



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 104**

TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2012

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

# 2364

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
Tuesday 14 August 2012

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 104 (Including Question Nos 2500 to 2546)	18 September 2012

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
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14 AUGUST 2012

(Paper No. 104)

2500 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING DWELLINGS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the number of dwellings owned by the Department of Housing in each of the following suburbs:
  - (a) Hebersham;
  - (b) Blackett;
  - (c) Dharruk;
  - (d) Emerton;
  - (e) Lethbridge Park;
  - (f) Shalvey;
  - (g) Willmot;
  - (h) Bidwill?
- (2) In percentage terms, what does each of the above mentioned figures represent in terms of the public/private housing mix for each of the suburbs?

2501 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

With regards to the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund:

- (1) Who are the members of this fund?
- (2) When were they appointed?
- (3) How were they chosen?
- (4) How often did they meet in 2011-12?
- (5) How often will they meet in 2012-13?
- (6) What minutes, motions, decisions, resolutions are available to public access?
- (7) What is the total 2011-2015 budget?
- (8) How much was allocated and deliberated in 2011-12?
- (9) How much is allocated and deliberated in 2012-13?
- (10) Which of the decisions in 2011-12 and or 2012-13 were a result of the decision making and deliberations of the members of this fund as per minutes and motions available in public access documents?

2502 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

With regard to the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund:

- (1) Who comprises that committee/board?
- (2) In 2011-12, how many times did the committee/board meet?
- (3) In 2011-12, how much money was allocated to the fund?
- (4) In 2011-12, how much money was actually spent?
- (5) In 2011-12, what was the funding allocated to and/or the money spent on?
- (6) In 2012-13, how many times will the committee/board meet?
- (7) In 2012-13, how much money has been allocated to the fund?
- (8) In 2012-13, how much of the money has already been allocated and how much will be at the discretion of the committee/board via application or consideration for the remainder of 2012-13?

2503 PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ALONG COOKS RIVER—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

As Sydney Water is required to undertake monitoring and leakage programs under its environment protection licence on behalf of the Cooks River Valley Association, what programs will be undertaken along the Cooks River?

2504 CROWN LAND IN PRATTEN PARK—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

- (1) Will Crown land in Pratten Park be formally transferred into the ownership of Ashfield Council, given that Ashfield Council has provided substantial financial investment and maintenance of this land?
- (2) If so, what formalities need to take place for this transfer of ownership to eventuate?
- 2505 REZONING OF LEP 2011—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- Given that there was an error when rezoning Cessnock Local Government Area LEP 2011 to RU5 Village:
- (1) How long will owners have to wait for the error to be rectified and considered by the Department of Planning?
- (2) Will the Department of Planning expedite the process?
- (3) Will the Department of Planning re-exhibit for public consultation?
- (4) Will the Department of Planning need to re-assess and go through the whole process, just to change the lot size map?
- 2506 HOME CARE WORKERS—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Disability Services—
- (1) Will the Minister give home care workers a fair wage increase beyond the 2.5 per cent cap, without giving up employee conditions?
- (2) Will the Minister assist those workers with the rising cost of care insurance?
- (3) Will the Minister provide an allowance for the use of personal vehicles for work-related travel?
- (4) Will the Minister provide those workers with free flu vaccines?
- 2507 DRILLING FOR M5 EAST TUNNEL—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) Will exploratory drilling for the M5 East tunnel in the Wolli bushland be performed in an environmentally friendly manner?
- (2) What precautions are being taken, if exploratory drilling is commenced in the Wolli bushland, to protect the two-hectare section of the bushland?
- 2508 FUNDING FOR DUTY ADVOCACY SERVICES—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- (1) Will funding be provided for duty advocacy services by the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Service?
- (2) If not immediately, when will consideration by the Government take place on the funding of these services?
- 2509 LAND FOR INCLUSION IN WOLLI CREEK REGIONAL PARK—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- (1) When is the Government proceeding with the acquisition of seven privately owned blocks of land earmarked for inclusion in the Wolli Creek Regional Park?
- (2) Do the current owners of these blocks of land know that their properties are earmarked for acquisition into the park?
- (3) Was one of these blocks recently cleared of native vegetation that would have been of value to the future park?
- 2510 WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) Why is the Government committed to building a modern bridge through Thompson Square Windsor, the oldest civic square in Australia, that will damage heritage, tourism and business activity with very little traffic flow benefits, rather than pursuing a properly planned bypass option?
- (2) Does the brochure title "Windsor Bridge replacement project honouring the past and building the future" accurately reflect what Thompson Square will look like after the bridge is built?
- (3) (a) Will the Roads and Maritime Service provide traffic lights at the intersection of George and Bridge Streets, Windsor?
- (b) If so, will pedestrian and no right hand turn lights be installed?
- (4) Is the Government fully committed to building a replacement bridge through Thompson Square without waiting for the Environmental Impact Study and resultant public comment?

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- 2511 M5 EAST TUNNEL EMISSIONS—Ms Linda Burney to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Following the release of a report by NSW Health on the M5 East tunnel emissions study (23 July 2012), does the Minister guarantee that emissions from the M5 East tunnel are not contributing to an increase in rates of cancer among nearby residents?
  - (2) What measures will the Government take to warn motorists on the potential health hazards from emissions within the M5 East tunnel?
  - (3) Can the Minister give details on the increase in cancer rates contained in the report?
- 2512 REVENUE GENERATED FROM SAFETY CAMERAS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- How has the Government used the \$38 million revenue generated from safety cameras in the last financial year?
- 2513 HUNTER SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Will the Minister implement changes to the State Budget so that Hunter sites are among those targeted for development?
  - (2) If so, where will the development occur and when?
- 2514 FUNDING FOR HUNTER WOMEN'S CENTRE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Will funding be allocated to the Hunter Women's Centre so that their services can continue after 30 June 2012?
  - (2) Will funding be provided for a case worker beyond 30 June 2012?
- 2515 NEWCASTLE LOCAL AREA COMMAND—POLICE NUMBERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- (1) Have police numbers dropped by 21 in the Newcastle Local Area Command (Daily Telegraph 14 August 2012)?
  - (2) If not, what is the exact figure that numbers have fallen to?
  - (3) Why have police numbers fallen?
- 2516 NEWCASTLE COURT HOUSE DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- (1) How many car parking spaces are there at the Newcastle Court House development, approved by the Joint Regional Planning Panel on 10 August 2012?
  - (2) How many staff will be based on the site?
  - (3) How many on-site disabled parking spaces will be allocated?
  - (4) How many on-site car parking spaces will be provided for jurors?
  - (5) How many on-site car parking spaces will be provided for clients?
- 2517 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) As at July 2012, how many full-time equivalent Emergency Department nurses are employed at the:
    - (a) John Hunter Hospital;
    - (b) Calvary Mater Hospital?
  - (2) How many positions are filled and how many are vacant?
- 2518 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SPECIALISTS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) As at July 2012, how many full-time equivalent Emergency Department specialists are there at the:
    - (a) John Hunter Hospital;
    - (b) Calvary Mater Hospital?
  - (2) How many positions are filled and how many are vacant?
  - (3) What staffing enhancements are planned to increase full-time equivalent staff specialist Emergency Medicine Consultants for 2012-13?

- 2519 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REGISTRARS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) As at July 2012, how many full-time equivalent Emergency Department registrars are employed at the:
    - (a) John Hunter Hospital;
    - (b) Calvary Mater Hospital?
  - (2) How many positions are filled and how many are vacant?
  - (3) What staffing enhancements are planned to increase full-time equivalent staff registrars in Emergency Medicine for 2012-13?
- 2520 NEWCASTLE URBAN RENEWAL STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—
- (1) When will the Newcastle Urban Renewal State Environmental Planning Policy be placed on exhibition?
  - (2) Will it recommend the removal of the rail line to Newcastle?
- 2521 AUSTRALIAN REGISTRARS' NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING COUNCIL—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Does the Minister agree with proposals from the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council to establish a national system of electronic conveyancing?
  - (2) (a) What NSW specific requirements, if any, does the Minister propose for the national system?  
(b) What additional costs will result from such requirements?
- 2522 PROVISIONAL APPREHENDED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- What is the Attorney General's response to requests by the NSW Police for amendments to the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act for police to issue provisional Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders?
- 2523 REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What is the status of the independent expenditure review of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions?
  - (2) Who is conducting the review?
  - (3) Has the review been completed?
    - (a) If so, when and where is it available?
    - (b) If not, when will it be completed?
- 2524 EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What is the status of the review being conducted by the Department of Attorney General and Justice to evaluate the effectiveness of offender management programs?
  - (2) Has the review been completed?
    - (a) If so, when and where is it available?
    - (b) If not, when will it be completed?
- 2525 MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- How many media and public relations staff are currently employed by Corrective Services?
- 2526 OFFENDERS PROGRAMS—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- As a result of the reduction in funding in the 2012-13 Budget in the category Offenders Programs, what:
- (a) programs will be reduced, altered or discontinued;
  - (b) staff positions will be reduced;
  - (c) services will not be provided?

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- 2527 SUPERVISION OF OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- As a result of the reduction in funding in the 2012-13 Budget in the category Supervision of Offenders in the Community, what:
- programs will be reduced, altered or discontinued;
  - staff positions will be reduced;
  - services will not be provided?
- 2528 COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- As a result of the reduction in funding in the 2012-13 Budget in the category Community Based Services, what:
- programs will be reduced, altered or discontinued;
  - staff positions will be reduced;
  - services will not be provided?
- 2529 JUVENILE CUSTODIAL SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- As a result of the reduction in funding in the 2012-13 Budget in the category Juvenile Custodial Services, what:
- programs will be reduced, altered or discontinued;
  - staff positions will be reduced;
  - services will not be provided?
- 2530 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FRAMEWORK—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- Which non-Government organisations have been involved in the development of the Government's Domestic Violence Framework?
  - Has the framework been completed?
    - If so, where is it available?
    - If not, when will it be completed?
- 2531 UPGRADE OF STACEY STREET, BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to upgrade Stacey Street, Bankstown?
  - If so, will funding be provided to cover the open drain between McCauley Avenue and Stanley Street?
  - If not, why not?
- 2532 IMPROVEMENTS TO HENRY LAWSON DRIVE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to improve Henry Lawson Drive?
  - If not, why not?
- 2533 M5 EAST DUPLICATION—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to the M5 East duplication?
  - If not, why not?
- 2534 LIFT INSTALLATIONS AT YAGOONA AND PUNCHBOWL TRAIN STATIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to install lifts at Yagoona and Punchbowl train stations?
  - If not, why not?
- 2535 BANKSTOWN TRAIN STATION UPGRADE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—
- Will the 2012-13 budget provide funding to upgrade Bankstown train station in recognition of Bankstown as a major transport hub?

- (2) If not, why not?
- 2536 BUDGET FUNDING FOR BASS SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—
- In reference to the NSW Budget 2012-13 Infrastructure Statement:
- (1) Why have no funds been allocated to complete the Bass School for Special Purposes in the 2012-13 financial year?
- (2) (a) Has funding been set aside for this important project?
- (b) If not, why not?
- 2537 ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- Will the Government cut struggling Bankstown families' bills by investing \$55 million over 5 years to the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme?
- 2538 WOOLLOOMOOLOO HOUSING SECURITY—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- Given Woolloomooloo public tenants' reports of break and enter offences and noting that many properties in this area are heritage terraced homes built on the footpath or close to the roadway:
- (1) How many reports have been made of break and enters to Housing NSW properties in Woolloomooloo in 2012?
- (2) What advice has the Government obtained from Crime Prevention Officers about target hardening and preventing break-ins in Woolloomooloo?
- 2539 FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- In relation to the recent budget announcement regarding public housing:
- (1) How much of the \$210.2 million for repairs and maintenance in public and community housing will be spent on housing projects located in the electorate of Keira?
- (2) Will the Minister provide a list of these projects?
- 2540 ILLAWARRA GOVERNMENT COORDINATION GROUP—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) What topics and issues have been discussed at the Illawarra Government Coordination Group meetings?
- (2) What will the Government deliver in terms of specific actions, projects and initiatives as a result of the meetings of the Illawarra Government Coordination Group to date?
- 2541 MOUNT OUSLEY ROAD LINE MARKING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) When will the line marking on Mount Ousley Road be completed now that the paving of the surface is complete?
- (2) Why has the line marking and reflective markers taken so long to finish?
- 2542 BAYS PRECINCT TRANSPORT OPTIONS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) What provisions are being considered for separate (internal) road access for the use of maritime and ports in the Bays Precinct to ensure that traffic impacts on local roads are minimised?
- (2) (a) Is the Government considering introducing regular ferry services to Rozelle Bay and White Bay?
- (b) If yes, when are these services planned to start?
- (3) (a) Is the government considering an extension of the light rail to Rozelle Bay and White Bay?
- (b) If yes, when are works estimated to start?
- (4) (a) Is the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) proceeding to approve its own proposal for the slip road at the head of Rozelle Bay?
- (b) If yes, why is the RMS doing so before the Bays Precinct Master Plan has been finalised?
- (5) Are any provisions being made to quarantine land for any M4 East extension?



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- (6) Will the Bays Precinct Master Plan require that any M4 East must cross the bays by tunnel, rather than the Anzac Bridge?
- 2543 FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—
- (1) Can Game Council NSW demonstrate any evidence of the reduction of the impacts of feral animals on ecosystems in declared state forests?
  - (2) Given that most Government agencies involved in feral animal control identify deer as a potential pest species, is Ecological Deer Management, as promoted by Game Council NSW, an appropriate management tool on public land?
  - (3) Given that ground shooting at night is the most common and effective method of deer population control used by Government agencies, why does the Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation apply conditions to game hunting licences prohibiting licensed hunters from hunting at night, using artificial light and using a vehicle when hunting deer?
  - (4) Have any additional costs been incurred by Forests NSW in managing forests declared under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act?
  - (5) What savings have been generated by Forests NSW through the use of conservation hunting as a method of feral animal control?
- 2544 WORKING CONDITIONS OF PARAMEDICS—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) What is considered a reasonable amount of overnight relief for paramedics to perform their duties and what protection policy does the Ambulance Service of NSW provide for paramedics in regional NSW and their families against the rostering of excessive overnight relief shifts per month, including kilometres travelled?
  - (2) (a) Is the Ambulance Service of NSW operating at appropriate paramedic levels in regional areas?  
(b) If not, what action is being taken to address this issue?
  - (3) What are the starting, finishing and assessment dates for the satellite station project at Mungindi Ambulance Station?
  - (4) What prevention measures does the Ambulance Service of NSW provide for NSW paramedics to protect them from single on call duties?
  - (5) What affective policies and strategies does the Ambulance Service of NSW have in place for NSW paramedics and their families to adequately maintain their fitness, health and wellbeing?
  - (6) (a) Does a consultation process occur between the Ambulance Service of NSW and its employees in regard to major work condition changes?  
(b) If not, when will this be addressed?
- 2545 ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- Given the Government's appeals to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for Sydney Water to increase prices by 30%, what State assistance will be given to large sole income families to aid in meeting these rising costs of living?
- 2546 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS—REPLACEMENT—Mr Guy Zangari to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- (1) What alternative means of providing future funding assistance for community groups and organisations are being considered to replace the current Community Building Partnership Grants?
  - (2) What are the details of how each of the alternate programs being considered will be administered?