESTS NEW SOUTH WALES FINANCIALS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for State and Regional Development, Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources, Minister for the Central Coast—

With reference to the Annual Report of Forests New South Wales year ended 30 June 2009:

(1) What were the non-current assets whose disposal was noted at 6(b) of page 65 of the above report?

(2) Given that, as identified at note 11 on page 68 of the above report, Forests NSW had outstanding unpaid invoices greater than 90 days valued at \$736,000 and impaired outstanding unpaid invoices greater than 90 days valued at \$1,022,000, what action has been taken to recover this money owed to Forests NSW?

Answer—

(1) The assets were plant and equipment, buildings, roads, bridges, land and investment property.

(2) Actions taken include written and verbal reminders and may proceed to charging interest, the cessation of business with the debtor and engaging a debt collection agency in some circumstances.

*9426 DEET BOARDING SCHOLARSHIP—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) On what date were the geographical isolation criteria for DEET Boarding Scholarships changed to exclude low income families who were previously eligible for this funding?

(2) What are the current criteria for this scholarship?

(3) Will the Minister amend the criteria to ensure that families who have one sibling eligible for the DEET Boarding Scholarship are also able to claim it for subsequent children?

Answer—

(1) A meeting of the Scholarships Committee which includes representation from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association and each of the New South Wales government agricultural boarding schools met on 17 March 2009 and recommended that changes be made to the isolation criteria to recognise the geographic isolation of the community in which applicants live.

(2) The current criteria are:

(a) the student must live in New South Wales. The student's primary carer must be a permanent resident of New South Wales;

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- (b) the student's family must meet the income test requirements for the NSW Living Away From Home Allowance. In 2010, the family adjusted income for the 2008-2009 financial year must not exceed \$54,597;
- (c) the student's home must be geographically isolated:
- the distance from the student's home to the nearest government secondary school, by the most direct route, is more than 48 km;
 - or
 - the normal daily travelling time by school transport from the student's nearest transport pick up point to the nearest government secondary school would exceed 90 minutes (one-way);
 - or
 - the student's home is in a community where the local secondary or central school is supported by the Country Areas Program;
 - or
 - geographic circumstances other than those mentioned above have a significant impact on the student's ability to access secondary education;
- (d) the student must be in Years 7 to 12;
- (e) the scholarship will assist a student who:
- wishes to attend and board at a NSW government agricultural high school;
 - or
 - wishes to attend a specialist NSW government secondary school that conducts selection procedures and who would need to board away from home to do so;
 - or
 - needs to board at a school term hostel to access a NSW government secondary school.

Applications for students in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children, ABSTUDY or Youth Allowance from Centrelink are not considered for the scholarship.

(3) As there are multiple eligibility criteria, each sibling is treated as a new application due to possible changes in the family's circumstances which could affect the scholarship. "Section C - Other Circumstances" of the scholarship criteria already contains a points allocation which accounts for families required to support one or more siblings of the student in a boarding situation away from home to access a secondary school.

*9427 FORESTS NEW SOUTH WALES FINANCIALS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

With reference to your 2 March 2010 announcement of the declaration of Red Gum National Parks and Reserves along the Murray River Valley:

- (1) Did the Department for Climate Change and the Environment conduct a cost benefit analysis of the Natural Resources Commission recommendations that the State Government has decided to accept?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide me with a copy of this analysis?
- (3) With reference to the Nationally Agreed Criteria for the Establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve System for Forests in Australia, has the principle of imposing the least cost on the community when creating reserves been observed?
- (4) If this principle was observed, will the Minister provide an analysis of the other land tenure options that were considered before making this announcement?
- (5) What additional biodiversity benefits are expected from National Park status that cannot be delivered by the current Ramsar listing of the Millewa Forest?
- (6) Will the Minister provide me with the data used to assess that economic growth from tourism will occur following implementation of National Park status for red gum forests?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) No. The analysis by the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) included consideration of the economic, environmental and social values associated with the River Red Gum forests. As part of this they had prepared a socio-economic impact assessment. The reports can be found on the Commission's website at www.nrc.nsw.gov.au
- (2) The reports are publicly available on the NRC website.

- (3) The NRC considered this principle in developing its recommendations.
- (4) The NRC's analysis is available in the reports.
- (5) The reservation of lands under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 ensures that the forests will be managed for their conservation and recreational values rather than for resource extraction. It increases the capacity for the application of environmental flows from State and Commonwealth water holdings to RAMSAR and the Living Murray assets. It is anticipated that forest health will be maintained or improved over time, particularly in core areas, and that key biodiversity attributes, such as mature habitat trees, understorey and coarse woody debris, will be maintained at a greater level than would occur under management for timber production. It is anticipated that the change in tenure will assist in meeting obligations under the Ramsar Convention.
- (6) Yes. My office will provide you with a copy of a report prepared by the Centre for Agricultural and Regional Economics for the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in November 2009. The report estimates the economic benefit to the area from the creation of new River Red Gum National and Regional Parks.

*9428 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Now that there is funding for Galston High School flashing lights in 40 km/h school zone, when will these be placed in situ?
- (2) What is the timeframe for flashing lights in all the other school zones in the electorate of Hornsby?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The school zone flashing lights were installed and activated at Galston High School on 11 March 2010.
- (2) The list of remaining school zones to be fitted with flashing lights is currently being finalised and therefore future works are not available.

*9429 PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS AT COUNCIL VENUES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) How much has Hornsby Council paid for private security guards in the shire in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?
- (2) Is the reason for utilising private security guards, insufficient police reserves to maintain safety at council venues?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that it holds no information on the expenditure of funds by Hornsby Council and is unable to speculate on the Council's hiring decisions.

*9431 BOX ROAD REPORT—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Will the RTA report on the opening of Box Road, Sylvania be made public?
- (2) Who has received a copy of this report?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A community update will be released following input from stakeholders, including Sutherland Shire Council. The full report will be made available to interested stakeholders.
- (2) A copy of the report has been given to Sutherland Shire Council for their review and comment. A copy has also been provided to the Member for Miranda.

*9433 SCHOOL VANDALISM—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many schools have been vandalised in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many acts of vandalism at schools have been reported to the Department of Education and Training in which security has not been called to investigate?

Answer—

- (1) 1,404 schools reported vandalism to the Department between 10 March 2009 and 9 March 2010.
- (2) Nil. Matters requiring investigation are referred to the NSW Police Force. It is not a security responsibility to investigate crime.

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*9434 UPGRADE OF MONA VALE ROAD—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) When will the Government implement its 2006 commitment to upgrade Mona Vale Road?
- (2) What work will be undertaken to Mona Vale Road at St Ives?
- (3) What work will be undertaken to widen Mona Vale Road where it is a single carriageway?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) recently conducted a corridor study for Mona Vale Road between Macquarie Park and Mona Vale. This strategy provides an overview of the road transport system on Sydney's Northern Beaches and identifies the need to monitor the adequacy of single lane sections and, if appropriate, consider options for enhancing this capacity.

In the vicinity of St Ives, the RTA will continue to monitor the performance of intersections approaching capacity. The upgrade for the single lane section of Mona Vale Road will be linked with the release of land for urban development in Ingleside. The timing of the upgrade is also reliant on the NSW Government's priorities across the State and funding availability at the time.

*9435 CAR PARK SPACES AT RAILWAY STATIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What commuter parking shortfalls have been identified at the following railway stations:
 - (a) Roseville;
 - (b) Lindfield;
 - (c) Killara;
 - (d) Gordon;
 - (e) Pymble?
- (2) How many of the extra car park spaces promised across the metropolitan CityRail network are planned for any of these stations?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In developing a list of potential locations for new commuter car parks, NSW Transport and Infrastructure, in consultation with other Government agencies considered rail stations, including those on the North Shore Line, on the basis of a range of factors. This included current and projected demand, an assessment of existing facilities, site constraints, transport access and surrounding land uses.
- (2) Work is currently underway to deliver the NSW Government's current commuter car parking initiatives. This includes a new commuter car park at Berowra, providing over 130 extra car spaces for commuters.

*9436 GORDON RAILWAY STATION BUSES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Why do buses between St Ives and Gordon not leave and arrive from the same side of Gordon Railway Station?

Answer—

I am advised:

Route 582 operated by Shorelink services the suburbs of Gordon and St Ives, while Routes 195, 196 and 197 operated by Forest Coach Lines travel express to St Ives before continuing to St Ives Chase and Mona Vale.

There is insufficient kerb space on the northern side of Gordon Station for both Shorelink and Forest Coach Lines services to depart. Also, moving Route 582 services to the southern side of the station would result in a 1.4 kilometre diversion per return trip to the service and increased travel time for passengers.

*9437 NSW MARITIME OFFICE IN GRIFFITH—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Given your advice that the incumbent officer at the NSW Maritime Office in Griffith had resigned (Question 8983):

- (1) What action is being taken to fill the vacancy?

- (2) (a) Have advertisements for the position been placed?(b) If so, in what newspapers/websites and on what date(s)?
- (3) What are the details of the package offered to prospective employees including salary and all additional benefits to be offered?
- (4) Have additional resources been provided from NSW Maritime to the Griffith RTA office in order to provide the NSW Maritime services there?
- (5) If yes to (3), will the Minister provide details as to these resources?
- (6) If no to (3), why not?

Answer—

- (1) to (6) NSW Maritime regularly reviews the balance and location of staff to best serve boating community needs.

All NSW Maritime transactions can be conducted at the RTA Office. This service is available 6 days a week and online.

The number of positions in the Murray Inland region will not change.

*9438 DUBBO COLLEGE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many consultation workshops are scheduled for the current review of Dubbo College?
- (2) (a) Have these workshops been advertised?
(b) In what publication(s) and on what dates were the advertisements published?
- (3) How many teachers work at Dubbo College on each Campus?
- (4) (a) How many people are on the Community Consultation Committee?
(b) Are these people paid any sitting fees?
- (5) What is the committee's membership structure, including former and current parent representatives, former and current teacher representatives, departmental representatives, and other concerned Dubbo individuals?
- (6) On what dates has the Community Consultation Committee met?
- (7) When will a report on the Dubbo College review be finalised?
- (8) Will the report be presented to Parliament or made public?

Answer—

- (1) One two-day workshop involving the Consultation Committee is planned for April 2010. The consultation process will also involve a number of focus group meetings. There are 12 focus groups for current staff, 18 focus groups for current students and 15 focus groups for current parents planned. There will also be meetings with identified groups such as Parents and Citizens Associations and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.
- (2) (a) The consultation process has been announced in the local media and all current students, staff and parents have received an individual letter outlining full details of the process. All members of the Dubbo community have been invited to make written submissions. This invitation has been advertised in the local press. Members of the broader Dubbo community, including former students and their parents and former teachers, will also have an opportunity to lodge written submissions.
(b) The call for public submissions was advertised in the Dubbo Liberal on Friday 12 March 2010 and in the Dubbo Shopper on Wednesday 17 March 2010. In addition, there have been news broadcasts and interviews with the Committee Chair. Most media have placed details of the consultation process on their web sites.
- (3) The 2010 actual teacher (equivalent full time) entitlement for Dubbo College is:
 - Dubbo College Senior Campus - 72.54
 - Dubbo College South Campus - 50.04
 - Dubbo College Delroy Campus - 45.5
 - Total: 168.08
- (4) (a) There are 21 committee members and additional ex-officio members.
(b) Other than the independent Chair, members receive no remuneration.
- (5) The committee includes the Regional Director Western NSW; a NSW Teachers Federation representative; the Director Staffing Services; campus and college principals; the local NSW Teachers Federation organiser; one representative from each campus's Parents and Citizens Association and Teachers Federation; Aboriginal Education Consultative Group representatives and the independent Committee Chair.

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- (6) The Consultation Committee met on Wednesday 10 February 2010 and Monday 1 March 2010.
- (7) It is anticipated that the Dubbo College Community Consultation report will be finalised in June 2010.
- (8) The report will be made public.

*9439 EUMUNGERIE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What is the estimated cost of heat, smoke and water damage to Eumungerie Public School in dollar value?
- (2) Is arson suspected in this case?
- (3) What is the estimated timetable for repairs by the NSW Government?
- (4) Does Eumungerie Public School have a security fence?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education and Training has estimated that the fire has caused \$1 million in damages to Blocks A, B, C and a demountable administration building on the school site.
- (2) NSW Police are currently investigating the cause of the fire.
- (3) Subject to favourable weather conditions, the Department anticipates that Block A will be rebuilt by 31 January 2011. It is also anticipated that damage to Blocks B, C and the demountable administration building will be repaired by 7 May 2010.
- (4) As a small rural school Eumungerie Public School does not have a security fence.

*9440 TRAVEL TIME FOR MOTORISTS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

What is the typical time taken for northbound motorists to travel the 800 metres from Excelsior Parade to Bay Street Toronto during the peak at approximately 8:30 am to 9:00 am?

Answer—

I am advised:

Four morning surveys have been undertaken since 2009, with an average travel time of three minutes and 30 seconds.

*9441 MORISSET RAILWAY STATION—CARPARK AND BUS INTERCHANGE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the delay with Morisset Railway Station carpark and bus interchange which was due for completion in October 2009?
- (2) What steps has RailCorp taken to notify commuters and the public regarding delays and changes to ingress and egress from the station?
- (3) When will the public be able to access the "kiss and drop" area at the station?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that as bus timetables have not changed during the upgrade, elderly and disabled passengers are missing trains due to the lengthy distance from the current bus drop-off zone to the platforms?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) RailCorp has reached agreement with the Principal Contractor to vacate the work site following continued poor performance. RailCorp is currently working to procure another Contractor to complete the project as soon as possible.

RailCorp is mindful of the inconvenience to customers during the project and is aware of the importance of keeping the community informed of progress. Project update posters are on display at Morisset railway station and local staff are also available to field customer enquiries. RailCorp will keep the community informed during the final stages of the project.

The remaining works include roadworks to integrate the interchange with traffic signals and car park entrances and exits on Dora Street. Once complete, buses and vehicles will be able to safely access the new interchange.

*9442 DEVELOPMENT ADVICE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

What advice did the Department of Planning give to the proponent of the Olstan mine that the development would not be permissible under State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007?

Answer—

The Department of Planning advised Centennial Coal verbally that it had obtained legal advice that suggested that part of the Olstan Coal Project was prohibited under State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

*9443 ANTENATAL CLASSES/SUPPORT SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to antenatal classes and/or support for pregnant women at the Tweed Hospital:

- (1) How many women utilised the antenatal classes/support services in 2008-09?
- (2) Is there a charge attached for these classes?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 368.
- (2) The Tweed Hospital charges \$50 per couple for 6 sessions. In certain cases fee waivers or various concessions may also be available to Health Care Card Holders or patients reporting financial difficulties.

*9444 SALE OF NSW LOTTERY PRODUCTS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What is the total number of NSW lottery products sold in outlets in the Tweed electorate in the following years:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) year to date?
- (2) What is the total value of NSW lottery products sold in outlets in the Tweed electorate in the following years:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) year to date?
- (3) What is the total value of NSW lottery products sold in outlets in NSW in the following years:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) year to date?
- (4) What is the tax value to the Government?

Answer—

- (1) The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing does not collect information relating to the total number of NSW lottery products sold in electorates.
- (2) The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing does not collect information relating to the total value of NSW lottery products sold in electorates.
- (3) Full financial year figures are available in the NSW Lotteries annual report.
- (4) This question should be directed to the Treasurer, who is responsible for the collection of duty from NSW lottery products.

*9445 TWEED LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

What is the authorised and operational strength of the Tweed Local Area Command:

- (a) since December 2006;
- (b) currently?

Answer—

Information about police numbers - both authorised and actual strength - is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au

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*9446 COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many community health clinics are there in NSW?
- (2) How many of these operate at school facilities in NSW?
- (3) By name, which schools and other premises are these clinics located in?
- (4) What services are provided at the community health clinics?
- (5) Why were the community health clinics at Glenmore Park and Henry Fulton Public School Cranbrook, closed on 1 December 2009?
- (6) When will these clinics re-open in 2010?
- (7) How much did these clinics cost?
- (8) What are the numbers of parents attending each one?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) NSW Health currently lists 384 community health centres across NSW. Many more community health services are delivered, for example, by outreach from other health facilities to people in their homes and as mobile services.

Community health is part of the primary health care system, with community health services configured differently in sites across the state. This may depend on local population needs, local service development history and the availability of other primary health care services to partner in the primary health care system.

There are at least twenty service streams in community health across NSW including:

- Child, youth & family services such as Physical Abuse and Neglect of Children (PANOC) services, youth health services, sexual assault services, sexual health services and women's health services;
- Rehabilitation, aged care and chronic disease services such as aged and extended care, community nursing, community rehabilitation, multidisciplinary chronic disease management, palliative care and hospital demand management services;
- Community mental health and drug & alcohol services;
- Oral health services; and
- Priority populations such as Aboriginal health and multicultural health services.

There are also some services that span a range of groups such as intake and initial assessment services, generalist counselling and psychosocial services, and health promotion services.

To provide the level of detail requested by the Member in respect to naming all the schools and other premises where community health clinics are held, would, on this occasion, unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department of Health and Area Health Services away from the exercise of their core functions.

(5) and (6) Sydney West Area Health Service school based early childhood health clinics close during the school holidays due to safety and security risks for staff and clients. Parents are advised in advance of these closures through notices posted at each early childhood clinic 3-4 weeks before the holiday closures and routine communication with the child family health nurse. In December 2009 this arrangement was brought forward by two weeks in order to prioritise home visiting for new parents in line with the requirements of the NSW Health Maternal & Child Health Home Visiting Policy (February 2008) for a first home visit to be conducted within 2 to 4 weeks.

The Glenmore Park and Henry Fulton Public School Clinics re-opened on 1 February 2010

(7) The average cost for conducting a two hour Child and Family Health Clinic is calculated as \$481.25.

(8) The monthly attendance patterns over the period July to November 2009 at the Glenmore Park School Clinic range from 69 to 139 (average 93), and at the Henry Fulton Public School Clinic range from 8 to 61 (average 31).

*9447 DECLARATION OF OUTLAW GANG—Mr Greg Smith asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

With respect to the legislation urgently introduced in April 2009 by the then Premier Rees, to deal with outlaw gangs:

- (1) Did the Premier suggest that an application would soon be made to have an outlaw gang declared

under the legislation?

- (2) Have no applications yet been made for a declaration under the Act, although it has been 11 months since the Act commenced?
- (3) When will the first application be made?
- (4) What is the reason for the delay?
- (5) Will the Act be amended to address doubts about the legislation, in view of the invalidation of the South Australian legislation, and the High Court's allowance of an appeal against the NSW Crimes Commission?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Member to my answers to Question Without Notice on the issue in the Legislative Council on 11 March and 17 March 2010.

*9448 ASBESTOS IN HOUSES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) houses in Kempsey:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the presence of asbestos in any such houses?
- (2) If so, how many houses?
- (3) What, if any, safeguards are in place to protect the occupants of such houses from exposure to asbestos?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Many houses that were constructed prior to 1986 contain asbestos sheeting. This is an issue for both private and public housing across Australia.

Asbestos sheeting is safe if it is well maintained and not broken. Should a resident report broken asbestos sheeting it is dealt with urgently (to make safe) by Housing NSW and a set protocol activated to deal with the threat of possible asbestos exposure.

*9449 WELLINGTON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Given that the Wellington Correctional Centre failed a NSW Health inspection in May 2009, what has been done to fix the problem?
- (2) Who in the Department of Corrective Services/NSW Government was ultimately responsible for the following:
 - (a) failing to provide areas for non-smokers;
 - (b) failing to have adequate areas for disease outbreaks/pandemics;
 - (c) refusing to supply prisoners with clean clothes more than once a week?
- (3) Given that the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre is based on a similar design to the Wellington Correctional Centre, has the Minister ensured that the former passes all minimum health standards?
- (4) When was the last health inspection for the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre and what was the result?
- (5) Have all other NSW Correctional Centres passed their latest health inspections?
- (6) If no to (5), which centres did not pass their latest health inspections?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Wellington Correctional Centre did not fail a health inspection. An exemption to Health Regulations was sought and gained and subsequently revoked, resulting in an assessment by a Health Officer before the exemption could be re-applied. This assessment identified a number of criteria of the exemption that needed improvement, all of which were subsequently met.
- (2) The Commissioner of Corrective Services has ultimate responsibility for acts or omissions of Corrective Services NSW.
 - (a) Designated smoking and non-smoking areas have been provided.
 - (b) The new configuration of bunk-bed cells in fewer wings at Wellington Correctional Centre enables better cell utilisation in the event of an epidemic or pandemic.
 - (c) Inmates at Wellington Correctional Centre receive 3 changes of clothes per week.
- (3) to (6) Wellington Correctional Centre is the only correctional centre to have sought this exemption,

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and therefore the only correctional centre to have been subject to an assessment.

*9450 M5 ROUTE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given that the Minister recently instructed the RTA to examine all options for linking the M5 with Sydney Airport, rather than focusing on building an arterial road through Tempe Reserve, what were the factors leading to this decision?
- (2) What are the total consultation costs for the proposed M5 East?
- (3) What are the total consultation costs for the proposed widening of the existing M5?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Improving the road network links in this area is essential to provide improved access to the airport and industrial areas close to the airport. Like all projects of this size and nature community consultation is always sought. As a result of the initial consultation process the RTA will look at alternative options to the proposed link road. The M5 expansion is important to the future transport needs of Sydney and community feedback will be sought at each stage of project development.
- (2) and (3) Initial consultation for the M5 corridor expansion was announced on 18 November 2009. It has been undertaken to seek initial comment from the community and other stakeholders concurrently for the two proposals covering the 32 kilometre length of both the M5 East freeway and the M5 South West motorway.

Consultation costs for both proposals have been funded out of the \$15 million allocated by the State and Federal Governments to study the feasibility of upgrading the M5 corridor.

The consultation has included advertising community information (newspaper and online fees), hire of shopping centre spaces and display systems, printing of community information, letter box drops to residences and community consultations.

*9452 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT—KENROSE STREET FORSTER—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of Great Lakes Council's policy of three garbage bins per household?
- (2) If so, will the garbage room located under the building to be built for your department at Kenrose Street, Forster have provision for 60 "wheelie bins"?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If so, what provisions have been made for garbage collection services for the 20 units in the proposed NSW Housing development for Kenrose Street, Forster?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that on garbage collection day, due to green waste and recycling being collected every alternate week, there could be 40 garbage bins lined up on the kerb outside the proposed development at Kenrose Street ready for collection?
- (6) If so, is the Minister aware that kerb space may be taken up by cars parked on Kenrose Street due to lack of parking for the 20 units within the proposed development?
- (7) If so, will tenants be forced to place their bins on the road as opposed to the kerb for ease of collection by the garbage truck?
- (8) If so, will this create a danger for the tenants and other residents of the area?
- (9) If so, what does the Minister propose to minimise such dangers?
- (10) If an alternate centralised garbage bin is to be used, where will this bin be located?
- (11) If a centralised bin is to be used, have the health aspects been considered in relation to this method of garbage collection?
- (12) If so, which authority or authorities have been consulted in relation to the health aspects of using a centralised bin?
- (13) If none, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The garbage room will have sufficient room for 26 bins.
- (3) The sharing of green waste and recycling bins between residents was discussed with Great Lakes Shire Council. As the units are mostly 1 bedroom, Council did not contest plans for the provision of 26 bins.
- (4) There is a shared walkway from the bin storage area out to Kenrose Street for collection.
- (5) The expected number of bins to be placed for collection on Kenrose Street is 26 bins.
- (6) The car parking allocated for this development complies with the requirements of the Affordable

Rental Housing SEPP.

- (7) N/A
- (8) N/A
- (9) N/A
- (10) N/A
- (11) N/A
- (12) N/A
- (13) N/A

*9453 MR AND MRS TEBBUTT—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

In relation to Mr and Mrs Tebbutt:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise if these residents have been complaining to you since 2004 that they have not received their promised refund from the Lands Department, after paying close to the market value for the conversion of their land title to freehold when it was possible to purchase for 3% of the value?
- (2) Has the Minister refused to meet with Mr and Mrs Tebbutt to discuss the refund of nearly \$400,000?
- (3) Has the Minister refused Mr and Mrs Tebbutt's invitation to visit their home even though you drive past their front gate regularly?
- (4) Did the Minister advise Budget Estimates Committee on 18 September 2009 that Mr Martin Tebbutt of Bilpin had written to all members of Parliament and also to radio broadcaster Mr Alan Jones AO, concerning the non-payment by the Department of Lands of the promised cash refund after Mr Tebbutt's property title was converted from Perpetual Lease to freehold?
- (5) Did the NSW Ombudsman advise Mr and Mrs Tebbutt that he cannot investigate "Ministers and Members of Parliament"?
- (6) Did the Minister advise the Budget Estimates Committee that "Mr Tebbutt was not financially disadvantaged by the administrative errors" of your Department of Lands?
- (7) Were the amendments to the Crown Lands Act authorizing some leasehold land to be converted to freehold for 3% of the market value presented to the Parliament on 22 June 2004?
- (8) Did the Department of Lands prepare the transfer papers for Mr Tebbutt's purchase on 5 July 2004?

Answer—

As previously advised, Mr Tebbutt lodged his purchase application on 3 September 2001, which is 34 months before the new special purchase provisions of the Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989 commenced on 1 July 2004.

The purchase price negotiations concluded on 28 August 2002 when the former Department of Lands accepted Mr Tebbutt's counter offer of \$360,000. This was 23 months before the new special purchase provisions commenced.

When Mr Tebbutt paid the purchase price in full on 26 February 2004, he became the beneficial owner of the land in question on that date.

On this basis, Mr Tebbutt is not entitled to any refund of purchase money as his purchase application was correctly processed under the legislation in force at the time his purchase application was lodged, i.e. Schedule 7 of the Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989.

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*9454 WILLYAMA HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Education and Training—

How did the 2009 HSC results at the Willyama High School, Broken Hill, compare to the results that the school obtained:

- (a) 10 years ago;
- (b) 20 years ago;
- (c) 30 years ago?

Answer—

The results obtained in the 2009 Higher School Certificate cannot be reasonably compared with results obtained prior to 2001. From 2001, the calculation and reporting of results changed from being based on

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a pre-determined distribution across percentile bands, to being based on how students perform against prescribed academic standards. In addition, the pattern of study rules for the award of the Higher School Certificate changed in 2001.

The following result information is provided: the number of students awarded the Higher School Certificate, and the course result distribution in terms of percentiles (1979, 1989, 1999) and Bands (2009). Most students undertake either five or six courses for the Higher School Certificate. Accordingly, the number of course results will be a multiple of the number of courses taken by each student and the numbers of Higher School Certificate students in each year.

In 2009, there were 54 students awarded a Higher School Certificate. The distribution of Bands by course for this cohort was:

Performance Band	Number of results
Band 6/E4	3
Band 5/E3	42
Band 4/E2	73
Band 3	86
Band 2	47
Band 1/E1	19

(a) In 1999, there were 47 students awarded a Higher School Certificate. The distribution of percentiles by course for this cohort was:

Percentile Band	Number of results
91-100%	8
81-90%	8
71-80%	19
61-70%	27
51-60%	29
41-50%	22
31-40%	50
21-30%	36
0-20%	76

(b) In 1989, there were 64 students awarded a Higher School Certificate. The distribution of percentiles by course for this cohort was:

Percentile Band	Number of results
91-100%	35
81-90%	24
71-80%	37
61-70%	35
51-60%	36
41-50%	44
31-40%	50
21-30%	56
0-20%	102

(c) In 1979, there were 40 students awarded a Higher School Certificate. The distribution of percentiles by course for this cohort was:

Percentile Band	Number of results
91-100%	18
81-90%	27
71-80%	18
61-70%	25
51-60%	30
41-50%	27
31-40%	22
21-30%	21
0-20%	37

*9455 TRAIL BIKES FOR ALBURY AREA LOCAL COMMAND—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

Further to advice that trail bikes would be allocated to the Albury Local Area Command to patrol parks, reserves and bushland areas and to investigate illegal activities in these locations:

- (1) Where will these bikes be based?
- (2) When will they be available and for what durations?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that trail bikes are a Region resource and are not allocated to specific Local Area Commands (LACs). With the recent addition of two trail bikes, Southern Region now has a fleet of 12 bikes. These bikes are made available to LACs within the Region on a needs basis, including Albury LAC.

*9456 NEW TAX LEVY ON CARS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the new tax levy to be imposed on vehicles weighing more than 975 kg, what is the total number of cars registered at 1 March 2010 that will attract the levy in the following postcodes:

- (a) 2640;
- (b) 2641;
- (c) 2642;
- (d) 2644;
- (e) 2646;
- (f) 2647;
- (g) 2653;
- (h) 2658;
- (i) 2660?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government allocated a record \$4.4 billion towards roads in the 2009/10 budget. Rural and regional roads in NSW were allocated \$3.1 billion, or 71% of that funding.

The increase in the motor vehicle weight charge will mean motorists will be paying an increase of between \$5 and \$30 for vehicles over 975kg which equates to less than 60 cents per week.

*9457 PROPOSED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Following the announcement of a Federal Government proposal to fund health services in NSW under a yet to be defined efficiency standard, will the Mercy Health Service in Albury remain fully operational if the scheme is implemented?

Answer—

On 3 March 2010, the Federal Government released its proposal for reform of the Australian health system including significant rebalancing of the roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The NSW Government has said that it is committed to working with the Commonwealth to achieve lasting health reform.

Many hospitals across NSW and Australia face challenging circumstances due to their size, including higher staff costs, lower patient loads, and important community service obligations.

The Commonwealth has said it understands that small hospitals including those in regional and rural areas cannot operate under the same cost structure as metropolitan hospitals, and we will work with them to understand how their proposal safeguards these vital regional services.

We will be analysing the detail of the Commonwealth's proposal and our decisions will be guided by what is in the best interest of the people of NSW, including those in rural and regional areas.

*9460 COST OF THE FORUMS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

In the Minister's recent consultation on the State Plan, what was the cost of the forums with the 3,500 groups and individuals as cited on her website nsw.gov.au?

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Answer—

The total cost of the 17 community meetings, 10 online regional consultation forums and Stakeholder Forum held at Parliament House was \$139,752 (exclusive of GST).

This amount includes all costs associated with venue and equipment hire, catering, transport, website hosting and moderation, production and printing of the State Plan consultation draft and meeting materials.

*9461 PROTECTION OF SEAGRASS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How is legislation regarding the protection of seagrass, under the Fisheries Management Act Section 205, being enforced?
- (2) What education strategies are in place to promote awareness in the community regarding the legislation, particularly among yacht owners?
- (3) What strategies are in place to support and protect seagrass?
- (4) How many infringements have been issued over the last year and in the last 5 years regarding the protection of seagrass under the Fisheries Management Act Section 205?
- (5) What strategies are in place to prevent the spread of the introduced species of seagrass, *Caulerpa Taxifolia*?

Answer—

I am advised that while some areas of seagrass receive protection within marine parks and aquatic reserves, for example by anchoring restrictions and the provision of vessel moorings, the administration of section 205B of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 and the management of *Caulerpa taxifolia* are the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Steven Whan MP.

*9462 TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT SEAFORTH JUNCTION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of increased traffic congestion at Seaforth junction during February and early March 2010?
- (2) What are the reasons for this increased congestion?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the delays buses are experiencing due to congestion in this area?
- (4) What action is being taken to overcome these bus delays?
- (5) How many buses travelling through this area have reported being late in the month of February?
- (6) How much overtime was paid to drivers who drive on routes through this area in the month of February?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (5) That there were a range of reasons for delays during this period including the start of the school and university year, and traffic incidents. In addition road pavement works undertaken by Downer EDI along Spit Road during January/February 2010 revealed damaged pavement loop detectors. This has now been repaired to minimise the delays.

In 2008-09, Sydney Buses recorded an improvement in reliability with 96% of services departing on time and 99.4% of timetabled services operating across the network over the year.

I am advised State Transit works with relevant agencies such as the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), NSW Transport and Infrastructure and local councils, to improve travel times across its network, including along arterial corridors.

All State Transit buses, including in the Seaforth area, now have the necessary equipment installed to support the RTA's Public Transport Information and Priority System (PTIPS) which assists buses to keep to timetable schedules by allowing them priority at traffic lights.

(6) I am advised that in 2009, State Transit overtime payments dropped by 11% compared to 2008. The reduction was due to improvements in driver rostering and scheduling and was despite an increased numbers of buses and drivers catering for growth in patronage demand on the State Transit bus network. In rostering drivers, State Transit has to consider availability of staff, cost efficiencies, and fatigue management. A key element of this strategy is the use of overtime to meet a range of operational needs, both planned for and unforeseen.

*9463 ASSAULTS ON REAL ESTATE AGENTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

Is the Minister aware of any assaults that have occurred on real estate agents attending properties during rental bond assessments?

Answer—

All matters of assault should be referred to NSW Police. NSW Fair Trading's complaint database for the period 1 January 2009 to 18 March 2010, identifies one matter of an alleged assault on a real estate agent while conducting an outgoing (rental bond) inspection.

*9465 L90 BUS SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of problems with overcrowding on the L90 service?
- (2) How many complaints have been received on the L90 service over the past year?
- (3) How many times has the L90 bus service run late over the past year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Patronage on State Transit services is growing strongly in the Northern Beaches area and this is why we have introduced a large number of articulated buses to operate on the main bus corridors in the region. The new bus network introduced in August 2009 expands services and delivers more reliable journey times, with additional services on the main bus corridors.
- (2) Over the past year there were over 3 million passenger boardings for the L90 service. In the same period there were 405 complaints received on the L90 service covering various issues. The number of total complaints compared to passenger boardings was 0.01%.
- (3) In 2008-09, Sydney Buses recorded an improvement in reliability with 96% of services departing on time and 99.4% of timetabled services operating across the network over the year.

*9466 BUS LANE FOR WARRINGAH ROAD—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Are there plans to create a bus lane on Warringah Road?
- (2) Will the Minister invite Expressions of Interest for a Bus Rapid Transit system on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority's (RTA) has plans to investigate the possibility of future bus lanes on Warringah Road.
- (2) Strategic Bus Corridor 16 (Mona Vale to the City) is scheduled to be developed as a bus way, with predominantly continuous bus lanes from Seaforth to the Northern Beaches. A total of 16.7 kilometres of bus lanes (in both directions) has been installed, with approximately \$20 million more to be invested over the next 2 years, between Spit Bridge and Mona Vale.

*9467 NEWCASTLE AND MAYFIELD RTA OFFICES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the NSW Government closing down its Newcastle RTA office on Parry Street?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) why;
 - (b) where will the new RTA be located?
- (3) Is the NSW Government closing down its Mayfield RTA office?
- (4) If so:
 - (a) why;
 - (b) where will the new RTA be located?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The RTA is proposing to merge the Newcastle and Mayfield Motor Registries to a new site in Parry Street. The proposed site is approximately 100 metres from the current Newcastle Motor Registry site on Parry Street.

The new site will overcome current issues with both the Newcastle and Mayfield offices. The current Newcastle building has been in service in excess of 50 years and no longer meets customer

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requirements. The lease on the Mayfield RTA office is due to expire and there have been issues with the current property.

*9468 WILLIAMTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Education and Training—

Given your advice that a final review of potential future enrolments and developments in the area is occurring during Term 4, 2009 (Question 8572):

- (1) Has the Government completed that final review?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) will the review be made public and when;
 - (b) will the Minister detail the findings of the review?
- (3) If not:
 - (a) why not;
 - (b) when is the review expected to be completed?

Answer—

A review of potential future enrolments and developments for Williamtown Public School was conducted during Term 4, 2009.

I expect to receive advice from the Department of Education and Training on the future of educational provision at Williamtown Public School for my consideration in the near future.

*9469 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR ENROLMENTS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What complaints procedure is in place for students at TAFE, particularly regarding enrolments?
- (2) Is there an online procedure for complaints regarding enrolments at NSW TAFE?

Answer—

- (1) The procedures for managing TAFE NSW students' complaints are specified in the Department of Education and Training's "Complaints Handling Policy and Guidelines". Students are able to make a complaint orally, in writing or online.
- (2) Yes.

*9470 MOBILE BREAST SCREENING UNITS—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In reference to the mobile breast cancer screening units being axed in regional areas of NSW such as Casino:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the impact this decision will have on women from rural and regional areas where public transport is not readily available?
- (2) Will the government provide free transport to the closest fixed site from these regional areas for women requiring screening?
- (3) Will women refrain or forget to be tested because there is no visible breast screening van in their area?
- (4) Could the removal of these visible mobile screening vans ultimately lead to an increase in breast cancer rates?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The North Coast Area Health Service increased the number of fixed BreastScreen sites in 2008 and these are located at Tweed Heads, Lismore, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour. The fixed sites are available all year round, and out of hours appointments are now available at some fixed screen sites. Since the opening of the additional fixed sites, BreastScreen NSW North Coast operates one mobile van which periodically visits the more remote locations across the North Coast.

Women from Casino may travel to the Lismore fixed site that is approximately 25 minutes from Casino and offers after hours appointments. All four fixed sites and the mobile van utilise Computerised Radiography digital equipment, which allow higher quality breast images to be taken.

The North Coast Area Health Service Transport Unit can assist BreastScreen clients who meet the criteria for travel assistance. Information regarding this service is included in the letters sent to clients inviting them for a breast screening appointment.

BreastScreen NSW North Coast Service sends invitation letters to women on the electoral role when they turn 50 years of age. In addition, re-screen reminder letters are also sent to women in the target age group 50-69 years. BreastScreen NSW services routinely advertise in the local newspapers, business and access other advertising media in local areas.

*9471 SHORT COURSE ON USE OF PINDONE BAITS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Regarding the rabbit population in Bindee:

- (1) When will the Minister grant the LHPA group approval for a short course on the use of Pindone baits given that Pesticide Regulation 2009, s. 9 says there is no legal method to proceed with baiting without sufficient landholders having AQF3 accreditation?
- (2) Why is it going to cost drought stricken farmers \$11,020 dollars for a two-day course for just 28 landholders in order to have AQF3 accreditation?
- (3) Why can an inexpensive course not go ahead before March next year given the destruction of the environment if rabbit breeding continues unabated over the summer months?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) I have recently approved an amendment to the Pesticides Regulation 2009, which will allow alternative, targeted qualifications for limited pesticide use to be authorised in a Pesticide Control Order. This will enable a shorter course to meet training needs under the Order.
- (2) DECCW has developed a short course to reduce the cost to farmers. I am advised that the new Pindone short course will cost about \$30 per person and will run for approximately three hours.
- (3) I am advised that the Pindone short course is expected to be ready for delivery by mid-2010. Livestock Health and Pest Authorities can contact DECCW about possible interim arrangements if they want to undertake baiting before the course is available.

*9472 PRINCES AND KINGS HIGHWAYS SAFETY ISSUES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) In light of the horrific road toll on the Princes and Kings highways during the summer period, will RTA officials travel the length of these highways with local truck operators to identify safety issues that can be rectified immediately?
- (2) What upgrade projects are "project ready" on the Princes Highway with the completion of the Mount Conjola Road upgrade?
- (3) What safety improvements are being undertaken on the Princes Highway South of Batemans Bay?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The \$31 million Princes Highway and Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Bulli intersection is progressing, with the project expected to be opened to traffic by the end of 2010, ahead of schedule.

Projects currently in the development phase include:

- the Princes Highway upgrade between Gerringong and Bomaderry,
- the upgrade of the Princes Highway at South Nowra,
- the bypass of Bega on the Princes Highway,
- the Princes Highway upgrade at Victoria Creek, and
- the Princes Highway Upgrade at Dignams Creek.

The NSW Government has spent more than \$589 million on the Princes Highway from south of Wollongong to the Victorian border in the period 1994-95 to 2008-09.

A significant component of recent funding has focussed on road safety initiatives along the Princes Highway, including the Princes Highway Road Safety Strategy which delivered in excess of \$31 million of minor works from 2004-05 to 2006-07. Additional road safety works have been delivered since this time including a \$1.5 million central median barrier and curve widening at Dalmeny.

This financial year around \$750,000 has been allocated to safety improvements on the Princes Highway south of Batemans Bay.

*9473 BOAT SPEED LIMIT—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of residents' concerns about the boat speed limit near the Nelligen Bridge and

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boat ramp?

- (2) Will the Minister agree to lowering the limit in light of these concerns, including making it a no wash zone?
- (3) What maritime patrols police this area for speed?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) NSW Maritime has not received any recent representations regarding the boat speed limit near the Nelligen Bridge and boat ramp. Following previous community feedback, NSW Maritime introduced a water-ski exclusion zone from the Nelligen Road bridge down the Estuary to approximately 2 kilometres north of Sheep Station Creek.
- (3) A Boating Safety Officer undertakes regular patrols of the Clyde River including the Nelligen area.

*9474 BUS SERVICES BETWEEN CASINO AND TWEED HEADS—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many buses are used daily for passengers en route from Casino to Tweed Heads (and return) or any other drop off points or destinations?
- (2) How many passengers used those services from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 5 coaches are used to provide 8 daily services for passengers en route from Casino to Tweed Heads and return.
- (2) A total of 23,147 passengers used this service from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.

*9476 MICK YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUNDRAISING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) At the time or before the Minister answered Question 9063, had the Minister signed a report, dated 30 October 2009, of the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing under the Charitable Fundraising Act into the operation and fundraising activities of the Mick Young Scholarship Trust?
- (2) In making the statement to Parliament that "there was no finding of expenses being approved without supporting documentation", was the Minister aware that the report found that "authorisation of expenditure was approved without supporting documentation"?

Answer—

A copy of the report on the investigation into the Mick Young Scholarship Trust was provided to my office, for information only, in December 2009. The report clearly stated that:

... there is no evidence found to support the allegations reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 14 and 16 April 2009 that:

...

b. Expense reimbursement has been made without appropriate supporting documentation.

I am advised a letter and attached schedule was provided to the CEO of the Mick Young Scholarship Trust in October 2009. The full quote from the schedule is:

Authorisation of expenditure was approved without the provision of supporting documentation. However, it is noted that this documentation has since been provided and verified.

As this statement makes clear, the issue was resolved approximately three months prior to the report being provided to my office.

Therefore, there was no finding in the report that expenditure was authorised without supporting documentation, and my previous answer to the House was correct.

*9477 PARENTAL CONTRACTS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

With respect to the Minister's media release of 25 February 2010 wherein the Minister states that "parental contracts [are] one of the many tools available when it comes to keeping children safe":

- (1) Of all families who are using Community Services prevention and early intervention services, how many are currently signatories to a parental contract?
- (2) What is this figure as an absolute number?
- (3) Did the Minister also state that the implementation of mandatory parental contracts for parents whose children are assessed as being at risk-of-harm "would make it compulsory for parents who are neglecting or abusing their children to change their behaviour"?

- (4) Is it acceptable that parents who are neglecting or abusing their children should be allowed to keep their children if such behaviour persists?
- (5) With respect to the Minister's advice that "the 16,000 children are already in out-of-home care", how many of the 16,524 children and young people identified as being in out-of-home care as at 30 June 2009, came from families that had previously signed parental contacts?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Parent responsibility contracts are not associated with prevention and early intervention programs. All families in the Brighter Futures program have provided a written or verbal agreement to participate.

(3) Compulsory parent responsibility contracts would be counterproductive for a collaborative, strengths-based practice with families, which evidence establishes as the best model to be adopted.

(4) Decisions about parents who continue to neglect or abuse their children are made by the Children's Court. The role of Community Services in these cases is to bring cases to the court's attention, which it will continue to do.

(5) Information relating to the link between breached parental contracts and the initiation of care proceedings is not available on an aggregated basis.

- *9478 INVITATIONS TO VISIT—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister for Police accept the invitations of the Member for South Coast to visit the South Coast electorate to discuss the need for additional police resources and a new police station in central Shoalhaven?

Answer—

In my role as Minister for Police it is my intention to visit as many Local Area Commands across the State as I can.

- *9479 F3 SPEEDING INFRINGEMENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

For each of the past three years, how many speeding infringements have been issued on the F3 Freeway:

- (a) by police;
(b) by fixed speed cameras?

Answer—

The State Debt Recovery Office within the Office of State Revenue deals with traffic infringement notices. I suggest the Honourable Member's question is more appropriately addressed to the Treasurer, within whose portfolio the Office of State Revenue resides.

- *9480 F3 EMERGENCY PHONES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many emergency phones are located on the F3 Freeway:
(a) northbound;
(b) southbound?
- (2) How much did the Government spend on the upkeep of these phones in:
(a) 2007-08;
(b) 2008-09?
- (3) Is a record kept of how many emergency calls were made on the phones?
- (4) If so, how many calls were made in:
(a) 2007-08;
(b) 2008-09?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) 87.
(b) 91.
(2) (a) \$63,927.
(b) \$98,236.
(3) and (4) All calls from the RTA's emergency phones are connected to the NRMA call centre. The RTA

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provides for the installation and maintenance of the phones only.

*9482 TRANSPORT FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS—Mr Kerry Hickey asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

What avenues are available to people placed in nursing homes to access transport to get to and from doctors appointments when community transport does not attend nursing homes?

Answer—

The Australian Government is responsible for policy and operational matters with respect to residential aged care services.

*9483 VEHICLE REGISTRATION INCREASES—Mr Kerry Hickey asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

How much of the proposed registration increases will be spent in the rural and regional areas of NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government allocated a record \$4.4 billion towards roads in the 2009/10 budget. Rural and regional roads in NSW were allocated \$3.1 billion, or 71% of that funding.

The increase in the motor vehicle weight charge will mean motorists will be paying an increase of between \$5 and \$30 for vehicles over 975kg which equates to less than 60 cents per week.

*9485 SOLAR REBATES—Mr Kerry Hickey asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

How many solar rebates have met the 40 days rebate roll-out?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's website states that the expected timeframe for payment is within 60 days. The Department is currently meeting this deadline, except in cases where applications are incomplete and further information is required from the applicant to properly assess their application.

I am advised that in the 60 days to 31 March 2010, 13,695 rebates have been paid to NSW households for solar water heating rebates.

*9486 NSW 2010 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Tourism, Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister for Women—

(1) Will the Minister list all the names of the Member of Parliament nominees from the NSW 2010 Woman of the Year award and the reasons for their nomination?

(2) Why were these not published in the program and why was the program not professionally printed?

(3) Why was there no group photo taken of all the nominees, as has been done in previous years?

(4) Is the Minister aware that many nominees and their families, who travelled long distances to attend the function at State Parliament on 8 March 2010, were very disappointed that they were not acknowledged at the event?

Answer—

Nominees were acknowledged in speeches by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Women, and photo opportunities were available. All nominees have also been issued with a certificate.

Names of nominees for the 2010 NSW Woman of the Year Award are available on the Office for Women's Policy website (www.women.nsw.gov.au).

The NSW Government did not print programs. Instead it expanded International Women's Day activities to include for the first time a Public Lecture. This allowed for more women in NSW to be involved in celebrations.

I am advised that few requests were made for a copy of the group photograph taken in 2009. For this year's event, a photographer was available to take individual photographs of nominees with their guests and nominators.

*9487 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What social housing projects are being undertaken in the Burrinjuck electorate?
- (2) What is the address of each of the projects?

Answer—

- (1) There are no social housing projects in the Burrinjuck electorate.
- (2) N/A.

*9488 SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) Which Sydney suburbs are currently receiving water from the desalination plant?
- (2) What is the anticipated energy consumption of the desalination plant for the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011?
- (3) What volume of water will be desalinated for general supply in the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Refer to Written Question 9358 asked by the Member for Cronulla.

*9489 F3 ROAD NOISE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) In relation to the recent partial asphaltting and diamond grinding of the F3, have noise recordings been made?
- (2) If so, when, and what was the result?
- (3) What is planned with regard to checking noise levels in the future?
- (4) How will local residents be informed of the results?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In March 2009, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) carried out a trial of diamond grinding at Wahroonga. Noise monitoring was undertaken following this trial and the results of this monitoring were published on the RTA's website.
- (2) In September 2009, the RTA resurfaced approximately four kilometres of the northbound carriageway of the freeway between Wahroonga and Mt Colah. Feedback provided to the RTA from local residents has been positive. The RTA has commissioned noise monitoring to be carried out at this location with results being available by May 2010.
- (3) In addition to these noise assessments the RTA is also undertaking monitoring at residential locations between Mt Colah and Berowra as a result of the recent F3 widening works. The results of this monitoring are also expected to be available by April/May 2010.
- (4) It is intended for the Wahroonga section that the noise study would be placed on the RTA's website once finalised and a community update letter would be sent out advising where results can be found.

*9490 SOCIAL HOUSING UPGRADES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the latest status of social housing upgrades in Pennant Hills and Thornleigh?
- (2) How many units in total are offered?
- (3) What demographic of occupant will be able to apply for these units?

Answer—

- (1) Details of the social housing redevelopment projects under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan at Pennant Hills and Thornleigh can be found on the Housing NSW website under Planning Determinations.
- (2) Each site is being redeveloped into 13 units.
- (3) The Pennant Hills site will be general housing and the Thornleigh site will be Seniors Living units.

*9491 "HEALTHY AT HOME" FUNDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the "Healthy at Home" project going to be funded at the end of this financial year?
- (2) If not, what will be put in place of this service?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The four Healthy at Home sites (Hornsby, Newcastle, St George and Queanbeyan) will

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receive funding for the 2010-11 financial year.

*9493 DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) Why was the former Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) chief executive Jody Broun replaced?
- (2) Has there been an investigation and report submitted into bullying, intimidation and inequitable treatment amongst other factors, at DAA by Jan McClelland and Associates?
- (3) How many DAA regional managers have taken leave, whether sick leave or other, at any one time and for what periods over the past 2 years?
- (4) How much money has been paid to Sarah Brisbane and/or her company, Jacqui Wilkins and/or her company, Mary Grace and/or her company, Jennifer Ledger and/or company over the past 2 financial years?

Answer—

- (1) Jody Broun stepped down from her position for family reasons and therefore a replacement Chief Executive was required.
- (2) Aboriginal Affairs NSW takes all allegations of bullying seriously and all matters are dealt with in accordance with the Agency's policy.

During 2008, Jan McClelland was commissioned to review a matter and provide a report to the Chief Executive.

- (3) All Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff are entitled to take various forms of leave under the Crown Employees Award.

All leave taken by regional managers was taken in accordance with Award entitlements. Due to privacy and confidentiality, individual leave details are not able to be released.

- (4) The total amount paid to Sarah Brisbane and or her company, Jacqui Wilkins and or her company, Mary Grace and or her company and Jennifer Ledger and or her company over the last two financial years was \$422,595.

*9494 REOPENING OF INTERSECTION—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Will the report on the reopening of the intersection at Port Hacking Road and Box Road, Sylvania be made public?

Answer—

See response to LA 9431.

*9495 RAIL VANDALISM TASK FORCE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many actual police officers and/or staff are on Rail Vandalism Task Force at:
 - (a) 1 February 2010;
 - (b) 1 February 2009;
 - (c) 1 February 2008;
 - (d) 1 February 2007;
 - (e) 1 February 2006;
 - (f) 1 February 2005?
- (2) What is the authorised strength of police officers and/or staff on Rail Vandalism Task Force at:
 - (a) 1 February 2010;
 - (b) 1 February 2009;
 - (c) 1 February 2008;
 - (d) 1 February 2007;
 - (e) 1 February 2006;
 - (f) 1 February 2005?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the Rail Vandalism Task Force has had an authorised strength of 12 officers since its inception on 19 July 2007. As these positions are filled by way of secondment and/or rotation from the Commuter Crime Unit and the three Metropolitan Regions, the numbers vary from time to time.

*9496 COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM (CSGP)—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

Noting that the Department of Community Services put a Business Case based on the 2007 Ernst and Young report to NSW Treasury arguing for increased funding over three years for the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP):

- (1) What has been the outcome of the Business Case for expanding the CSGP?
- (2) What additional indexation funding has been provided to catch up with the identified backlog in cost increases since 1988-89?
- (3) What additional funds have been provided to meet the identified demand for an expanded CSGP funding base?
- (4) Given the media reports on a large increase in referrals to CSGP-funded projects such as Family Support Services, what additional funds will the Government provide?
- (5) What advice does the Government provide to CSGP-funding organisations about how to meet this demand as well as previous demand for services?
- (6) What action will the NSW Government take to expand funding for the CSGP?

Answer—

(1) In 2007 and 2008, Community Services worked with the CSGP Roundtable to develop new directions for the Program and options for ensuring financial viability. This work was reported in the Ernst and Young business case for enhancement of the Program submitted to Treasury in March 2008.

Efforts to obtain dedicated additional funding for CSGP services as recommended in the business case were not successful, but the deliberations of the Roundtable resulted in a proposed re-alignment of CSGP services to better focus resources on:

- services whose results have to do with 'community strengthening' broadly, and
- services provided directly to children, young people and families.

The report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW, headed by Commissioner Wood, and the Government's response to that report - Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing - have provided opportunities to develop this direction further.

(2) Indexation has been paid on the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) as follows:

1994-95 - 2.15%
 1995-96 - 1.90%
 1996-97 - 3.30%
 1997-98 - 2.42%
 1998-99 - 2.83%
 1999-00 - 2.00%
 2000-01 - 2.90%
 2001-02 - 2.20%
 2002-03 - 2.20%
 2003-04 - 2.50%
 2004-05 - 1.80%
 2005-06 - 2.75%
 2006-07 - 3.30%
 2007-08 - 3.30%
 2008-09 - 3.30%
 2009-10 - 2.42%

(3) In 1995-96 additional funding of 4.7%, together with indexation of 1.9% as noted above, provided a total increase of 6.6%.

(4) On 29 March 2010, the Premier announced a \$36 million plan, of which \$18 million is for parenting skills, general advice and support programs to allow non-Government organisations to help parents develop their skills to respond to children who are showing signs of difficult behaviours.

(5) Until the funding becomes available, CSGP-funded organisations should seek to meet the needs of their clients from within current resources.

(6) "Keep Them Safe" includes undertakings to make additional funding available for the following prevention and early intervention purposes:

- \$35.5 million for additional Brighter Futures services for families with children aged 0-8 years;
- \$30 million for new intensive family preservation services that will work to support families whose children are at imminent risk of entering care; and
- \$18 million to fund additional parenting skills programs and general advice and support services

for families to be provided to NGOs.

*9497 CYCLING SAFETY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Noting the increasing numbers of people cycling in Sydney and that cyclists constituted 15 per cent of those seriously injured in on-road traffic accidents in 2006-07:

- (1) What data does the NSW Government have about accidents involving cyclists over the past five years?
- (2) What are the trends in accidents involving cyclists for serious injury and for less serious injury?
- (3) Is the Government aware of the estimates given on the recent Background Briefing report suggesting that only two per cent of accidents involving bicycles are reported?
- (4) Noting the evidence in support of separation of fast-moving heavy vehicles from slow-moving vulnerable cyclists, what plans does the NSW Government have to increase the number and distance of separated cycle routes available in order to reduce potential conflicts?
- (5) Noting the evidence that "car dooring" and vehicles overtaking and turning left in front of cyclists are the two main causes of accidents involving motor vehicles and bicycles, what action has the Government planned to prevent these incidents?
- (6) Noting that there is no legislated minimum distance for vehicles passing cyclists, what action has the NSW Government taken to review the road rules to improve cyclist safety?
- (7) Given increasing reports about "road rage" being directed against cyclists what action has the NSW Government taken to prevent violence against cyclists?
- (8) Is the Government aware of Monash University Accident Research Centre research into cycling safety?
- (9) What action has been taken to prevent accidents involving cyclists in response to this research?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) According to the RTA's most up to date data, between 2004-2008 there were 5,800 crashes involving a pedal cycle, resulting in 61 persons killed and 5,946 injured. Around 95 per cent of these casualties were the pedal cyclist.
- (2) Of the 5,800 crashes involving a pedal cycle between 2004-2008, 99% of these were injury crashes. Around 12-13 fatal crashes involving a pedal cycle occur each year.
- (3) The RTA compiles the official road traffic crash statistics for NSW. These are confined to crashes which conform to the national guidelines for reporting and classifying road vehicle crashes. The RTA acknowledges that a substantial proportion of non fatal pedal cycle crashes are likely not to be reported to police. The extent of the under-reporting of pedal cycle crashes is not clear.
- (4) In 1999, the NSW Government announced the "Action for Bikes BikePlan 2010". This plan put in place a commitment to build off-road cycleways wherever practicable when new roads are built and to create off-road cycleways wherever possible.

In addition, the recently released Metropolitan Transport Plan included the announcement of \$158 million in funding over 10 years to improve cycle networks in NSW. The NSW BikePlan, which will be released this year, will include details of initiatives to be delivered using the announced funding.

- (5) There are a range of manoeuvres that contribute to crashes involving pedal cyclists. An analysis of pedal cycle crashes between 2004-2008 identifies that only five per cent involved a pedal cyclist colliding with an opening door of a motor vehicle and only around three per cent involved a car turning left into the path of a pedal cyclist.
- (6) The Road Rules currently require a driver to change lanes when overtaking a cyclist. A minimum distance is therefore not considered necessary.
- (7) The RTA is funding a range of safe cycling education initiatives. These include the RTA's production of educational material on cycling safety, such as the "Handbook for Bicycle Riders" and "Share and be Aware" publications, which are available from the RTA Website www.rta.nsw.gov.au. The issue of wider public awareness of cycling and cyclists has been included as part of the new NSW Bike Plan which is to be released shortly.

Driver education about the needs of cyclists is included in the RTA's Road Users Handbook. The message "Watch for Cyclists - The road is there to share" is displayed on variable message signs across Sydney to remind motorists of the needs of cyclists.

Neither the NSW Government nor the community, condones violence in any form. "Road rage" incidents will not be tolerated and will be dealt with by the NSW Police Force.

- (8) Yes.

- (9) The NSW Centre for Road Safety constantly reviews international and national road safety research to reduce trauma and injuries associated with road crashes. Any future actions will be determined as a result of continuing evaluation of research concerning cycling safety.

*9498 SHOOTING LICENCES—FLYING FOXES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What requirements are there on licensees to ensure that:
 - (a) flying foxes are not shot in areas of the body that means they don't die for hours or days;
 - (b) lactating female flying foxes with a pup on board or waiting back at the colony are not shot, leaving the pup to die a slow death from starvation and dehydration?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that all licence holders understand these requirements?
- (3) How does the Government check that all licence holders adhere to these requirements?
- (4) How does the Government check that licence holders do not shoot more flying foxes than permitted under licence?
- (5) How many unannounced checks were carried out by the department on licence holders in:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;
 - (c) 2008-09?
- (6) How does the Government ensure that unannounced checks are timed close enough to shootings?
- (7) What requirements are there on licensee applicants to show that without being granted a licence, the applicant would suffer economic loss from damage caused by the flying-foxes, before a licence is issued?
- (8) What monitoring does the Government do of flying fox camps around orchards where there are licences to shoot, to ensure populations of this vulnerable species are not impacted by shooting licences?
- (9) With regard to correspondence from the former Minister in 2008 that the Government is seeking a national approach to flying fox conservation together with Queensland, Victorian and Australian governments, what progress is being made with this approach?
- (10) What consideration is the NSW Government giving to banning all shooting of flying foxes as done in Queensland and Victoria?

Answer—

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has advised me as follow:

- (1) (a) All commercial fruit growers who hold a licence to shoot flying-foxes are required to comply with Standard Operating Procedures, which specify the most humane manner in which shooting should be conducted. A copy of the procedures is provided to the licensee upon issue of the licence.
(b) The Standard Operating Procedures specify how licensed growers are to manage flying-foxes shot carrying dependent young.
- (2) The Standard Operating Procedures were developed by Industry & Investment NSW in consultation with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), NSW Farmers and industry representatives.
At the beginning of the 2009-10 fruit growing season, DECCW introduced a flying-fox licensing compliance and enforcement program which required officers to provide licence holders with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures and a letter informing them of their introduction, and to make them aware of their obligations under the procedures.
- (3) Apart from requiring licence holders to submit regular returns on their activities since 2001/2002, DECCW's compliance and enforcement program includes unannounced and random audits of licensed growers to verify compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures and licence conditions.
- (4) Through DECCW's compliance and enforcement program described in answer (3).
- (5) Random unannounced audits were introduced under the compliance and enforcement program in 2009-10.
- (6) DECCW plans night audits in accordance with observed flying-fox activity and prevailing weather conditions.
- (7) Licences are only issued to commercial fruit growers. The licence application requires the grower to identify the type of crop and area of crop damaged. Inspections are undertaken by DECCW officers to verify damage to fruit prior to the issuing of a licence.
- (8) DECCW is finalising a recovery plan for the grey-headed flying-fox which will set out management actions to ensure the conservation of the species.

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- (9) The draft National Recovery Plan for grey-headed flying-fox developed by the NSW Government, in partnership with the Victorian and Queensland Governments, was publicly exhibited from 30 September 2009 until 4 January 2010. DECCW is now reviewing submissions and will finalise the plan in cooperation with other jurisdictions.
- (10) Following the decision by Queensland to cease issuing permits to shoot flying-foxes, an independent review of the NSW licensing regime was undertaken by an independent panel. The panel's final report was submitted in May 2009. The Government announced an interim response to the review findings in August 2009, pending a final response to be announced in 2010. The interim response has been fully implemented as follows:
- Maintenance of licensing arrangements as an interim measure, pending a final Government decision on the future of the licensing regime.
 - The development and adoption of Standard Operating Procedures for licensed shooting.
 - Strengthened compliance procedures targeting both licensed and unlicensed shooting.
 - Detailed economic analysis of policy options for managing the impacts of flying-foxes on orchards, to inform the final Government response.

*9499 NSW HOMELESSNESS PLAN—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

With respect to the Homelessness Action Plan 2009-2014, and noting that more than one-quarter of homeless people in NSW were in the inner city, what action has the Government taken to:

- (a) implement the NSW Homelessness Action Plan 2009-2014;
- (b) expand Temporary Accommodation capacity;
- (c) ensure that people exit Temporary Accommodation with secure housing instead of back to homelessness;
- (d) expand the Rent Start subsidy to help women and children leaving domestic violence;
- (e) expand the Special Assistance Subsidy (SAS) for people with disabilities and people with HIV/AIDS,
- (f) ensure that SAS can operate in inner city areas where rents are more expensive;
- (g) continue and expand the Homelessness Intervention Project;
- (h) house people leaving out of home care, correctional and health facilities;
- (i) continue the successful Kings Cross Youth at Risk Project; and
- (j) implement an expanded Assertive Homeless Outreach Program to help people off the street and support them into permanent accommodation?

Answer—

- (a) to (j) The NSW Homelessness Action Plan was launched in August 2009 and the NSW Government has been actively implementing the actions contained within the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

Regional planning is a key component of the NSW Homelessness Action Plan. In February 2010 Housing NSW coordinated 15 regional planning workshops across NSW to identify regional need and priorities for action. The workshops were attended by a range of government (Federal, State and local) and non-government stakeholders.

The NSW Government has established the governance structures to support the NSW Homelessness Action Plan and in February 2010 the Premier announced the establishment of the NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness. A number of appointees to the Council, including members who are formerly homeless people, will bring a strong level of experience and knowledge.

*9500 OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

With respect to Government action on the Legislative Council Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage and its stated commitment to priority for improving health, education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people, what action has the Government taken to:

- (a) fulfil the COAG National Indigenous Reform Agreement and targets set in the COAG-agreed Closing the Gap Statement;
- (b) ensure full engagement with Indigenous communities as required under "Two Ways Together";
- (c) assess the adequacy of 20 FTE Partnership Community Officers compared to the 40 recommended by the Inquiry;

- (d) provide practical training to NSW public servants about communicating effectively with Aboriginal communities;
- (e) achieve improved Aboriginal employment outcomes from Job Compacts;
- (f) provide a minimum three to five year funding for programs serving Aboriginal communities;
- (g) provide long term funding for the Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities 2006-2011;
- (h) ensure funding criteria for Aboriginal community projects result in flexible programs focused on identified needs;
- (i) incorporate "building cultural resilience" criteria into NSW Government funding for Aboriginal community projects;
- (j) increase the number of Aboriginal teachers, the number of teachers qualified to teach Aboriginal history and culture, and the amount of teacher training on Aboriginal history and culture;
- (k) include Australian history and culture as mandatory parts of all curricula in all NSW educational institutions;
- (l) maintain and support teaching of Indigenous language programs since the report; and
- (m) work with the Commonwealth for policies and programs addressing Indigenous disadvantage?

Answer—

I am advised:

(a) The NSW Government is committed to working with the Australian Government and Aboriginal communities to meet the ambitious COAG targets contained in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA). These targets are:

- Close the life expectancy gap within a generation;
- Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade;
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade;
- Halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade; and
- Ensure that all four year olds in remote Indigenous communities have access to early childhood education within five years.

The NSW Government has entered into a number of National Partnership Agreements which provide the focus for joint Commonwealth/State effort addressing Aboriginal disadvantage. These include the:

- National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes
- National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing
- National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation
- National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery
- National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development
- National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians

Additionally the NSW Government is continuing to address Indigenous disadvantage through the State Plan and "Two Ways Together", the NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan (2003-2012).

(b) The "Two Ways Together" Partnership Community Program establishes the platform for effective local partnerships between Government and Aboriginal communities. Through the program, communities are supported to develop a local governance group which works in partnership with government to develop a community action plan to identify local priorities and ways to respond to these.

A recent Premier's Memorandum (2010-03) drew particular attention to the operating arrangements for the Partnership Community Program including the way agencies will work together and in partnership with Aboriginal communities. Chief Executive Officers were also asked to make their staff aware of the Partnership Community Program and its significance as a State Plan priority.

The Government continues to work with Peak Aboriginal Bodies at a regional and State level in the development and delivery of key strategies.

(c) As the Government indicated in its response to the Report on Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage, twenty (full time equivalent) Partnership Community Project Officers will support the 40 Partnership Communities identified to begin participation in the Program. This number is expected to be sufficient to adequately assist communities to set up community governance bodies and develop community action plans.

(d) NSW Government agencies that deliver services to the Aboriginal community either conduct, or are planning to conduct, staff training on understanding Aboriginal culture and how to relate to

Aboriginal people. "Two Ways Together", the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003-2012, establishes a framework for agencies to work with and deliver services to Aboriginal people through greater sensitivity, flexibility and responsiveness.

(e) The NSW Government remains committed to Job Compacts and to improving economic and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Job Compacts is a priority Aboriginal employment program, and is a key initiative within the broader economic development programs in place in NSW as well as the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation.

The NSW Government, along with the Australian Government, has committed to boost support for Aboriginal business and entrepreneurs in NSW. Through Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Industry and Investment NSW, ten Economic Development Officers are being recruited across the State. These officers will build and strengthen economic capacity by promoting, supporting and encouraging Aboriginal entrepreneurs to develop self-employment and sustainable business opportunities in NSW. A key role of these officers is to provide specialised support to local Job Compacts and enhance their effectiveness.

The NSW Government is actively working towards increasing Aboriginal employment in the public sector. The Government has committed to the employment of an additional 2,229 Aboriginal people in the public sector over the next four years to meet the Government's COAG commitment to halving the gap in Aboriginal unemployment within a decade. Additionally, Industry and Investment NSW and the Department of Human Services will be holding an Aboriginal Employment Forum in 2010 to bring together private and public sector employers, business and community groups, to develop strategies and identify further employment opportunities.

(f) The Government remains committed to supporting programs which deliver demonstrable, sustainable and cost effective benefits to Aboriginal people. Where appropriate, the Government continues to support pilots that demonstrate cost effective improvements to the well-being of Aboriginal communities.

(g) The NSW Government recognises the need for a continued focus on addressing child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities beyond the five years of the Interagency Plan. Implementation of the Interagency Plan is a priority for this Government.

The 88 measures in the Government's five year Interagency Plan to Tackle Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal communities are being delivered at a cost of more than \$62 million over five years. Further to this, in late 2009, an additional monitoring role was created to allow new responsibilities for the Ombudsman to audit agencies' implementation of the Interagency Plan.

Reforms to the child protection system are underway as a result of the Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection in NSW, which the Government welcomed in November 2008. The Government has developed a five year action plan, Keep Them Safe, which not only responds to Justice Wood's recommendations but also sets out our future commitments to protect children in NSW.

Keep Them Safe acknowledges the work already being done to tackle child sexual assault and commits to further actions to support and strengthen Aboriginal families and communities to care for and protect their children.

(h) Aboriginal communities across NSW are diverse. Operational capacities, management styles and community needs differ greatly between urban, regional and remote Aboriginal communities. The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that programs meet the needs of individual communities. This commitment is reflected in the "Two Ways Together" Partnership Community Program which supports Aboriginal communities to work with governments to develop responses to their particular needs. The program also has a focus on agencies identifying their capacity to respond to community priorities and developing meaningful working partnerships between Aboriginal communities and government agencies.

(i) Research conducted by the Government has indicated that the term "resilience" does not resonate with Aboriginal communities, which has led to the Government's Building Community Resilience work being renamed as "Strengthening Community Wellbeing".

The NSW Government has developed a draft Strengthening Community Wellbeing Framework and Toolkit, which will support Aboriginal communities to self assess and prioritise their needs in relation to government services, infrastructure and cultural activities. The Toolkit will provide communities with information and tools to support their negotiations with government, make well-informed planning decisions, and measure and monitor impacts of improvements to wellbeing. It is anticipated that the draft Framework and Toolkit will be piloted later in 2010.

(j) The Government has a key focus on the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including a focus on the employment of Aboriginal teachers.

From the commencement of the 2004-2005 school staffing operation on 27 April 2004 until 22 March 2010, 377 teachers who have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander have been permanently appointed in NSW public schools. This includes 75 teachers appointed in the 2008-09 staffing operation and 71 teachers appointed to date in the 2009-10 staffing operation.

The number of teacher education scholarships awarded to Aboriginal people to become secondary or primary teachers increased from 30 to 60 in 2006 and from 60 to 80 scholarships offered each year from 2010. As at 24 March 2010, 86 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarship holders have been appointed to schools since the commencement of the teacher education scholarship program in 2002.

All teacher education programs must meet the requirements of the Professional Teaching Standards at the Graduate Teacher level, which include the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specific strategies for teaching Aboriginal students and demonstrated knowledge of a range of literacy strategies to meet the needs of Aboriginal students.

In addition the Institute's Mandatory Areas of Study, which include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, require all initial teacher education programs to demonstrate learning outcomes related to understanding Aboriginal history and its significance for the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and perspectives.

(k) The NSW Board of Studies mandates all syllabus documents for NSW school students.

K-6 students learn about Australian history and culture in the mandatory Human Society and Its Environment key learning area, which includes the themes Change and Continuity and Cultures. Students learn about our shared history with Aboriginal Australia and these areas are identified in the Foundation Statements, outcomes and syllabus subject matter.

All secondary students in Years 9 and 10 study a mandatory 100 hours of Australian history and 100 hours of Australian geography to qualify for the School Certificate. History students learn about the role of Aboriginal people in social and political change, the changes in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations over time and experiences and achievements of Aboriginal peoples. When learning about Australian geography, students investigate our Indigenous cultures, including contemporary social and political issues such as the importance of land to contemporary Aboriginal communities.

(l) The Aboriginal Languages Program operates in schools to enable Aboriginal communities to preserve, teach and utilise traditional language and to provide opportunities for Aboriginal students from Kindergarten to Year 12 to learn an Aboriginal language. Since 2008, 43 government schools have been funded to implement an Aboriginal language program.

The Department of Education and Training is partnering with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and Aboriginal Affairs NSW in developing a five year Aboriginal Languages Plan for teaching and learning of Aboriginal languages across NSW. The Plan will ensure greater uniformity between the Department of Education and Training, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and Aboriginal Affairs NSW on key issues such as employment conditions, qualifications, maintenance and rejuvenation of languages. An Aboriginal Education Languages Policy will also be developed under the Plan.

The Department of Education and Training is also working in conjunction with Aboriginal Affairs NSW to provide professional development and training opportunities through workshops for Aboriginal languages teachers.

The Department of Education and Training continues to collaborate with the Koori Centre at the University of Sydney to sponsor eligible Aboriginal teachers in schools and TAFE colleges in NSW to participate in the Masters of Indigenous Languages Education program. This program aims to provide specialist language training to teach Aboriginal languages in NSW public schools.

TAFE NSW is increasing the delivery of Aboriginal languages programs in partnership with local communities. A range of Aboriginal language qualifications are offered around the State, often in response to requests from local Aboriginal community groups. Highly skilled and respected Aboriginal language teachers are engaged to deliver the courses.

(m) The NSW Government is working in partnership with the Commonwealth on policies and programs to address Indigenous disadvantage, primarily through the National Partnership Agreements and their Implementation Plans that have been jointly developed by both governments.

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement highlights the importance of collaboration between and within governments at all levels and their agencies to effectively coordinate programs and services. This is the whole of government approach that is being demonstrated in all the National Partnership

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Agreements that the NSW Government is implementing as part of its commitment to closing the gap in Aboriginal disadvantage.

*9501 END OF LIFE DECISIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

With respect to support for situations when people are no longer able to make decisions about medical treatment, particularly near the end of life and wish to use Advanced Care Directives:

- (1) What education programs has the Government provided to inform members of the public about end of life decision making, including options for Advanced Care Directives?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that all patients in NSW Health services are given information about these options?
- (3) How does the Government ensure that all patients in NSW Health services with serious health conditions are given the opportunity to discuss options and prepare for situations where they are unable to make decisions about their treatment?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to provide education and support for people in this situation?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) NSW Health:

- delivers community education forums on Advance Care Planning, including end of life care decision making and Advance Care Directives;
- participates in local government and Non Government Organisation (NGO) run public forums on end of life planning; and
- provides education sessions to residents and family members in Residential Aged Care Facilities.

The Guardianship Tribunal, Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Department of Veterans Affairs also provide community education in this area.

(2) and (3) NSW Health has a mandatory policy for consent to medical treatment and policy guidelines for using Advance Care Directives with patients and their families, and for making decisions to cease treatments and allow natural death, including advance decisions to not commence resuscitation in dying patients.

An Advance Care Planning model of care and toolkit for health professionals are provided through the Australian Resource Centre for Healthcare Innovations. These tools inform NSW Health staff of their responsibilities in respecting patient choice and increase staff capacity to provide high quality end of life care planning education to the public.

(4) A priority for NSW Health is improving linkages between General Practice, Residential Aged Care Facilities, community health and hospital services to ensure that patient wishes and treatment choices are respected and acted upon appropriately across the continuum of care.

A review of end of life care policy will occur in 2010. It is intended that NSW Health clinical information systems will electronically record whether an Advance Care Plan is in place.

A suite of resources for the public and NSW Health staff are in development for structured state-wide dissemination. This includes an educational DVD on advance care planning in dementia and an electronic-learning package.

*9502 METRO CORRIDORS AND LAND—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

With regard to the Metropolitan Transport Plan commitment of "corridor protection for metros":

- (1) Between which proposed metro stations will the Government retain corridors?
- (2) Which buildings or parcels of land will be retained?
- (3) For each building or parcel of land to be retained in the Sydney Electorate, what does the State Government plan to do with it during the next 10 years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Stage 1 corridor between Rozelle and Central and the Stage 2 corridor between Central and Westmead will be retained.

All property owned by Sydney Metro at the date of the Premier's announcement on the Metropolitan Transport Plan is being retained by Government.

*9503 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Regarding the three most expensive installations of flashing lights at schools:
 - (a) What were the locations?
 - (b) Who won the tenders?
 - (c) What was the cost for each installation?
- (2) Regarding the three least expensive installation of flashing lights at schools:
 - (a) What were the locations?
 - (b) Who won the tenders?
 - (c) What was the cost for each installation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) There have been different treatments from various suppliers for various sites and the cost per site varies greatly due to sites costs and the required treatment.

The installation of school zone flashing lights over the roadway (on mast-arm) costs considerably more than installing standard school zone flashing lights.

The required treatment for sites that are more expensive will generally require installation over road way signs on mast-arms.

The less expensive sites will generally incorporate smaller size signs installed on the roadside.

*9504 FINANCIAL STIMULUS MONIES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

- (1) Has the NSW Government accepted that the Commonwealth's allocation to NSW of financial stimulus monies for transport and health projects is satisfactory and fair?
- (2) If not, what is it doing to rectify the situation?
- (3) How many NSW applications regarding transport or health projects have been submitted or appealed?
- (4) Are any such NSW applications currently before the Federal Government for further consideration?
- (5) If so, what are they?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Commonwealth Budget papers describe the allocation of funds in the Nation Building For The Future section as "building on economic stimulus measures already taken." These funds include moneys for roads, rail and ports, education and health and hospital infrastructure.

For the financial years 2008-09 to 2003-14, NSW has been allocated a total of \$19.5 billion from the Building Australia Fund, the Education Investment Fund, the Health and Hospital Fund, the Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan, the Nation Building Program and the Australian Rail Track Corporation's Investment Program.

NSW's share is 31% of the \$62.5 billion allocated across all states.

These amounts exclude multi-State projects where the NSW split is not known.

Whilst we would always like more, NSW's total share is in line with what would be expected on a population basis.

The NSW Government has made a number of submissions for transport projects to be funded by the Commonwealth, which were listed in Infrastructure Australia's report in December 2008 "A Report to the Council of Australian Governments".

In regards to NSW's submission to the Health and Hospitals Fund, may I refer the Member for Davidson to the response to Mr Mike Baird's Question On Notice to the Legislative Assembly, LA6429, from June last year on the same subject. The Minister for Health has previously advised that this information has been released to the office of the Member for North Shore under the Freedom of Information process.

*9505 COST OF INSTALLING FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

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- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the average cost of installing flashing lights at 400 school sites, in the years 2008 to 2011, is \$116,250 per site, as indicated on page 6 of the NSW Auditor General's Performance Audit Report on Improving Road Safety, School Zones?
- (2) Have tenders been called for each individual installation site?
- (3) How many different flashing light providers have been used?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) There are different treatments from various suppliers for different sites and the cost per site varies greatly including site costs. Based on the current schedule of rates, the average cost of supply and install flashing lights in a school zone is \$18,698. However, there are also costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of the technology.
- (2) No. From 2009 to date, bulk competitive tenders have been called separately for the supply of the alert signs, supply of hardware (alert device controllers) and installation and maintenance.
- (3) Three companies currently provide alert signs (flashing lights).

*9506 NSW INSTITUTE OF TEACHERS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) (a) Given that the 2008-2009 Annual Report for the NSW Institute of Teachers indicated that there were 25.6 FTE positions filled and 9.6 FTE vacancies (approximately 27% vacancies), what is the current status of the vacancies in the NSW Institute of Teachers?
 - (b) Have they been filled?
- (2) (a) What positions are currently unfilled?
 - (b) What are these job titles?
- (3) How long have each of these positions remained unfilled?
- (4) What has the NSW Institute of Teachers and the NSW Government done to fill these vacancies?
- (5) What is the shortest time that a prospective teacher will wait to receive their accreditation from the NSW Institute of Teachers?
- (6) What is the longest time that a prospective teacher will wait to receive their accreditation from the NSW Institute of Teachers?

Answer—

- (1) (a) There are currently 11.98 out of 51.2 Institute positions which are unfilled by either permanent or temporary staff.
 - (b) One of the vacancies noted in the Institute Annual Report has subsequently been filled substantively.
- (2) (a) and (b) Unfilled positions as at 16 March 2010 are:
 - Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive
 - Manager, Initial Teacher Education
 - Policy and Training Officer, Initial Teacher Education (0.38)
 - Policy and Training Officer, Professional Learning
 - Project Officer Beginning Teacher Support
 - Administration Support, Standards and Accreditation
 - Senior Policy Officer, Accreditation
 - Policy and Training Officer, External Monitoring
 - Finance Administration Officer
 - Research Officer (0.6)
 - Processing Officer, Teacher Eligibility (3.0)
- (3) Length of vacancies are:
 - Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive - From 25-6-2009
 - Manager, Initial Teacher Education - From 5-10-2009
 - Policy and Training Officer, Initial Teacher Education (0.38) - From 25-3-2009
 - Policy and Training Officer, Professional Learning - Never filled substantively
 - Project Officer Beginning Teacher Support - Never filled substantively
 - Administration Support, Standards and Accreditation - Never filled substantively
 - Senior Policy Officer, Accreditation - Never filled substantively
 - Policy and Training Officer, External Monitoring - Never filled substantively

Finance Administration Officer - Never filled substantively
 Research Officer (0.6) - Never filled substantively
 Processing Officer, Teacher Eligibility (3.0) - From 1-7-2009

(4) Six positions have been filled by temporary agency staff. The Institute currently covers less than a third of the state's teaching force. Positions will be filled as the coverage grows.

(5) and (6) The Institute does not accredit teachers. The Institute issues a prospective teacher with a statement of eligibility, or in the case of a teacher applying directly to a non-government school, will scrutinise a teacher's application after the accreditation decision has been made.

Assuming that all correct documentation is submitted to the Institute the shortest time in which either of the above occurs is on the same day.

Again assuming that all correct documentation is submitted to the Institute, generally speaking, the longest time in which either the above occurs is three working days. If a teacher's qualifications were gained overseas, this may take longer.

When a teacher is accredited at the point of employment/approval to teach, a welcome pack is sent to him or her containing information about the accreditation process. In general, these are sent within 10 working days of the teacher's accreditation. A teacher can be employed before this welcome pack is sent.

*9507 COOMA TAFE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) With regards to the third stage of Engineering Production Technology Certificate II at Cooma TAFE, has there been a reduction from four classes to one class?
- (2) Was the Minister informed about cutbacks to classes?
- (3) Were the teachers of this course at Cooma TAFE informed that there were to be cutbacks to classes?
- (4) Given that a teacher of one of the four classes was aware that there were to be cutbacks and advised their students to arrive early to enrol in order to secure a place for the next stage of the course, why were some students provided with this advantage over others?
- (5) Are there full enrolments in this third stage of Engineering Production technology Certificate II class?
- (6) (a) Is there a waiting list for this class in (4)?(b) If so, how many people are on the waiting list?
- (7) Will the Minister reconsider the cutback in classes for this course at Cooma TAFE?

Answer—

There are three classes for continuing students. I am advised that the number of classes is sufficient for the number of continuing students who have re-enrolled, and that all continuing students have been placed in a class.

*9508 TEACHER INJURIES IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

How many students from NSW Government schools injured teachers on or near NSW Government school grounds in each calendar year from 2004 to date?

Answer—

In order to respond to the question raised the NSW Department of Education and Training would have to record and store the individual names of students who were deemed to have been responsible for the accidental, or otherwise, injury of teaching staff.

This practise is not undertaken by the Department in the interests of student privacy and therefore a response to the question cannot be provided.

*9509 SURGICAL BIRTHS—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many surgical births were performed at Tweed Hospital in the following years:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009 to date?
- (2) What is the cost of performing a surgical birth?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The latest available information indicates that the number of surgical births performed at Tweed

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Hospital was:

- (a) 198
- (b) 260
- (c) 285 (January to November 2009)

(2) The average cost of performing an uncomplicated surgical birth (Caesarian Delivery) is \$5,520.

*9510 PROBATIONARY CONSTABLES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Police Academy passing out:

(1) How many probationary constables have been allocated to the Northern Region - Brisbane Water LAC; Central Hunter LAC; Coffs-Clarence LAC; Hunter Valley LAC; Lake Macquarie LAC; Manning-Great Lakes LAC; Mid North Coast LAC; Newcastle City LAC; Port Stephens LAC; Richmond LAC; Tuggerah Lakes LAC; Tweed-Byron LAC in:

- (a) 2009;
- (b) 2008;
- (c) 2007?

(2) How many probationary constables have been allocated to the Southern Region-Albury LAC; Cootamundra LAC; Deniliquin LAC; Far South Coast LAC; Goulburn; LAC; Griffith LAC; Lake Illawarra LAC; Monaro LAC; Shoalhaven LAC; Wagga Wagga LAC; Wollongong LAC in:

- (a) 2009;
- (b) 2008;
- (c) 2007?

(3) How many probationary constables have been allocated to the Western Region-Barrier LAC; Barwon LAC; Canobolas LAC; Castlereagh LAC; Chifley LAC; Darling River LAC; Lachlan LAC; Mudgee LAC; New England LAC; Orana LAC; Oxley LAC in:

- (a) 2009;
- (b) 2008;
- (c) 2007?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) (a) 56
- (b) 62
- (c) 62
- (2) (a) 49
- (b) 51
- (c) 60
- (3) (a) 57
- (b) 50
- (c) 51

*9512 GRANTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE FUND—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Noting that Warmma Pty Ltd & Sydseed Pty Ltd received a grant of \$175,000 from the Climate Change Fund for the WaterSTARS Program before June 2008, how much water was saved as a result?

(2) Why does the Annual Report not record this information?

(3) As twenty projects were discontinued after receiving a total of \$8,052,130 from the Climate Change Fund in 2008-2009, which applicants did not return the full amount, and how much did each keep?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) Warmma Pty Ltd & Sydseed Pty Ltd were allocated funding of \$175,000 under the Climate Change Fund's Green Business Program. The WaterSTARS project is still in progress. No verified water savings can be attributed to the project as it is not yet completed. Only one funding instalment of \$5,000 has been paid to Warmma Pty Ltd & Sydseed Pty Ltd.

- (2) The NSW Climate Change Fund Annual Report records estimated savings for incomplete projects and actual savings for completed projects. The estimated savings for the Warmma Pty Ltd & Sydseed Pty Ltd project were inadvertently omitted from the 2008 09 Annual Report. The project is estimated to save a minimum of 10 megalitres per year.
- (3) 299 projects were active under the Climate Change Fund at 30 June 2009, with \$21.1 million expended in 2008-09 on these projects.

Only one discontinued project received funding. DPK Australia Pty Ltd received \$425,000. This company went into voluntary administration in December 2009. Before this occurred water savings works were completed and savings of 141 kilolitres per day were being achieved.

*9513 LEAD CONTAMINATED SITES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Who signed off on the lead abatement strategy for properties surrounding the old Pasmenco smelter at Boolaroo?
- (2) What is that person's experience in dealing with lead contaminated sites?
- (3) What level of lead in soil (in parts per million) does the National Health and Medical Research Council indicate may cause harm?
- (4) Why does soil have to have more than 2,500 ppm of lead before it is removed?
- (5) What schools have lead levels in their playgrounds above the NHMRC guidelines?
- (6) What is the depth of cover permitted by the department for soils containing from 300 to 2,500 ppm of lead?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) The Deputy Director General of the Environment Protection and Regulation Group of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.
- (2) The Deputy Director General has decades of experience in a broad range of environmental issues. He is supported by specialist staff with experience in lead contamination issues, advice from other Government departments and external specialists.
- (3) The National Health and Medical Research Council has not specified the level of lead in soil that may cause harm. The Council focuses its advice on levels of lead in blood, rather than levels of lead in soil.

Lead is only harmful to humans when there is exposure or contact. Guidance for investigation levels to determine if there is an exposure risk is provided under the National Environment Protection (Assessment of site contamination) Measure 1999.

- (4) The practice of covering soil which contains up to 2,500 parts per million (ppm) of lead and removal of soil above this level is based on a wide range of expertise, experience and guidance material. This reduces the exposure potential to humans and animals.
- (5) The Department of Education and Training manages potential lead exposure issues for its schools and this question should be referred to the Minister for Education.
- (6) For the lead abatement strategy for homes around the Pasmenco site, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has approved a staged approach for soils containing from 300 to 2,500 ppm of lead. The strategy encompasses maintenance of healthy grass cover, re-turfing where necessary and up to the addition of 50 mm of topsoil and turfing.

*9514 OIL SPILL AT HANGING ROCK BOAT RAMP—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) How much money did it cost to investigate and treat the oil spill at the Hanging Rock boat ramp in early February?
- (2) Are the pumper, tanker, HAZMAT vehicle, boat and inflatable booms stored locally, or were they transported in?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) is the legislated authority to respond to and remediate the spill. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is the authority responsible to investigate the incident.

Batemans Bay Fire Station responded to the incident with a standard fire engine, hazmat van, boat and eleven personnel. Booms and absorbents were used to clean up the spill. The overall cost to the NSWFB was \$2,171.

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(2) Yes.

*9515 LAND ACQUISITION—PROPOSED NORTH-WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

How much money has been spent to date on land acquisition along the route of the proposed North-West Rail Link?

Answer—

\$143 million, since the Government's decision in September 2006 to begin a formal program of acquisition along a defined project route.

*9516 RYDALMERE PASSING LOOP—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

When will the Rydalmere passing loop on the Carlingford line be built?

Answer—

I am advised:

Construction of the Rydalmere passing loop is not currently part of RailCorp's clearways program. Priorities for expenditure to improve rail services across the CityRail network include the procurement of new trains (Oscars and Waratahs), delivery of infrastructure enhancements to boost capacity, as well as the longer term initiatives set out in the Metropolitan Transport Plan (February 2010).

*9517 WIDENING SHOWGROUND ROAD—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

When does the Government intend to widen Showground Road, Castle Hill, to two lanes each way between Cheriton Avenue and Carrington Road?

Answer—

I am advised that the timing of the proposed widening of Showground Road is linked to the determination and delivery of the current development application by Queensland Investment Corporation for a major expansion of Castle Towers Shopping Centre.

Cost-sharing arrangements, responsibilities and timing of works for an upgrade of Showground Road are to be negotiated between the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and Queensland Investment Corporation prior to the start of the expansion.

I am further advised that a detailed survey along Showground Road between Carrington Road and Old Northern Road, funded by the NSW Government, has already started. The survey will enable the preparation of detailed design plans and costings for the Showground Road widening, which in turn will facilitate those arrangements to be made.

*9518 NEW TAX LEVY ON CARS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the new tax levy imposed on cars weighing more than 975 kg, what is the total number of cars that will be affected by the levy in postcodes:

- (a) 2065;
- (b) 2066;
- (c) 2110;
- (d) 2111?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government allocated a record \$4.4 billion towards roads in the 2009/10 budget. Rural and regional roads in NSW were allocated \$3.1 billion, or 71% of that funding.

The increase in the motor vehicle weight charge will mean motorists will be paying an increase of between \$5 and \$30 for vehicles over 975kg which equates to less than 60 cents per week.

*9519 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In (a) 2008 and (b) 2009, how many traffic accidents occurred in:

- (i) the electorate of lane cove;

- (ii) the local government areas of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde?

Answer—

I am advised:

	Number Traffic Accidents in 2008	Number Traffic Accidents in 2009
Lane Cove electorate	454	419
Lane Cove LGA	162	148
Hunters Hill LGA	78	71
Ryde LGA	776	731

*9520 NARRABEEN LAGOON—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How often does the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water conduct surveys of the water quality of Narrabeen Lagoon?
- (2) When was the last time these tests were carried out?
- (3) What were the results of these tests?
- (4) What measures are the NSW Government taking to improve the water quality of Narrabeen Lagoon?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's Beachwatch Program samples water quality at Birdwood Park, just inside the entrance to Narrabeen Lagoon, every six days.
- (2) At the time of answering this question, the last test was undertaken on 6 April 2010.
- (3) The Beachwatch Program tests for the level of enterococci, a bacterium which indicates the presence of sewage contamination. On 6 April 2010, the level of enterococci was 13 colony forming units per 100 millilitres. This level is suitable for swimming and typical of the dry weather water quality at Birdwood Park when the lagoon is open to the ocean.
- (4) I understand that Sydney Water is currently undertaking a number of initiatives in this area. Accordingly, this question should be referred to my colleague, the Minister for Water, the Hon Phillip Costa MP.

*9521 HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

- (1) How many residents in the Pittwater electorate are currently receiving assistance under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (2) How many residents in the Pittwater electorate received assistance under the Home and Community Care Program during:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;
 - (c) 2008-09;
 - (d) 2009-10 year to date?
- (3) How many residents in the Pittwater electorate are currently on the waiting list for assistance under the Home and Community Care Program?
- (4) What measures is the Government taking to ensure that all Pittwater residents waiting for assistance under the Home and Community Care Program have their needs and requirements met?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) It is estimated that approximately 5,800 residents of Pittwater and Warringah Local Government Areas received services under the Home and Community Care Program in 2006-07. More than 6,200 residents received services in both 2007-08 and 2008-09.
- (3) This information is not available.
- (4) During 2009-10 and 2010-11, an additional amount of over \$1.8 million will be provided for expansion of HACC services in the Northern Sydney Local Planning Area, which includes the Warringah and Pittwater areas.

*9522 PROPOSED MEDICAL ASSESSMENT UNIT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What is the current progress of the commissioning of the Medical Assessment Unit proposed for Mona

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Vale Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Medical Assessment Unit at Mona Vale Hospital was commissioned on 27 January 2010.

*9523 POWER INFRASTRUCTURE AT MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What measures is the Government taking to ensure that power infrastructure at Mona Vale Hospital is improved to allow all wards at the hospital to be air-conditioned?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service is working with Energy Australia to discuss the current and future power requirements for Mona Vale Hospital.

An initial electrical load survey was conducted by Energy Australia from 27 January 2010 to 3 February 2010 to review supply availability to the site and identify any reserve capacity available on current substations and switchboards.

*9524 SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the total number of speech pathologists employed in Children and Adolescent Services at Mona Vale Hospital?
- (2) What was the current waiting list for this service as at 1 March 2010?
- (3) What was the current waiting list for this service as at 1 March 2009?
- (4) What arrangements have been made for patients who have been on this waiting list for a prolonged period of time?
- (5) Are there any plans to increase the number of speech pathologists employed in Children and Adolescent Services at Mona Vale Hospital?
- (6) If the answer to question (5) is yes, what are the details of such plans?
- (7) If the answer to question (5) is no, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Two speech pathologists are employed in Child and Adolescent Services at Mona Vale Hospital.
- (2) to (4) The average waiting list time for this service as at 1 March 2010 is six months, and as at 1 March 2009 was five months.

Variations in waiting times occur due to current caseload demands and the needs of individual clients. Those clients with the greatest clinical need are prioritised so that they have a shorter waiting time to obtain services. Clients are informed at intake of the expected waiting time.

Additional speech pathology services for very vulnerable children on the Northern Beaches are provided through Dalwood Spilstead Services and the Brighter Futures program.

Federal funding through Medicare has enabled families to access private speech pathology if they wish to do so. Referred clients are offered a list of private practitioners, should they wish to utilise their services.

- (5) to (7) Staffing levels are considered appropriate for this clinical service.

*9525 WATER MAINS REPAIRS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) On how many occasions were the water mains on Pittwater Road between Coronation Street and Mona Vale Road repaired during:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;
 - (c) 2008-09;
 - (d) 2009-10 year to date?
- (2) What were the total costs of these works in:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;

- (c) 2008-09;
(d) 2009-10 year to date?
(3) What has been the main cause of the water main faults on this section of road?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Unplanned water interruptions can be caused by water main breaks and leaks, damage caused by third parties carrying out construction work near Sydney Water infrastructure, and power failures.
The cost of repairs on Pittwater Road between Coronation Street and Mona Vale Road from 2006/07 to 29 March 2010 amounts to \$334,854.

*9526 IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ADVERTISING ON STA BUSES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the NSW Government given any consideration to the impact alcohol advertising on STA buses has on school children?
(2) What plans, if any, does the NSW Government have to remove alcohol advertising from STA buses?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Advertising on State Transit buses must comply with the relevant national advertising standards and codes. This information is publicly available from the Advertising Standards Bureau. State Transit complies with these standards and codes. While some alcoholic beverages are legally advertised on State Transit buses, such advertisements do not specifically promote these products to younger people.

*9527 DELAY IN REPAIRING LEAKING SECTION OF ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What has been the delay in repairing the leaking section of road near the intersection of Barrenjoey Road and Bassett Street in Mona Vale?
(2) When is this work expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has investigated seepage at this location. Further work will be conducted over the next few months to resolve the issue.

*9528 NEWELL HIGHWAY SPEED REDUCTION—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given that the Member for Dubbo admitted that she was not consulted on the speed limit reduction of the Newell Highway from 110 km/h to 100 km/h, would the Minister indicate who was consulted?
(2) Why did the Minister not request for the RTA to hold a formal public consultation in key NSW towns/cities along the Newell Highway, such as Dubbo, Narrabri, Moree, Parkes, Forbes, West Wyalong or Narrandera?
(3) Given that the RTA admitted in their press release on 5 November 2009 that they had reviewed safety issues on the highway, why did they not hold public consultations about the potential speed limit change during this review?
(4) Will the Minister rule out speed limit changes on other NSW highways without a proper public consultation process?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The speed limit change on the Newell Highway was conducted in accordance with NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines. These guidelines require internal stakeholder consultation.

I understand that a Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) officer explained the principles of speed zoning and setting of speed limits with particular reference to the Newell Highway to the representatives of 29 Councils in two separate presentations at Deniliquin and Wagga Wagga at the Regional Consultative Committee meetings on 6 and 7 October 2009.

On 9 November 2009, I am also advised that the RTA addressed the NRMA's Policy and Advocacy Committee to outline principles of speed limit reviews, and setting speed limits with particular reference to the Newell Highway. In addition to this, I understand that the RTA provided detailed information to the Newell Highway Taskforce on 20 November 2009.

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Also on 30 November 2009, the RTA has advised it addressed a second regional meeting in Narrandera to give the justifications on the speed reduction on the Newell Highway.

- (2) According to the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines, a key step in NSW speed zoning guidelines is to communicate with stakeholders regarding the reasons and benefits of the decision for setting a particular speed limit.

I am advised that this was achieved through a series of forums such as Council Regional Consultative Committees, the Newell Highway Taskforce and meetings with the NRMA and a comprehensive communication strategy was undertaken in the media to raise public awareness of the Newell Highway speed reduction.

- (3) The setting of speed limits is a highly critical road safety initiative which has direct implications on saving lives. Speed limits are set by experienced and dedicated road safety experts in the RTA, who undertake this task, in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines.
- (4) The RTA will continue to review speed limits in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines to ensure speed limits are safe for all road users and to ensure the safe movement of people and goods.

*9530 RENAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to the renal dialysis patients from the Nambucca Shire:

- (1) Why does the recently updated North Coast Area Health Service "Renal Dialysis Services Strategy 2006-2011" document make no mention of the Nambucca Shire or Macksville District Hospital?
- (2) What are your plans for renal dialysis services for residents of the Nambucca Shire?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The North Coast Area Health Service plans and delivers services using a Network model, providing an efficient and responsible use of expensive and finite health resources. The Coffs Clarence Network, containing the Macksville District Hospital in the Nambucca Shire, is one of these four Networks. Service planning for the network includes the needs of the people of the Nambucca Shire.

The Nambucca Shire is discussed on page eight (8) of the "Renal Dialysis Services Strategy 2006-2011" as having the fourth lowest growth change for the period 2001-2011 of the 12 LGAs described in the "Renal Dialysis Services Strategy 2006-2011".

- (2) There are no plans to replicate Dialysis Units in the Nambucca Shire within the next five years. Patients requiring dialysis who reside in the Nambucca Shire have access to The Coffs Harbour Health Campus Dialysis Unit and the Kempsey District Hospital Dialysis Unit.

*9531 MARTIN BRIDGE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What inspections are conducted to ensure the Martin Bridge at Taree is structurally sound?
- (2) How often are these inspections carried out?
- (3) Is corrosion at weld junctions of the braces of the bridge structure a component of the inspections?
- (4) What qualifications are held by the persons conducting the inspections?
- (5) What are the future plans for the Martin Bridge?
- (6) Are there any plans to replace the Martin Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A range of inspections are routinely carried out on the Martin Bridge at Taree to ensure it is structurally sound. These include visual inspections, condition assessments, underwater pier inspections and structural safety inspections. A load capacity assessment can also be undertaken on the bridge, if any strength issues are identified during inspections.
- (2) Visual inspections have been undertaken by Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) maintenance staff while recent repairs were carried out between October 2008 and March 2010. Regular visual inspections will be undertaken every two months now that the work is completed.

The previous condition assessment was carried out in January 2009. Condition assessments are undertaken every two years and the next assessment is expected to occur before January 2011.

The previous underwater bridge inspection was undertaken in 2005 and is scheduled every four years. The next underwater inspection will be completed by the end of 2010.

The last structural safety assessment was undertaken in 2003 and these are undertaken every ten

- years with the next structural safety assessment due by 2013.
- (3) Yes, corrosion at weld junctions is identified during condition assessments and structural safety assessments.
 - (4) The condition assessment of bridges, including underwater inspections and inspection results are assessed by qualified bridge engineers. Structural safety assessments are undertaken by experienced and qualified structural engineers.
 - (5) Regular maintenance will continue to ensure that the bridge is kept in a safe and serviceable condition
 - (6) No.

*9532 COMMERCIAL FISHING BY RECREATIONAL FISHERS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In reference to the Minister's letter of 1 March 2010 (ref: MD09/5099) in which the Minister stated that under the Marine Parks Regulations 2009 a recreational fisher's boats and motor vehicles can be seized if a recreational fisher is illegally undertaking commercial fishing activities in a marine park without a commercial fishing licence:

- (1) What is deemed as commercial fishing by a recreational fisher in a marine park?
- (2) Who will determine whether a recreational fisher is commercially fishing in a marine park?
- (3) What level of proof will be required to determine whether a recreational fisher will be deemed commercially fishing in a marine park?
- (4) (a) Have there been any instances where a recreational fisher has been deemed to be commercially fishing in a Marine Park without a commercial fishing licence?
(b) If so how many?
- (5) If so, how many have had their boat or vehicle seized under the above regulations?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

(1) to (3) Section 265 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 specifies that an officer may seize a boat or motor vehicle that the officer has reason to believe has been used by a person engaged in commercial fishing activities for the purpose of committing a prescribed forfeiture offence.

The laws apply to licensed commercial fishers and anyone else and they have applied to all waters of NSW since 1995. The powers have therefore long been available to marine park officers who are authorised to enforce fisheries legislation.

Section 36 of the Marine Parks Act 1997 specifically adopts various compliance provisions of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 to ensure a consistent approach to compliance across all NSW waters. In September 2009, to ensure greater consistency in combating illegal commercial fishing, the existing seizure and forfeiture powers were extended by declaring equivalent 'forfeiture' offences under the Marine Parks Regulation 1999.

Under section 241 of the Fisheries Management Act 1994, the term 'commercial fishing activities' is defined to mean fishing activities for commercial purposes. Under that section, a person is presumed to be engaged in commercial fishing activities (unless the person proves to the contrary), if they are:

- on a licensed fishing boat; or
- in possession of a quantity of fish in circumstances that exceed the quantity that only a commercial fisher is entitled to be in possession of; or
- in possession of fishing gear or other equipment (or any quantity of fishing gear or other equipment) that can be used lawfully only by a commercial fisher; or
- if they have fishing gear that is totally illegal for all fishers in the circumstances and is capable of exceeding the recreational fishing bag limits (since 1 April 2010).

Safeguards are in place to ensure these powers are used appropriately. This includes that only a court can order forfeiture of seized boats and motor vehicles and only after convicting the person or making an order under section 10 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 for a forfeiture offence involving commercial fishing activities.

(4) and (5) I am advised that to date no boats or motor vehicles have been seized in connection with a marine parks forfeiture offence from a person who does not hold a commercial fishing licence.

Further questions on illegal commercial fishing are best referred to my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Steven Whan MP, who has primary responsibility for the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

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*9533 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What social housing projects are being undertaken in the Albury electorate during the current financial year?
- (2) Where are these projects located?
- (3) What is the expected completion date for these projects?
- (4) How many new tenants will be offered housing as opposed to relocated tenants?
- (5) How many people are seeking social housing in the Albury electorate?

Answer—

(1) to (3) There are 7 projects in the Albury electorate all under the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. Details of Nation Building projects approved under the Affordable Rental Housing State Environmental Planning Policy and the Nation Building and Jobs Plan (State Infrastructure Delivery) Act are listed on Housing NSW's website under Planning Determinations.

(4) Most of the units will be occupied by new tenants. A small number will be occupied by existing tenants who have been relocated.

(5) The number of people on the Housing Register is detailed each year in the Housing NSW's Annual Report.

*9534 NOISE BARRIER ON BURNT BRIDGE CREEK DEVIATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Why does the noise barrier on Burnt Bridge Creek deviation not extend to the intersection of Dudley Street?
- (2) Will the RTA consider extending the barrier to reduce noise heard by residents in Dudley Street due to traffic on the Burnt Bridge Creek deviation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Noise level monitoring at the time of construction showed that dwellings on Dudley Street were well set back and not as exposed to noise as other dwellings along the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation.
- (2) There are no plans to extend the barrier to the intersection of Dudley Street. Residents who consider to be affected by traffic noise can apply for treatment under the noise abatement program.

*9535 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the Department of Health have any supported accommodation available to people with a mental illness on the Northern Beaches?
- (2) How many properties of this kind were available 5 years ago?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Housing and support for people with a mental illness on the Northern Beaches are provided through properties owned by NSW Health and Housing NSW and through the partnership program, Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI).

There is currently a total of 79 supported accommodation places available to people residing in the Northern Beaches.

At the commencement of 2005, there were nine supported accommodation properties located on the Northern Beaches, comprising 44 beds.

*9536 ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE LEVY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

How have proceeds from the Environmental Waste Levy been utilised over the past 12 months?

Answer—

I am advised that similar to previous years, the Waste and Environment Levy proceeds in 2009-10 have been used to fund a wide range of environmental and other Government services. Many of these have

been outlined in the City and Country Environment Restoration program which is available on the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's website. Key environmental programs for 2009-10 include:

- revitalising our urban environments through waste and sustainability programs;
- cracking down on illegal dumping;
- the urban sustainability program that is delivered by local councils and their partner organisations;
- waste and sustainability improvement payments to local councils to improve waste and environmental services;
- restoring and protecting our natural heritage through the acquisition of environmental water entitlements under the Riverbank Fund;
- purchasing of perpetual crown leases to create new national parks; and
- funding the new private native forestry regulation system and providing structural adjustment support for those affected by the regulation.

*9537 272 AND 273 BUS SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the 272 and 273 bus services:

- (1) What update can the Minister provide about the reliability of these services?
- (2) What data does the Minister collect to measure performance?
- (3) Does the Minister appreciate the frustration that the unreliability of these services is causing local residents on a daily basis?
- (4) What is the Minister doing to improve reliability of these services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) I am advised, that in 2008/09 Sydney Buses recorded an improvement in reliability with 96% of services departing on time and 99.4% of timetabled services operating across the network over the year. Monitoring of passenger demand and service reliability is regularly undertaken on State Transit bus routes. The latest observations by State Transit show that for both 272 and 273 bus services there is good reliability on services across the various operating periods during the day and over the week. I am further advised that for both the 272 and 273 routes, there has been a decline each year in the number of complaints since 2007/08, and most significantly since 2008-09.

I understand that bus services on Routes 272 and 273 operate as close as possible to timetable. For 273 services traffic congestion on weekends throughout the Chatswood Shopping Precinct can affect reliability on this part of the route. Issues relating to traffic congestion have been referred to the Willoughby City Council for action. The new Metrobus services are providing regular, high capacity, high frequency services along 20 main corridors to the City in addition to normal route services, and are benefiting service reliability for State Transit's network on the North Shore.

*9538 252 AND 290 BUS SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to bus services at Lane Cove North:

- (1) What update can the Minister provide about the reliability of the 252 service?
- (2) What update can the Minister provide about the reliability of the 290 service?
- (3) What data does the Minister collect to measure performance?
- (4) What is the Minister's response to a number of concerns raised by local residents of Lane Cove North about the declining reliability of these services?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) I am advised, that in 2008/09 Sydney Buses recorded an improvement in reliability with 96% of services departing on time and 99.4% of timetabled services operating across the network over the year. I understand that monitoring of passenger demand and service reliability is regularly undertaken on State Transit bus routes. The latest observations by State Transit show that for both 252 and 290 bus services there is good reliability on services across the various operating periods during the day and over the week.

I am further advised that there has been a significant decline each year since 2007-08 in the number of complaints concerning the reliability of services for both the 252 and 290 routes. While 252 and 290 bus services operate generally to timetable, reliability particularly in the afternoon peak period in the Sydney CBD can be affected by prevailing conditions of CBD traffic congestion. Issues relating to traffic congestion have been referred to the City of Sydney for action. Under the new bus network,

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Lane Cove North residents are now also benefiting from peak period freeway buses with greatly improved carrying capacity and faster more direct services to the CBD.

*9539 NAROOMA LAND PURCHASE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how the Government purchased a block of land in Narooma for \$825,000?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the steepness of the block?
- (3) Can the Minister advise whether any development applications have been processed on this site and why the development did not proceed?
- (4) Why did the Government not purchase the block across the highway that is a flat block?

Answer—

- (1) Housing NSW considered a number of privately owned sites under the Request for Tender process. This block was purchased at a cost that was within market value at the time of purchase.
- (2) Yes
- (3) The site had an expired development application approval from Eurobodalla Shire Council.
- (4) This site was considered suitable however negotiations with the tenderer fell through.

*9540 WYNDHAM WATER SUPPLY—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for State and Regional Development, Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources, Minister for Major Events, Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) What consultation has been undertaken with members of the Wyndham community, concerned about the town's water supply being affected by proposed harvesting operations?
- (2) Is there further consultation planned?
- (3) What will Forests NSW do to allay any concerns of local residents?
- (4) What guarantee will the Minister give to residents and the timber industry in relation to harvesting in the area?
- (5) When will the harvesting plan be finalised and exhibited?
- (6) What consultation has occurred with the Wyndham Water Users Association?
- (7) Have their concerns been addressed?

Answer—

- (1) Forests NSW staff have had a number of phone conversations, emails, letters and face-to-face meetings with Wyndham community members. A community information day was held in Wyndham on 24 March 2010.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Wyndham community will be included in the development of unique or modified prescriptions that may be included in harvesting operations.
- (4) Harvesting operations will be in accordance with Forest Management Zone 3B -Special Prescription Zone requirements.
- (5) The harvest plan will be finalised in the next couple of weeks and will be available from the Forests NSW Batemans Bay office.
- (6) See answer to question (1). The Wyndham Water Users Group Inc have been included in recent consultations and discussions. Further meetings are proposed.
- (7) Information on the proposed harvesting protection measures, water yield and flora and fauna surveys have been addressed. Forests NSW is currently responding to further questions by the Wyndham Water Users Group Inc.

*9541 FAR SOUTH COAST KOALAS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many identified koala colonies exist on the Far South Coast in:
 - (a) national parks;
 - (b) State forests?
- (2) Is the "last" colony of koalas about to be destroyed on the Far South Coast?
- (3) What protections are afforded to koala colonies on the Far South Coast in State forests when timber operations are planned?
- (4) Given 50 kolas have been identified in Mumbulla State Forest, are they located near planned harvesting operations?

Answer—

I am advised as follows.

(1) Department of Environment Climate Change and Water data suggests there are two areas within the Eden Region which support groups or colonies of koalas. These are:

- The Bermagui-Mumbulla area, where koalas are utilising Biamanga National Park and Bermagui Nature Reserve and the adjoining Murrumbidgee, Mumbulla and Bermagui State Forests; and
- Forests to the north-east of Wyndham, where koalas have been found in the Tantawangalo-Yurammie Section of the South East Forests National Park and the adjoining Yurammie State Forest.

In addition, records indicate that there is likely to be a colony just to the north of the Eden Region in the Kooraban National Park and the adjoining Gulaga National Park, which may also be using Bodalla State Forest, to the north of Kooraban.

(2) No.

(3) Should koalas or evidence of koalas be found, the Integrated Forestry Operations Approval for the Eden Region prescribes the techniques that must be used to survey for koalas and the prescriptions that must be implemented, such as tree retention rates.

(4) This question should be referred to the Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources, the Hon Ian Macdonald MLC.

*9542 TOURIST JET BOATS ON SYDNEY HARBOUR—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What speed limits and operating restrictions are applicable for tourist jet boats on Sydney Harbour?
- (2) Are jet boats, travelling at full speed, required to avoid other vessels and/or the shoreline by a certain distance and if so what are those distances?
- (3) Given some operators are conducting passenger rides which include a straight in approach (i.e. at 90 degrees to shoreline) at full speed before executing a 270 degree spin within 30 metres of a rocky shoreline, does such behaviour constitute "safe boating" under legislation and regulations for a boat carrying up to twenty passengers?
- (4) What arrangements are in place to monitor the safety of jet boat operators?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Commercial Adventure Vessels, such as tourist jet boats, operate under a survey permit with strict operational requirements. This includes a Code of Conduct for Commercial Adventure Vessels.

When conducting tour operations not involving irregular manoeuvres, local speed, distance off regulations and 'No Wash' zones must be complied with. When conducting irregular manoeuvres in the designated areas the following "distance off" requirements apply:

- (a) 200 metres from a person in the water;
- (b) 100 metres from any pile or structure, riverbank, shore, jetty, landing stage, pontoon, or pump inlet;
- (c) 200 metres forward from any other vessel underway; and
- (d) 60 metres abeam and astern of any fixed object or other vessel underway.

(3) No. See (1) and (2) (b) above.

(4) Regular survey inspections are conducted and all complaints and incidents are investigated by NSW Maritime.

*9543 TOURIST JET BOATS ON SYDNEY HARBOUR—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) What speed limits and operating restrictions are applicable for tourist jet boats on Sydney Harbour?
- (2) Are jet boats, travelling at full speed, required to avoid other vessels and/or the shoreline by a certain distance and if so what are those distances?
- (3) Given some operators are conducting passenger rides which include a straight in approach (i.e. at 90 degrees to shoreline) at full speed before executing a 270 degree spin within 30 metres of a rocky shoreline, does such behaviour constitute "safe boating" under legislation and regulations for a boat carrying up to twenty passengers?
- (4) What arrangements are in place with Water Police to monitor the safety of jet boat operators?

Answer—

(1) to (3) This question falls within the responsibility of the Minister for Ports and Waterways.

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(4) The Marine Area Command monitors the activities of boat owners through proactive patrols on Sydney Harbour. Police work in conjunction with NSW Maritime's Boating Safety Officers.

*9544 MR BOB ELLIS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to Mr Bob Ellis:

- (1) Has Mr Bob Ellis been employed or contracted by the Premier's office or any Minister's office since December 2009?
- (2) If so, by which Minister, for what supplied and at what cost to taxpayers?

Answer—

The Member is referred to the response to Written Question 9238.

*9545 LIDDELL SOLAR GENERATOR—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to the Liddell Solar Generator:

- (1) Has the Premier visited any solar thermal electricity generators ?
- (2) When will the Premier visit the Liddell solar generator?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has a number of commitments and programs in place to reduce carbon emissions and encourage the uptake of renewable energy, including solar thermal electricity generators. Key aspects of the Government's programs include:

- the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme;
- the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX);
- a greenhouse gas emissions target to reduce emissions by 60 per cent by 2050;
- establishment of Renewable Energy Precincts; and
- a range of initiatives under the \$700 million Climate Change Fund.

The Solar Flagships taskforce is working to ensure at least one solar flagship power station project under the Federal Government's Solar Flagships Program, is constructed in NSW.

*9546 DRUNK AND DISORDERLY OFFENCE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

When and why was the offence of being Drunk and Disorderly removed from NSW legislation?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 17 March 1980, the Intoxicated Persons Act 1979 took effect in NSW and decriminalised public drunkenness. I refer the Member to Hansard from that time.

However, it should be noted that provisions of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2000 continue to empower police to detain an intoxicated person found in a public place who is behaving in a disorderly manner or in a manner likely to cause injury to themselves or another person or damage to property.

*9547 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—YOUNG OFFENDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Young Offenders Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Young Offenders Advisory Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Young Offenders Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:

- (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Young Offenders Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Young Offenders Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Young Offenders Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

I am advised that the Young Offenders Advisory Council is compliant with the principles outlined in Section 3 of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

The importance of multiculturalism is recognised and valued by all NSW government agencies, which are required to make the principles part of their core business through the development of a Multicultural Policies and Services Plan.

The Young Offenders Advisory Council is responsible for providing the NSW Minister for Juvenile Justice and the Attorney General with independent advice on juvenile justice issues and measures to help reduce youth re-offending. The Young Offenders Advisory Council does not provide frontline services.

The council represents a broad cross-section of the community, and members were chosen based on their considerable experience in the justice and youth field.

*9548 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—CO-OPERATIVES COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Co-operatives Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Co-operatives Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Co-operatives Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Co-operatives Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Co-operatives Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?

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- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Co-operatives Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
- financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Co-operatives Council was established under the Co-operatives Act 1992.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9549 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—FAIR TRADING ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- What steps are currently undertaken by the Fair Trading Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- What is the total cost of providing written material by the Fair Trading Advisory Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?
- What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Fair Trading Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?
- What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Fair Trading Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?
- What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Fair Trading Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Fair Trading Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - financial year 2007-08;
 - financial year 2008-09;
 - financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Fair Trading Advisory Council was established under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9550 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—HOME BUILDING ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- What steps are currently undertaken by the Home Building Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- What is the total cost of providing written material by the Home Building Advisory Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - financial year 2007-08;

- (b) financial year 2008-09;
- (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Home Building Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Home Building Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Home Building Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Home Building Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Home Building Advisory Council was established under the Home Building Act 1989.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9551 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—HOME WARRANTY INSURANCE SCHEME BOARD—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:

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- (a) financial year 2007-08;
- (b) financial year 2008-09;
- (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Home Warranty Insurance Scheme Board is constituted under the Home Building Act 1989.

The Board does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9552 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Council was established under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9553 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—PRODUCTS SAFETY COMMITTEE—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Products Safety Committee to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Products Safety Committee for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Products Safety Committee to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Products Safety Committee to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Products Safety Committee to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Products Safety Committee to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Products Safety Committee was established under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Committee does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9554 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—PROPERTY SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Property Services Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Property Services Advisory Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Property Services Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Property Services Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Property Services Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Property Services Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;

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(c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Property Services Advisory Council was established under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9555 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—RENTAL BOND BOARD—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Rental Bond Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Rental Bond Board for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Rental Bond Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Rental Bond Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Rental Bond Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Rental Bond Board to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Rental Bond Board is constituted under the Landlord and Tenant (Rental Bonds) Act 1977.

The Board does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9556 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many caseworkers are employed in prevention and early intervention programs in Community Services for children at risk?
- (2) How many caseworkers are employed under domestic violence programs?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) It is misleading to contrast the number of staff employed in different programs as an indication of the effort in those programs, or a comparison of effort across the programs. This is especially the case under "Keep Them Safe" where there has been a whole of government response to both early intervention and domestic violence. It also fails to take into account differences arising from whether services are delivered in differing combinations of direct service delivery, or through funded programs of service delivery by others.

Subject to these qualifications it can be said that as at the end of March 2010, 308 staff were employed as Early Intervention caseworkers. An additional 17 were employed as Intensive Family Based Services caseworkers and five were employed as caseworkers in the Safe Families Program. Similar data cannot be disaggregated for staff engaged in all domestic violence programs.

*9557 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many caseworkers are employed in the Department of Health?
- (2) In which programs, by name, are they employed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The industrial classification "caseworker" does not exist in the Department of Health.

*9558 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

With the establishment of child well-being units, how many caseworkers are currently employed in the departments of:

- (a) Police;
- (b) Education;
- (c) Health;
- (d) Community Services;
- (e) Ageing, Disability and Home Care?

Answer—

At the end of March 2010, there were 2,474 caseworker positions in Community Services. Questions regarding each of the other agencies listed should be directed to the respective Minister.

*9559 REPORTING OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many calls were made to report alleged incidents to Crime Stoppers and the Police Assistance Line from the Brisbane Water Local Area Command during:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;
 - (c) 2008-09;
 - (d) 2009-10 (to date)?
- (2) How many calls were made to report alleged incidents to Crime Stoppers and the Police Assistance Line from the Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command during:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2007-08;
 - (c) 2008-09;
 - (d) 2009-10 (to date)?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised by the NSW Police Force that the number of incidents of crime in the Brisbane Water Local Area Command reported to the Police Assistance Line and information reports created by Crime Stoppers are as follows:
 - (a) 7,273
 - (b) 7,107
 - (c) 7,356
 - (d) From 1/7/09 to 28/2/10 - 4,438
- (2) I am advised by the NSW Police Force that the number of incidents of crime in the Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command reported to the Police Assistance Line and information reports created by Crime Stoppers are as follows:
 - (a) 5,625
 - (b) 6,163
 - (c) 5,967
 - (d) From 1/7/09 to 28/2/10 - 3,767

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*9560 NSW WORKCOVER AUTHORITY—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is any current employee of the NSW WorkCover Authority Information Technology Services Branch a former employee of IBM Australia?
- (2) What was the total amount spent by the NSW WorkCover Authority on products or services from IBM Australia in:
 - (a) 2002-03;
 - (b) 2003-04;
 - (c) 2004-05;
 - (d) 2005-06;
 - (e) 2006-07;
 - (f) 2007-08;
 - (g) 2008-09;
 - (h) 2009-10 (to date)?
- (3) What processes does the NSW WorkCover Authority have in place to ensure probity in cases where an officer is responsible for making procurement decisions that may involve a former employer?

Answer—

I'm advised from July 2002 to date, WorkCover purchased services relating to its Scheme Design Project, as well as general maintenance and annual licensing fees related to existing products and services, from IBM.

WorkCover has a comprehensive Procurement Policy and Procedures framework in place that is linked to its 'Code of Conduct'. The Policy includes an express reference to conflicts of interest, which would specifically deal with the issue of a WorkCover officer having been employed previously by a potential supplier.

*9561 SINGLETON COUNCIL BY-ELECTION—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Under the current requirements of the Local Government Act, will Singleton Council need to hold a by-election to replace Cr Fred Harvison who has resigned?
- (2) Will the by-election cost Singleton Council an estimated \$60,000?
- (3) Will the Minister amend section 294 of the Local Government Act to allow for a less expensive alternative to a by-election whenever a vacancy occurs on council before the first day in October last preceding the end of the term of a council?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) It is not my understanding that the casual vacancy to which the member refers exists.
- (2) Such a hypothetical question should be addressed to the council concerned or to the NSW Electoral Commission, should a casual vacancy eventuate.
- (3) Local government elections are currently the subject of an Inquiry by the NSW Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. It would be premature to consider any changes to current election practices until this Inquiry is finalised.

*9562 CBD METRO—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Was the Minister briefed on the Government's decision to dump the CBD Metro as part of the Transport Blueprint prior to the release of the document last weekend?
- (2) If so, who did the Minister receive the briefing from and did he discuss the amount of time Department of Planning staff had spent assessing the CBD Metro?

Answer—

- (1) As a member of Cabinet, I was directly involved in the development of the Government's "Metropolitan Transport Plan 2010".
- (2) The amount of time spent by Department of Planning staff on the assessment of the CBD Metro project was not a relevant consideration in the development of the Government's "Metropolitan Transport Plan 2010".

*9563 EXTENSION OF PLANNING PROVISIONS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister had any discussions with the Premier in relation to the possible extension of planning provisions as used under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan package from the Federal Government?
- (2) Is the Minister supportive of an extension of these powers?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Lands, I meet regularly with the Premier to discuss a range of issues.

*9564 DRAFT CENTRES POLICY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

Given the Draft Centres Policy was released in April 2009 and submissions closed on 11 May 2009, when will the Minister release the final policy?

Answer—

I am advised the exhibition of the draft policy generated over 100 submissions which raised a number of issues that the Department has been investigating. Timing of progressing the Policy will depend on consideration of the issues raised in submissions.

*9565 PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS—SWANSEA—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister met with residents of Swansea to discuss concerns such as overshadowing and increased traffic following the Government's approval of public housing developments?
- (2) If so, when and what issues were discussed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Lands, I meet many community members to discuss a range of issues.

*9566 PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS—CHARLESTOWN—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister met with residents of Charlestown to discuss concerns such as overshadowing and increased traffic following the Government's approval of public housing developments?
- (2) If so, when and what issues were discussed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Lands, I meet many community members to discuss a range of issues.

*9567 PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS—MAITLAND—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister met with residents of Maitland to discuss concerns such as overshadowing and increased traffic following the Government's approval of public housing developments?
- (2) If so, when and what issues were discussed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Lands, I meet many community members to discuss a range of issues.

*9568 CONCERNS WITH PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) Has the Minister discussed current concerns with the way public housing developments are being

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approved and built across NSW with the Housing Minister?

- (2) If so, what was discussed?
- (3) If not, why not?

Answer—

As Minister for Planning I meet with both Government and non-Government Members of Parliament on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

*9569 FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION CHANGES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Are there any plans to alter the funding and administration of Wahroonga Rehabilitation Services and Warrila Street facility and EPIS and child and adolescent mental health services at Hornsby Hospital?
- (2) If so, what are these plans?
- (3) When will they be implemented?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) There are no plans to alter the funding or administration of these services.

*9570 INCORRECT USE OF LOGO—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Tourism, Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister for Women—

In relation to concerns recently raised by Cartoscope regarding the publication "Pacific Coast Touring Route", how was the Tourism NSW consumer logo "incorrectly" used (correspondence dated 3 February 2010 from Tourism Minister)?

Answer—

I am advised:

Tourism NSW's logos are copywrited. If an external party wishes to use these logos permission must be granted by Tourism NSW. In the case of the Pacific Coast Touring Route, this process was not followed.

*9571 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AT HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to the Accident and Emergency service at Hornsby Hospital:

- (1) How many ED doctors were on staff (2009 to date)?
- (2) Is this in keeping with the requirements for training of ED doctors?
- (3) What plans are in place to sustain and increase the number of Hornsby Hospital ED doctors?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In 2009, there were on average 24.01 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employed medical staff, including junior medical staff and specialists, working in the Emergency Department at Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital.

In 2010, for the year to date at the end of February there were on average 24.15 FTE employed medical staff. In addition, there are currently seven Visiting Medical Officers assisting with specialist medical coverage in the Emergency Department.

- (2) The current level of specialist medical cover meets the Australian College of Emergency Medicine requirements for accreditation of training.
- (3) Over the past year, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital has recruited several Visiting Medical Officers in Emergency Medicine and has advertised for an additional staff specialist. The imminent introduction of networked Emergency Training is also expected to assist in sustaining and increasing the number of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital Emergency Department doctors.

*9572 INCREASED EXPENSES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

In relation to the DAA 2008-2009 Annual Report:

- (1) Why has the "Consultancies and Contractors" expense increased by nearly \$1.2 million when compared to the previous financial year with allowances made to protect names of individuals/organisations?
- (2) Why have "Other Operating Expenses" increased by \$1.21 million when compared to the previous financial year, with allowances made to protect names of individuals/organisations?
- (3) Why has the "Printing and Stationery" expense increased by \$325,000 when compared to the previous financial year, with allowances made to protect names of individuals/organisations?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Department received additional funds in 2008-09 for new Programs. The increase in expenditure on contractors was managed within the overall approved budget of the Department and relates to the delivery of the new Programs.

The DAA 2008-09 Annual Report shows the "Printing and Stationery" expenses as \$126,000 not \$325,000 as stated in the question. This is a reduction from the previous year.

*9573 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

What is the authorised and operational strength of the Miranda Local Area Command:

- (a) since December 2006;
- (b) currently?

Answer—

Information about police numbers - both authorised and actual strength - is available on the NSW Police website: www.police.nsw.gov.au

*9574 OPERATIONS SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to Sutherland Hospital:

- (1) How many patients underwent an operation in the operating theatres at this hospital in February 2010?
- (2) How does this activity compare to February 2009?

Answer—

I am advised:

There were 578 operating theatre cases performed at Sutherland Hospital during February 2010, 55 more than in February 2009.

*9575 TILLEGRA DAM—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Tourism, Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister for Women—

Will the Minister support a delay of the planning process for the Tillegra Dam to allow an independent inquiry to examine all available information on the dam's impacts and justification?

Answer—

I am advised:

This question was also directed to the Minister for Water and has been responded to accordingly. I refer you to the answer provided to Written Question 9576.

*9576 TILLEGRA DAM—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

Will the Minister support a delay of the planning process for the Tillegra Dam to allow an independent inquiry to examine all available information on the dam's impacts and justification?

Answer—

Numerous extensive studies have been conducted into the merit of the Tillegra Dam proposal including Hunter Water's "Why Tillegra Now" paper, Hunter Water's H250 Plan, the Tillegra Dam Environmental Assessment Report and the Tillegra Dam Environmental Assessment Submissions Report. All of these reports were available publicly and subject to community comment.

The methodology for calculating yield which underpins the justification for the Tillegra Dam proposal has been independently reviewed by consultants SKM on behalf of IPART and found to be robust.

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An independent panel of international geological experts have reviewed geotechnical studies and concluded that Tillegra is a safe and effective site for a Dam.

The proposal for Tillegra Dam is currently subject to independent merit assessment by both the NSW Department of Planning under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

*9577 WALSH BAY BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

With respect to the Government's assessment of the need for bus services to Walsh Bay and Dawes Point:

- (1) How did the Government assess the demand for bus services to this precinct?
- (2) What data was collected to aid this assessment?
- (3) What destination studies have been carried out in conjunction with Walsh Bay businesses?
- (4) What destination studies have been carried out in conjunction with Walsh Bay arts and cultural facilities?
- (5) What destination studies have been carried out in conjunction with Walsh Bay and Dawes Point residents?
- (6) How does the Government monitor demand when there are no existing bus services to this precinct?
- (7) What level of demand is required before the Government will provide a bus service to Walsh Bay?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (5) State Transit previously assessed the demand for bus services to the precinct based primarily on usage of Route 430, observation checks taken at the Millers Point Bus terminus and at Towns Place, observations of buildings in the Walsh Bay area, and customer feedback history. Route 430 which previously serviced the precinct was discontinued due to very low patronage numbers. As recently announced by the Premier, Sydney Buses is introducing the new Hassle Free Nights bus service to popular nightspots in the City. Under this initiative, the new late night bus services will include a Friday and Saturday late night service from The Rocks and Hickson Road wharf road theatre area to Town Hall Station.

(6) State Transit's Annual Report 2008/09 provides information on the type of research and data that State Transit considers for making changes to its service network.

(7) NSW Transport and Infrastructure will be undertaking a transport audit of the Walsh Bay precinct to examine existing and future transport demand and services and will liaise closely with the City of Sydney during the audit.

*9578 PLANNED TRANSPORT LINKS TO BARANGAROO—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What public transport links are planned to service the planned new developments at Barangaroo?
- (2) When will they be delivered?
- (3) How will the links extend to northern Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Government is closely involved in the transport planning of Barangaroo to ensure sustainable use of transport and is committed to achieving a 4% share to private car use to access the site. This means the provision of high quality public transport and links to Barangaroo including:

- The Barangaroo Pedestrian Link which will be a pedestrian tunnel directly linking the Barangaroo site to Wynyard Rail station.
- A new ferry terminal which will cater for new ferry services.
- Light rail on Hickson Road as committed in the Metropolitan Transport Plan.
- New bus services to the site.
- Cycling and walking connections connecting Barangaroo to the rest of the CBD.

Barangaroo will also benefit from the new City Relief line as announced in the Metropolitan Transport Plan which will mean increased heavy rail capacity at Wynyard.

(2) The Foreshore Walk opened at Barangaroo in December 2009. The Government aims to deliver new bus services, walking and cycling connections, and the Barangaroo Pedestrian Link by the time the first building opens in 2014. Delivery of light rail and ferry services will be determined in the near future.

(3) People from northern Sydney will be able to access Barangaroo mainly through Wynyard station and bus interchange. Ferry commuters from north of the Harbour will be able to access Barangaroo from Circular Quay by light rail when it opens. The Government will explore the possibility of ferry services from north of the Harbour running to Barangaroo.

*9579 HEADLAND PARK AT BARANGAROO—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

- (1) (a) Has the Government spent or allocated any money towards construction of a headland park at Barangaroo, despite the project not receiving funding in the November mini-budget?
 - (b) If so, how much?
- (2) What other public resources are being directed towards the Barangaroo project, and at what cost?
- (3) What is the value of the land/area to be reclaimed for the proposed new hotel?
- (4) (a) Is the Government relaxing the tender requirements for the Barangaroo site?
 - (b) If so, how?

Answer—

- (1) The headland park will be funded from the payments by the developer of the southern precinct (Stage 1).
- (2) The Barangaroo Delivery Authority budgets are funded or refunded by the developer's payments.
- (3) No land is being reclaimed.
- (4) Tenders are carried out in accordance with Government guidelines.

*9580 CHANNEL NARROWING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What concerns have been expressed regarding the potential channel narrowing with the new hotel proposed at Barangaroo from:
 - (a) Sydney Ferries;
 - (b) NSW Maritime;
 - (c) cruise boat operators using Darling Harbour;
 - (d) other parties?
- (2) Would the hotel's construction constitute an increased safety risk on the water?
- (3) If so, how would this be addressed:
 - (a) during construction;
 - (b) after construction?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) NSW Maritime will give consideration to navigation issues when full details are provided.

*9581 POLICE REFERRALS TO FAMILY SUPPORT AGENCIES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

In relation to the number of police referrals to family support agencies since the State's revamped child protection regime began on 24 January 2010:

How many police referrals have been made to family support agencies from:

- (a) 24 January 2010 to date;
- (b) 1 January 2009 to 24 January 2010?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister for Police.

*9582 COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

In relation to the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) Funded Family Support Services and given that the CSGP program has been reviewed a total of six times with no extra funds made available despite the latest review highlighting the relevance of services provided:

- (1) Will the CSGP program receive funding?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, why?
- (2) How much CSGP funding was received in the Tweed electorate in the following years:

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- (a) 2007;
- (b) 2008;
- (c) 2009 to date?

Answer—

- (1) (a) and (b) It is anticipated that Family Support Services funded through the CSGP Program will have the opportunity to apply for additional funds during the 2010/11 financial year. This will occur through the Early Intervention, Brighter Futures and Family Preservation streams.
- (2) Funding was allocated in the Tweed area as follows:
 - (a) \$ 411,039 plus GST.
 - (b) \$ 448,486 plus GST.
 - (c) \$ 460,296 plus GST.

*9583 WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to the World Rally Championships (WRC) event held in the Northern Rivers in September 2009:

- (1) (a) Will an economic impact study or a cost-benefit analysis be conducted as part of the WRC review?
 - (b) If not, why?
- (2) (a) If an economic impact or cost-benefit analysis is performed will it include the social and environmental costs to the NSW taxpayer?
 - (b) If not, why?

Answer—

I am advised:

Two separate economic analyses of the event have already been undertaken. One was undertaken by Conics, on behalf of Rally Australia Pty Ltd, and the second by Events NSW. The analysis undertaken by Events NSW was independently assessed and audited by IER (a consulting firm specialising in the research and evaluation of the events and tourism industries). IER concluded that the Events NSW analysis was carried out in a thorough and measured manner.

The Minister for State and Regional Development, the Hon. Ian Macdonald MLC, has also requested that the Economic Evaluation Unit of the State & Regional Development and Tourism Division of Industry and Investment NSW undertake a further review of those two reports.

The economic impact assessment reports do not measure specific social and environmental costs, as such costs are extremely difficult to quantify.

*9584 ELECTRICITY COSTS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of comments made by CSIRO's energy chief David Brockway to a Federal parliamentary inquiry on climate change in April that over the next 15 years wholesale electricity costs will roughly triple from the present \$40 per megawatt hour, as Carbon Capture and Storage is incorporated to coal-fired power generation?
- (2) How much does the Minister expect NSW electricity prices to increase by as CCS is incorporated?
- (3) How much money is the government spending on CCS this financial year?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Regulated electricity prices in NSW are determined by independent regulators.
- (3) I refer the Member to the relevant NSW Budget Papers.

*9586 LAND TAX COLLECTED—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

What was the total amount of land tax collected from land owners in the Pittwater LGA during:

- (a) 2004-05;
- (b) 2005-06;
- (c) 2006-07;

- (d) 2007-08;
- (e) 2008-09;
- (f) 2009-10 year to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

Land tax is assessed by calendar year.

The following table shows the value of land tax assessments issued to owners of liable properties in the Pittwater Local Government Area for the 2005 to 2010 calendar years.

Year	Total land tax assessed
2005	\$29,414,621
2006	\$42,435,077
2007	\$41,088,531
2008	\$42,273,318
2009	\$48,433,892
2010	\$47,068,220

*9587 SCHEDULED STA BUS SERVICES NOT FULFILLED—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) On how many occasions were scheduled STA bus services in contract region 8 not fulfilled in:
 - (a) 2008-09;
 - (b) 2009-10 year to date?
- (2) What was the most common cause of scheduled STA bus services in contract region 8 not being fulfilled in:
 - (a) 2008-09;
 - (b) 2009-10 year to date?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) (a) Over the period 2008-09, the number of occasions on which scheduled STA bus services in contract Region 8 operated was 99.93%.

(b) Over the period 1 July 2009 to 28 February 2010, the number of occasions on which scheduled STA bus services in contract region 8 operated was also 99.92%.
- (2) (a) and (b) The most common cause of scheduled STA bus services in contract Region 8 not operating was major traffic accidents where such accidents resulted in traffic delays, necessitating services to be cancelled.

*9588 STA BUS DRIVERS—ALCOHOL-RELATED INDISCRETIONS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many STA bus drivers faced disciplinary action for alcohol-related indiscretions in:
 - (a) 2007-08;
 - (b) 2008-09;
 - (c) 2009-10 year to date?
- (2) How many STA bus drivers operating out of the Mona Vale Bus Depot faced disciplinary action for alcohol-related indiscretions in:
 - (a) 2007-08;
 - (b) 2008-09;
 - (c) 2009-10 year to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) In 2007-08 and 2008-09 no STA drivers faced disciplinary action for alcohol-related indiscretions. In 2009-10 (to 12 March 2010), there was one STA bus driver who faced disciplinary action for an "alcohol indiscretion".

Over the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 (12 March 2010), no STA bus drivers operating out of the Mona Vale Bus Depot faced disciplinary action for alcohol-related indiscretions.

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*9589 NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR EXTENSION—WOLLONGONG—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Now that the Northern Distributor is open:
 - (a) What are the current noise levels and what were the noise predictions?
 - (b) What were the noise reduction measures and how effective have they been?
 - (c) (i) Has the RTA determined if there is a need to introduce additional measures?
(ii) If so, what are those measures?
- (2) What were the noise predictions for the Northern Distributor, particularly in the Thomson Street area?
- (3) What are the plans to minimise noise pollution for the communities near the Northern Distributor Extension?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) (a) In line with the Minister for Planning's Conditions of Approval, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) undertook a noise study during the planning for the Northern Distributor extension. Noise reduction measures were incorporated as part of this project based on the results of this noise study.
(b) A speed limit of 80 km/h, the use of a quiet road surface, use of vertical retaining walls at the edge of the major cuts near Gray Street and Campbell Street, building roadside noise mounds and barriers and, lowering the level of the road where possible.
(c)
 - (i) As part of these Department of Planning's conditions, the RTA will again assess noise levels to measure how accurate the noise predictions were, how effective the noise reduction measures are and if there is a need to introduce additional measures.
 - (ii) This assessment is scheduled to be done later this year.
- (2) The predicted noise levels following the opening of the Northern Distributor extension, even without any noise barriers, is one to three decibels lower than before the road's opening. For the 35 houses fronting Thompson Street, the predicted noise levels range from 53 to 63 decibels for daytime traffic noise for the level of traffic expected in 2018.
I have asked that the noise monitoring planned by the RTA for the second half of 2010 be brought forward to determine if these predictions are accurate for Thompson Street. Noise monitoring was undertaken for 83, 85 and 87 Thompson Street during March 2010. The results are currently being collated and assessed.
- (3) As part of road development, the RTA undertakes measures to minimise the impact of traffic noise on the community. The noise reduction measures for the Northern Distributor extension have been designed to meet the requirements of the Minister for Planning's Conditions of approval, the NSW Government Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise and the RTA's Environmental Noise Management Manual.

*9590 F5 TRUCK PARKING BAY—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Are Varroville and Pheasants Nest the only two feasible potential sites for a truck parking bay on the F5?
- (2) What are the expected costs to the RTA/NSW Government for constructing a truck parking bay on the F5 at:
 - (a) Varroville;
 - (b) Pheasants Nest?
- (3) How many spaces would each truck parking bay in (2) include?
- (4) How much has been spent on consultants on this matter?
- (5) What community consultation has been undertaken to determine the best possible location of the truck parking bay?
- (6) When will a decision on the location of the permanent truck parking bay be made?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) performed a detailed investigation of 15 potential sites for truck rest areas along the F5 Freeway northbound, between Picton Road and the M5/M7 Interchange, as well as the feasibility of upgrading the existing rest area at Pheasants Nest.

The investigation concluded that a site at Varroville, within the F5 Freeway road reserve owned by the RTA, and an upgrade of the existing rest area at Pheasants Nest, were the only feasible truck rest area options on the F5 northbound.

- (2) Both rest areas are subject to joint funding arrangements with the Australian Government. The expected cost to the NSW Government is:
 - (a) \$2.8 million for the Varroville rest area.
 - (b) \$2.5 million for the upgrade of the Pheasants Nest rest area.
- (3) Approximately 30 spaces at Varroville and 24 spaces at Pheasants Nest.
- (4) To 31 March 2010, professional services contractor fees associated with site investigations and associated works are \$466,250.
- (5) The selection of rest area site options was undertaken in consultation with local councils and trucking industry representatives.
- (6) The Federal and NSW Governments have approved funding to expand the Pheasants Nest rest area which is now under construction and programmed for completion later this year.

The RTA will invite community feedback on the Varroville truck rest area concept design in late April 2010, and any feedback will be addressed in the concept design and the environmental assessment before a final decision is made.

*9591 PORT BOTANY COUNTERFORTS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Where are the raw materials for the concrete Port Botany counterforts for the Port Botany extension sourced from?
- (2) With regards to the 8 million cubic metres of material dredged from Port Botany for the extension, where will this material be taken?

Answer—

- (1) Raw material was sourced from Nepean, Kurnell, Prospect, Maldon and Peats Ridge.
- (2) Dredged material is used to create the reclaimed land required for the Port Botany expansion project.

*9592 PRESCRIBED NUMBER OF CAR PARKS—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

What is the prescribed number of car parks that would be required of a housing complex development containing 14 x one-bedroom units and 6 x two-bedroom units under relevant State Planning legislation?

Answer—

Parking controls are generally specified by the relevant council and may vary from council area to council area. Standards are usually set out in a Development Control Plan (DCP). Parking controls may occasionally be outlined in State Planning Policies in special cases.

*9593 ACCESS TO CONTRACTORS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

Why are residents in Sunningdale Place Rouse Hill, a fully developed residential area some distance from Box Hill, being asked to provide access to contractors undertaking field studies for planning for the Box Hill Industrial Precinct?

Answer—

I am advised that some residents in Sunningdale Place are within the boundary of a transport corridor that is part of the Box Hill Industrial Precinct in the North West Growth Centre. The Precinct has been released to enable Precinct Planning to occur.

All landowners within the Precinct boundary received a letter from the Department of Planning informing them that Precinct Planning was about to start and that access to properties would be necessary for field studies. Landowners were able to refuse permission for such access.

The Department has sent similar letters to landowners in the North West and South West Growth Centres previously, to ensure that all landowners are informed of the planning process. However, it accepts that in this case some residents were confused by the letter's intent and reacted with concern and distress.

I instructed the Department to write to landowners within the existing residential part of the Precinct, informing them that the NSW Government does not require - and is not seeking - access to their property to undertake technical studies. Detailed on-site investigations for precinct planning are only being undertaken in the area north of Annangrove Road, which does not include Sunningdale Place.

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*9594 ELECTIVE AND EMERGENCY SURGERY—MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) What has been the impact on Mount Druitt Hospital following changes in early February his year concerning the elective surgery/emergency surgery mix?
- (2) How many emergency operations have been performed at this hospital for each week since the abovementioned changes commenced?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Mount Druitt elective surgery model was implemented on 15 February 2010. As planned, the model has seen an increase in elective surgery.

A total of 149 elective surgical cases have been completed, and it is projected that over 700 elective surgical cases will be completed by 30 June 2010. An additional 56 elective surgery operating sessions have been scheduled during this period.

(2) The number of emergency operations performed at Mount Druitt Hospital for each week since the changes commenced is as follows:

Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending
21 Feb 2010	28 Feb 2010	7 Mar 2010	12 Mar 2010
1	0	2	1

The above emergency procedures were undertaken within normal operating hours, with no disruptions to the elective surgery list.

*9595 NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FORMS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Are notice forms currently available from the Office of Fair Trading for use by retirement village residents to transfer responsibility to village operators for the maintenance or replacement of items of capital (such as fixtures, furniture and fittings) within their retirement village?
- (2) If not, when will the forms be available?
- (3) Will the forms be available on the Office of Fair Trading website, suitable for download?
- (4) Will the forms be available from every Fair Trading centre in NSW?
- (5) Will there be an extension of time for residents to lodge these forms so as to fully comply with the legislative process for an effective transfer of responsibility?

Answer—

(1) to (5) Notice forms to transfer the ownership or responsibility of capital items are available from all NSW Fair Trading Centres and the template can also be downloaded from the Fair Trading website. Residents can also prepare their own written notice.

The time frame for lodging a notice to transfer responsibility for capital items is prescribed in the Retirement Villages Act 1999 as three months after the commencement of the amendment. There is no provision under the Act for an extension of time to be given. Residents who entered into one of these arrangements in the past should contact the Specialist Support Centre on (02) 9898 0297 or toll free on 1800 625 963 for any assistance they may need to ensure the transfer of responsibility or ownership notice is given before 2 June 2010.

*9596 ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING LISTS—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) Is supplementary funding being allocated to public hospitals in New South Wales to reduce elective surgery waiting lists prior to the end of this financial year?
- (2) What funding will be allocated to the Albury Hospital to reduce waiting lists?
- (3) If no funding has been allocated to the Albury Hospital what are the reasons and will an urgent review be conducted?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes, additional funding has been allocated to each Area Health Service in NSW.
- (2) and (3) Under the agreement between the States of New South Wales and Victoria establishing Albury Wodonga Health, responsibility for the operation of the Albury Base Hospital and provision of surgical services to patients admitted to the Albury Base Hospital has transferred to the State of Victoria.

*9599 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—RETIREMENT VILLAGES ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What steps are currently undertaken by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (2) What is the total cost of providing written material by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council for multilingual support to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (3) What is the total cost of providing multilingual telephone support services by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (4) What is the total cost of providing internet-based support services by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?
- (5) What support services, other than written material, internet support or telephone support, are provided by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000?
- (6) What is the total cost of providing other support services by the Retirement Villages Advisory Council to comply with s.3 (5) of the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 during:
 - (a) financial year 2007-08;
 - (b) financial year 2008-09;
 - (c) financial year 2009-10 to date?

Answer—

The Retirement Villages Advisory Council was established under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

The Council does not have the function of providing information services or advice to the public. Those services are generally provided by NSW Fair Trading within the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.

*9600 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

How many caseworkers are employed in the Police Force, and how many by which individual programs?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that police information systems do not use "caseworker" as either a position title or duty type. It is therefore unable to provide an answer unless the Member can be more specific regarding the information required.

*9601 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Education and Training—

How many caseworkers are employed in the Department of Education and Training and in which programs?

Answer—

Without context for the term "caseworker", this question is unclear and I am therefore unable to provide

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an answer.

*9602 CASEWORKERS EMPLOYED—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

How many caseworkers are employed by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care in programs other than ageing-related programs?

Answer—

As at 19 March 2010, there are a total of 362 employees providing case management and case work services to people with a disability through Community Support Teams.

*9603 DIRECTOR OF RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

In relation to the Director of Relationship Management (Division of Local Government):

- (1) What activities are included in this officer's job description?
- (2) What were this officer's key accountabilities for 2008-2009 and for 2009-2010?
- (3) What were the outcomes for this officer's 2008-2009 key accountabilities?
- (4) When was this position advertised and was the selection of the officer based on merit?
- (5) Is this a full-time position?
- (6) Does the officer work from the division's Sydney or Nowra office or from any other location?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) This information is publicly available from the annual reports of the (former) Department of Local Government.
- (2) This information is publicly available from the annual report for 2008-2009 for the (former) Department of Local Government. The key accountabilities for 2009-2010 are the same as for 2008-2009.
- (3) This information is publicly available from the annual report for 2008-2009 for the (former) Department of Local Government.
- (4) 2003. The officer appointed to the position was selected on merit.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Sydney and Nowra as required.

*9605 DIRECTOR OF REFORM IMPLEMENTATION—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

In relation to the Director of Reform Implementation (Division of Local Government):

- (1) What activities are included in this officer's job description?
- (2) What were this officer's key accountabilities for 2008-2009 and for 2009-2010?
- (3) What were the outcomes for this officer's 2008-2009 key accountabilities?
- (4) When was this position advertised and was the selection of the officer based on merit?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) This information is publicly available from the annual reports of the (former) Department of Local Government.
- (2) This information is publicly available from the annual report for 2008-2009 for the (former) Department of Local Government. The position was abolished in 2009-2010.
- (3) This information is publicly available from the annual report for 2008-2009 for the (former) Department of Local Government.
- (4) The officer was appointed in accordance with the provisions of the NSW Government Personnel Handbook.

*9606 SYDNEY WATER CORPORATION FINANCIALS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Sydney Water Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2009:

- (1) Why have the receivables at Note 2(c) on page 33 of the above report risen from \$28,000 in 2007-08

to \$226,000 in 2008-09?

- (2) To how many creditors was this \$226,000 owed?
- (3) Does Sydney Water have a government mandated time period within which it must pay its creditors, if so what is this period?
- (4) As of 11 March 2010, how many creditors remain unpaid by Sydney Water with invoices more than 90 days overdue?
- (5) As of 11 March 2010, what is the value of money owed by Sydney Water to creditors that remain unpaid and are more than 90 days overdue?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The identified expense item does not represent a cash transaction. It is a standard accounting entry to recognise an allowance for bad debts.

(3) Trade creditors are usually paid within 30 days of the due date unless otherwise specified in the relevant contract or agreement. This is disclosed in Note 13 of Sydney Water's Audited Financial Statements.

(4) and (5) The majority of invoices remaining unpaid after 90 days are subject to queries and clarification between Sydney Water and the relevant creditor.

*9607 SMARTER SCHOOLS NATIONAL PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Education and Training—

With respect to the Joint Federal/NSW government Smarter Schools National Program:

- (1) What are the specific criteria for a NSW Government school to be included in the Smarter Schools National Program?
- (2) Were participating schools chosen by the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations or the NSW Department of Education and Training?
- (3) What was the specific reason that Gundagai High School was excluded from participation in this program?

Answer—

(1) The Smarter Schools National Partnerships include three key agreements for schools. These are the Literacy and Numeracy, Teacher Quality and Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnerships.

Only primary schools are eligible for the Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership.

Schools were initially selected for the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations using a national methodology based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, constructed from the 2006 Census.

In November 2009 the NSW Government committed an additional \$237 million of new State funding over seven years to expand the reach of this National Partnership in New South Wales. The extended list of schools included schools identified according to State criteria for socio-economic disadvantage.

- (2) The initial selection of 447 schools for the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership was made by the Commonwealth Government. The NSW Government extended the list to include an additional 107 schools using State-based criteria for socio-economic disadvantage.
- (3) Gundagai High School was not included in the Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities National Partnership as it did not meet the criteria for low socio-economic status.

*9608 COWRA PUBLIC DENTAL CLINIC—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) On what date was the public dental clinic at the Cowra District Hospital closed?
- (2) What was the reason for this closure?
- (3) How many patients did this clinic treat during: (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08 and (c) 2008-09?
- (4) Where is the nearest public dental clinic to Cowra located?
- (5) What is the distance that these patients now have to travel to attend a public dental clinic?
- (6) What public transport options are available to pensioners needing to travel to this public dental clinic to obtain treatment?

Answer—

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I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The full-time adult dental clinic at Cowra ceased on 1 May 2002, following the resignation of the full time staff Dental Officer.

Funds were redirected to the Oral Health Fee For Service Scheme (OHFFSS). Two dental practices located in Cowra participated in the Scheme, to provide continuity of dental services to Cowra residents. Currently one private dental practice continues to participate in the Scheme, providing primarily emergency dental care to the residents of Cowra.

Outreach services have also been provided via the Clinic, with dentists attending from either Bathurst or Orange.

The Cowra Hospital Dental Clinic has been used in recent years to conduct assessment dental clinics every 1-2 months dependent on demand. This service is continuing.

Child dental services are provided in Cowra in a separate dental clinic located within the Cowra Public School.

- (3) 166 patients were assessed at the Cowra Hospital Dental Clinic in 2006-07; 233 patients in 2007-08; and 77 patients in 2008-09.

- (4) to (6) The nearest public dental clinic to Cowra is located at Orange (102km) or Bathurst (105km).

Community transport is available between Cowra and Bathurst, and between Cowra and Orange. Cowra residents can also travel on the Fisher's Bus Service to Orange at a cost of \$20 return. This is the school bus service and operates on school days only.

*9609 BEROWRA POLICE STATION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

In relation to the current Berowra Police station:

- (1) What was the cost of the initial establishment of the police station?
- (2) How much extra funding was put into infrastructure additions/maintenance each year until 2010?
- (3) Where will the sale money be directed if the auction on 9 March 2010 is successful?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Berowra police station was purpose built in 1989. Information on the cost of its construction was not able to be located in the timeframe provided.
- (2) United Group Services took over management of the NSW Police Force property portfolio in July 2006. Since the 2006-07 financial year, \$33,147 has been spent on cleaning, property maintenance and utilities at the Berowra station. Costs prior to this date were unable to be ascertained in the timeframe provided.
- (3) Funds from the sale of police properties are directed to the ongoing NSW Police Force capital works program.

*9610 WARD 2A HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

Given your advice that during times of low activity and low bed occupancy, staff are deployed to other areas of Hornsby Hospital (Question 8260):

- (1) How long was Ward 2A at Hornsby Hospital closed over the Christmas 2009 into 2010 break?
- (2) Has the ward reopened?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If yes, how many beds are available in this ward and the nearby unit, and what is the number of beds in each ward and the speciality of each area?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Ward 2A at Hornsby Hospital was closed from 23 December 2009 to 21 March 2010 to allow for a ward refurbishment and the refurbishment of Central Services Sterilising Department.

Other beds within the hospital have continued to be utilised as necessary to facilitate patient admissions from the Emergency Department and for surgical procedures.

The ward reopened on 22 March 2010.

(4) Ward 2A and 2B have amalgamated to become the Level 2 Surgical Unit, which has 43 beds. Specialties include: Orthopaedics and Hand Surgery; Ear Nose and Throat; Urology; Vascular and General Surgery; Colorectal Surgery; Gynaecology; Endocrine; Thoracic; and Dental. The Level 2 Surgical Unit also has a Transit Area with two beds and ten chairs.

*9611 HORNSBY HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN 2010—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) In the Hornsby Hospital Master Plan 2010, will there be a renal dialysis outpatient service?
- (2) If yes, when will this be a budget commitment?
- (3) If no, what is offered to people in the Hornsby electorate for renal dialysis into the future?
- (4) Given a renal dialysis unit is proposed to be given consideration, could consideration be given to naming it the "Joan Smart Memorial Unit"?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Consultants have prepared a master plan for the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital campus based on clinician advice, and incorporating all current services, including endocrinology, diabetes education, podiatry and dietetics. The plan proposes an ambulatory care zone where these services could be incorporated in an improved functional relationship.

This master plan provides broad guidelines for future development of the campus. Detailed analysis of the needs of specific services would be undertaken at a later stage of planning.

Public renal dialysis services in Northern Sydney continue to be available from Royal North Shore Hospital and Mona Vale Hospital, in addition to the patient's home. The new Community Health Building at Royal North Shore Hospital, due to open in 2011, will include an increased number of satellite dialysis chairs. The Northern Sydney region also includes three private dialysis services, two of which are in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai area.

NSW Health policy guidelines will be followed in respect to the naming of public facilities.

*9612 ELIZABETH BAY MARINA—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Did NSW Maritime give "Permission to Lodge a Development Application" to a proposed marina at Elizabeth Bay?
- (2) If so, is the applicant for the proposal Peter Fitzhenry, who is a member of the Maritime Ministerial Advisory Council?
- (3) What steps were taken by NSW Maritime to get to the final determination?
- (4) Who signed off on the final NSW Maritime determination?
- (5) What involvement did the Maritime Ministerial Advisory Council have in the assessment and determination of this application?
- (6) How did NSW Maritime ensure that Peter Fitzhenry did not influence, directly or indirectly, the outcome of his application for "Permission to Lodge a Development Application" at Elizabeth Bay?
- (7) In the last three years, how many applications to NSW Maritime for "Permission to Lodge a Development Application" for proposals at Elizabeth Bay did NSW Maritime refuse?
- (8) What were the reasons for refusal?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The applicant for a proposed marina expansion at Elizabeth Bay was Tempo Euro International Pty Ltd then from 2008, Spicey Caricorn Pty Ltd.
- (3) and (4) Assessment and determination of the application was in accordance with the Obtaining Permission to Lodge a Development Application, I refer the member to the NSW Maritime website.
- (5) None.
- (6) NSW Maritime's Obtaining Permission to Lodge a Development Application policy lays out strict criteria for the assessment of applications, including any meeting between the applicant and NSW Maritime.
- (7) In the last three years there have been two applications for Permission to Lodge at Elizabeth Bay and they were both approved.

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(8) Not applicable.

*9613 KOALAS IN MUMBULLA STATE FOREST—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the last significant population of about 30 to 50 koalas on the Far South Coast are about to have their home, centred in Mumbulla State Forest, logged mostly for woodchips:

What action will the Government take to save the Far South Coast koalas from regional extinction?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The NSW Government is committed to the protection of koalas. It has progressed two major survey programs, one of which has been completed. Independent analysis of the data is underway, to determine what features of these forest areas are important for koalas.

Agencies will be using this information to identify the most appropriate approaches for the longer term protection of koalas within the State Forests of the Eden Forestry Region.

*9614 SYDNEY HARBOUR MARINA DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

With regard to applying Section 14 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005, which can make council the consent authority for a marina proposal with more than 30 vessels in Sydney Harbour if in the "opinion of the Minister" it is only of local environmental planning significance:

- (1) What protocols are used to determine whether a proposal is "only of local environmental planning significance"?
- (2) Are these protocols publicly available?
- (3) Does the Minister seek comment from the relevant council?
- (4) Does the Minister seek comment from the wider community?
- (5) How does the Minister ensure that the decision is transparent and accountable?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Where a marina proposal meets the threshold criteria for marina facilities in the Major Development SEPP but does not have any State or regional environmental planning significance, the Minister may determine that the proposal is of "local environmental planning significance" only. The Department routinely consults with the relevant Council in making its recommendations.

The Department's Guideline for State Significant Sites gives a broad indication of some of the matters that would make a project of state or regional significance. The Department does not have a specific guideline in relation to "local environmental planning significance" of marina proposals.

*9615 MYZONE TICKETING BROCHURES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How much was spent on the first print of the brochures promoting the new MyZone ticketing system?
- (2) How much was spent on the reprint of the brochures promoting the new MyZone ticketing system due to the incorrect boundaries in the first print?
- (3) Where and when were the first batch of brochures disposed?
- (4) How many brochures were produced in the first and second prints?
- (5) From what budget is this wasted expense paid?
- (6) What corrective action is being taken to help ensure that this type of waste is not repeated?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (6) The number of brochures produced in the respective runs was:
 - First - 958,000
 - Second - 680,000

The expense was paid from NSW Transport and Infrastructure's existing budget.

*9616 LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEME—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many participants are there currently in the NSW Lifetime Care and Support Scheme?
- (2) How many complaints were made regarding this scheme in the last financial year?
- (3) Are these complaints on a publicly available register?
- (4) How many people have benefited from home or vehicle modifications since the scheme's inception in 2006?
- (5) In light of the relevant 2008-2009 Annual Report revealing that there are now more scheme participants in the community than in hospital or rehabilitation, why was only \$585,000 (or less than 2.4%) spent on home and vehicle modifications out of the \$25 million expended on care and support services?

Answer—

I'm advised there are currently 377 seriously injured people benefiting from the Lifetime Care and Support scheme.

87 participants have had or are in the process of having their homes modified and 21 participants have had or are in the process of having their vehicles modified.

At present \$992,126 has been spent on home modifications and \$171,093 has been spent on vehicle modifications.

*9617 GOVERNMENT-FUNDED COMPUTERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) How many NSW school students now have their own government-funded computers in:
 - (a) Year 9;
 - (b) Year 10;
 - (c) Year 11;
 - (d) Year 12?
- (2) How many NSW school students do not have their own government-funded computers in:
 - (a) Year 9;
 - (b) Year 10;
 - (c) Year 11;
 - (d) Year 12?

Answer—

- (1) (a) 15,593 laptops have been distributed to government schools for Year 9 students through the Digital Education Revolution - NSW program as at 31 March 2010.
(b) All current Year 10 students in government schools received their own laptop through the Digital Education Revolution - NSW program in 2009. A total of 63,602 laptops were distributed to schools in 2009.
(c) and (d) Laptops have not been distributed to this year's Year 11 and Year 12 students through the Digital Education Revolution - NSW program.
- (2) (a) 40,571 laptops for Year 9 students will be distributed to government schools through the Digital Education Revolution - NSW program between 1 April and 31 May 2010.
(b) Students in 2010 Year 9 cohort will retain their laptops through their schooling.
(c) and (d) Laptops have not been distributed to this year's Year 11 and Year 12 students through the Digital Education Revolution - NSW program.

*9618 STUDENT INJURIES IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

How many students from NSW Government schools injured other students on or near NSW Government school grounds in each calendar year from 2004 to date?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training does not hold this information centrally. Only serious injuries involving violence or weapons are reported centrally.

School accident reports are the responsibility of principals and school staff in relation to their completion and storage. Each NSW government school is responsible for storing its own school accident reports.

*9619 NATIONAL ART SCHOOL—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) (a) Have 9 of the 10 National Art School Heads of Department not been reappointed to their

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positions for 2010?

(b) If yes, why?

(2) (a) Have the names of the new appointments been officially released?

(b) If yes, who are they?

(3) Who is ultimately responsible for the appointments of the National Art School Heads of Departments?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The National Art School is no longer managed by the NSW Department of Education and Training. It is a registered public company limited by guarantee. Staffing issues are the responsibility of the company's Board of Directors.

I am advised that details of the new appointees are available on the National Art School's website.

*9620 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to ESL (English as a Second Language) funding:

(1) In the case of Australian-born children of parents of non-English speaking backgrounds, is ESL funding available to these children who speak no English upon enrolment in Kindergarten?

(2) Given there are NSW Government schools that have a high proportion of Australian-born children with parents of non-English speaking backgrounds, and those children do not speak English upon enrolment in Kindergarten, what types of funding are these schools eligible to apply for from both the NSW Government and Federal Government?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Children from non-English speaking background families who were born in Australia and enrol in Kindergarten speaking no English are eligible to be considered for English as a Second Language support.

English as Second Language support is provided to NSW government schools in the form of additional teacher positions.

In 2009-2010 total funding for the English as a Second Language program from both the NSW Government and the Australian Government is \$124.1 million. This represents an increase of approximately \$8 million over 2008-2009 funding levels.

*9621 RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to the provision of radiotherapy services to rural areas:

(1) What is NSW Health doing about the lack of radiotherapy for Tweed Heads cancer patients?

(2) Where can Tweed Heads cancer patients access health services?

(3) Why did the North Coast Area Health Service not approve the application for a "Comprehensive Cancer Centre" at Tweed Heads when there was money available through the Federal Department of Health and hospital funding of \$460 million in the last Federal budget?

Answer—

(1) I refer the Member to my response to Question 9323 in the Legislative Assembly.

(2) I am advised that patients can access The Tweed Hospital for Medical Oncology Services where specialist medical and nursing staff are available. For Radiation Oncology Services, residents of the Tweed Shire can access public and/or private radiotherapy services located in South East Queensland.

Once commissioned in May/June 2010, Tweed residents will also have access to public radiotherapy services through the Integrated Cancer Care Services located in Lismore.

(3) I refer the Member to my response to Question 9323 in the Legislative Assembly.

*9622 BREACHES OF PAROLE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

In relation to convictions recorded on breaches of parole at the Tweed Court House:

(1) What is the number of convictions recorded on breaches of parole at the Tweed Court House in the following years:

- (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009 to date?
- (2) What is the breakdown of convictions recorded on breaches of parole in the Tweed Court House for males and females for the following periods:
- (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) does not collect data on breaches of parole and only collects figures on finalised criminal offences relating to specific crimes created in legislation. While the conduct that leads to a breach of parole may constitute a criminal offence, the actual breach of parole is not a criminal offence and is dealt with by the NSW State Parole Authority.

The question should be directed to the Minister for Corrective Services.

*9623 WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to the total funds spent on subsidising the WRC (World Rally Championships) event held in the Northern Rivers in September 2009:

- (1) Will the costs to the State Government for the 2009 event be supplied to Parliament?
- (2) Will it include the dollar amount of Events NSW sponsorship?
- (3) How much taxpayer money was spent by Events NSW to subsidise this event that primarily created employment for Queenslanders?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 2009 World Rally Championship was sponsored by Events NSW. Notwithstanding, a third economic assessment report on the event undertaken by the State & Regional Development and Tourism Division of Industry and Investment NSW does estimate the value of in-kind services provided by State Agencies in support of the event. The NSW Government supported the Rally with assistance from government agencies such as the NSW Police Force and the Roads and Traffic Authority. This economic assessment report will be included within the overall Rally Review report which will be tabled in Parliament.

Events NSW's investment in the event is commercial-in-confidence. Funding was delivered from Events NSW's existing budget which drives economic, strategic and community benefits for our State.

*9624 ASBESTOS REMOVAL—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

In relation to the asbestos removal renovations currently being undertaken in the maternity ward at Mona Vale Hospital:

- (1) What was the total amount of funding allocated to complete the renovations?
- (2) What was the total amount of funding spent on the renovations as at 11 March 2010?
- (3) Has a shortfall in the funds available to complete the renovations been identified?
- (4) What action is the NSW Government taking to ensure that the renovations are completed and maternity services returned to Mona Vale Hospital as a matter of urgency?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The NSW Government allocated \$500,000 in 2009/10 for the removal of asbestos in the Maternity Unit at Mona Vale Hospital. As at 11 March 2010, \$341,000 has been spent on the asbestos removal project, with works continuing.

Additional rectification works have been identified, including enhancements to air conditioning and improvements to electrical and security safety. The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service is working with the hospital management and clinicians to identify the extent of additional works required prior to the ward reopening. This work will identify the quantum of additional funds and time required.

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*9625 KEMPSEY BYPASS COMMENCEMENT DATE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

Will the announced commencement date for the Kempsey Bypass (Pacific Highway) of early in 2010 be achieved?

Answer—

I am advised:

Yes. Preliminary works have commenced on the Kempsey Bypass.

*9626 PEMBROKE ROAD CAMPBELLTOWN—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Has the Minister taken up the offer by Campbelltown Council to inspect Pembroke Road?
- (2) Will the Minister be visiting the Campbelltown electorate in the future to discuss this road issue?
- (3) How much money would be required to upgrade the road?
- (4) How much has the NSW Government spent on road maintenance of Pembroke Road for each financial year from 2004-2005 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Pembroke Road is a State Road which is in a safe and serviceable condition.

Maintenance works are programmed for Pembroke Road. The RTA advises there is no need for major rehabilitation of this road when considered against other state-wide priorities.

The RTA records maintenance expenditure information on a network wide approach, and does not maintain information on specific roads.

*9627 PACIFIC HIGHWAY POSTCARD—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Given that the RTA has informed the Daily Examiner that the "Plan for the Pacific Highway" postcard cost about \$65,000 to produce and distribute (19 January 2010):
 - (a) What organisation was responsible for designing these postcards?
 - (b) What organisation was responsible for printing these postcards?
 - (c) How many postcards were printed?
 - (d) Where were they printed (town and postcode is sufficient)?
- (2) How many different types of "postcards" has the RTA produced and distributed in each financial year from 2006-2007 to date?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Vortex Design Studio.
(b) Total Print Control.
(c) 308,000.
(d) Castle Hill 2154.
- (2) Since 2006, the RTA has produced the following number of different postcards for distribution to the public:
 - 2006-2007: 15 postcards;
 - 2007-2008: 14 postcards;
 - 2008-2009: 7 postcards;
 - 2009-2010: 30 postcards (to 31 March 2010).

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*9628 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the latest figures relating to the number of people presenting to the Mount Druitt Hospital Accident and Emergency Department for treatment?
- (2) How do these figures compare to the past three years?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The number of people attending the Mount Druitt Hospital Emergency Department in January and February 2010 are:

2,310 in January 2010

2,419 in February 2010

(2) The yearly total number of patients attending Mount Druitt Emergency Department has increased 6.7 per cent from 2007 to 2009:

28,270 in 2007

29,398 in 2008

30,165 in 2009

9629 POLICE STATION SECURITY—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

*9630 POST-NATAL DEPRESSION FACILITIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

(1) What support facilities and services are available to women suffering from post-natal depression in the Albury electorate?

(2) Is there any supported accommodation for women diagnosed with post-natal depression in the Albury electorate?

(3) What diagnostic or other resources are available to families concerned about the welfare of new mothers who might exhibit signs of post-natal depression?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) Greater Southern Area Health Service Community Health and Community Mental Health/Drug & Alcohol Services participates in the Safe Start Program, a partnership between mental health, drug and alcohol, generalist counselling, maternity and early childhood services that identifies women, infants and their families who have psychosocial difficulties, including post-natal depression, and offers appropriate care and support.

Mercy Health Albury, Parents and Babies Unit offers a day stay program and a support program for women experiencing postnatal anxiety or postnatal depression. Senior clinicians from Albury Community Mental Health Service attend the unit and facilitate a weekly support/education group for mothers diagnosed with post natal depression.

Albury Community Health Service provides a generalist counselling service with staff trained in supporting women with Post Natal Depression. The Service also has a child and family health team of 5 Full Time Equivalent staff who provide a universal home visit to all new mothers after the birth of their baby. The integrated perinatal care team provides sustained home visiting to families with complex needs. The interdisciplinary team comprises of mental health, drug and alcohol, child and family and aboriginal health workers. Child and Family Health Nurses are trained to undertake screening for post natal depression using the Edinburgh Post Natal Depression Scale. Albury Community Mental Health Service also provides assessment, support and review for women with post-natal depression.

NSW Health contributes to approximately \$1.2 million per annum to Beyondblue for a range of prevention activities and also lead on the development of Beyondblue's National Perinatal Depression Initiative.

Other resources available to families concerned about the welfare of new mothers who may exhibit signs of post-natal depression include contact with Child and Family Health Nurses in local Early Childhood Health Centres, local General Practitioners, community support organisations and where appropriate, referrals to Mental Health Services, Welfare Support and Community Support Services. Birthing services also have printed information and resources that are available to mothers and families.

*9631 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) What mental health support facilities are provided to people discharged from Nolan House at Albury

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Hospital?

(2) What supported accommodation is available to people with a mental illness in the Albury electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Albury Community Mental Health Service provides assessment, individual care, case management, psychiatry review, education, referral and advocacy services for the community within the Albury electorate and to people discharged from Nolan House.

AccessLine, which is a free-call 24-hour telephone service, is also available to provide telephone support calls to people post discharge from Nolan House.

(2) The Housing and Supported Accommodation Initiative provides 12 packages in Albury which support people living with a mental illness in social housing.

Quamby House in Albury is a 26-bed men's shelter, primarily for homeless men. There are six home-based outreach packages at Quamby House that support men with mental illness to move to independent accommodation in the community.

*9632 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

What are the names of the scientific paper and authors who advised the Government or department in relation to NSW Health guidelines for public swimming pools and spas (June 1996) Section 2.4 Cyanuric Acid and Annexure B1 (3)?

Answer—

I am advised the answer to your question is:

"The Microbiology of Spa-Pools and the Occurrence of Folliculitis Associated with Spa-Pool Use, A G Bernard, 1983, Master of Public Health Thesis, University of Sydney."

*9633 OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

(1) With reference to the "Official Community Visitors Annual Report 2008-09" which reports that the number of issues per service relating to services that provide Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) to children and young people has risen to 4.4 per service:

(a) Why has this figure risen?

(b) Has there been any relaxation of departmental guidelines in recent years relating to Community Services funding of OOHC providers?

(c) What action does Community Services take when OOHC providers are consistently found to have ongoing issues with official visits by community visitors?

(2) Why did official visits to service providers for children and young people in OOHC fall significantly in 2007-08 before rising significantly in 2008-09?

(3) Why did the number of "activity hours" dedicated by official visitors to children and young people also fall significantly in 2007-08 before rising significantly in 2008-09?

Answer—

(1) (a) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.

(b) No. Community Services has made significant improvements to funding and monitoring processes in accordance with the current Community Services' Funding Policy.

Performance based contracting is being rolled out to all of Community Services' major funding programs, with a number of out-of-home care providers now operating under the new performance based service specifications.

(c) Issues relating to individual children that are identified by community visitors are managed as casework matters. Where these issues present to Community Services as systemic issues or develop into established trends, these matters are addressed by Community Services through contract management processes and the performance monitoring framework.

(2) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.

(3) This question should be directed to the NSW Ombudsman.

*9634 SUPPORTED CARE ALLOWANCE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What is the process for identifying and assessing which grandparents and other kinship carers will remain entitled to the Supported Care Allowance other than Children's Court proceedings?
- (2) Will family members awarded Family Court orders automatically be entitled to this allowance?

Answer—

- (1) An initial review will identify which families need to have a further assessment to determine eligibility. The overall process is designed to assess each matter on a case by case basis so that individual circumstances and situations can be given due consideration.
- (2) This will be determined on a case by case basis and will be one area of consideration in making final decisions about each case.

*9635 DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS FROM VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) In the past 10 years has there been a case in which a child in out-of-home care who has been awarded victims compensation has died intestate before the age of 18 years?
- (2) If so, how many cases?
- (3) If so, has victims compensation ever been awarded to the child's next of kin rather than returned to the Crown?
- (4) If so, in how many cases has this occurred?
- (5) What has been done to ensure a parent who has abused his or her child never inherits the proceeds of victims' compensation from that child?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The NSW Trustee and Guardian has confirmed from their records that there have been two cases.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Two.
- (5) Where children under the Minister's parental responsibility receive compensation and there are concerns about the proceeds going to a parent who has abused the child in the event the child dies intestate, Community Services has in place procedures to have a will made for the child. These procedures include making application to the Supreme Court for approval to have a will put in place for the child where required, as well as the engagement of the Public Trustee in drafting the will.

9636 LITTLE FOREST ROAD AND PRINCES HIGHWAY INTERSECTION—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9637 HAVENLEE SCHOOL STAFFING SHORTAGES—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Education and Training—

In relation to the Havenlee School:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of critical staffing shortages at the school in relation to physical/nursing care for physically disabled children?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of correspondence received from Havenlee SPP P&C President, Michael Evans, and what is the Minister's response to the concerns expressed regarding the critical need for additional physical/nursing care staff at the school?

Answer—

- (1) Arrangements are in place to support the health care needs of students currently enrolled at the school. The school has a non-teaching principal, seven teachers and seven student learning support officers currently supporting 39 students. School learning support officers are able to provide support to meet the personal care needs of students including support for physical care and health care procedures.
- (2) The then Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training responded to correspondence from Mr Evans on 25 June 2008 regarding the circumstances of students at the school with certain health care needs. The school has arrangements in place to support the health care needs of these and other students while at school.

9638 CURRARONG BOAT RAMP—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

9640 SOUTHERN REGION JOINT PLANNING PANEL—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

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*9641 CITY OF CANADA BAY COUNCIL—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Given that the Department of Local Government was intending to conduct a Promoting Better Practice review into Canada Bay Council (Question 2798), including a review of the council's planning processes as stated in the Estimates Hearings:

When will the Division of Local Government be adding the Promoting Better Practice Review Report on the City of Canada Bay Council to its website?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

I am advised that the Division of Local Government has conducted a review, under its Promoting Better Practice Program, of the City of Canada Bay Council.

I am also advised that the Division has recently forwarded its draft report to the Council seeking any comments that the Council may wish to make in respect of the draft report.

Comments made by the Council will be reviewed and a final report will then be issued. The Council will be asked to table the report at its next meeting.

After the Council has tabled the report, the Division will include a copy of the report on its website.

*9642 DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENERGY FINANCIALS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Department of Water and Energy for the period ended 30 June 2009:

- (1) With reference to Note 2(b) on page 115 of the above report - consultants and contractors - what are the names of each of the 43 consultancies on which \$398,055 were spent during 2008-09?
- (2) With reference to Note 2(b) on page 115 of the above report - fees for services rendered - which cost DWE \$6,732,000, what were the specific services that were paid for?
- (3) With reference to Note 2(b) on page 115 of the above report - training (staff development) - at a cost of \$851,000, how many staff were involved in training and what courses were paid for?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The level of detail provided in the 2008/09 Annual Report of the Department of Water and Energy, in relation to consultancies costing less than \$30,000, is in accordance with Treasury Circular 08/10 dated 26 August 2008 Annual Reporting Update.
- (2) The majority of the expenditure relates to fees for professional services provided for the delivery of externally funded projects including engineering, construction, survey and project management services.

In addition, the expenditure also covered costs relating to water sampling, property management, repair, service and maintenance of equipment, legal expenses, publications, audit, maps and aerial photos, record storage, staff recruitment costs and license fees.

- (3) Training undertaken by the Department involved a range of courses to enhance career development and professional and technical expertise of departmental employees. All training was relevant to conducting the business of the Department of Water and Energy.

9643 SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9644 BURRANGONG MEAT PROCESSORS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Given that the Burrangong Meat Processors in Young closed on 3 February 2010, why is their project to generate electricity from methane gas recovered from effluent ponds still listed on the web site of the Department of Climate Change and the Environment as an existing alternate power generation program?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

The generation plant developed under this NSW Climate Change Fund project has already been built and

tested.

With the closure of the abattoir, this project is currently on hold while the administrators find a buyer for the abattoir. As soon as the plant becomes operational again it will provide significant future energy savings into the future.

9645 BEROWRA FIRE BRIGADE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

9647 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

9648 LAND TAX COLLECTED—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

*9649 PREMIER'S SPORTING CHALLENGE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to the Premier's Sporting Challenge:

- (1) Who are the current contracted suppliers for the Sports Equipment to Schools Grants?
- (2) Are these suppliers' head offices based in NSW?
- (3) If not, where are the suppliers' head offices based?

Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Honourable Member to the Contract Guide for Contract 0800200-Supply of Sporting Equipment available on the NSW Government Procurement website at www.nswbuy.com.au

*9650 COMMUNITY OFFENDERS SUPPORT PROGRAM (COSP)—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) How much in the COSP program has been funded from existing programs, new programs, Housing NSW funding, Federal Stimulus Package?
- (2) What involvement has NSW Housing had in the development of the COSP program?
- (3) How much does the project cost and where are COSPs operating successfully?
- (4) What involvement has the Federal government had in the development and funding of the COSP program?
- (5) How much has the Federal Housing Stimulus Package contributed to COSP?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) COSPs have been funded from within the Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) budget allocation.
- (2) The COSP program is an initiative of CSNSW. CSNSW officers have briefed staff of NSW Housing regarding the COSP program. Officers of both agencies participate in a number of interagency committees that address the housing of offenders.
- (3) The 2009-10 operating budget for the COSP program is \$8.2 million, which is sourced from the CSNSW budget allocation. COSPs operate successfully at Malabar, Emu Plains, Berkshire Park, Kempsey and Campbelltown, while the Balund-a Residential Facility at Tabulam includes features pertaining to a COSP.
- (4) None.
- (5) Nil.

*9651 COMMUNITY OFFENDERS SUPPORT PROGRAM (COSP)—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of claims that Department of Housing funds have been allocated to COSP Halfway Houses managed by the Department of Corrective Services?
- (2) How much of Federal Housing Stimulus Package in dollars has been allocated to the COSP project by the Department of Housing?
- (3) How many prisoners on parole have been housed by NSW Housing in the Wagga electorate?
- (4) What involvement had the Department of Housing had in the COSP program?
- (5) What involvement has the Minister had in the project?

Answer—

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- (1) No.
- (2) None.
- (3) Statistics for this type of information are not kept by Housing NSW. A person's criminal background is not a criterion for public housing and Housing NSW is not aware of a person's criminal background unless the person discloses this information themselves.
- (4) Housing NSW has no involvement in the Community Offender Support Program (COSP). Housing NSW works with a number of government agencies, including Corrective Services, to assist eligible people who require housing assistance. People exiting COSP projects are assisted if eligible.
- (5) I do not have administrative responsibility for COSP Halfway Houses.

*9652 PARKINSON'S DISEASE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

With respect to Parkinson's NSW, which provides information, counselling, support, research and advocacy about this chronic and progressive debilitating neurological condition:

- (1) What funds does the NSW Government provide to support the work of Parkinson's NSW?
- (2) What practical and administrative support does the NSW Government provide to support Parkinson's NSW and its volunteers?
- (3) What practical help does the NSW Government provide to the 60 Parkinson's support groups across NSW?
- (4) What practical help does the NSW Government provide to promote and help Parkinson's NSW fundraising activities?
- (5) What action has the NSW Government taken to support the development of a centre of excellence for neurological conditions?
- (6) What action has the NSW Government taken to provide Neurological Specialist Nurses for people with Parkinson's?
- (7) How does NSW Health support people with Parkinson's and their families?
- (8) How does the NSW Government ensure that all health workers understand this condition and are up to date with best practice treatments?
- (9) What plans does the Government have to expand and improve services and support for the increasing number of people with Parkinson's?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Parkinson's NSW has received funding and support from NSW Health including:
 - (a) \$50,000 one off funding to assist Parkinson's NSW in its efforts to provide informative, up-to-date material, readily accessible to people with Parkinson's Disease, their families and carers in 2007-08.
 - (b) \$5,500 for the 2008 National Conference Sponsorship in 2008-09.
 - (c) \$11,746 one off grant in 2009/10 for a Statewide Support Group Leaders Meeting at Dunmore Laing College, Macquarie University attended by 41 support group leaders, 22 of whom were from rural NSW. Parkinson's NSW reported that the meeting was extremely successful leading to shared experience, improved capacity and greater knowledge for support group leaders.

Additionally in March 2010 Parkinson's NSW relocated to Macquarie Hospital under a sub lease arrangement with Alzheimer's Australia. NSW health approved a Market Rental Assistance Grant for Alzheimer's Australia.

- (5) There are no current actions to support development of a Centre of Excellence for neurological conditions.
- (6) In November 2009 NSW Health provided a letter of support to Parkinson's NSW to seek Commonwealth funding for a feasibility study on the employment of a Specialist Nurse Educator located in the Shoalhaven Community.
- (7) People with Parkinson's are eligible to apply for disability related appliances provided through EnableNSW, including the Program of Appliances for Disabled People (PADP). PADP is a NSW Government program to assist eligible residents of NSW, who have a life-long or long-term disability, to live and participate within their community by providing appropriate equipment, aids and appliances.
- (8) The NSW Government is committed to a universal health system that provides safe, high quality health care for everyone in the community, including people with Parkinson's Disease.

The Essentials of Care program currently being conducted throughout NSW public health facilities is based on a person centred care approach to health care and aims to improve people's experience including

patients, residents, relatives' carers and staff. The program provides nurses/ midwives and other clinicians with a method to explore and understand current clinical practice and practice environments and to develop ways to further enhance them.

Additionally, the issue of hospital medication management for people with Parkinson's Disease has been considered by the Statewide Medication Safety Committee and NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group who recommended a review of the current Policy Directive. This will commence in 2010.

(9) Management of Parkinson's is as per other neurological conditions and is treated through primary, secondary and tertiary care, as appropriate.

9653 ANIMALS IN PET SHOPS CODE OF PRACTICE ENFORCEMENT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

9654 POLICE BICYCLE UNITS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

*9655 MEDIA ADVISORS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

(1) How many media advisors (part-time or full-time) does your office employ?

(2) How much has been spent externally on your media-related training since you became Premier in December 2009?

Answer—

I am advised:

Four full-time media advisors are employed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to work in the Premier's office.

Since the Premier was appointed, no public money has been spent on external media-related training for the Premier.

*9656 AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

(1) Within what timeframe must the Government respond to NSW Auditor General reports?

(2) How many recommendations did the Auditor General make in 2009?

(3) How many 2009 recommendations were responded to within the required timeframe?

Answer—

I am advised:

There is no legislative timeframe for the Government to respond to matters raised in the Auditor-General's Financial or Performance Audit volumes.

In 2009 the Auditor-General made 209 recommendations to financial audit clients and 107 recommendations to performance audit clients. Financial and Performance Audits are published on the website of the Audit Office of NSW.

9658 LONG-TERM JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE AT BROKEN HILL—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice—

*9659 WELDING COURSES—MOUNT DRUITT TAFE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

(1) Why have the evening courses of welding at Mount Druitt TAFE been cancelled?

(2) Given that students were informed that evening classes were cancelled due to a lack of resources, why would this be the case when evening classes are paid for upfront by the students?

(3) Given that some students were part way through their welding courses before this course was cancelled, what options have been presented to these students so that they can continue their studies?

(4) Given that some students have reported that on enrolment day (28 January) they were informed by some staff to enrol but not to worry about payment of the course, but later the TAFE administration informed these students that they had not paid and were therefore not enrolled in the course, why were these erroneous instructions given to students on enrolment?

(5) Has the staff member that made these comments to students been reprimanded for jeopardising new and continuing students in this course?

(6) Will this evening class for the welding course be restored?

(7) How many students were enrolled in the evening course of welding in semester 1 and 2 in 2009?

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(8) What were the anticipated enrolments for welding evening classes for semester 1 2010?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The evening courses in welding at Mount Druitt College have not been cancelled.
- (2) Students were not informed that evening classes were cancelled.
- (3) All re-enrolling students have been placed in classes.
- (4) There was an administrative error in processing enrolments. This was immediately rectified and all affected students are currently enrolled.
- (5) No. Places in welding classes for new and continuing students were not in jeopardy.
- (6) Evening classes in welding were not cancelled.
- (7) Approximately 140 in each semester.
- (8) 140.

*9660 LINKS TO LEARNING PROGRAM—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Education and Training—

- (1) What is the breakdown of funding (in dollars) for the Links to Learning program for each of the Department of Education and Training (DET) regions in 2009-2010?
- (2) Is there a reporting process for organisations to the DET?
- (3) If yes to (2), what reporting is required of organisations that successfully received Links to Learning funding?

Answer—

(1) Links to Learning is allocated to funded organisations on a calendar year basis rather than a financial year basis. As at March 2010 funding has been allocated to projects operating in the Department of Education and Training regions as follows:

Links to Learning Regional Funding	2010 Funding
Hunter/Central Coast	\$1,081,396
Illawarra/South East	\$951,616
New England	Nil
North Coast	\$661,714
Northern Sydney	Nil
Riverina	\$144,000
South Western Sydney	\$2,146,658
Sydney Region	\$771,638
Western NSW	\$607,636
Western Sydney	\$1,257,413
Total	\$7,622,071

(2) Yes.

(3) Funded Links to Learning organisations are required to provide reports on an annual basis to the Department of Education and Training. As part of the conditions of their Funding Agreement, funded organisations are required to prepare and submit the following reports:

- a Project Confirmation Report that outlines what organisations plan to deliver to young people for the year
- Participant Outcome Forms which include information on the outcomes achieved for individual young people in the Links to Learning project
- a Final Project Report which includes information on the project performance, targets and outcomes achieved for the year
- an Audited Financial Statement which is an independent audit of grant funds.

*9661 CASE ASSESSMENT OFFICERS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

What will be the costs of training and employing 400 new case assessment officers to review children's carer's need for financial support and what will be the impacts of this on DoCS' budget?

Answer—

This question is unable to be answered, as there are no plans to employ 400 new staff for Community

Services, nor is there any category of employee titled Case Assessment Officer.

*9662 ASSESSORS TO USE PLAIN ENGLISH—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

Will assessors interviewing grandparents seeking supported care allowance be instructed to ask questions in plain English and to offer further explanation?

Answer—

Yes. It is Community Services practice to ensure that appropriate supports (interpreter, advocate etc.) are available to assist families through these processes.

9663 CROSS-BORDER POLICING AGREEMENT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

9664 CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT DISCUSSION PAPER—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

9665 SOCIAL HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9666 LASER HAIR REMOVAL REGULATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In relation to laser hair removal and the Minister's move in March 2009 to enforce solarium tanning laws:

- (1) Why has the Minister not flagged changes to the Radiation Control Regulation to regulate laser hair removal?
- (2) Given that laser hair removal and solarium tanning are both controlled by exactly the same regulation, why did regulating solariums gain precedence over regulating laser hair removal?
- (3) Given that many of the safety requirements such as appropriate operator tanning, restrictions on the length and frequency of sessions and the display of warning notices are the same, when will the Minister change the Radiation Control Regulation for laser hair removal?
- (4) When was ARPANSA's Regulatory Impact Statement completed?
- (5) Given that I have asked similar questions dating back to October 2008, how much longer is the Government going to wait for uniform national action?
- (6) What other states are supporting this so-called "uniform national action"?
- (7) How many letters has the Minister written to his federal counterpart on this issue in the last year?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Laser regulation is being undertaken by the National Radiation Health Committee, which is responsible for progressing national uniformity initiatives arising from the National Competition Policy review of radiation legislation. NSW will be guided by the outcomes of this national process.
- (2) The Radiation Control Act 1990 confers responsibilities on the owner of a diverse range of prescribed radiation apparatus and places restrictions on their possession, use and sale. Before extending these provisions to other apparatus, a Regulatory Impact Statement needs to be prepared in accordance with the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989, clearly demonstrating a net benefit to the community.

In 2007, the National Radiation Health Committee commissioned the Queensland Institute of Medical Research report on the risks associated with the use of solaria: The health effects of using solaria and potential cost-effectiveness of enforcing solaria regulations in Australia. A Regulatory Impact Statement, based on data from this report, justified the regulation of the solarium industry.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency is preparing a Regulatory Impact Statement on the regulation of lasers and impulse light sources for the consideration of the Radiation Health Committee.

- (3) See above.
- (4) The national Regulatory Impact Statement is expected to be finalised in July/August 2010.
- (5) See answer to question (4).
- (6) The Commonwealth and all Australian states and territories are represented on the National Radiation Health Committee and support uniform national action.
- (7) Nil, because the Commonwealth and NSW are represented on the National Radiation Health Committee.

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*9667 YANGA NATIONAL PARK—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many tourists visit Yanga National Park on average each day?
- (2) How much money does it cost on average each day to run Yanga National Park?
- (3) How many staff are employed on weekdays at Yanga National Park?
- (4) How many staff are employed on weekends at Yanga National Park?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Since opening to the public in June 2009 approximately 4805 people have visited Yanga National Park. The number of visitors and commercial tours continues to increase monthly.
- (2) During the 2009-2010 financial year general operating costs for Yanga National Park will total \$1,397,936 (including \$881,701 salaries and \$516,235 operating costs). This does not include any capital or water management expenditure.
- (3) Seven local staff and up to two area staff are employed at Yanga during the week (not including regional staff, scientists and contractors).
- (4) At least two staff are rostered for weekend work (one Ranger and one Field Officer). This is increased to three for holiday periods and the full compliment of staff for organised events.

9668 URGENT RESPONSE POLICE CARS—CASTLE HILL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

9669 URGENT RESPONSE POLICE CARS—BLUE MOUNTAINS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

*9670 ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT (GLOBAL RENEWABLES) PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many tonnes of processed material from the Alternative Waste Treatment (Global Renewables) plant at Eastern Creek was sold as compost in each of the following years:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2007;
 - (d) 2008;
 - (e) 2009?
- (2) How many tonnes of processed material from the Alternative Waste Treatment (Global Renewables) plant at Eastern Creek went into landfill in each of the following years:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2007;
 - (d) 2008;
 - (e) 2009?

Answer—

- (1) This information is held by Global Renewables and has not been provided to the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water.
- (2) See response to Question 1. In addition, under section 319 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the Department cannot disclose information that is commercial in confidence.

*9671 ARROWBIO ALTERNATIVE WASTE TECHNOLOGY PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why is the ArrowBio alternative waste technology plant at Jacks Gully not functioning as expected yet?
- (2) When does the Government expect the plant to be up and running?
- (3) How much money has the Government invested in the plant?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The performance to date has not met expectations because of the need to adapt to regulatory changes,

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difficult and changed conditions in commodity markets and some engineering issues.

- (2) The plant is up and running at 70 per cent capacity. The plant routinely processes all of the waste that is contracted to it from the MACROC councils.
- (3) As recorded in the WSN Environmental Solution's 2008-2009 Annual Report, recently tabled in Parliament, I am advised there has been an investment of \$58 million in the plant.

*9672 GARRAWARRA CENTRE PATIENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the breakdown for 2007, 2008 and 2009 of patients at the Garrawarra Centre, by postcode?
- (2) What is the breakdown for 2007, 2008 and 2009 of patients at the Garrawarra Centre, by referral hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The number of patients admitted to the Garrawarra Centre from each postcode, for the years in question, is as follows:

POSTCODE	2007	2008	2009
2027		1	
2031	1		
2033			1
2039	1		
2077		1	
2124		1	
2130		1	
2131			1
2132	1		
2152			1
2160			1
2161	1		
2170	1		1
2176			1
2190	1		
2199			1
2208	1		
2209	1	2	
2217	1	2	
2219	1		
2220			1
2221	1	2	1
2223		1	
2224			2
2225	1		
2226	2	1	1
2227		1	
2228	2	1	3
2229	3	3	5
2230	5	4	7
2231	1		
2232	1	3	1
2233	2	1	5
2210			1
2312			1
2500	2	1	3
2506		1	
2517	2	1	1

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2518		2	1
2519	1	1	
2525		1	
2527	1		
2528		2	
2529	1		
2530	1	1	1
2534	1		
2540		1	
2560	1		
2567			1
2570	1		
2588		1	
2650			1
2764			1
2770			1
Totals	39	37	45

(2) The number of patients admitted to the Garrawarra Centre, by referral hospital, is as follows:

HOSPITAL	2007	2008	2009
Braeside	2		
Bulli	1		1
Camden			1
Coledale		2	
Fairfield			1
Rozelle	1		
Rupertwood			3
Shellharbour	1		
Shoalhaven		1	
St George	4	4	
Sutherland	9	8	11
Wagga Base			1
Wollongong	2	1	
Totals	20	16	18

*9673 HORNSBY HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients from the Central Coast area have been scheduled for operations at the Hornsby Hospital as from 1 January 2010 broken down by surgical specialty?
- (2) How many Hornsby patients have had their listed surgery cancelled and/or deferred since 1 January 2010?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Sixty-nine Central Coast patients were scheduled to have their surgery performed at Hornsby Hospital during the period 1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010. The breakdown by surgical speciality is:
 - 7 Dental
 - 17 Orthopaedic
 - 26 Ear Nose and Throat
 - 11 General Surgery
 - 3 Urology
 - 1 Vascular
 - 4 Gynaecology
- (2) Ten patients have had cancellations and/or deferments since 1 January 2010. These cancellations occurred due to some cases taking longer than expected in theatre, and because of clinical issues identified on admission, not because of the additional Central Coast cases.

9674 COST OF AGENCY NURSES—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

9675 FALSE IDENTITIES AND RTA PHOTOGRAPHS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9676 BRUMBY NUMBERS IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In relation to brumbies in the Kosciuszko National Park:

- (1) What measures are being pursued to control the numbers of these brumbies?
- (2) Will the Minister honour the Government's commitment, following the outcry over the barbaric slaughter of brumbies in the Guy Fawkes National Park, to cease aerial culling of brumbies?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Passive trapping is currently being used to manage the impact of wild horses in sensitive areas of Kosciuszko National Park. This control method was chosen following an extensive public consultation process. Advances in other methods, such as fertility control, are being monitored and these methods will be implemented if they become effective for managing large numbers of free roaming animals.
- (2) There is no aerial culling of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park. This is consistent with the Kosciuszko National Park Horse Management Plan. The plan will be reviewed in 2013.

9677 USE OF GRAIN AUGERS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

9678 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

9679 ERECTION OF UNITS—KENROSE STREET FORSTER—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

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9680 CARDIAC SUPPORT UNIT NURSES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

9681 CROSS-BORDER POLICING AGREEMENT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

9682 HOUSING TENANTS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9683 MANLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What changes have been implemented by the Manly Community Safety Partnership since it was established?
- (2) Will the partnership consider earlier closing times, which is supported by both Manly Police and Manly Council's Section 79 Disturbance Complaints?

Answer—

(1) The following initiatives were implemented over the 2009-10 summer period:

- The Department of Transport and Infrastructure has authorised the pilot of a late night transport initiative of the Manly Liquor Accord. The initiative involves three different bus routes from 12 am to 4 am on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- All late night venues in Manly (except the Steyne Hotel) have agreed to:
 - refuse entry to patrons seen consuming alcohol on approach;
 - develop, display and enforce a Patron Code of Conduct;

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- regularly communicate with each other in regards to troublesome or barred patrons;
- not sell and supply alcohol later than 3:00 am on Saturday and Sunday mornings; and
- not sell or supply the following liquor products from 12 am on Saturday and Sunday of:
 - any more than four drinks per patron;
 - shots or doubles; and
 - Ready-to-Drinks with more than 5% alcohol by volume.

- Communities NSW has piloted weekly meetings between OLGR, Police, late night venues and other interested parties. The purpose of the meetings is to debrief on compliance issues and alcohol-related incidents arising over the previous week, including the peak trading period.
- Police and OLGR have undertaken additional targeted enforcement operations in venues and known late-night violence hotspots, including areas such as The Corso and surrounds, the beachfront and Manly Wharf. The Department of Transport and Infrastructure has authorised the pilot of a late night transport initiative of the Manly Liquor Accord. The initiative involves three different bus routes from 12am-4am on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- The Department of Transport and Infrastructure undertook compliance operations on weekends in December and during the first week of January to ensure taxis are not touting or refusing fares.
- Late night food traders have been ensuring that the exterior of their premises are managed to include checks and clearance of bottles and litter in the surrounds of the premises.
- Communities NSW are developing in-venue campaigns for late night venues promoting individual responsibility.
 - notification that entry will be refused if patron seen drinking on approach;
 - the penalties relating to supplying alcohol to an intoxicated mate; and
 - the ability of venues to ban patrons for up to 6 months.
- Manly Council has conducted an audit of Alcohol Free Zone signage in December 2009 and have developed a community awareness campaign to highlight the boundaries and difference in restrictions of the Alcohol Free Zone and Alcohol Consumption Prohibited Zones of the beaches and reserves.
- NSW Health has launched a responsible drinking campaign titled "What are you doing to yourself" to coincide with Australia Day. The campaign aims to reduce excessive drinking and public drunkenness among young people and ran until the end of March.

(2) It is important that local solutions be found to local concerns and late night trading venues in Manly have voluntarily agreed to limit the availability of alcohol after midnight. All late trading venues in Manly (except the Steyne Hotel) have agreed not to sell and supply alcohol later than 3.00 am on Saturday and Sunday mornings and not sell or supply the following liquor products from 12 am on Saturday and Sunday of:

- any more than four drinks per patron;
- shots or doubles; and
- Ready-to-Drinks with more than 5% alcohol by volume.

- 9684 BERRY BYPASS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9685 GOVERNMENT EXPENSES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—
- 9686 AUDIT OF COST—COVERED OUTDOOR AREA—Mr Peter Besseling to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9687 CLAIMS FOR VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—
- 9688 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESSES—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9689 SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELLORS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- *9690 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM FUND—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What progress has been made with the NSW Government application for funding from the Federal Government's \$25 million Local Government Reform Fund to ensure NSW councils get a helping hand in meeting the asset management criteria under the Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act, as announced by the Minister for Local Government at last year's Local Government Association Conference?
- (2) When does the Minister expect a response?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) An application for funding has been submitted and is currently being assessed by the Commonwealth Government.
- (2) The time frame for a response is a matter for the Hon. Anthony Albanese, Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

9691 POLICE ATTENDANCE AT LISAROW HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

9692 POLICE ATTENDANCE AT LISAROW HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

*9695 YASS VALLEY HOME LIVING SUPPORT SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

With a reference to your letter, reference AHI10/542 dated 9 March 2010, informing me of a meeting between Ageing and Disability and Home Care staff and Yass Valley Council on 17 February:

- (1) What was the outcome of this meeting?
- (2) Will the Yass Valley Home Living Support Service receive additional funding as a result of this meeting?
- (3) If so, how much additional funding will be provided?
- (4) Will you increase the recurrent funding for the Yass Valley Home Living Support Service by the \$47,000 that is needed and which was requested by me in my representations on behalf of the Deputy Mayor of Yass Valley Council?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) At the meeting of 17 February 2010, Yass Valley Council identified errors in its previous financial reporting.

A further meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2010 to enable the Yass Valley Council to address issues with its data collection and financial reporting.

The Yass Valley Home Living Support Service reported surplus funds in 2008/09. Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) will work with the Yass Valley Council to ensure that funds are utilised efficiently in accordance with contractual requirements.

A clearer assessment of actual funding requirements will follow the April meeting.

9696 EXTRA BUSES FOR HORNSBY CBD—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

9697 BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION PROJECTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

9698 PATIENT ESCAPE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

9699 POLICE NUMBERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

9700 DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

9701 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

9702 GARRAWARRA CENTRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

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9703 IMPROVEMENTS ON GOCUP ROAD—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

*9704 WATER EFFICIENCY IN RENTAL PROPERTIES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

Given 26 per cent of residential dwellings in NSW are privately rented and there is an urgent need to improve residential sustainability:

- (1) In 2008-2009 what proportion of claimants for the Sydney Water Toilet Replacement Service, WaterFix Service and Free Water Saving Kit Offer were:
 - (a) owner-occupiers;
 - (b) private landlords;
 - (c) private tenants?
- (2) What action is the Government taking to increase the uptake of these offers by private landlords and private tenants?
- (3) What consideration has the Government given to establishing a rebate program for water saving retrofits that is specifically targeted at residential rental properties?

Answer—

- (1) In 2008-2009, 76 per cent of claimants for the Toilet Replacement Service, WaterFix and DIY kits were owner-occupiers. Twenty four per cent were private tenants.
- (2) With their landlord's permission, tenants are eligible to undertake the Toilet Replacement Service and WaterFix programs. Thirty six per cent of DIY kits went to tenants in 2008-2009.
- (3) This year Sydney Water will be undertaking a WaterFix pilot program targeted at tenanted properties through real estate agents. The first stage of the pilot will include ten real estate agencies with at least 1000 properties each. Sydney Water will work with the real estate agents to trial the most effective mechanisms for gaining landlord permission and tenant details in order to undertake WaterFix services at tenanted properties. Depending on the success of this trial, Sydney Water may extend the pilot to include other real estate agencies.

9705 SYDNEY HARBOUR DIOXIN REMEDIATION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

9706 TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

9707 BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION (BER)—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

*9708 DEFENCE CONTRACTS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

- (1) What was the value of defence contracts awarded across Australia for:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2007;
 - (c) 2008;
 - (d) 2009?
- (2) What share of this total spend was attracted to NSW for each of the above years?

Answer—

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for defence spending.

9710 THE EDGE ACADEMY—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

*9711 SENTENCING OPTIONS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice—

- (1) What are the options for magistrates for sentencing underage homeless juvenile offenders?
- (2) If a magistrate places an underage homeless juvenile offender on a bond, what measures are in place to determine whether the offender met the conditions of their bond in full?
- (3) If a magistrate dismisses matters for an underage homeless juvenile offender, is the offender then referred to any Government agencies or relevant organisations to assist in matters such as where the offender might live, find employment, or whom the offender would live with?
- (4) How many homeless juvenile offenders were on remand in juvenile justice centres for each financial year from 2007-2008 to date?

Answer—

- (1) Sentencing options for Magistrates are prescribed in Section 33 of the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987.
- (2) A Magistrate can include a condition on a bond requiring the young person to be supervised by Juvenile Justice. Juvenile Justice case manages the young person to assist them in complying with the bond. When the young person fails to abide by the bond conditions, the court is notified.
- (3) Juvenile Justice staff who attend court can provide support to young people attending court. If a young person is identified at the court as being homeless, staff will contact a relevant agency (both government and non-government) to assist the young person to locate accommodation. Should there be child protection concerns, appropriate notifications are made.
- (4) Juvenile Justice does not routinely collect data on homelessness.

- 9712 BRINGAGEE ROAD—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9713 RESPONSE TARGET TO 000 CALLS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- 9714 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9715 ELECTRICITY PRICING STRUCTURE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—
- 9716 ROOM RENTALS—G'DAY MOTEL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9717 MOTEL ROOM RENTALS—BLUE MOUNTAINS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9718 SERVICES ON CARLINGFORD LINE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9719 RESPONSE REGARDING INCIDENT AT HAWKS NEST—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- 9720 BERRY'S BAY MARINA REDEVELOPMENT—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 9721 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 9722 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9723 VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9724 RISE IN SEA LEVEL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9725 RADIATION TREATMENT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9726 WATER MAIN RENEWAL WORKS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 9727 RESURFACING OF PITTWATER ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9728 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9729 FATALITIES AND INJURIES—PRINCES HIGHWAY—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

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- 9730 WARRELL CREEK TO URUNGA UPGRADE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9731 KEMPSEY BYPASS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9732 TRANSPORT CORRIDOR LINK—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9733 ROAD ACCIDENTS—FALLEN TREE BRANCHES—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

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- 9734 HIGH SCHOOL IN MEDOWIE—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9735 TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9736 REGIONAL ARTS NSW—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—
- 9737 BOXING DAY PAY RATES—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—
- 9738 CORRIE ISLAND—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9739 PARKING SPACE LEVY—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—
- 9740 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—BOOKMAKERS REVISION COMMITTEE—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9741 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—BOXING AUTHORITY OF NSW—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9742 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—CASINO, LIQUOR AND GAMING CONTROL AUTHORITY—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9743 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—CENTENNIAL PARK AND MOORE PARK TRUST—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9744 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—CLUB INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9745 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9746 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—GREYHOUND AND HARNESS RACING REGULATORY AUTHORITY—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9747 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—HUNTER INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE TRUST—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9748 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—NSW LOTTERIES—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 9749 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT—RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING FUND—Mr Victor Dominello to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation—

*9750 STAYING HOME LEAVING VIOLENCE PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What are the eight areas where the Staying Home Leaving Violence program currently operates?
- (2) What are the ten additional areas where the Staying Home Leaving Violence program will be expanded to?
- (3) In 2008-09, how many women accessed the program?
- (4) Of these how many, as both a proportion and absolute number, were successfully able to stay in their own home with the violent offender removed?
- (5) What was the total expenditure in 2008-09 on the program?
- (6) What was the expenditure in 2008-09 on each of the eight existing locations?
- (7) What is the cost per woman across the whole program?
- (8) Of all the women who have had a violent offender removed, how many have since reported that they have been either stalked or confronted by the perpetrator?
- (9) Has any evaluation been done on the effectiveness of the program?
- (10) If so, will the Minister provide this evaluation?

Answer—

- (1) The 8 areas are - Eastern Sydney, Bega, Blacktown / Mt Druitt, Moree, Newcastle, Wyong and Campbelltown. A project is currently being developed in Walgett, in collaboration with the local community.
- (2) The 10 additional areas where the program will be expanded to are - Shoalhaven, Redfern, Kempsey, Penrith, Wollongong, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Fairfield, Liverpool and Dubbo.
- (3) In 2008-09, a total of 165 women accessed the Staying Home Leaving Violence Program, with a total of 120 of these women receiving ongoing case management services by the program.
- (4) Due to differences in the definitions in the pilot stages of the program, aggregated data is not available on the proportion and absolute number of women and children who were able to stay in their own home with the violent offender removed. Location data is provided below:
 - In Eastern Sydney 90% (27) of clients were able to stay in their own home, or a home of their choice without the violent offender.
 - In Bega 96.5% (56) of clients were able to stay in their own home, or a home of their choice without the violent offender.
 - In Blacktown/Mt Druitt over 82% (29) of clients were able to stay in their own home, or a home of their choice without the violent offender.
- (5) Community Services total budget for the Staying Home Leaving Violence program for 2008-09 was \$435,848 which includes program management costs.
- (6) The commitment to expand the program in March 2007 included the continuation of the two pilots in 2008-09, the expansion of a further six projects in 2009-10, and a final expansion to a further 10 projects in 2010-11.
In 2008-09, total expenditure for the existing two sites was \$302,000, consisting of \$150,000 for Bega and \$152,000 for Eastern Sydney.
- (7) The cost of the program is approximately \$4,000 - \$6,000 per woman; however, it must be noted that case plans and safety plans are personalised and based on individuals' needs.
- (8) Aggregated data for the entire program is not available due to the early stages of implementation in some locations.
- (9) Each pilot program was independently evaluated (Eastern Sydney and Bega).
Both pilots showed that the service model is effective in achieving positive outcomes for a broad range of women, and the strategy has been effective with women across all socio-economic groups and in various forms of housing tenure. The program has been particularly effective in reaching women that have not previously engaged with other welfare or support services.
- (10) These evaluation reports were commissioned by the service providers. A summary of evaluation results will be made available on the Community Builders website.

*9751 WEBSITE HITS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many hits has the www.fosteringnsw.com.au website had from 13 September 2009 to date?
- (2) Apart from the hosting fees and domain name registration charge, how much has the website cost in terms of design and other costs?
- (3) Given your advice that the www.fosteringnsw.com.au website is a foster care information portal which provides links to key foster care agencies in NSW (Question 8998), how many foster care

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applications have been lodged with Community Services through the aforementioned website excluding the other agencies listed on the website?

Answer—

- (1) Between 13 September 2009 and 25 March 2010, there were 3,964 visits to www.fosteringnsw.com.au
 - (2) The website design did not incur any additional costs, as it was done inhouse as part of the web Manager's normal duties. User testing was conducted with the various target demographics to help identify and address any issues or barriers visitors may have with the site. The total cost was \$21,098.
 - (3) 1,894 applications have been received online.
- 9752 EXPENDITURE ON HEADER AGREEMENTS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for the State Plan, and Minister for Community Services—
- 9753 OPERATING COSTS FOR CESSNOCK AND PARKLEA PRISONS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 9754 OPERATING COSTS FOR PRISONS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 9755 IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- 9756 BARANGAROO SITE—PRECINCTS 1, 2 AND 3—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9757 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9758 NSW INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATOR—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9759 FUNCTIONS ATTENDED—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9760 SUBMISSIONS TO REVIEW OF METROPOLITAN STRATEGY—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9761 COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF HOMES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9762 DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBER FOR FAIRFIELD—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9763 FUTURE OF WOLLONGONG HARBOUR—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9764 DISCUSSIONS WITH PREMIER—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- 9766 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9767 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACCOMMODATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9768 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING REGIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9769 POST-NATAL DEPRESSION FACILITIES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- 9770 CLASS NUMBERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9771 URGENT RESPONSE POLICE CARS—MIRANDA—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9772 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDIES OF RELIGION—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9773 SERVICES FOR DEMENTIA SUFFERERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9774 PUBLIC HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9775 WOOLLOOMOOLOO HOMELESSNESS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9776 389 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9777 COMMENTS BY MR BOB ELLIS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- 9778 SYDNEY METRO PROJECT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- *9779 ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

How many non front-line public service jobs given an exemption from the announced "hiring freeze" have been advertised in the:

- (a) past six months;
- (b) past twelve months?

Answer—

I am advised that:

A staff freeze was put in place in 2009. The first meeting of the Employment Assessment Committee was held in July 2009. Data was then collected through the e-Recruitment system. Accordingly, data is only available from 24 August 2009.

From 24 August 2009 to 26 March 2010, 1,155 positions that were deemed essential under the assessment criteria were advertised.

- 9780 PLANNING FOR RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES—Mr Donald Page to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9781 ARMIDALE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9782 VISITS TO NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- *9783 LAKE CARGELLIGO—MERIABBA PIPELINE—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

In relation to Lake Cargelligo and the Meriabba Pipeline:

- (1) Will the Minister guarantee that the lake at Lake Cargelligo will continue to receive significant water allocations even after the Merriabba pipeline to supply the township is built?
- (2) Why did the Minister not provide this guarantee when the pipeline was announced by the Premier and Federal Climate Change Minister?
- (3) Why were locals not informed that the Premier was to visit Lake Cargelligo on 1 March?
- (4) On what day did the Premier decide to make the trip to Lake Cargelligo?
- (5) Will the Merriabba pipeline still be built if there are significant inflows into Lake Cargelligo over the next 18 months?
- (6) How much did the State Government spend to install the pipeline across the bed of Lake Cargelligo from the north-eastern side to the water treatment intake near Apex Park?

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(7) How long was this pipeline in operation for?

(8) Why has the Government not started work on the emergency bore promised in Euabalong West?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The level of water allocations across NSW is dependent on climatic conditions and water availability.

The construction of the Merri-Abba pipeline will secure the town water supply for the townships of Lake Cargelligo, Tullibigeal and Murrin Bridge. While it will reduce the reliance of these townships on the Lachlan River for drinking water, it will not impact on State Water's operation of the Lake Cargelligo system.

(3) and (4) The Premier's visit to Lake Cargelligo was widely reported in the media including the Lachlander, The Condobolin Argus, Lake News, Area News and The Land.

(5) The Merri-Abba pipeline will be constructed even if there are significant inflows into Lake Cargelligo. The emergency bore and the pipeline are about securing the long term supply for these communities if the area experiences continued drought or droughts in years to come.

(6) In December 2004, the NSW Government provided financial assistance of \$130,000 to the local water utility Lachlan Shire Council towards the construction of the pipeline across the bed of Lake Cargelligo from the north-eastern side to the water treatment intake near Apex Park.

(7) The actual periods for which the pipeline has been in operation is a matter for the local water utility Lachlan Shire Council.

(8) The construction of the emergency bores at Euabalong and Euabalong West is the responsibility of the local water utility Cobar Shire Council. Council is undertaking groundwater studies in an effort to identify locations with good groundwater reserves for the villages.

- 9784 ACUTE CARE BEDS—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9785 NON-MEDICAL STAFF EMPLOYED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- 9786 MALE TO FEMALE TEACHER RATIO—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9787 LAPTOP COMPUTERS ISSUED TO STUDENTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- 9788 ECOSYSTEM CREDITS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9789 BIOBANKING SCHEME—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 9790 COST PER ORGANISATION FOR CRIMINAL CHECKS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9791 MULTIPLE CRIMINAL CHECKS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9792 TURNAROUND TIME FOR CRIMINAL CHECKS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9793 COST OF CRIMINAL CHECK—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9794 NUMBER OF CRIMINAL CHECKS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9795 COST TO VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS FOR CRIMINAL CHECKS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- 9796 PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENTS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Education and Training—

- 9797 CONNECTION TO SEWERAGE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- 9798 CLASSIFICATION OF PITTWATER ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9799 TAXI TRANSPORT SUBSIDY SCHEME (TTSS)—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- 9800 PACIFIC HIGHWAY BETWEEN BLACKMANS POINT AND CAIRNCROSS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- *9801 CONSUMER, TRADER AND TENANCY TRIBUNAL (CTTT) HEARINGS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—

In regard to Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) hearings at Coffs Harbour Court House:

- (1) How many CTTT matters are currently waiting for a hearing date be scheduled at Coffs Harbour Court House?
- (2) How many CTTT matters have been heard in the past 12 months, broken down month by month?
- (3) How many hearing days/hours are allocated to Coffs Harbour Court House for CTTT hearings each month?
- (4) Will the Attorney General consider increasing the hearing days/hours per month to meet demand?

Answer—

I am advised:

Questions relating to the number of CTTT matters and the scheduling of hearings should be directed to the Minister for Fair Trading.

- 9802 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

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- 9803 CAGE SIZE REGULATIONS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) What percentage of New South Wales caged egg producers have complied with the latest cage size regulations?
- (2) When is it expected that all egg producers will meet these requirements?

- 9804 INFRINGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

For each of the past three years, how many infringements have been issued relating to improper use of the T3 lane along:

- (a) Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation;
- (b) Spit Road;
- (c) Military Road?

- 9805 PROTECTION OF SEAGRASS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

- (1) How is legislation regarding the protection of seagrass, under the Fisheries Management Act Section 205, being enforced?
- (2) What education strategies are in place to promote awareness in the community regarding the legislation, particularly among yacht owners?
- (3) What strategies are in place to support and protect seagrass?
- (4) How many infringements have been issued over the last year and in the last 5 years regarding the protection of seagrass under the Fisheries Management Act Section 205?
- (5) What strategies are in place to prevent the spread of the introduced species of seagrass, *Calerpa*

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- 9806 SOLAR BONUS TARIFF—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—
- (1) Why did the NSW Government discontinue the Solar Bonus Net Feed-in Tariff system?
 - (2) How many people signed up to the Solar Bonus Net Feed-in Tariff system?
 - (3) How many of those people will now have to transfer to the Solar Bonus Gross Feed-in Tariff system?
 - (4) What is the estimated cost to an individual and/or household forced to transfer to the Solar Bonus Gross Feed-in Tariff system?
- 9807 SENIORS SUMMIT—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- (1) Was there a Seniors Summit held in:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009?
 - (2) If a Seniors Summit was not held in these years, why not?
- 9808 KINGS CROSS TUNNEL FIRE HAZARD—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- In relation to the Kings Cross Tunnel fire hazard:
- (1) How long has the Government known of the inadequate fire protection of the Kings Cross Tunnel?
 - (2) What is the expected completion date for tunnel repairs?
- 9809 SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURES AT THE GAP—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- (1) What funding has been provided to Woollahra Council since July 2008 for suicide prevention measures at The Gap in Watsons Bay?
 - (2) What further funding will the Government provide to Woollahra Council to assist with the Gap Park Masterplan?
- 9810 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNDING—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- In relation to election campaign funding and expenses:
- (1) Will the Premier support public funding of NSW election campaigns?
 - (2) Will the Premier also support an extension of the electronic blackout for campaign advertisements from three days to seven days before polling day?
 - (3) Will the Premier also support restrictions on the number of TV and radio campaign advertisements during the four weeks before the electronic blackout?
- 9811 MALICIOUS DAMAGE AND GRAFFITI CHARGES—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- How many people were charged with malicious damage or graffiti offences in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 in the electorates of:
- (a) Terrigal;
 - (b) Gosford;
 - (c) Wyong;
 - (d) The Entrance?
- 9812 F3 SPEEDING INFRINGEMENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—
- For each of the past three years, how many speeding infringements have been issued on the F3 Freeway:
- (a) by police;
 - (b) by fixed speed cameras?

9813 REQUEST FOR VIEWS FROM NEWSPAPER EDITORS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

In relation to your media release of 18 May 2009 when you said "I will also ask newspaper editors to provide me with their views on whether or not the Government needs to move legislation in this regard, and note that our interagency Brothels Taskforce is considering ICAC's recommendation right now, with a view to reporting to Government shortly":

- (1) In what way did you "ask newspaper editors" and will you table copies of the correspondence sent to newspaper editors?
- (2) How many newspaper editors responded to your requests?
- (3) Will you table their correspondence to you including any comments or recommendations?
- (4) What action have you taken since to follow through on their recommendations?

9814 BAYS PRECINCT TASKFORCE—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

Why are community representatives only allowed to report to the Bays Precinct Taskforce and not allowed to sit on the actual taskforce?

9815 COUNTRY TOWN WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

How many applications for funding from the Country Town Water and Sewerage Supply are currently held following approval, but are waiting for funding to become available?

9816 FEDERAL LABOR HEALTH PLAN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

- (1) What measures is the Premier going to put in place to ensure that the economic base of smaller country towns is maintained in situations where the implementation of the Federal Labor Health Plan requires the closure of a local hospital?
- (2) Will the Premier give a guarantee that the hospitals located at Yass, Harden-Murrumburrah, Gundagai, Cootamundra, Young, Grenfell, Cowra, Crookwell and Boorowa will not be closed or have their services downgraded as a result of the implementation of the Federal Labor Health Plan?

9817 RURAL GENERAL PRACTITIONERS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) Given that Cowra now only has six General Practitioners working in the town, the smallest number for several decades; the rural community of Quandialla has not had a visit from a General Practitioner for at least eight months; and the Grenfell MPS is still without the services of a permanent full-time Visiting Medical Officer, what actions is the Minister taking to encourage more general practitioners to work in regional towns?
- (2) Why have these plans not yet succeeded in the three situations referred to in part (1) of this question?

9818 DNA TESTING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—

In the light of there being one pathologist to 270 police officers in NSW for DNA testing, with other States having a much higher ratio of pathologists, when will the low ratio of pathologists to police in NSW be addressed?

9819 INCREASES IN SOCIAL HOUSING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Western Sydney, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) In relation to increases in social housing, how many of the promised 900 residences for Sydney Coastal Region (Regional Action Plan) will be located in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How much funding will be allocated to provide services to this housing?

9820 WARINNA HOUSE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What supported accommodation is available to people with a mental illness in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) What criteria is needed for admission into Warinna House in Wahroonga?
- (3) How many residents live in Warinna House, Wahroonga?
- (4) How many staff care for the residents across the 24-hour roster?

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9821 LAND TAX COLLECTED—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer, Special Minister of State—

What was the total amount of land tax collected from land owners in the Hornsby Shire Council area during:

- (a) 2004-05;
- (b) 2005-06;
- (c) 2006-07;
- (d) 2007-08;
- (e) 2008-09;
- (f) 2009-10 to date?

9822 GARRAWARRA HOSPITAL CEMETERY—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Why has the Garrawarra Hospital Cemetery, with 2,000 recorded burials, been allowed to become neglected and vandalised?
- (2) What plans does the Government have for the future of Garrawarra Hospital Cemetery?

9823 ELECTRICITY COMPANY BUDGETS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform—

Given up to half of electricity price increases identified by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal are due to network expansions:

- (1) What action, such as demand management programs, is the NSW Government taking to reduce the need for "poles and wires" development by NSW electricity distribution and transmission companies?
- (2) What consideration has the NSW Government given to requiring a minimum proportion of electricity companies' budget expenditure on energy efficiency and demand management to help slow the need for network expansions, given that EnergyAustralia proposes to spend only 0.5 per cent of its budget on energy saving measures?

9824 ANIMAL WELFARE—FLYING FOXES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—

Given a recent Flying Fox Licensing Review Panel found that shooting operations of flying foxes are legally and ethically unacceptable, noting, amongst other factors, that young orphaned flying foxes are being left to starve to death, and that conservation and welfare groups say the Standard Operating Procedure for shooting flying foxes is inadequate:

- (1) What action is the Department of Primary Industries taking to ensure breaches of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) do not occur as a consequence of the shooting of flying foxes for crop protection?
- (2) What assistance does the Government give to the RSPCA so that it can enforce breaches of POCTA associated with the shooting of flying foxes for crop protection?
- (3) What negotiations have occurred between the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water about reporting POCTA breaches associated with the shooting of flying foxes for crop protection?
- (4) What consideration is the NSW Government giving to the NSW Farmers Association's proposal for a compensation scheme that will bring an end to the shooting of this vulnerable species?

9825 PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMISSION BULLI SEAM HEARINGS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—

With regard to public hearings by the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) about BHP Billiton's proposed Bulli Seam Operations:

- (1) Is it true that BHP Billiton presented to the PAC in private prior to the public hearings?
- (2) Why wasn't BHP Billiton required to also present its proposals in public to give community, environment and indigenous groups the opportunity to respond to arguments and proposals?
- (3) To what extent will the NSW Government develop public hearing protocols for the PAC that ensure community groups and developers are treated equally?

- 9826 **METHODOLOGY USED—CALCULATION OF DWELLING NUMBERS**—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Planning, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Lands—
- (1) Given that the Department of Planning reviewed and agreed to the methodology used by Ku-ring-gai Council in calculating initial new dwelling numbers projected under the draft Town Centres LEP, why was Treadstone appointed to conduct an "independent" review?
 - (2) Why did the Government, under the previous Planning Minister, request Treadstone to consult with only local developers and development industry professionals, when it was local community groups and MPs who had raised concerns about the previous methodology?
- 9827 **CEO OF NSW MARITIME**—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Why did the CEO of NSW Maritime, Mr S Dunn, behave less than impartially in actively defending Ms T Kelly in an August 2009 email communication to NSW Maritime staff, when she was subject to criminal legal charges?
 - (2) Is the CEO of NSW Maritime continuing to defend Ms Kelly now that she is also the subject of allegations being considered in an ICAC public inquiry?
 - (3) Has Mr Dunn's stance been taken with the knowledge, agreement or acquiescence of either the current or former Minister?
- 9828 **EX GRATIA LEGAL ASSISTANCE**—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Given your advice that ex gratia legal assistance was approved in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Ministerial Memoranda M1999-11 (Question 7944), what are the legal proceedings for which ex gratia legal assistance has been approved by the Attorney General's Department in relation to Ms T Kelly, the General Counsel of NSW Maritime?
 - (2) Is Ms Kelly still on full pay as an employee of NSW Maritime?
 - (3) Are legal costs being covered for Ms Kelly from public money in respect of any other proceeding, including before ICAC?
 - (4) What communications have occurred between your ministerial office (or that of the former Minister) and the CEO of NSW Maritime in relation to the allegations against Ms Kelly?
- 9829 **PREPARATION OF TENDER DOCUMENTATION**—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ports and Waterways, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Did one or more of NSW Maritime's Senior Managers assist in the preparation of the tender documentation for the successful Joe Elias Company bid for the Maritime site at Blackwattle Bay?
 - (2) If so, who provided such assistance and why?
 - (3) Who decided on the successful tenderer?
- 9830 **RELEASE OF CALICIVIRUS**—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- (1) Has NPWS released rabbit haemorrhagic virus (calicivirus) into the (a) Lane Cove or (b) Ku-ring-gai Chase national parks to control rabbit numbers?
 - (2) If so, when was the virus released?
 - (3) What is the estimate of the numbers of rabbits in each park?
 - (4) Are alternative methods of controlling (a) rabbits and (b) other feral fauna used in each park?
 - (5) If so, what are the alternative methods?
 - (6) Have any residents expressed concerns about the release of the virus to control rabbits?
 - (7) Were alternative, more humane, methods considered before settling on the calicivirus?
 - (8) If so, on what grounds were they rejected?
- 9831 **ROAD FATALITIES**—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) How many fatal accidents have occurred on NSW roads in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009?
 - (2) How many of these fatal accidents occurred in these years at:
 - (a) Easter;
 - (b) June long weekend;
 - (c) October long weekend; and
 - (d) Christmas/New Year?
 - (3) (a) On a per vehicle movement basis, are there more fatal accidents occurring at the above-

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mentioned times than at other times?

(b) If so, how many more fatalities are occurring at these times on a per vehicle basis compared to the other normal times of the year?

- 9832 SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- (1) How many speech pathologists are currently employed/contracted by DET in NSW Government schools?
 - (2) For (1) above, what is the figure for each NSW DET region?
- 9833 LAND AT 98 JOHNSTON STREET, BASS HILL—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- What will be the cost to the NSW Department of Education and Training to purchase the land at 98 Johnston Street, Bass Hill?
- 9834 HALF-DAY HEALTH SEMINAR—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—
- In relation to the NSW Government's half-day Health Seminar held on 15 March:
- (1) How many delegates were invited to the Premier's half-day Health Seminar?
 - (2) How many delegates attended the Premier's half-day Health Seminar?
 - (3) Who was the convenor of the Premier's half-day Health Seminar?
 - (4) (a) Was the Premier's half-day Health Seminar convenor provided with financial remuneration for convening the summit?
(b) If yes, what was the total amount provided to the convenor?
 - (5) How much did the summit cost and what was the cost breakdown of:
 - (a) venue hire
 - (b) catering
 - (c) AV equipment hire
 - (d) stationery;
 - (e) staff hire; and
 - (f) other miscellaneous costs?
- 9835 BREACHES OF PAROLE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—
- In relation to convictions recorded on breaches of parole at the Tweed Court House:
- (a) What is the number of convictions recorded on breaches of parole at the Tweed Court House in the following years:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009;
 - (d) 2010 to date?
 - (b) What is the breakdown of convictions recorded on breaches of parole in the Tweed Court House for males and females for the following periods:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008;
 - (c) 2009;
 - (d) 2010 to date?
- 9836 POLICE REFERRALS TO FAMILY SUPPORT AGENCIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, and Minister for Finance—
- In relation to the number of police referrals to family support agencies since the State's revamped child protection regime began on 24 January 2010:
- How many police referrals have been made to family support agencies from:
- (a) 24 January 2010 to date;
 - (b) 1 January 2009 to 24 January 2010?
- 9837 CARS WEIGHING MORE THAN 975 KG—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- How many cars registered in the Tweed Local Government Area weigh more than 975 kg?
- 9838 WRITS OF POSSESSION—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health representing the Attorney General, Minister for Citizenship, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Vice President of the Executive Council—
- (1) How many residential properties have been subject to the Writs of Possession from the Tweed Heads Court House in the following years:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) 2010?
 - (2) How many commercial properties have been subject to the Writs of Possession from the Tweed Heads Court House in the following years:
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) 2010?
- 9839 AVAILABLE BEDS—TWEED HEADS HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- What is the total number of available beds in all sections of the Tweed Heads Hospital in the following years:
- (a) 2009;
 - (b) year to date?
- 9840 NIMBIN ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- (1) When will the Nimbin Environmental Centre's move to have cattle farming declared a "key threatening process" under the NSW Fisheries Act go before the expert panel of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that the Nimbin Environmental Centre's media representative is Mr Peace Freeborn?
- 9841 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Rural Affairs—
- (1) Why are there no Neighbourhood Safer Places in the mid Blue Mountains area?
 - (2) Why is there only one NSP in the Lower Mountains?
- 9842 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET FOR 2025—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- (1) On what date did the government decide to axe the emissions reduction target for 2025?
 - (2) Where and when was this decision publicised?
 - (3) With the Government giving planning approval to two power stations producing 22 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, is it still committed to reducing emissions by 60 per cent by 2050?
 - (4) What plans has the Government put in place to cut emissions by 60 per cent by 2050?
- 9843 YEARLY RATE OF SEA LEVEL RISE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- (1) What is the average yearly rate of sea level rise measured at Fort Denison?
 - (2) How long has this data been recorded for?
 - (3) What is the average yearly rate of sea level rise measured at Newcastle?
 - (4) How long has this data been recorded for?
 - (5) What is the average yearly rate of sea level rise measured at the first of the gauges at Port Kembla?
 - (6) What is the average yearly rate of sea level rise measured at the second gauge at Port Kembla?
 - (7) How long has this data been recorded for?
 - (8) Are the sea level rises measured in Port Kembla readily transferable to the rest of the state?
- 9844 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr George Souris to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

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How many letters, faxes or emails against the Tillegra Dam proposal have been received by the Minister for Water, either directly or via the Hon Morris Iemma, the Hon Nathan Rees or the Premier, since November 2003?

9845 CORRECTIVE SERVICES INDUSTRIES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Water, and Minister for Corrective Services—

In relation to prisoners working for Corrective Services industries:

- (1) How is the pay and conditions for these workers currently formulated?
- (2) What is the current hourly rate of pay for these workers?
- (3) Are these workers employed under an award?
- (4) Are there different levels of pay for different workers?
- (5) If the answer to question (4) is yes, what are the different levels of pay?
- (6) Are these workers subject to income tax?
- (7) Do these workers receive superannuation benefits?
- (8) If the answer to question (7) is yes, at what rate is this superannuation calculated?
- (9) Are these workers entitled to annual leave allowances?

9846 CONSUMER, TRADER AND TENANCY TRIBUNAL (CTTT) HEARINGS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for the Arts—

In regard to Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) hearings at Coffs Harbour Court House:

- (1) How many CTTT matters are currently waiting for a hearing date to be scheduled at Coffs Harbour Court House?
- (2) How many CTTT matters have been heard in the past 12 months, broken down month by month?
- (3) How many hearing days/hours are allocated to Coffs Harbour Court House for CTTT hearings each month?
- (4) Will the Minister consider increasing the hearing days/hours per month to meet demand?

9847 PACIFIC HIGHWAY RESURFACING—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

In relation to the Pacific Highway at Nambucca Heads:

- (1) On Sunday 7 March 2010 at approximately 9.30 am, did Boral lay "hotmix" on the Pacific Highway just south of the Nambucca Heads Shopping Plaza, involving several trucks loaded with hotmix and an entire hotmix crew?
- (2) If so, what is the estimated cost of such an operation, including materials and Sunday rate wages?
- (3) If so, and given that hotmix, like concrete, has a rapid setting rate and will not stick to a wet surface, how could these roadworks have been allowed to go ahead in the rain?

9848 BELLS LINE OF ROAD UPGRADE PLANNING—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the total amount of funding that has become available for the planning of an upgrade of the Bells Line of Road, broken down by the relevant financial year (including forward budget estimates)?
- (2) How much of the funding in (1) has been set aside for:
 - (a) community consultations;
 - (b) administration;
 - (c) consultants (internal and external to the RTA);
 - (d) other?

9849 DRUGS POSTCARD—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—

- (1) With respect to the drugs postcard (authorised by NSW Health officials) that describes hard drugs as "nose candy", how much has NSW Health and/or the NSW Government spent on this pamphlet:
 - (a) as a total figure;
 - (b) printing;
 - (c) designing;
 - (d) distributing;
 - (e) marketing;
 - (f) any other related matters?
- (2) How much has NSW Health and/or the NSW Government spent on other drug-related materials

aimed at teenagers and young people for each financial year from 2004-2005 to date?

- 9850 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING ADVISORY BOARD—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Education and Training—
- (1) Is the Minister aware of the dissatisfaction that small businesses and Registered Training Organisations (RTO) have when dealing with NSW Vocational Education Training Advisory Board (VETAB)?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware of the financial implications that VETAB places on its customers by not fulfilling its requirements?
 - (3) What accountability measures are in place to ensure VETAB staff at all levels are held responsible for their decisions and actions when processing customer information and applications?
 - (4) Given that an opportunity exists for customers to lodge a complaint, what systems are in place when VETAB fails to meet its own standards?
 - (5) (a) Why does the criteria differ from one RTO to another in the same field of training?
(b) Can standard requirements be put in place for both RTO registration and extensions of the scope of registration?
 - (6) Is there a timeframe for audits to be processed and if so, what is the timeframe for processing any amendments that may arise?
 - (7) When an applicant has suffered financial loss due to VETAB's lengthy processing period, is there a mechanism to compensate for an applicant's loss?
 - (8) What can NSW expect from VETAB's functionality under its transition to the Commonwealth level of operation?
- 9851 ALLOCATION OF FREIGHT—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- (1) Can the Minister advise who allocates freight to operators on the Country Rail Network/Sydney Metropolitan Network?
 - (2) Is there an organisational focus for this process within RIC, RailCorp or elsewhere located?
 - (3) What is the extent of the ARTC's role in rail freight in NSW and has ARTC'S role been increasing?
 - (4) How are operators for rail freight selected and are the processes compatible for RIC, RailCorp and ARTC?
 - (5) Are rail freight operations in NSW actively promoted and is there a NSW rail freight target for the next 10-20 years to appreciably lift the proportion of rail in the freight tasks for the overall system, country and Sydney metropolitan?
- 9852 INVERELL, GLEN INNES, TENTERFIELD AND ARMIDALE HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Health—
- (1) Where on the priority list are capital upgrades for the Inverell, Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Armidale health services?
 - (2) What are the current capital works maintenance requirements for the Inverell, Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Armidale health services?
- 9853 SMITHS LAKE FISH KILL—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- (1) Have fish been dying in Smiths Lake?
 - (2) If so, has the Department of Fisheries carried out any testing as to the fish kills?
 - (3) If so, what testing?
 - (4) If so, what is the result of such testing?
 - (5) If so, will the department make the result of the tests public?
 - (6) If so, when?
 - (7) If not, why not?
- 9854 CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Transport and Roads—
- Why there are inconsistencies between the rates of concessions for pensioners travelling on trains, between Queensland and New South Wales?
- 9855 POTENTIAL BREACHES OF PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Premier, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2010

In relation to dismissed TAFE teacher Mr Richard Gibbs and given your advice that "It would not be appropriate to comment on the details of particular allegations of corruption or matters that are alleged to be the subject of a protected disclosure" (Question 9257):

As the Premier is the Minister responsible for protected disclosure and given that the dismissal of Mr Gibbs may constitute a breach of the Protected Disclosures Act, have you referred these matters of potential maladministration and breaches of the Protected Disclosures Act to the NSW Ombudsman?

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales