



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2007-08

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**No. 81**

TUESDAY 15 JULY 2008

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

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 69 (Including Question Nos 3239 to 3267)	08 July 2008
Q & A No. 70 (Including Question Nos 3268 to 3310)	09 July 2008
Q & A No. 71 (Including Question Nos 3311 to 3369)	10 July 2008
Q & A No. 72 (Including Question Nos 3370 to 3440)	11 July 2008
Q & A No. 73 (Including Question Nos 3441 to 3463)	22 July 2008
Q & A No. 74 (Including Question Nos 3464 to 3497)	23 July 2008
Q & A No. 75 (Including Question Nos 3498 to 3552)	24 July 2008
Q & A No. 76 (Including Question Nos 3553 to 3599)	25 July 2008
Q & A No. 77 (Including Question Nos 3600 to 3617)	29 July 2008
Q & A No. 78 (Including Question Nos 3618 to 3658)	30 July 2008
Q & A No. 79 (Including Question Nos 3659 to 3737)	31 July 2008
Q & A No. 80 (Including Question Nos 3738 to 3777)	01 August 2008
Q & A No. 81 (Questions—Nil)	-

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**3 JUNE 2008**

(Paper No. 69)

\*3239 MOUNT DRUITT MOTOR REGISTRY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is the average number of people attending the Mount Druitt Motor Registry for the 3-month period ending 31 May 2008?
- (2) How has this figure changed since the closure of the St Marys Motor Registry?

Answer—

I am advised that in relation to the St Clair Motor Registry, the shopping centre where the old registry was located is being redeveloped.

An extension of time to vacate the site was requested by the RTA, but was declined by centre management. Notice was given to the RTA to vacate the premises by 30 June last year.

All RTA St Clair staff were relocated to existing motor registry locations including Mt Druitt, Penrith and Blacktown.

Customers are being encouraged to make use of these nearby motor registries, which have had their resources increased.

The RTA is currently finalising discussions with landlords in the St Marys area in order to secure suitable premises from which to provide relevant services.

Following the closure of the St Clair Motor Registry, Mount Druitt Motor Registry has had an increase of approximately 23 per cent in workload. However, Mount Druitt Motor Registry has increased resourcing by approximately 28 per cent.

\*3240 SALE OF POLICE BOAT "NEMESIS"—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Regarding the sale of Police boat "Nemesis":

- (1) Has the Nelson Bay-based Police boat "Nemesis" been sold?
- (2) Is there a replacement vessel for the "Nemesis"?
- (3) If so, what is its size and specifications?
- (4) Will a replacement vessel be based out of Port Stephens?
- (5) Is the Government committed to providing the Port Stephens coastal area with the best possible search and rescue equipment available?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Nemesis is being replaced by a 16 metre Austral Offshore Launch.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.

\*3242 POLICE ESCORTS OF OVERSIZED VEHICLES—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Regarding police escorts of oversized vehicles:

- (1) What is the policy of NSW Police regarding the use of police resources to escort oversized vehicles, such as commercial trucks and transports?
- (2) Do private operators of oversized vehicles compensate NSW Police for the use of their resources when escorts are required?
- (3) Regarding a specific incident that occurred on 20 April 2008 at 7.15 am on the Pacific Highway past Tea Gardens, why would a single "long load" vehicle require an escort of four highway patrol cars?
- (4) How many patrol cars should be carrying out regular highway patrol duties at that time and how many of these were tasked to carry out that escort role?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Requirements for operators taking oversize vehicles through specified critical locations are set out in Part 7.1 of the Road Transport (Mass, Loading and Access) Regulation 2005. These operators must contact police to ascertain whether an escort is required and police then assess each case on its merits to ensure road safety.
- (2) Private operators compensate the NSW Police Force for use of all officers, vehicles and time involved with escorts, as set out in the User Pays Scheme's current schedule of charges.
- (3) Police records indicate that no such loads were moved on 20 April 2008. However, on 18 April 2008, two loads of 60 metre long concrete bridge beams were transported. Due to their excessive length and safety concerns involved in moving loads of this nature, it was determined that four Highway Patrol officers and their vehicles should be used to escort these loads.
- (4) The four officers mentioned above were performing User Pays duty for this operation and were in addition to normally rostered staff.

\*3243 COLLINGWOOD ABORIGINAL PLACE NAME NOMINATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) (a) During the investigations into the Collingwood Aboriginal place nomination, were Aboriginal values established for the site?  
(b) If so, what was the level of significance and what was the strength of those values?
- (2) Why is the processing of the nomination taking so long?
- (3) What is the normal turn-around time for processing an Aboriginal place nomination after a recommendation has gone to the Minister?
- (4) What is the level of support for the Aboriginal place nomination of the Collingwood site?
- (5) Has an Aboriginal place ever been declared based solely on a single nomination?
- (6) In making a decision to approve, or not to approve, an Aboriginal place declaration, on what range of criteria does the Minister base their consideration?
- (7) Who decides the list of criteria by which an Aboriginal place assessment is to be declared?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Yes.  
(b) I understand that credible evidence has been found in support of the special significance of the nominated place to Aboriginal culture.
- (2) The investigation has not taken an unusually long time to complete, however, there have been matters requiring additional consultation and consideration. These matters include the determination of an appropriate boundary for the Aboriginal place, if declared, and the implications of any such declaration for the future management of the site.
- (3) There are no set timeframes. I have not yet received a recommendation on this nomination.
- (4) There is a high level of community support for the nomination.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The only criteria for declaration is that the Minister be of the opinion that the place is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. In forming an opinion, consideration is given to the values purported to make the place of special significance and the nature and extent of the evidence supporting those values.
- (7) The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 establishes the criteria for declaration of an Aboriginal place.

\*3244 GUARDIANSHIP HEARING—EMILY BROWN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many DoCS staff attended the Guardianship Tribunal hearing regarding the custody of Emily Brown?
- (2) What is the employment position description of each of the DoCS staff attending this hearing?
- (3) (a) Did any barristers and solicitors, retained by DoCS, attend this hearing?  
(b) If so how many?
- (4) What was the total cost to DoCS, including legal fees, for attending this hearing?

Answer—

- (1) Three.
- (2) The Manager Casework was the applicant, the Manager Client Services attended as supervising officer and the Director Intensive Support Services was present due to the very complex nature of this case and at the specific request of the Guardianship Tribunal.

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- (3) DoCS was legally represented by a DoCS lawyer.
- (4) No legal fees were incurred and the attendance of DoCS officers was seen as a normal part of their duties in relation to ongoing casework. No special costs were incurred in relation to this hearing.

\*3245 LEAD CONTAMINATION AT REID'S FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) With reference to my earlier Question 0823, what was the remedial action taken by the Department of Education and Training as foreshadowed in your answer?
- (2) On what date was this completed?
- (3) (a) As parents have expressed concerns about lead contamination of the playground due to overflow from the contaminated rainwater tank, has the Department conducted testing of the soils around the school to identify the level of lead contamination?  
(b) If not will you immediately require this testing to take place?
- (4) (a) Have any of the children attending Reid's Flat School been tested for lead contamination?  
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education and Training installed gutter guards on all gutters and first-flush devices on all rainwater tanks. The Department also directed Reids Flat Public School to use only bottled water for drinking.
- (2) The school has used only bottled water for drinking since Term 4, 2007. Gutter guards and first-flush devices were installed on 3 March 2008.
- (3) (a) The Department has not conducted testing of the soils around the school to identify the level of lead contamination as NSW Health has verbally advised the Department that testing of the soil to identify the level of lead contamination from rainwater tank overflow is unnecessary. It is not possible that water from the school's rainwater tanks could cause the soil to be sufficiently contaminated so as to not support the site's use as a public school.  
(b) No.
- (4) The Department has taken all appropriate action to resolve the issue with the rainwater tank, in consultation with NSW Health.

\*3246 BOOROWA HOSPITAL STAFFING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many nursing staff at Boorowa Hospital left employment or transferred to another Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) facility during:
  - (a) 2004;
  - (b) 2005;
  - (c) 2006;
  - (d) 2007;
  - (e) to date in 2008?
- (2) Have any of these staff written or spoken to GSAHS management alleging (a) poor working conditions or (b) low staff morale as a reason for their ceasing employment or transferring?
- (3) (a) Given recent press reports of low staff morale at Boorowa Hospital, has the GSAHS undertaken an investigation into the reason for the low staff morale at Boorowa Hospital?  
(b) If not, will you undertake such an investigation?

Answer—

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

- (1) (a) 2004 - two.  
(b) 2005 - one.  
(c) 2006 - four.  
(d) 2007 - four.  
(e) to date in 2008 three.
- (2) (a) and (b) No.
- (3) Greater Southern Area Health Service is undertaking an independent facilitated conciliation process to resolve concerns raised by an employee at Boorowa Hospital.

\*3247 FUNDING FOR THE NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

What funding was allocated to the NSW Ambulance Service for resources and projects in the Hornsby electorate 2007 and 2008 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ambulance Service of NSW does not allocate funding according to electorates.

\*3248 FEDERAL BUDGET HEALTH SPENDING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

What benefits in health care provision in the Hornsby electorate will come from the stated increase in Federal budget health spending in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Commonwealth Budget does not refer directly to the benefits in health care provision which will be available within the Hornsby electorate in 2008/09.

However, the Rudd Government has delivered an additional \$167M for NSW in 2008/09 to meet the rising demand on the public health system. This additional funding will permit the development of new strategies to better manage chronic disease and will include the consolidation of referral and access points to community based services for people with chronic illness, streamlining the processes of assessment and care and promoting chronic disease prevention.

\*3249 MENTAL HEALTH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AT HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What is the total cost of the repairs to the new mental health intensive care unit at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that to date there have been no repair or maintenance costs expended on this Unit by the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service.

\*3250 HERITAGE LISTED BUILDINGS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

(1) Are there any "heritage listed" buildings in the Wallsend electorate?

(2) If yes, which of these are public buildings?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Yes.

(2) According to the records held by the Department of Planning, the two properties listed on the State Heritage Register are both owned by Newcastle City Council. These are the Thomas Family Grave at Callan Avenue, Maryland and the Goods Shed at Cowper Street Wallsend.

\*3251 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) What is the average set-up cost of a demountable classroom including costs relating to transport, setting up foundations, laying on power, computer and electronic media cabling, repairing leaking roofs, repainting, and any wire meshing around the base to prevent kids setting fires or breaking into rooms from below?

(2) Are set-up costs of demountables deducted from regional asset management maintenance budgets instead of from a State office central budget?

(3) What is the annual cost of a demountable, including any extra air-conditioning required due to poor insulation?

(4) What is the average open space (playground) per student ratio for all schools and what is it for schools with at least ten demountables?

(5) What is the average ratio of toilet facilities to students for all schools and what is it for schools with at least ten demountables?

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(6) As the majority of demountables have access stairs, how do they cater for disabled children?

Answer—

The Iemma Government has a proud record of investing in our educational facilities, with expenditure of over \$5.5 billion allocated in State Budgets since 1995 on school and TAFE improvements.

Part of that funding is allocated to providing a flexible and responsive accommodation strategy that allows the Department to install classrooms at short notice in response to changes in school enrolments; emergencies such as fires or natural disasters; and accommodation requirements that arise from capital works or maintenance projects at schools.

Demountables are air conditioned teaching spaces which meet contemporary educational requirements. All demountable classrooms in NSW are air conditioned and maintained in accordance with specified performance standards through the Department's maintenance programs.

The Department of Education and Training is committed to the removal of physical access barriers so that students, staff and community members with disabilities can gain entry to, and participate in education, training and employment opportunities.

In addition to the provision of accessible new schools and major upgrades of existing schools which include the provision of accessible facilities, the Department has a rolling program of minor capital works to provide access to facilities in identified existing schools. Children with disabilities are generally accommodated in permanent, accessible classrooms. Where this is not possible, ramps are installed to demountable classrooms to allow access.

The Department undertakes the huge logistical task of moving hundreds of demountables around the state, from schools with surplus accommodation to schools that need more accommodation. This is generally done in the summer vacation to minimise disruption to the schools.

Installation and repair costs associated with the relocation of demountables are funded from a specific Demountable Relocation budget and not from the Maintenance budget. The Department funds transportation centrally.

The cost of moving demountables will vary depending on the locations involved. Recent increases in the average cost are due to increases in the cost of transportation, including the price of petrol and crane costs. Despite this, the advantage of these relocatable facilities is the capacity that the Department has to deliver responsive, flexible and relatively timely classroom accommodation to schools anywhere in the state.

The Government also understands that many school communities want their demountable buildings replaced over time. That's why the Government has spent almost \$55 million replacing long term demountables with permanent facilities.

Through the Demountable Replacement Program 147 permanent classrooms, 26 libraries and 12 administration facilities have been delivered.

Open space in schools will vary from site to site. In delivering the school curriculum and determining delivery methods Principals will, regardless of the nature or ratio of on-site learning spaces, take into account local educational priorities as well as the open space available at a school and nearby community facilities.

The Department will continue to manage student and staff facilities such as toilet provision in accordance with the Building Code of Australia.

\*3252 MARIAN STREET THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What support, if any, does the State Government provide for young people's drama and children's theatre on the north side of Sydney Harbour?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the current difficulties facing Marian Street Theatre for Young People (MSTYP), which is facing unprecedented challenges after 35 years of continual operation?
- (3) What Government assistance might be available to assist Ku-ring-gai Council with the Marian Street Theatre building renovation?
- (4) What Government assistance might be available to MSTYP in their efforts to provide educational programs for children?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The State Government provides funding to Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) of \$85,000 per annum for the triennium of 2008-2010 to present an annual program of performance and workshops. ATYP presents workshops throughout metropolitan Sydney, including Chatswood and Willoughby.
- (2) The building that houses MSTYP is owned by Ku-ring-gai Council. The State Government is aware that the Council is currently undertaking a review to look at how the theatre can best serve community needs over the longer-term future. I understand that in March 2008 it was discovered that the Marian Street Theatre did not have a Place of Public Entertainment (POPE) license and that the Council has agreed to resolve this issue as soon as possible (Ku-ring-gai Council media release 10 March 2008).
- (3) The Government offers assistance to local government and arts organisations towards the upgrade and refurbishment of cultural facilities through the Arts NSW Cultural Grants Program. Applications for the 2009 Grants Program will be released shortly.
- (4) The Government offers assistance to arts organisations through the Cultural Grants Program to provide educational programs that have a strong artistic purpose and that support a company's performance schedule. Applications for the 2009 Grants Program will be released shortly.

\*3253 MEN'S SHEDS—NORTHERN SYDNEY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Community Services—

Further to Written Question No. 2818 regarding Men's Sheds:

- (1) What is the rationale for the Area Assistance Scheme providing grants for Men's Sheds Projects in Central Coast, Hunter, Illawarra, Macarthur, North Coast and Western Sydney but not in other areas of New South Wales?
- (2) How might the Area Assistance Scheme operate in Northern Sydney in future?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The Department of Community Services does not currently fund Men's Sheds. The Area Assistance Scheme operates in the following six regions: Western Sydney, Macarthur, the Illawarra, Central Coast, the Hunter and North Coast areas.

\*3254 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF GRAIN LINES—Mr Adrian Piccoli asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the indefinite suspension of the Willbriggie to Yanco grain line, the Rankins Springs to Barmedman grain line and the Burcher to West Wyalong grain line:

- (1) When does the Minister expect these lines to be reopened?
- (2) Has any maintenance work been done on these lines since the announcement was made to temporarily close the lines?
  - (a) If so, what work has been done?
  - (b) If not, when will the work commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government understands the significance of grain haulage to growers, carriers, business and the community.

The NSW Government will work together with the Federal Government on its Grain Rail Taskforce, which has recently been allocated \$3 million, to secure long term sustainable solutions for hauling grain.

\*3255 MATERNITY UNITS AT HOSPITALS IN THE TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to maternity units at hospitals in the Tweed electorate:

- (1) What is the yearly average figure for childbirths carried out in Tweed hospitals for the period 2000-2007?
- (2) What is the yearly average number of Queensland residents giving birth in Tweed hospitals for the period 2000-2007?
- (3) What are the current 2008 year-to-date figures for:
  - (a) total childbirths carried out in Tweed hospitals;
  - (b) the number of Queensland residents giving birth in Tweed hospitals?

Answer—



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

- (1) 911.43
- (2) 509.3
- (3) (a) 526 (to May 2008)
- (b) 298 (to May 2008)

\*3256 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR A QUARRY AT TERRANORA—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Given that the Minister advised in May 2007 that neither he nor his office or his department had met with Readymix to discuss a development application for a new quarry at Terranora:

- (1) (a) Has the Minister, his office and/or his department held discussions with Readymix (or its parent entity) in relation to a development application for a new quarry at Terranora since May 2007?
- (b) If yes, what was the nature and outcomes of these discussions?
- (2) Has Readymix (or its parent entity) lodged a new development application with the Department for Planning for a new quarry at Terranora since the Minister last responded to questions in May 2007?

Answer—

- (1) No. I am advised by the Department of Planning that the answer is also no.
- (2) I am advised by the Department of Planning that the answer is no.

\*3257 MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR TWEED PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to maintenance funding for Tweed public high schools:

- (1) What were the individual maintenance budgets for public primary and high schools in the Tweed electorate for:
  - (a) 2005-06 financial year;
  - (b) 2006-07 financial year;
  - (c) 2007-08 financial year?
- (2) In answer to (1), what were the three largest expenditure items in the individual maintenance budgets for public primary and high schools in the Tweed electorate for:
  - (a) 2005-06 financial year;
  - (b) 2006-07 financial year;
  - (c) 2007-08 financial year?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Education and Training.

\*3258 WARRAGAMBA DAM AUXILIARY SPILLWAY PROJECT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) When will the Sydney Catchment Authority's claim against the Reliance Insurance Company over the Warragamba Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project be finalised?
- (2) How much money does the Sydney Catchment Authority expect to receive back from the Reliance Insurance Company?
- (3) What warranty provisions does the Warragamba Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project contractor allege were breached?
- (4) How long does the contractor claim the project was delayed by these alleged breaches?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) I refer the Member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 3164 as this question appears to be identical.

\*3259 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—CREDIT RATING—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) On what date was the Sydney Catchment Authority's credit rating reduced from A to A-?
- (2) On what date did NSW Treasury agree to reduce future dividend payments from 97 per cent to 75

per cent of after tax profits?

(3) How much will that move cost NSW Treasury in total?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Sydney Catchment Authority's credit rating altered from A to A- as shown in the Sydney Catchment Authority's Annual Report 2004-2005. The SCA's credit rating was and remains investment grade.
- (2) The Sydney Catchment Authority's Statement of Financial Framework 2007-08 was tabled in this House on 1 November 2007.
- (3) The cost will not be known until the Sydney Catchment Authority's 2007-08 financial statements are tabled in its annual report.

\*3260 SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

Given that the Sydney Catchment Authority is currently seeking a Senior Community Engagement Officer:

- (a) Who was the previous occupant of this position?
- (b) On what date did he or she leave?
- (c) Why did he or she leave?
- (d) Who has been filling this role in the meantime?

Answer—

- (a) to (d) I refer the Member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 3165 as this question appears to be identical.

\*3261 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What is the maintenance expenditure on Mona Vale Hospital in each of the last 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities.

However, Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service as a reporting entity, comprises all the operating activities of the hospital facilities, including Mona Vale Hospital, and the Community Health Centres under its control.

All Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. Information on Maintenance is detailed under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses, of the Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Reports. I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

\*3262 PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL PROJECT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the Pittwater High School Solar Panel Project?
- (2) Will the Minister consider giving any financial support toward the project?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training is committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and minimisation of waste and energy consumption.

Through the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the NSW Government is establishing a Climate Change Fund. This new program is currently being developed and will include a \$20 million Energy Efficient Schools Program initiative to install efficient lighting.

Pittwater High School may wish to consider applying for a grant from the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund which is being managed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change or the

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Australian Government's National Solar Schools Program. Both of these programs are being rolled out in the near future.

In addition, the Department of Education and Training is in the process of establishing a statewide contract for the supply and installation of solar panels.

I have asked the Department of Education and Training to provide the school with further information on these programs and opportunities.

\*3263 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—SUPPLY ROOM ACCESS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why did staff at Mona Vale Hospital not have a key to access a supply room to get a sling for a man who came to the emergency department on 18 May 2008 with a suspected broken shoulder?
- (2) Is this acceptable?

Answer—

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

- (1) and (2) The circumstances around this incident have been reviewed and in order to improve efficiency and to prevent a recurrence of this situation a supply of shoulder immobilisers are now kept in the Emergency Department.

\*3264 ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER AND ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many children are there in the public education system with confirmed diagnoses of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)?
  - (a) How many are in special classes?
  - (b) How many are in mainstream classes?
- (2) How many children are there in the public education system with confirmed diagnoses of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?
  - (a) How many are in special classes?
  - (b) How many are in mainstream classes?
- (3) (a) How many support class places are there in NSW for children with ADD and ADHD?  
(b) How many of these places are in rural and regional areas?

Answer—

I refer the Member to answer to Written Question 2097 which was published on 2 April 2008.

\*3265 INCLUSIVE CAP FOR SMALL PRINCIPAL LOANS—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Why does the Minister and the Department of Fair Trading continue to impose a 48% all inclusive cap for small principal loans of less than a year's duration, given this current 48% cap in NSW means lending \$100 over two weeks returns a maximum of less than \$2.00 to the lender and therefore cannot be sustained by the micro lending industry?
- (2) Will the imposition of the unviable current 48% inclusive cap mean the closure of many micro lending businesses, causing a lack of access to small amount, short term credit for 200,000 regular NSW consumers and greater debt stress for these 200,000 consumers as the only available option left for them to borrow money would be through larger loans over longer periods of time, impacting further on a families budget?
- (3) Will the Minister and Department of Fair Trading continue to claim that the combined NILS and LILS schemes will meet the need for short term credit when they currently service less than 1% of the demand for small loans in NSW?
- (4) Why will the Minister not remove the 48% inclusive cap currently imposed on small loans which will ultimately mean the loss of over \$150 million per annum in loan capital in NSW?
- (5) Why will the Minister not remove the current 48% all inclusive cap, which will also mean the loss of 1000 jobs in the industry and the subsequent impact on those families?
- (6) Why will the Minister not remove the current 48% all inclusive cap when the results of industry surveys in Australia and overseas clearly demonstrate interest rate caps cannot work or be sustained by the industry?
- (7) Why does the Minister fail to seriously consider alternatives that not only protect the consumers but

also allows reputable industry providers to operate viably in NSW?

- (8) Why does the Minister refuse to meet with small loans industry representatives to develop a range of options which will improve the situation in NSW by giving greater protection to consumers while retaining a viable and necessary micro lending industry?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) to (8) It is the Minister's responsibility to consider the effect on consumers of unconscionable fees and charges which can only exacerbate their financial stress.

It is up to the microlending industry, as with any other lender, to make its lending decisions on the basis of what is commercially viable. There are reports that reputable industry members continue to operate in NSW under the cap.

There are alternatives to high cost credit that include NILS and LILS, but consumers should consider such alternatives as getting advice and assistance from financial counsellors. The NSW Government has allocated an additional \$1 million dollars to financial counselling and \$840,000 for the administration of NILS, which will in turn enable a significant expansion of these schemes in NSW.

- \*3266 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given the answers to Written Questions 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 2016 regarding Bells Line of Road:

- (1) What is the timeframe of the review?  
 (2) What local stakeholders have been notified of the review?  
 (3) (a) Is the review taking submissions?  
 (b) If so, when is the period that submissions can be sent?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has undertaken extensive consultation with the relevant Local Council Traffic Committees, the local Police, and local Members of Parliament on this issue. The RTA also received numerous requests and input from members of the public.

Both prior to and during this review the RTA has received input from the community which has been considered as part of this review. Specifically, the RTA received comments from the community in the vicinity of Bilpin Village.

The stakeholder consultation period ran from December 2007 to January 2008.

- \*3267 CULOUL RIDGE TRACK—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Why has the Culoul Ridge Track, which provides walking access to popular areas such as Hollow Rock and Crawford's Lookout and are accessed from a parking area on the Culoul Ridge Trail which leaves the Putty Road about 60km north of Windsor, been closed without notice?

Answer—

The Culoul Range Trail is located in the Wollemi National Park and provides visitor access to the edge of the Wollemi Wilderness Area.

The Trail is only closed during bush fires or other emergencies and occasionally for road maintenance operations. It was most recently closed in June 2007 for a short period of time to clear storm damage debris.

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(Paper No. 70)

- \*3268 DESIGN CODES FOR SINGLE STOREY HOUSES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Has the Minister recently released a discussion paper on the issue of design codes for single storey houses?

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- (2) Will the Government be seeking responses from the public on this discussion paper?
- (3) Has the Minister been made aware of reports that this code advocates the use of bed and breakfast businesses, from private dwellings, without council or Department of Planning permission?
- (4) If this is the case, will the Minister be discussing this issue with representatives of the tourism and accommodation sector?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) In the draft NSW Housing Code, bed and breakfast accommodation is covered as exempt development on the conditions that it is within an existing dwelling house and is a permissible use in the zone.
- (4) A submission from the tourism and accommodation sector will be considered along with all other submissions.

\*3269 DRAINAGE SYSTEMS—STATE RAIL PROPERTY—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding State Rail drainage systems in the vicinity of residential housing in Hexham:

- (1) Are faulty drains on State Rail property in Hexham causing flooding of residential properties in their vicinity?
- (2) What is the State Rail Corporation doing to repair faulty drainage systems at Hexham?
- (3) Given that extra pressure on these drainage systems will come from a nearby Queensland Rail development, what will the State Rail Corporation do to ensure residents are protected from flooding on their properties?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Australian Rail Track Corporation.

\*3270 TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

Regarding the funding of the Tomaree Community Hospital:

- (1) What will be the increase in operating budget for the Tomaree Community Hospital over the 2008-2009 budget period?
- (2) How many extra doctors has the Minister's department funded for the 2008-2009 budget period?
- (3) What extra services will be delivered to the Tomaree Community Hospital over the 2008-2009 budget period?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (3) Operating budgets for facilities are determined by the Hunter New England Area Health Service in consultation with hospitals, services and local clinicians.

The Area Health Service will continue to provide a wide range of primary care health services to residents of the Port Stephens Shire.

\*3271 RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES—TOMAREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Health—

Regarding renal dialysis services at Tomaree Community Hospital:

- (1) Will the Tomaree Community Hospital be furnished with renal dialysis services as part of the Government's record health infrastructure investment?
- (2) How many renal dialysis machines currently operate in the Hunter New England Area Health Service?
- (3) Of these, how many service the Port Stephens area?
- (4) What is the average travel time for a patient in the Tomaree region to access a renal dialysis machine outside their area?
- (5) Does the Department of Health maintain statistics on how many residents of the Tomaree region require renal dialysis?
- (6) If so, were these statistics a factor in deciding whether or not to provide the region with renal dialysis services?

Answer—

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

- (1) The NSW Renal Dialysis Services Plan to 2011 is being used by Area Health Services to inform local planning activities and investment in renal services. In 2007, Hunter New England Area Health Service undertook a renal services planning process that identified mechanisms to review population need for dialysis. As a result, the most recent enhancement has been undertaken in Manning Base Hospital. Future areas of priority have been identified as Glen Innes and Tomaree regions.
- (2) Currently there are 180 dialysis machines allocated to patients who have chosen to dialyse in their own home, of which 111 are peritoneal dialysis machines and 69 haemodialysis machines. There are an additional 89 haemodialysis machines in units across the Area Health Service.
- (3) There are 13 dialysis machines currently in the Port Stephens/Raymond Terrace area. These are all located within the home environment and include both peritoneal dialysis machines and haemodialysis machines.
- (4) The estimated travel time from Port Stephens to Maitland Hospital Dialysis Unit is approximately 45 minutes and to the Wansey Community Centre Dialysis Unit it is approximately 60 minutes.
- (5) The Hunter New England Area Health Service advises that there are currently 25 patients in the Tomaree region requiring renal dialysis, of whom 13 patients have elected to have home dialysis therapy and 12 patients have elected to have their dialysis therapy in a community dialysis unit.
- (6) See my response to part (1) of this question.

\*3272 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-22 to 5-25 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

The Iemma Government has a proud record of investing in educational facilities. In the 2008/09 Budget funding was provided for \$648 million in capital works on school infrastructure.

Sixteen new major school building projects will commence in 2008/09 and works will continue on 42 major school building works.

The 2008/09 Budget includes additional funding for the renovation of toilet facilities at 52 schools, 60 new security fences, two new trade schools and the upgrade of eight food technology units.

The 2008/09 Budget includes additional funding towards the implementation of the election commitments of the Iemma Government including: upgrading 800 science laboratories, enhancing food technology facilities at 31 schools, constructing 27 school halls, building 17 multi-purpose gymnasiums, upgrading 200 toilet facilities and installing security fences at a further 200 schools.

The Iemma Government will continue to release details of all capital works in schools in the coming weeks and months. Details of any capital works in the Coffs Harbour Electorate will be available through this process.

The estimated total costs of new projects in the 2008/09 Budget are not yet publicly available due to their commercially sensitive nature.

\*3273 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-35 there are various Radiotherapy Services and Ambulance Infrastructure listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?
- (3) Are any other items listed as "Various" at pages 5-34 to 5-39 located in the electorate of Coffs Harbour?

Answer—

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(1) to (3) I am advised that the "various" works referred to are components of the following statewide programs:

- Ambulance Infrastructure
- Equipment Supplementation (Ambulance, Dental Works, Health Technology)
- Local Initiatives
- PFP Cyclic Maintenance
- Radiotherapy Services
- Planning for Future Works
- Breast Cancer Screening
- Information Management & Technology
- Justice Health PAS Implementation
- Mental Health Minor Works
- Multi Purpose Services & HealthOne
- Shared Corporate Services
- Statewide Planning and Asset Maintenance
- Other Leased Assets

These programs represent initiatives aimed at improving services and infrastructure across the whole of the health system.

\*3274 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-16 there are Court Upgrades listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

I am advised:

Funds are not allocated on an electorate basis.

\*3275 NSW RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the severe hailstorms in October 2007 in Lismore and the floods in January 2008 in the Northern Rivers area (including Lismore, Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley and Tenterfield council areas) and the subsequent financial assistance administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority:

- (1) (a) How many applications have been received for the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Loans in each council area?
- (b) How many of these applications were successful in each council area?
- (2) (a) How many applications have been received for the Federal Government's \$5,000 Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Grant?
- (b) How many of these applications were successful in each council area?

Answer—

(1) (a) The number of Natural Disaster Relief Arrangement loan applications received by the Rural Assistance Authority for each Council area were:

Ballina - 5  
Byron - 5  
Clarence Valley - 1  
Kyogle - 36  
Lismore - 13  
Richmond Valley - 34  
Tenterfield - 5  
Tweed - 8  
Total - 107

(b) The number of Natural Disaster Relief Arrangement loans approved by the Rural Assistance Authority for each Council area have been:

Ballina - 4  
Byron - 5  
Clarence Valley - 1  
Kyogle - 15  
Lismore - 4  
Richmond Valley - 19  
Tenterfield - 4  
Tweed - 1  
Total - 53

There are still 17 applications where a final decision for the January 2008 floods has yet to be made.

(2) (a) The number of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance grants received by the Rural Assistance Authority for each Council area were:

Ballina - 17  
Byron - 15  
Clarence Valley - 47  
Kyogle - 158  
Lismore - 51  
Richmond Valley - 96  
Tenterfield - 13  
Tweed - 53  
Total - 450

(b) The number of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Assistance grants approved by the Rural Assistance Authority for each Council area were:

Ballina - 13  
Byron - 9  
Clarence Valley - 40  
Kyogle - 126  
Lismore - 44  
Richmond Valley - 79  
Tenterfield - 12  
Tweed - 44  
Total - 367

\*3276 REPAIRS TO DAMAGED ROOFS AND INTERIORS—Mr Thomas George asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

In relation to the severe hailstorms in October 2007 in the Lismore area and similar hailstorms on 9 December 2007 in the Blacktown area:

- (1) How many repairs to damaged roofs and interiors of public housing stock and public schools have been finalised to date by the Government in:
  - (a) Lismore;
  - (b) Blacktown?
- (2) How many repairs to damaged roofs and interiors of public housing stock and public schools have still not yet been finalised by the Government in:
  - (a) Lismore;
  - (b) Blacktown?

Answer—

Matters relating to public housing and public schools should be referred to my colleagues the Minister for Housing and Tourism, and the Minister for Education and Training respectively.

\*3277 COMMUNITY MEALS PROGRAMS FUNDING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Which DoCS funding program(s) was used to provide the \$200,000 funding to the Warrawong Community Centre and the \$1,000 grant to the Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church Community Care Meals Program, which the Minister announced on 22 May 2008?



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- (2) What was the amount of funding that the Warrawong Community Centre and the Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church Community Care Meals Program each sought in their application for funding to DoCS?
- (3) Did the Member for Wollongong, provide a letter of support for either of these applications?
- (4) (a) Did the Minister personally approve the allocation of this funding?  
(b) If not, who did approve that allocation of this funding?

Answer—

- (1) The Warrawong Community Kitchen has been approved for funding from Community Development and Capacity Building funding within DoCS.

The Minister did not announce nor provide a \$1,000 grant to the Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church Community Care Meals Program.

- (2) The Warrawong Community Kitchen provided a budget indicating that \$65,000 per annum was required to maintain service delivery at current levels. The approved funding is for three years.

The Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church Community Care Meals Program has not made representation to the Minister nor applied for funding through DoCS.

- (3) A letter of support was provided on behalf of the Warrawong Community Centre.
- (4) (a) and (b) The Minister approved the funding for Warrawong Community Kitchen on the recommendation of the Department of Community Services.

No funding request on behalf of the Wollongong Wesley Uniting Church Community Care Meals Program has been put to the Minister.

\*3278 GRENFELL MPS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Greater Western Area Health Service been informed of the need for an air vent in the mortuary at the Grenfell Multi-Purpose Service?
- (2) What priority has been allocated to this work?
- (3) When will this installation be completed?

Answer—

- (1) and (3) The Area Health Service has met with the local mortician at Grenfell to discuss this issue.

As the mortuary currently has some external ventilation, the installation of an exhaust fan will be undertaken once the ordered equipment is delivered. This is envisaged to take place within the next three months.

\*3279 SHAKING BOG CREEK PINE PLANTATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) (a) Did the NSW Department of Primary Industries conduct a water yield assessment of the Shaking Bog Creek before approving the request for a plantation from the Agriwealth company?  
(b) If not why not?
- (2) Given local community concerns that this pine plantation will cause significant water loss in Shaking Bog Creek, endangering the environmentally sensitive Shaking Bog wetlands, will the Minister require that a water yield assessment be undertaken?
- (3) Given the continuing dry conditions and the prospective lack of future water because of global warming, will the Minister commit to ensuring that water yield studies are undertaken before any future pine plantations in NSW are approved by the Department of Primary Industries?

Answer—

- (1) The plantation authorisation was issued under the Plantations and Reafforestation Act (1999) and assessed against the Plantations and Reafforestation Regulation (Code) 2001.
- (2) The Shaking Bog wetlands occur on the Agriwealth property and buffer areas were placed around the wetlands as per the requirements of the Code. These requirements are designed to ensure that the wetlands are protected from any local impact of the plantation area. The proposed plantation only represents 0.8% of the Shaking Bog catchment.
- (3) Studies relating to the impact of plantations on catchment yield have been undertaken by CSIRO. This work has shown that impacts of plantations on catchment flow and yield could not be detected when the area under plantations is less than 20% of the catchment.

\*3280 KURING-GAI LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many of the new police graduates will be, or are now, part of the sworn police staff of the Kuring-gai Local Area Command?
- (2) What were the police numbers before this allocation?
- (3) What are the current police numbers in this Local Area Command?

Answer—

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to her previous Written Question No. 2889 on this subject.

\*3281 NERINGAH HOSPITAL—PALLIATIVE CARE BEDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will the Clinical Service Plan be released that will include the future arrangements for Neringah Hospital palliative care beds?
- (2) How many beds are allocated for this palliative care service?

Answer—

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

(1) and (2) The Clinical Services Strategic Plan, including an outline of the strategic direction for clinical services within Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, is currently under review by:

- NSW Health,
- the Chief Executive, Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, and
- the Clinical Strategy Group.

Detailed planning relating to each clinical network, including which palliative care services would be included, will be undertaken as part of the implementation process.

The Plan will be released following completion of the current review.

\*3282 ALCOHOL RELATED BREACHES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many breaches of liquor licences have occurred in the Hornsby electorate in:
  - (a) 2003;
  - (b) 2004;
  - (c) 2005;
  - (d) 2006;
  - (e) 2007?
- (2) How many "move-ons", cautions and/or charges have been made for consuming alcohol in "Alcohol Free Areas" within:
  - (a) the Hornsby electorate (Kuring-gai LAC);
  - (b) other areas?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) This question should be directed to the Minister for Gaming and Racing.
- (2) In 2007:
  - (a) Nil.
  - (b) 4,476.

\*3283 JUVENILE CONFERENCING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) How many youths are or have been involved in Juvenile Conferencing in the Wallsend electorate?
- (2) What is the success rate of this program?
- (3) What is the rate of recidivism in the Wallsend electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) For the period 1 January 2006 to 13 June 2008 there have been approximately 50 young people involved in YJC conferences in the Wallsend electorate.

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- (2) Youth Justice Conferencing has a high level of success, with the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research reporting that 42 per cent of offenders who complete conferences do not go on to re-offend within a five-year period. (Source: BOCSAR study Re-offending among young people cautioned by the police or who participated in a youth justice conference, October 2006.)
- (3) Recidivism data is collected on a statewide basis by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and is not available by electorate.

\*3284 CRONULLA POLICE STATION—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the timeframe for the upgrading of the Cronulla Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Improvements to the Cronulla police station, including repairs to the existing building and construction of a new building, are planned to take place over the next few months.

\*3285 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to school maintenance, what funding has been allocated to school maintenance at the following schools:

- (a) Cronulla High School;
- (b) Woolooware High School;
- (c) Endeavour High School;
- (d) Cronulla South Public School;
- (e) Cronulla Public School;
- (f) Caringbah North Public School?

Answer—

Maintenance in schools across the State is an ongoing activity, constantly delivered throughout the year through a comprehensive suite of initiatives designed to best meet a range of circumstances:

- Preventative Maintenance is regular work performed by a contractor to keep specific building elements and equipment in good repair.
- Programmed Maintenance is work based on items that are picked up in the bi-annual condition assessments of each school. Annual maintenance plans are developed by schools in conjunction with their local Asset Management Unit.
- Essential Urgent Repairs are maintenance works undertaken immediately by the contractor if required by the school, with the school contributing up to its specific contribution limit.
- The Extra Maintenance Program is a four year statewide program aimed at injecting additional funding into priority areas.

The Department of Education and Training continues to work with school Principals and school communities to identify priority projects to deliver safe, well-maintained learning environments for the students of NSW.

\*3286 LIQUOR LICENCE BREACHES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many breaches of liquor licences have occurred in Sutherland Shire in:

- (a) 2005;
- (b) 2006;
- (c) 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the relevant Minister.

\*3287 PRICING SUBMISSIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) As No. 1 shareholder of Country Energy are you apprised of pricing submissions by the organisations pre-lodging with IPART?
- (2) If so, do you have any input with the submission?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What is the rationale behind the statement in the last submission in which Country Energy suggests the drought created conditions that increased the cost of purchasing wholesale gas (reference Sun Herald 18 May 2008)?
- (5) How are the drought conditions contributing to rising prices?
- (6) How is drought across the southern region creating demand for gas?
- (7) Why are water shortages creating demand for gas as suggested in the submission?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) The Minister for Energy is not a Shareholding Minister of Country Energy. The Minister for Energy is the Portfolio Minister. Questions relating to Country Energy's rationale or intent in its pricing submission should be directed to Country Energy.

\*3288 RELEASING OF PRISONERS ON REMAND IN PRISON ATTIRE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Is it common for prisoners on remand to be released from custody post their court appearance in prison attire into a public place?
- (2) Does the Minister have a policy regarding the release of prisoners on remand post-court appearances?
- (3) Is it policy to release prisoners in prison attire?
- (4) What support does the Minister's department provide to prisoners who have been released post-remand?
- (5) Is it policy to release prisoners post-remand without any form of identification, money, pension card or medications?
- (6) Is it policy to prevent prisoners attending court from taking their belongings on the assumption that they will be released from custody?
- (7) With prisoners suffering mental health problems, what is the policy when they are released?
- (8) Are prisoners who need medication supplied with correspondence, which enables them to seek assistance with prescriptions etc?

Answer—

I am advised:

Inmates released from correctional centres are generally released in their own clothing. If an inmate has no private clothing (s)he may be released in plain correctional centre clothing.

The Department of Corrective Services supports offenders post-remand where a court imposes residential conditions and supervision by the Probation and Parole Service.

I understand that the Department may also arrange contact with community organisations, which provide services to former inmates.

The release of an inmate and the inmate's post-release preparation for housing, clothing, transport needs, financial issues, social welfare needs and any identified health needs are part of each inmate's case management.

The last question on your list should be referred to the Minister for Health.

\*3289 LEAD IN SEDIMENT BELOW ROSEVILLE BRIDGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Regarding the concentration of lead in the sediment below Roseville Bridge from decades of cars using leaded petrol on the bridge:

- (1) What are the measured lead levels below the bridge in parts per million?
- (2) What concerns does this raise?
- (3) What warnings are given to the public not to fish or consume fish and marine life from this area?
- (4) Are there concerns over the public wading or boating in this area?
- (5) What warnings are given regarding this?

Answer—

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- (1) The lead level in sediments under the Roseville Bridge has been measured at 145 parts per million. This is similar to lead levels measured one kilometre upstream and downstream from the bridge.
- (2) Measured against the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council recommended sediment quality guidelines, this level of lead is below the level that would result in probable harm to the aquatic environment. There are no concerns about this level of lead.
- (3) Fishing advisory signs are placed throughout Sydney Harbour. The warning signs relate to dietary intake of fish and other seafoods harvested from the harbour, and potential dioxin exposure from some species.
- (4) No.
- (5) None are required.

\*3290 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF MIDDLE HARBOUR CREEK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Regarding the environmental health of Middle Harbour Creek:

- (1) At what interval are water quality samples taken and analysed in the creeks below:
  - (a) the Belrose WSN garbage tip;
  - (b) the former Ku-ring-gai council tip off Mona Vale Road;
  - (c) the Transgrid Sydney East 330 kV Substation?
- (2) (a) Is the water analysed for faecal coliform bacteria, heavy metals, biological oxygen demand and phosphorous?
  - (b) If so, what are the recent results for each relevant location?
- (3) Do any results over the last year show a cause for concern?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Water sampling is undertaken quarterly.
- (b) Water sampling is undertaken quarterly.
- (c) Routine water quality sampling is not conducted by TransGrid at this site.
- (2) (a) and (b) Water samples at the Belrose WSN garbage tip are tested for Iron, Biological Oxygen Demand and Phosphorous. Water samples at Ku-ring-gai are tested for faecal coliforms, Biological Oxygen Demand, Nitrogen, Total Suspended Solids and Phosphorous.

The sampling results relating to the Belrose and Ku-ring-gai Council garbage tips are the property of WSN and the Ku-ring-gai Council respectively. As such you will need to approach these organisations to access these results.

I can advise that recent results indicate there is no significant difference between water samples taken upstream of the Belrose WSN site and downstream. Field measurements for all sites returned ecologically sound levels. Upstream sampling above the former landfill at the Ku-ring-gai site has not occurred due to a lack of water flow. Field measurements for sites downstream of the former landfill returned ecologically sound levels.

- (3) No.

\*3291 SUBURBAN RUN-OFF INTO MIDDLE HARBOUR CREEK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Regarding suburban run-off into Middle Harbour Creek:

- (1) What initiatives are taken to reduce creek water pollution from suburban sources such as oil drippings, tyre rubber grains, garden fertilizers and dog droppings that are not directed to the sewer system?
- (2) Is water quality sampling carried out near the confluence of fresh and salt water in Garigal National Park to measure the above sources of pollution?
- (3) What are the recent results and are there any causes for concern?

Answer—

- (1) The most effective way to reduce stormwater pollution is to prevent it from entering the sewer system. This requires assistance from the whole community in managing the drains in the streets in which they live and work. From 1999 to 2006, the NSW Government undertook an \$82 million Urban Stormwater Program. This involved working with councils and the community to improve

understanding of, and practices related to, stormwater pollution. The Government has released a range of guidance material from that program, which can be found at

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/stormwater](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/stormwater)

Local councils and the Government also have litter prevention programs in place to educate the community about the impacts of littering on our waterways. Tough penalties are in place for people who are caught littering.

- (2) Davidson Reserve, which is situated within Garigal National Park, is monitored by the NSW Government's Beachwatch program as part of its water quality monitoring program. Water quality samples are collected every 6 days and tested for two indicator bacteria (faecal coliforms and enterococci) in order to assess the level of faecal contamination in accordance with National Health and Medical Research Council (1990) guidelines.
- (3) As in all major cities, stormwater run-off causes pollution in waterways. Bacteria levels at this site have been shown to increase after heavy rainfall. Recent results from the 2007/2008 summer season show that this site complied 74 per cent of the time with faecal coliform criteria and 52 per cent of the time with enterococci criteria.

During the 2006/2007 summer season, the site complied 100 per cent of the time with both faecal coliform and enterococci guidelines. The reduction in compliance with swimming water quality guidelines appears to be due to an above average level of rainfall during the 2007/2008 summer season, which impacted water quality at many sites across the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

The NSW Government's Beachwatch program continues to provide ongoing information on water quality in Middle Harbour. The public is advised to avoid swimming at ocean beaches for 24 hours and for up to 3 days at harbour beaches after periods of heavy rainfall, to allow any potential stormwater pollution to subside.

\*3292 MODIFICATION OF VEHICLE TO CARRY TWO WHEELCHAIRS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will consideration be given to the request of Mr Wayne O'Neill of Bolton Point for the RTA to register a vehicle which has been modified to carry two wheelchairs?

Answer—

I am advised:

There is no impediment to a person registering a vehicle that has been modified to carry two wheelchairs, provided the vehicle continues to comply with the vehicle safety standards and has been properly modified to accommodate the wheelchairs and their occupants.

As part of the registration process, the modified vehicle must be examined by a person included on the RTA's list of Engineering Signatories who issues a certificate to confirm it meets the necessary safety requirements.

In addition, the RTA requires that a vehicle modified to carry two wheelchairs must comply with the Australian Standards AS 2942-1994 Wheelchair occupant restraint assemblies for motor vehicles, which gives detailed requirements for restraining wheelchairs in vehicles, and AS 3856.2:1998 Hoists and ramps for people with disabilities-Vehicle mounted. Such compliance must be stated on the certificate.

Provided that any vehicle Mr O'Neill puts forward meets these requirements, it can be registered.

\*3293 GAMBLING REVENUE—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) Are all funds generated by lotteries, lotto and other State gambling enterprises directed to consolidated revenue?
- (2) If no, what proportion of the funds are directed to Government departments and/or agencies?
- (3) If no, which Government departments and/or agencies receive funds and what is the proportion received by each?

Answer—

- (1) All duty paid by NSW Lotteries is paid directly to consolidated revenue.
- (2) N/A
- (3) N/A

\*3294 LOW DOSE RADIATION BRACHYTHERAPY—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health—

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Is there funding available in NSW, as in most other States, to treat public patients suffering prostate cancer who meet the criteria for Low Dose Radiation Brachytherapy, particularly when the time frame for treatment is so restricted?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Specific statewide public funding is not currently provided for low dose radiation brachytherapy for prostate cancer in NSW. However, this issue is presently being considered by NSW Health.

\*3295 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How many cubic metres of sand has been shifted to Snapper Rock East outlet, Snapper Rock West outlet, Kirra Point outlet and Durambah Beach outlet under the Tweed Sand Bypass Project:
  - (a) In 2006;
  - (b) In 2007;
  - (c) In 2008 year-to-date;
  - (d) Since the project's inception?
- (2) What were the costs of operating the Port Frederick dredging vessel:
  - (a) In 2006;
  - (b) In 2007;
  - (c) In 2008 year-to-date;
  - (d) Total cost since it commenced operating in April 2000?
- (3) What is the total cost of the Tweed Sand Bypass Project since its inception?

Answer—

This matter is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Lands.

\*3296 TWEED HEADS POLICE STATION—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the planned Tweed Heads Police Station:

- (1) At what stage is the planning process at in regards to the establishment of a police station at Tweed Heads?
- (2) What are the estimated start and finish dates for this project?
- (3) What is the forecast cost for the completion of this project?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) A development case is currently being prepared.
- (2) The project is estimated to start in 2010-11 and finish in 2012-13.
- (3) The forecast cost estimate is \$15 million at this stage.

\*3297 DOCTOR ACCREDITATION TRAINING—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that trainee doctors at the Tweed Hospital seeking Term 4/5 accreditation can only undertake the 20 weeks of training at the Liverpool Hospital, located over 600km from the Tweed:

- (1) Why are Tweed doctors who are undertaking Term 4/5 training at the Liverpool Hospital being forced to complete 10 weeks of unsupervised nightshift (filling in staff vacancies) as part of the 20 week training module?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that graduates of the Bond/Griffith Universities' doctor training programs are joining Term 4/5-rated QLD hospitals in preference to the Term 3-rated Tweed Hospital, so they do not have to travel to another NSW hospital to undertake 20 weeks Term 4/5 training?
- (3) (a) Will the Minister ensure that the 10 weeks of nightshift in Term 4/5 training at the Liverpool Hospital is abolished so that trainee doctors only have to undertake 10 weeks of actual Term 4/5 training?  
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) All interns are required to complete 5 terms in order to be eligible for NSW Medical Board general registration. The Tweed Hospital, Liverpool Hospital and Fairfield Hospital are the 3 hospitals in Network 4 as assigned by the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training. The Tweed Hospital is currently accredited as a 3 term training hospital. This means that the interns employed by The Tweed Hospital are required to complete the remaining 2 terms at Liverpool hospital. All potential applicants for the rural preferential recruitment allocation, including The Tweed Hospital's interns are advised by the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training of The Tweed Hospital's 3 term accredited status.

The Relief/Nights term at Liverpool Hospital exists to cover nights and annual leave taken by interns in the Network. To ensure equity all interns in the Network, irrespective of their home hospital have been allocated a term of Relief/Nights. The nights component consists of 14 shifts in a 10/11 week relief term.

I can assure the Member for Tweed that Relief/Night terms in Network 4 and other networks are required to be accredited by the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training. As part of the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training accreditation process, such terms are subject to appropriate supervision. The Tweed Hospital has recently requested that the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training consider a 5 term accreditation.

\*3298 LIDCOMBE RADIATION CONTROL BRANCH—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why did the Government set aside \$5 million in the 2006-07 Budget to improve secure handling and storage of radiological materials at Lidcombe Radiation Control Branch?
- (2) What was not secure about Lidcombe's handling and storage of radiological materials before the money was allocated?
- (3) On what date were these deficiencies first recognized?

Answer—

- (1) \$5 million was set aside in the 2006/07 budget to comply with increasing security requirements including those anticipated in the new National Code for the Security of Radioactive Sources, which was published in early 2007.
- (2) Refer to answer (1).
- (3) Refer to answer (1).

\*3299 LIDCOMBE RADIATION CONTROL BRANCH—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What security features did the \$3.4 million spent on Lidcombe Radiation Control Branch in 2006-07 buy?
- (2) What security and handling improvements did the \$1.6 million spent on Lidcombe Radiation Control Branch in 2007-08 buy?
- (3) Given the \$215,000 set aside in the 2008-09 Budget to co-ordinate a National Code of Practice for Security of Radioactive Sources, what code or guidelines are currently used to regulate the storage of radioactive sources in NSW and Australia?

Answer—

- (1) The \$3.4 million was part of the capital allocation for construction of a facility that conforms to the requirements for the secure storage of radioactive materials under the ARPANSA "Code of Practice: Security of Radioactive Sources".
- (2) The facility was built over a two-year period.
- (3) Radioactive sources in NSW are currently regulated under the Radiation Control Act 1990 and conditions of registration applied to the owners of sources.

\*3300 RADIOACTIVE STORAGE FACILITIES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Was the Lidcombe Radiation Control Branch one of the sites identified by the Department of Environment and Conservation where upgrading of radioactive storage facilities was required?
- (2) How many sites on the Radiation Information Management System database has the Department of



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Environment and Conservation identified as requiring upgrading of storage facilities?

- (3) What are the names of those sites?
- (4) What steps has the Department taken to ensure the upgrading of those sites?

Answer—

- (1) The National "Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Sources" applies to all premises in NSW where radioactive sources are kept.
- (2) All sites where security enhanced radioactive sources are kept will have to be upgraded to meet the requirements of the "Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Sources".
- (3) These sites are hospital oncology departments and blood banks, universities and medical research centres, industrial radiography, sterilisation and associated laboratory and storage areas facilities.
- (4) The Department of Environment and Climate Change has written to the owners of all sources informing them of the forthcoming requirements of the new Code, once this is adopted in law. The Department has also consulted with relevant industry bodies to raise awareness of these requirements.

\*3301 PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL FROM BUSHFIRE COMMITTEE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) Has the Rural Fire Service received any request from North Sydney Council to declare North Sydney LGA as exempt from the Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002?
- (2) Has the Rural Fire Service provided advice to North Sydney Council that it should consider withdrawing from the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Committee?
- (3) If North Sydney Council resolved to withdraw from the Bushfire Committee would the Rural Fire Service continue to provide services such as fire prevention burn offs in bushland within the North Sydney LGA?
- (4) If North Sydney Council resolved to withdraw from the Bushfire Committee would it continue to be obliged under the Act to proceed with the declaration of areas as bush fire prone?
- (5) What is the evidence available to the Rural Fire Service that bushland in North Sydney is subject to the risk of bush fires?

Answer—

Inspection by staff of the NSW Rural Fire Service and North Sydney Council has determined that the vegetation type in the North Sydney LGA could support a bush fire and should be classified as bush fire prone. This is borne out by Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006 modelling, which is the peak document for assessing bush fire risk. North Sydney has also been compared with other areas in the Sydney environment, with similar terrain and vegetation, in which bush fire has resulted in significant house losses.

The NSW Rural Fire Service has not received any request from North Sydney Council to exempt it from the provisions of the Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002 and would encourage North Sydney Council to continue its involvement in the Manly-Mosman-North Sydney Bushfire Committee.

\*3302 PUBLIC SCHOOLS—OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE WORK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What public schools in the Pittwater electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Department of Education?
- (2) What is the outstanding work?
- (3) When is each work scheduled for completion?

Answer—

Maintenance in schools across the State is an ongoing activity, constantly delivered throughout the year through a comprehensive suite of initiatives designed to best meet a range of circumstances:

- Preventative Maintenance is regular work performed by a contractor to keep specific building elements and equipment in good repair.
- Programmed Maintenance is work based on items that are picked up in the bi-annual condition assessments of each school. Annual maintenance plans are developed by schools in conjunction with their local Asset Management Unit.

- Essential Urgent Repairs are maintenance works undertaken immediately by the contractor if required by the school, with the school contributing up to its specific contribution limit.
- The Extra Maintenance Program is a four year state wide program aimed at injecting additional funding into priority areas.

The Department of Education and Training continues to work with school principals and school communities to identify priority projects to deliver safe, well-maintained learning environments for the students of NSW.

**\*3303 NORTHERN BEACHES BUS CANCELLATIONS**—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many bus services from the Northern Beaches to the City have been cancelled since January 2005 to 4 June 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

State Transit constantly monitors all bus services to ensure passenger demand is being met. As demand for services changes, appropriate consideration is given to making adjustments to frequency, routes, timetables and stopping patterns.

If there is sufficient demand for services in the area concerned, State Transit will review service levels to ensure that the appropriate level of service is provided to meet that demand.

**\*3304 MONA VALE POLICE STATION**—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Are there plans to fill in the open space under the newly built Mona Vale Police Station?
- (2) If yes, when will this be completed?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The undercroft of the building is being fitted with a fence and lockable gate.
- (2) This work will be completed in July 2008.

**\*3305 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES**—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-34, 5-35, 5-36, 5-37, 5-38 and 5-39 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my response to Question No. 3273 in the Legislative Assembly.

**\*3306 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES**—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-30 and 5-31 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

There are eight entries listed as "Various" in the specified budget paper. Programs such as the NSW Fire Brigades Human Resources System, Computer Hardware Upgrade and Station Communications as well as the State Emergency Service (SES) Communications Equipment, are state-wide programs. These programs will be of benefit to all electorates across New South Wales.

The establishment of NSW Fire Brigades' Community Fire Units (CFU) is dependent on applications from the local community.

The SES rescue-accredited units in the electorate of Myall Lakes have been equipped with motorised cutters as part of this 5 year program.

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\*3307 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-21, 5-22, 5-23 and 5-24 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":
  - (a) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
  - (b) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?
- (2) In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-25 there is a notation under Major Works "Great Lakes TAFE - relocation from Tuncurry site":
  - (a) What is the work envisaged under this category?
  - (b) Where is the location to occur?
  - (c) What is the cost of the relocation?
  - (d) Why is there a 3-year timeframe allocated to the work?

Answer—

The Iemma Government has a proud record of investing in educational facilities. In the 2008-09 Budget funding was provided for \$648 million in capital works on school infrastructure.

Sixteen new major school building projects will commence in 2008/09 and works will continue on 42 major school building works.

The 2008-09 Budget includes additional funding for the renovation of toilet facilities at 52 schools, 60 new security fences, two new trade schools and the upgrade of eight food technology units.

The 2008-09 Budget includes additional funding towards the implementation of the election commitments of the Iemma Government including: upgrading 800 science laboratories, enhancing food technology facilities at 31 schools, constructing 27 school halls, building 17 multi-purpose gymnasiums, upgrading 200 toilet facilities and installing security fences at a further 200 schools.

The Iemma Government will continue to release details of all capital works in schools and TAFE colleges in the coming weeks and months. Details of any capital works in the Myall Lakes Electorate, including details of the Great Lakes project, will be available through this process.

The estimated total costs of new projects in the 2008-09 Budget are not yet publicly available due to their commercially sensitive nature.

\*3308 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Community Services—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-20 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) There are no planned capital works projects located in the Myall Lakes electorate. The Department of Community Services' Taree Community Services Centre was relocated into new office accommodation under the Enhanced Service Delivery Project on 16 April 2008.

\*3309 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-18 and 5-19 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The following works are located in the electorate of Myall Lakes:
  - upgrading the sewerage system in Myall Lakes National Park at an estimated cost of \$50,000;
  - upgrading visitor facilities at Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse in Myall Lakes National Park at an

estimated cost of \$40,000;

- upgrading camping facilities, walking tracks and visitor facilities in Myall Lakes National Park at an estimated cost of \$60,000
- replacing the Jarrah Road and Knob Road Bridges in Myall Lakes at an estimated cost of \$30,000 for each bridge;
- upgrading the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Radio Base Station on Cabbage Tree Mountain in Ghin-do-ee National Park at an estimated cost of \$162,000.

The term 'works' also includes funds to purchase a property in the Myall Lakes electorate for addition to Darawank Nature Reserve at an estimated cost of \$220,000.

\*3310 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-16 and 5-17 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

I am advised:

Funds are not allocated on an electorate basis.

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(Paper No. 71)

\*3311 LEADER OF THE NATIONALS—BUDGET REPLY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Has the Leader of The Nationals, in his Budget Reply Speech, promised to spend "windfall" revenues on various policies and projects?
- (2) Will the Treasury be providing a costing of these policies and projects?
- (3) If so, will the Treasurer advise the House, how many dollars there are in a "windfall"?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Budget Reply Speech given by the Leader of the Nationals is recorded in Hansard and is available at <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/>

Details on government revenue can be found in the 2008-09 Budget Papers.

\*3312 EXEMPTION OF STAMP DUTY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Are first home buyers in New South Wales exempt from paying stamp duty on a dwelling up to the value of \$500,000?
- (2) How many first home buyers benefitted from this policy over the last twelve months?
- (3) How many of these first home buyers purchased homes in the postcode areas of:
  - (a) 2770;
  - (b) 2766;
  - (c) 2761?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The First Home Plus scheme provides eligible first homebuyers in New South Wales with exemptions from stamp duty on the purchase of dwellings valued up to \$500,000 and concessions for dwellings valued between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Exemptions are also available for vacant land to build a first home, valued up to \$300,000, and concessions on vacant land valued between \$300,000 and \$450,000.

In the period from 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008, 44,175 eligible first homebuyers in New South Wales

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received exemptions or concessions under this scheme.

Of these first homebuyers, 404 purchased homes in the 2770 postcode area, 106 in the 2766 postcode area and 275 in the 2761 postcode area.

\*3313 SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT INPATIENT UNIT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) Can the Minister explain why there is a discrepancy in the estimated expenditure to the end of the financial year 2007-08 and end of financial year 2008-09 for the Sydney Children's Hospital Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit project as reported in Budget Paper No. 4 2007-08 and Budget Paper No. 4 2008-09?

(2) Why was the \$1.94 million allocated to this project for 2007/08 not spent?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The NSW Government is committed to ensuring the best possible long term outcome on capital projects.

In keeping with that commitment comprehensive options are considered at all stages of any project and I am advised that a change in scope of this project has occurred.

This has now resulted in one of this State's major childrens' health services developments involving key clinical services along with the Child and Adolescent Inpatient Unit.

This has meant an enhanced and comprehensive scope of capital works on the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick campus.

\*3314 GOSFORD HOSPITAL MANDALA MENTAL HEALTH UNIT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

(1) Can the Minister explain why there is a discrepancy in the estimated expenditure to the end of the financial year 2007-08 and end of financial year 2008-09 for the Gosford Hospital Mandala Mental Health Unit project as reported in Budget Paper No. 4 2007-08 and Budget Paper No. 4 2008-09?

(2) Why was construction of the Gosford Hospital Mandala Mental Health Unit project delayed from its intended start in 2006?

(3) Given the urgent demand for mental health services, why has the estimated completion date for the Gosford Hospital Mandala Mental Health Unit project been moved from 2009 to 2010?

Answer—

(1) to (3) As I have indicated in recent responses to questions on capital projects, the NSW Government is committed to ensuring the best possible long term outcome on these significant projects.

Options are considered at all stages of any project to ensure that this is achieved and I am advised that a change in the scope of this project has occurred.

This has resulted in an enhanced scope of works for this project on the Gosford Hospital campus, for the benefit of the people of the Central Coast.

I am advised that there is no discrepancy and I also point out that the date of 2006 appearing in Budget Paper No. 4, 2007-08, represents commencement of detailed planning for the project, not commencement of construction.

\*3315 PUBLIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS—MANLY ELECTORATE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister release all data held on future public education requirements for the Manly electorate with particular reference to the Seaforth TAFE site?

Answer—

The Member for Manly has previously asked for the former Seaforth TAFE site to be considered for use as a co-educational high school. The Department of Education and Training examined this option and could not justify establishing a new high school on the Seaforth TAFE site.

This year there are 2,874 students in the four government high school campuses across the Manly electorate, equivalent to a teaching space demand of 150.

Across these four high school campuses there are 175 permanent teaching spaces, meaning that there are 25 teaching spaces that could be used to accommodate a substantial increase in high school enrolments, if this were to occur.

The Northern Beaches Secondary College provides a new future for the education of students on the Northern Beaches, including establishing links between the Freshwater Senior Campus and a university. Students, teachers and the community have all benefited over recent years from the projects and learning and development opportunities that these links have provided.

The Northern Beaches Secondary College continues today to provide a shining example of educational opportunity and innovation.

\*3316 FUNDING FOR DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will any of the Government's funds in next year's Budget for new demountable classrooms be spent in the Manly electorate?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education has a structured and strategic approach to the planning and provision of capital works and maintenance in schools, including demountable replacement projects. This process includes nominations from school principals and progresses through various stages of analysis and evaluation, including peer review and regional planning conferences.

Prioritised regional proposals are progressed each financial year for assessment against competing state-wide priorities for funding consideration.

This planning culminates in the provision of capital funding in the annual State Budget for projects to be undertaken in schools and TAFE colleges across NSW. Since 1995 over \$5.5 billion has been allocated in State Budgets for school and TAFE improvements and new facilities.

As indicated, all capital works and programmed maintenance proposals are subjected to careful analysis, evaluation and an objective prioritisation process. However, there are a significant number of requests for projects in schools across the State and each year difficult choices have to be made about which projects are undertaken within the available budget.

\*3317 FUNDING FOR MANLY VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

(1) On what grounds was the decision made not to provide funding to Manly Vale Public School in the 2008-2009 Budget?

(2) Will it be in the 2009-2010 Budget?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education has a structured and strategic approach to the planning and provision of capital works and maintenance in schools. This process includes nominations from school principals and progresses through various stages of analysis and evaluation, including peer review and regional planning conferences.

Prioritised regional proposals are progressed each financial year for assessment against competing statewide priorities for funding consideration.

This planning culminates in the provision of capital funding in the annual State Budget for projects to be undertaken in schools and TAFE colleges across NSW. Since 1995 over \$5.5 billion has been allocated in State Budgets for school and TAFE improvements and new facilities.

As indicated, all capital works and programmed maintenance proposals are subjected to careful analysis, evaluation and an objective prioritisation process. However, there are a significant number of requests for projects in schools across the State and each year difficult choices have to be made about which projects are undertaken within the available budget.

\*3318 PRIORITY E7—PEAK HOUR TRAVEL SPEEDS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- (1) Where did the Government source the data used in Priority E7 of the Government's State Plan, which states that "Despite a slight decline over the past year, peak hour travel speeds on the Seven Major Routes have remained similar since 1995-96 even though traffic volumes have grown by 26%"
- (2) What are the raw figures for the Pittwater Road-Harbour Tunnel route?

Answer—

I am advised:

Travel speeds are determined from surveys commissioned by the RTA using the nationally accepted Austroads 'floating car' methodology.

The latest reported values for the Seven Major Routes are for the year 2006-07. Travel speeds for the Pittwater Road Harbour Tunnel corridor were 27 kilometres per hour (morning) and 38 kilometres per hour (afternoon).

- \*3319 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Why did the RTA advise Manly Council that it would not provide funding for a Road Safety Officer if the council supports the Stay-Safe Rangers program?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has provided funding to Manly Council for the Road Safety Officer program for five years and it will continue to do so.

- \*3320 "DROP OFF AND GO, PICK UP AND GO"—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools have taken up the Government's "Drop off and go, Pick up and go" road safety program since it was introduced?

Answer—

I am advised:

The program was trialled by the RTA in 2006. Following the trial, schools commenced operation of the "Drop Off and Pick Up Program", and the program is still successfully operating.

A CD/DVD to assist schools and parents to understand and implement the program was forwarded to all schools in March 2007. A follow up mail out is currently taking place.

Schools are not required to report their participation in the program to the RTA.

An evaluation of this program will be conducted in 2009.

- \*3321 BUDGET FUNDING FOR CYCLEWAYS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What new funding is in the 2008-2009 NSW Budget for cycleways in NSW and on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA continues to invest in facilities for cyclists through a number of infrastructure programs, including the \$6.7 million allocated in the 2008-09 budget specifically for cycling infrastructure, education and promotion.

In addition, the RTA is investing a further \$33.8 million for cycling and walking facilities as part of major road construction projects.

As most cycling takes place on local roads, the RTA has been working with NSW Councils to improve local cycling networks. During 2008-09, the RTA will jointly fund 91 local bicycle network projects, with a total cost of over \$8 million.

- \*3322 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

How much additional public housing is planned for the Manly-Warringah area until 2010?

Answer—

Housing NSW's long-term asset planning involves building or acquiring 12,000 homes over the next 10 years.

\*3323 BUS SERVICES—MANLY ELECTORATE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many bus services (and which routes) were cancelled in the Manly electorate in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?
- (2) How many bus services (and which routes) were added to service the Manly electorate in each of the same years?
- (3) How many new buses will be allocated to the Brookvale bus depot in 2008-09?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) State Transit constantly monitors all bus services to ensure passenger demand is being met.

As demand for services changes, appropriate consideration is given to making adjustments to frequency, routes, timetables and stopping patterns.

- (3) It is anticipated that the Brookvale bus depot will receive 30 new buses over the first seven months of 2009.

\*3324 PREMIER'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Regarding the Premier's Community Service Award:

- (1) What is the status of the Premier's Community Service Award announced by his office on 11 February 2007?
- (2) Since 11 February 2007, how many Premier's Community Service Awards have been given to students at NSW Government schools?
- (3) How many students who completed a minimum 20 hours community service were issued the Premier's Community Service Award with their Year 10 School Certificate?
- (4) What are the names of the 20 public high schools that are in the Premier's Community Service Award pilot program?
- (5) How many of the State's top student volunteers received a \$2,000 education scholarship in the last twelve months?
- (6) How many schools with the best volunteering record received a \$5,000 grant?
- (7) In the 2008-2009 Budget, what funds were allocated to the Premier's Community Service Award?

Answer—

The Premier's Community Service Award is part of the Government's Student Volunteering Program. It aims to encourage students in Years 9 and 10 to become involved in community service, learn new skills and foster civic pride. Links are being established with organisations such as the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

Preparations are currently underway to pilot the program in 20 schools across the State, commencing in 2009. Each of the 10 school regions will identify 2 schools to participate. The program will be operational in all high schools from 2010.

The current funding projection for this initiative is \$12.6 million over 4 years, with \$763 000 available in 2008/09.

\*3325 PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR PORT STEPHENS SCHOOL STUDENTS—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding public transport for Port Stephens school students:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that students of the Hunter Valley Grammar School travelling to and from Hawks Nest, Tea Gardens, and Karuah need to change buses in Raymond Terrace resulting in longer trips with unsupervised waits and are spending upwards of an hour and a half each day standing on buses to and from school?
- (2) Could the Minister arrange to have one bus operator take on this route from Ashtonfield to Hawks Nest via Karuah as there are sufficient students to make these a viable option?

Answer—

I am advised:



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- (1) There are many instances throughout NSW where students are required to transfer between services. These arrangements are based upon operational circumstances such as the school attended, the distance students travel and economic considerations.

Some of these students may be required to stand on the bus. The current legislative arrangements for school buses allow students to stand.

- (2) The level of student demand is not sufficient to make it viable option for one bus operator to take on this route.

\*3326 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT—HEXHAM—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Regarding the industrial development and freight handling precinct at Hexham:

- (1) Given the Minister's listing of the site at Hexham as State Significant, what steps has the Minister taken to ensure the development does not disadvantage residential neighbours in Hexham?  
(2) Has the Department of Planning entered into discussions with Queensland Rail regarding options to acquire effected residential properties where amenity will be substantially degraded by the development?  
(3) Has the Department received any complaints from Hexham residents regarding the Development?

Answer—

- (1) The site has not been listed as a State Significant Site at this time. I have agreed to consider listing the site as a State Significant Site, and this consideration will be based on the outcomes of detailed environmental studies currently being prepared by QRNational in relation to development of the site. Until those detailed environmental studies are complete, it would be premature to speculate about the potential impacts of the development and how any such impacts could be mitigated.

I am advised:

- (2) No.  
(3) Yes.

\*3327 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at page 5-15 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour?  
(2) If so, what are the details of works in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) There are two projects located within the Coffs Harbour electorate that fall under "Various" as listed in Budget Paper No 4 page 5-15.  
(2) I am advised that the major ongoing works in Coffs Harbour electorate are as follows:  
(a) Building works for the construction of co-located villas on land purchased at 20-22 Hill Street, Coffs Harbour. Estimated cost of the work is \$800,000; and  
(b) Modification of the existing home at Lot 3 Greys Road, Woolgoolga. Estimated cost of the work is \$400,000.

\*3328 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-18 and 5-19 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour?  
(2) If so, what are the details of works in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.  
(2) The visitor facilities in Bongil Bongil National Park are to be upgraded at a cost of approximately \$25,000.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change's Radio Base Station on Mount Moonbil in

Dorrigo National Park is to be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$162,000.

\*3329 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-30 and 5-31 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

There are eight entries listed as "Various" in the specified budget paper. Programs such as the NSW Fire Brigades Human Resources System, Computer Hardware Upgrade and Station Communications as well as the State Emergency Service (SES) Communications Equipment, are state-wide programs. These programs will be of benefit to all electorates across New South Wales.

The establishment of NSW Fire Brigades' Community Fire Units (CFU) is dependent on applications from the local community.

The SES rescue-accredited units in the electorate of Coffs Harbour have been equipped with motorised cutters as part of this 5 year program.

\*3330 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF COFFS HARBOUR—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-41 and 5-84 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour?
- (2) If so, what are the details of works in the Electorate of Coffs Harbour and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

Budget Paper No. 4 at Page 5-41

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

Budget Paper No. 4 at Page 5-84

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A complete breakdown of items listed as "various" in Budget Paper Number 4 has not been done for each electorate. In the 2008-09 State Budget, the amount allocated to the Coffs Harbour electorate for public housing works and asset improvements is \$4.4 million and community housing works is \$0.8 million.

\*3331 KOALA POPULATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

What is the Minister doing to ensure:

- (a) habitat restoration;
- (b) licensed rescue;
- (c) release and rehabilitation of individual animals in distress;
- (d) community education;
- (e) monitoring development applications;
- (f) land conservation projects;

occur with respect to the New South Wales Koala population?

Answer—

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, within my portfolio, has an important role in protecting and conserving fauna and their habitat under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The Department actively participates in the conservation of the koala and encourages all sectors of the community to be involved.

- (a) The Department of Environment and Climate Change works with stakeholder groups to restore

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koala habitat. Current programs include:

- the Port Stephens Koala Habitat Restoration Project;
- the planting of 4,000 koala habitat trees in Sawtell for the Toormina Koala Habitat Project;
- a tree-planting campaign in Gunnedah as part of the Bearcare project; and
- habitat restoration projects in the Bega and Bermagui areas.

The Department has also been active in the replanting and restoration of habitat for koalas within national parks and nature reserves. For example, the planting of food trees in Kwiambal National Park and Tucki Tucki Nature Reserve.

(b) and (c) While the Department's focus is on habitat protection and restoration, it works with community wildlife groups in detecting injured, orphaned and diseased koalas and their rehabilitation, so that the recovered animals can be released back into the wild. The activities of these groups are licensed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The licences require detailed record keeping of animals brought in, including their condition, any injuries and the outcomes of care provided. This information can be used to identify patterns on a local scale and to contribute to ongoing monitoring programs.

The Department works with wildlife rehabilitation groups to analyse koala care records and to develop record-keeping protocols on rescued koalas. This consistent information gathering informs conservation programs for koalas.

(d) Brochures, threatened species profiles, fact sheets and advisory notes on koalas and their habitat have been produced by the Department to educate the community on the koala and its conservation. Wildlife rehabilitation groups also play an important role in community education and awareness-raising for koala conservation.

In 2006 the Department undertook a state-wide community-based survey investigating koala distribution in New South Wales. Local Community surveys have also been conducted in Coffs Harbour, Lower Blue Mountains, the Shoalhaven Gorge Region and Narrandera. Surveys of koala numbers are currently being undertaken in the South East Forests

(e) Development applications are assessed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to determine whether a proposed development or activity is likely to significantly affect koalas or their habitat. State Environmental Planning Policy 44 (Koala Habitat Protection) specifically provides for the identification of core koala habitat and for the preparation of Plans of Management before development consent can be granted.

(f) Plans of Management for land managed by the Department include prescriptions specifically aimed at protecting koalas and their habitat. A range of initiatives are available for land conservation that may benefit koalas outside that of the existing formal reserve system. Options include voluntary conservation agreements, Wildlife Refuges, Land for Wildlife, revolving funds and catchment management authority incentive programs.

\*3332 LAND MANAGEMENT—HAWKESBURY NEPEAN CATCHMENT AREA—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

What is the Minister doing to ensure that farmers are encouraged to maintain productivity and manage their land responsibly in the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment area?

Answer—

This is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Primary Industries.

\*3333 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What is the Minister doing to ensure that people with a disability in the seat of Goulburn have access to wheelchair accessible local public transport that does not include rail services?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Transport's contracts with rural and regional bus operators require them to comply with all relevant legislation. This includes the Commonwealth's Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (Transport Standards).

In order to assist these bus operators in meeting their obligations under the DDA and Transport Standards, the Ministry of Transport has assisted the peak NSW bus industry body, the Bus and Coach Association, to prepare and distribute a guide to the Transport Standards which included advice and guidance on the disability action planning process.

The Ministry of Transport also provides presentations on disability action planning and Transport Standards' compliance to bus operators and other relevant stakeholders at the Transport Working Group meetings convened by the Ministry's Regional Transport Co-ordinators.

\*3334 GREEN WASTE—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What proportion of household garden green waste and food waste is now collected for composting?
- (2) How many new composting plants have been set up in New South Wales since the introduction of the State's Waste Minimisation Strategy?
- (3) Which local councils, by name, in New South Wales operate separate kerbside collection bins for green waste?
- (4) What percentage of green waste collected by councils through the kerbside collection system was recycled and beneficially reused, and what tonnage does this represent, in each of the following years:
  - (a) 2002-03;
  - (b) 2003-04;
  - (c) 2004-05;
  - (d) 2005-06;
  - (e) 2006-07;
  - (f) 2007-present?
- (5) What percentage of green waste collected by councils through the kerbside collection system went to landfill in 2006-07, and what tonnage does this represent?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Environment and Climate Change estimates that 54 percent of household garden green waste and 1.7 percent of food organics was collected for composting in 2006-7. The available data includes tonnages collected by Councils through kerbside pickups and general cleanups. It also includes material taken directly to transfer stations by householders. The data does not include green waste collected from households by commercial gardeners and mowing services, because it can not be differentiated from materials sourced from commercial and business premises.

(2) Under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, composting facilities require a licence if more than 5,000 tonnes per year of non-putrescible organics or more than 200 tonnes per year of putrescible organics is received. Since the introduction of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy in 2003, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has granted eight licences for new composting facilities.

The Department does not have available data on the number of composting facilities that fall below this threshold.

(3) The NSW Councils named in the table below operate separate kerbside collection bins for green waste:

Albury City Council	Manly Council
Armidale Dumaresq Council	Marrickville Council
The Council of the Municipality of Ashfield	Mosman Municipal Council
Auburn Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Bankstown City Council	Nambucca Shire Council
Bega Valley Shire Council	North Sydney Council
Bellingen Shire Council	Parramatta City Council
The Council of the City of Botany Bay	Pittwater Council
Broken Hill City Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Burwood Council	Queanbeyan City Council
Camden Council	Randwick City Council
Campbelltown City Council	Ryde City Council
City of Canada Bay Council	Shellharbour City Council
City of Canterbury	Shoalhaven City Council
Clarence Valley Council	Strathfield Municipal Council
Coffs Harbour City Council	Sutherland Shire Council
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Council of the City of Sydney

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Gosford City Council	Tamworth Regional Council
Gunnedah Shire Council	Tweed Shire Council
The Council of the Shire of Hornsby	Wagga Wagga City Council
The Council of the Municipality of Hunters Hill	Warringah Council
Hurstville City Council	Waverley Council
The Council of the Municipality of Kiama	Willoughby City Council
Kogarah Municipal Council	Wollondilly Shire Council
Ku-ring-gai Council	Wollongong City Council
Lane Cove Municipal Council	Woollahra Municipal Council
Leichhardt Municipal Council	Wyong Shire Council
Lismore City Council	Total no. of councils = 55

(4) The table below shows the percentage of green waste (and the equivalent number of tonnes) that was collected by councils through the kerbside collection system, and was recycled and beneficially reused. The latest available data is for the 2006-7 financial year.

NSW	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007 - present
Recycling Rate	98.32%	97.23%	95.34%	96.37%	98.26%	N/A
Kerbside Garden Organics Recycled (tonnes)	215,210	223,306	235,595	273,863	297,120	N/A

(5) In 2006-07, 1.8% of all green waste collected in NSW through council kerbside collection systems was disposed to landfill. This represents a total of 5,247 tonnes.

\*3335 MOTORSPORT SCHOLARSHIP—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) Will the Government provide an independent evaluation of the MotorSport scholarship?
- (2) Are there plans for a continuation of this programme?
- (3) If so, will the programme be expanded and on what scale will this programme be expanded?
- (4) If not, what are the reasons for the discontinuation of the programme?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) N/A.
- (4) There were concerns about the ability of the program partners to continue to provide support to the scholarship holders.

\*3336 CHILD PROTECTION CASEWORKERS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Of the 1,042 DoCS staffing positions designated as Caseworker, Child Protection, how many of these were filled as of 2 June 2008?
- (2) How many of these Caseworkers, Child Protection have been employed by DoCS for:
  - (a) less than 12 months;
  - (b) 12-24 months;
  - (c) 24-36 months;
  - (d) 36-48 months;
  - (e) more than 48 months?
- (3) How many Caseworkers, Child Protection either ceased employment with DoCS, transferred to another area of DoCS or went on long-term stress or sick leave during:
  - (a) 2003;
  - (b) 2004;
  - (c) 2005;
  - (d) 2006;
  - (e) 2007;
  - (f) to date in 2008?

Answer—

(1) There are currently 1085 DoCS positions designated as Caseworker Child Protection.

As at 2 June 2008, of these 1085 Caseworker, Child Protection positions:

- 980 were filled
- 105 were vacant.

(2) As at 2 June 2008 there were 1,028 full time and part time occupants held against the 980 filled Caseworker Child Protection positions. Of these 1,028 occupants:

- 358
- 212
- 129
- 70
- 259

(3) The streaming of all Caseworkers by function type has only been finalised this year and is not retrospective. The data provided in answer to this question is on all Caseworkers not just Caseworkers, Child Protection. Caseworkers were not identified separately in the Workforce Profile prior to 2004-05, and data is therefore not available for 2002-03 and 2003-04.

The capacity to report on internal movement is currently being developed, therefore reliable data on the number of caseworkers transferred into another area is not as yet available.

The number of permanent and temporary Caseworkers who separated from DoCS in the years identified is as follows:

- 2003 - this information is not available
- 2004 - this information is not available
- 2004-05 - 188 out of a total of 1,589 as at June 2005
- 2005-06 - 158 out of a total of 1,742 as at June 2006
- 2006-07 - 180 out of a total of 2,020 as at June 2007
- 2007-08 - Separation data is not yet available.

Caseworkers who went on long term sick leave for a period greater than 6 months is as follows:

- 2004-05 - 1
- 2005-06 - 2
- 2006-07 - 1
- 2007-08 - Annual sick leave data is not yet available.

Caseworkers who went on long term leave with a psychological injury for a period greater than 6 months is as follows:

- 2004-05 - 5
- 2005-06 - 9
- 2006-07 - 3
- 2007-08 - 1

\*3337 COLONOSCOPY SERVICES IN YASS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Has the Greater Southern Area Health Service investigated the demand for colonoscopy services in the Yass Valley and surrounding districts?
- (2) How many patients from the Yass Valley area travelled to (a) Goulburn or (b) ACT medical services to access colonoscopy treatment during:
  - (a) 2004;
  - (b) 2005;
  - (c) 2006;
  - (d) 2007;
  - (e) to date in 2008?
- (3) Will the Greater Southern Area Health Service call for expressions of interest from private providers to provide colonoscopy services, located in Yass, to the Yass Valley Shire and surrounding areas?

Answer—

(1) to (3) I am advised by the Greater Southern Area Health Service that Yass Hospital is a Level 3 Hospital, therefore surgical services are not provided at the Hospital. Patients requiring colonoscopy services are referred to either Goulburn Base Hospital or ACT Services, which are approximately one hour's drive away.

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Of note, the Greater Southern AHS does not collate data on the number of patients from the Yass Valley area who travelled to Goulburn or ACT to access colonoscopy treatment. However, data on episodes of care for colonoscopies on patients resident in the Yass Valley postcode for the years in question is as follows:

Yass residents Episodes of Care for Colonoscopies

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Jan - Mar 2008
Goulburn	19	10	15	18	8
ACT public Hospitals	28	19	15	data not available	data not available

It is also worth noting that the ACT data may not include all patients from this location, as the Act only provides data for services which it is claiming payment for "cross-border activity flows".

Providing colonoscopy services from Yass is not part of the Yass or Greater Southern Area Health Service plans.

\*3338 POLICE MOBILE PHONES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that NSW Police officers posted to rural areas who require a mobile phone for their duties are issued with the Telstra ZTE handset?
- (2) Has the NSW Police Force undertaken a study to see if the Telstra ZTE handset provides the best reception for police use in rural and remote communities?
- (3) How many complaints regarding reception have been received from police officers in rural areas?
- (4) Will new handsets providing a better level of reception in rural areas be issued to country-based police?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Officers who are required to be issued with a mobile phone have a variety of brands and models to choose from, however the Telstra ZTE165 is currently the NSW Police Force's standard country based mobile phone.
- (2) The NSW Police Force has determined, in consultation with Telstra, that the ZTE165 model is more suited to rural areas than previous models because of its external aerial. A number of phones by other brands are also available at a higher cost per unit, without significant performance improvements.
- (3) Approximately 20 complaints about ZTE150 and ZTE152 model phones have been received. These have immediately been passed on to Telstra and the units replaced with either ZTE165, Samsung A412 or LG TU550 models where appropriate.
- (4) The NSW Police Force will continue to upgrade its rural handset standard as technologies are improved.

\*3339 RAINWATER TANKS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What is the State Government doing in collaboration with Federal and Local Governments, to reduce water usage and encourage the installation of rainwater tanks?
- (2) How many households in the Wallsend Electorate have applied for the rainwater tank rebate?

Answer—

- (1) Under the Climate Change Fund, the NSW Government provides rebates of up to \$1500 for NSW residents to install rainwater tanks in their homes. As of 3 June 2008, 13,828 rebates for rainwater tank rebates have been paid since 1 July 2007 - totalling almost \$7 million and saving 622 million litres of water per year.

The NSW Government is assisting local councils to encourage uptake of rainwater tanks in their areas by providing funding of up to \$5000 to promote the rebates to their residents and value-add to existing council water savings initiatives. The NSW Government is also helping local councils to cover the cost of inspections of tanks installed with the help of the rebate.

Following the recent Australian Government announcement to also provide rainwater tank rebates for householders, the Department of Environment and Climate Change is working with its counterpart in Canberra to ensure the two programs complement each other and maximise water savings.

- (2) 88 households in the Wallsend electorate have installed tanks with the help of the NSW Government's Rainwater Tank Rebate, receiving a total of \$46,200 and saving an estimated 4 million litres of water a year.

\*3340 WATER BUY BACK—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Can the Minister outline the evidence based approach in determining quantities of water buy back for the environment in the McIntyre, Barwon, Upper Darling, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie, Bogan and Lachlan Rivers?
- (2) With future additional funds allocated for water buy back can the Minister outline any social impact reviews being conducted in communities projected to be affected by water buy backs?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government is involved in the purchase of Water Access Licences in the Gwydir, Macquarie and Lachlan Rivers.

The quantity of water buy back is determined based on the evidence of decline in the extent of the wetlands and in the health of the remaining wetland areas. The Macquarie Marshes, for example, is now estimated to be less than half of its original area and large areas of red gum woodland have either died or are showing signs of severe stress.

The NSW Government is also purchasing water in the Murrumbidgee to help address the decline in the extent and condition of significant wetlands in the Lowbidgee floodplain on the Murrumbidgee River.

- (2) Given the volume of water purchased in each valley is small in comparison to the total volume of licensed water entitlement, the social impact is likely to be small, and substantially offset by the capital injection provided to the businesses selling the water. A number of studies have confirmed this, including:
  - a NSW Natural Resources Commission 2006 report on the potential impact of Government water purchase which concluded that the economic impacts of a well designed purchasing strategy, such as that being delivered by the NSW RiverBank program, would be small; and
  - a 2008 Murray Darling Basin Commission report which sought independent advice on the merits of purchasing water during periods of low availability, which concluded that there is no reason to delay or discontinue purchase in times of low water availability.

\*3341 ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

Does the Minister intend to visit the Barwon electorate in the near future to see first hand:

- (a) the state of our wetlands;
- (b) the frustration community members and landholders experience dealing with the Government when it comes to achieving environmental outcomes; and
- (c) the commitment strategies and programs local landholders have in place in achieving environmental outcomes and sustainable levels of productivity?

Answer—

- (a) to (c) On a recent visit to the Menindee Lakes and Macquarie Wetlands, I saw first hand the serious issues facing land and water managers.

Faced with a diminishing water resource, the NSW Government is investing significant time and resources to improve the management of wetlands on both private and public lands. Through the Riverbank; the Rivers Environmental Restoration Program and the Wetland Recovery Program, the Government has been working with landholders to improve the delivery of water, for example through investments in stream works, weed management and landholder agreements as well as water purchase.

Substantial progress has been possible by developing partnerships with private land managers and through the contribution of wetland landholders of their experience and cooperation.

To date, investment in RiverBank has allowed recovery of some 20,000 Megalitres of general security entitlement in the Gwydir (5000 Megalitres) and Macquarie (15,000 Megalitres) valleys



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without exerting undue price effects, and for negotiating with entitlement sellers to achieve outcomes that are acceptable to both parties.

In particular, a recent environmental watering event in the Gwydir wet an additional 25 per cent in area compared to a previous event of the same size, due to the installation of rock weir structures which maximised the spread of the water.

The NSW Ramsar Managers Network also provides a forum for managers of privately-owned Ramsar listed wetlands, including those in the Gwydir, to discuss the issues they face and to provide solutions. Reports of these meetings are provided to me.

\*3342 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What is the maintenance expenditure on Sutherland Hospital in each of the last 3 years (2005, 2006, 2007)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities.

However, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service as a reporting entity, comprises all the operating activities of the hospital facilities, including Sutherland Hospital, and the Community Health Centres under its control.

All Area Health Services use a standard proforma when preparing their financial statements. Information on Maintenance is detailed under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses, of the Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Reports. I refer the Member to the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service Annual Reports.

\*3343 POPULATION TRENDS—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How have the population trends in Sutherland Shire increased in recent years?
- (2) What has the jobs growth been during this period?
- (3) How has the employment/population ratio changed during this period?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) I refer the Honourable Member to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the latest population and employment information data.

\*3344 BUS TRAFFIC AND SAFETY SENSORS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With regard to the use of the trans-European Moryne project that is testing mobile data recorders on Berlin buses including on-board environmental sensors, cameras and Global Positioning System (GPS), which will transmit data wirelessly to traffic control centres to respond to traffic congestion and to police to respond to crime and safety concerns:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of this technology and its usefulness for improving public transport safety, reliability and amenity?
- (2) What analysis has the Government made of using this wireless and GPS technology in Sydney?
- (3) What plans does the NSW Government have to collect traffic and safety data from buses?
- (4) What examination has the NSW Government made of utilising buses to provide feedback on traffic congestion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) Global Position System technology on buses is being introduced with the Sydney wide implementation of the Roads and Traffic Authority's Public Transport Information and Priority System.

\*3345 CLOSE THE GAP STATEMENT OF INTENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

With respect to the Close the Gap Statement of Intent from the Indigenous Health Equality Summit, which commits signatories to a comprehensive plan of action to reduce the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health status in Australia:

- (1) Is the Government aware that both the Queensland Premier and Opposition Leader have signed the Close the Gap Statement of Intent?
- (2) Will the NSW Government sign the Close the Gap Statement of Intent and make a commitment to reducing this health inequality?
- (3) What milestones has the NSW Government set for action to "close the gap" in Indigenous health inequality by 2018?
- (4) What action has the NSW Government taken to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders access to health services, and what are the Government's indicators of progress?
- (5) What action has the NSW Government taken to support and develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled health services, specifically organisations that work within the Sydney electorate?
- (6) What action has the NSW Government taken to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and representative bodies are involved in decisions that affect Indigenous health, and specifically organisations that work within the Sydney electorate?
- (7) What data collection does the Government have to demonstrate progress in reducing Indigenous health inequality, and what does this evidence show about progress over the past five years?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to taking timely, substantive and effective action to close the gap in health status and life expectancy of Aboriginal people in NSW.

The Government's approach has two vital elements: it tackles disadvantage across a spectrum of areas including health, housing, education and economic development, recognising that outcomes in one area can produce benefits in others; and Aboriginal people are closely involved in implementation, recognising that building the capacity of Aboriginal communities to respond to issues of disadvantage is integral to a long term sustainable improvement in outcomes.

The Government's commitment to improving health and other outcomes for Aboriginal people

Reducing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is one of this Government's most significant commitments. Priority F1 of the NSW State Plan, Improved health, education and social outcomes for Aboriginal people, is one of a number of high level priorities for guiding service delivery and policy making by the Government.

This priority is supported by several other State Plan priorities with particular relevance for the health of Aboriginal people, including reduced hospital admissions (F5), improved outcomes in mental health (F3), improved survival rates and quality of life for people with potentially fatal or chronic illness through improvements in health care (S2), and improved health through reduced obesity, smoking, illicit drug use and risk drinking (S3).

The Government's 10 year Aboriginal Affairs plan, Two Ways Together 2003-2012, is the principal mechanism for delivery of Priority F1. Two Ways Together sets the whole-of-government approach for improving the well being of Aboriginal people. Strategic directions specific to the health of Aboriginal people are also contained in NSW Health's State Health Plan.

These high level commitments are supported by targets and performance indicators to drive our efforts and assist in determining how we are performing. The Government routinely tracks performance against State Plan priorities and targets. Regular public updates on State Plan progress are provided through the State Plan website ([www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au](http://www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au)). In addition, measurement of outcomes for Aboriginal people occurs through the Two Ways Together Report on Indicators, which is released every two years. The most recent report was released in April 2008.

Under the State Plan, the Government has reformed the budget process to free up resources for delivering Priority F1 as well as other State Plan priorities. The 2008-09 budget included:

- \$19.1 million over four years through NSW Health to the Building strong foundations for Aboriginal children, families and communities strategy. This strategy will extend services already provided under the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy to ensure that all Aboriginal families in NSW with young children have quality access to early childhood health services.
- \$15.2 million over four years through NSW Health for the enhancement of the existing Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) program to include a more culturally appropriate program for Aboriginal people. HASI is a partnership program that aims to provide stable housing linked to specialist support for people with mental illness.

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- A joint investment by the Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council of \$205 million over 25 years for a significant water and sewerage upgrade and maintenance program in more than 60 discrete Aboriginal communities.
- \$22.9 million over four years to extend the local-level implementation of the NSW Interagency Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Assault in Aboriginal Communities to five further locations in western NSW under an expansion of the Safe Families program.

In addition to the Building Strong Foundations for Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities Strategy and the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy, a range of other programs are aimed at improving access to health care by Aboriginal people, such as the Chronic Care Program for Aboriginal People and the Aboriginal Oral Health program. Further, a range of workforce programs are in place to increase the proportion of Aboriginal people involved in the health workforce and in service delivery to Aboriginal people.

#### National work

The above State-based actions to improve Aboriginal outcomes are complemented by the Council of Australian Governments' commitment to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. On 3 July 2008, COAG reaffirmed its commitment to sustained engagement and effort by all governments over the next decade and beyond to achieve COAG's targets. These targets include closing the life expectancy gap for Indigenous Australians within a generation, and halving the mortality gap for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Under the auspices of COAG, NSW has participated in the development of a National Partnership, for joint Commonwealth-State investment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal early childhood development. Investment will be directed towards improving access to antenatal care for young Indigenous mothers, access to sexual and reproductive health education for Indigenous teenagers, improving child and maternal health services, and improving the integration of early childhood services through the creation of 35 Child and Family Centres, across Australia.

#### The NSW Government's partnership with Aboriginal people

The Government has made a commitment to work in close partnership with the Aboriginal community at the State, regional and local levels.

Two Ways Together recognises that Aboriginal people know the needs of their community, and establishes ways to make sure that Aboriginal people have a strong voice in planning and deciding how their needs and aspirations are met. The Two Ways Together Coordinating Committee, the Government's principal coordination mechanism for Aboriginal Affairs policy and service delivery, includes Aboriginal people among its membership.

The Government has put in place structures to support joint efforts with the community to plan and deliver solutions. At the regional level, Regional Engagement Groups facilitate the participation of Aboriginal communities in the Two Ways Together process. Local-level implementation of Two Ways Together is occurring in 40 partnership communities across NSW.

NSW Health collaborates with the Australian Government Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health on initiatives which support and develop Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. For example, in 2007/08, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, which is the peak organisation for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW, was allocated \$300,000 to enhance infrastructure and its capacity to support its member organisations with regard to governance, human resources and financial accountability.

#### \*3346 ALCOHOL ACTION PLAN—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

Following the Victorian Government's initiative to invest \$32 million over five years to implement the Victorian Alcohol Action Plan, which aims to reduce risky drinking and its impacts on young people and improve community safety, health and productivity:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware of the Victorian Government's Alcohol Action Plan and its action to improve regulation, fund treatment and inform the community about alcohol problems?
- (2) Will the NSW Government implement a similar Alcohol Action Plan in NSW?
- (3) What action will the NSW Government take to address risky drinking in NSW, what plans does the Government have to address this increasing concern, and will the Government invest new funds for this purpose?
- (4) What action has the NSW Government taken to expand prevention and early intervention programs, and expand detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation services to meet community need, and what plans does the Government have to upgrade alcohol/drug services?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) to (4) The NSW Government's strategies to address alcohol abuse and risk drinking are underpinned by the State Plan, which includes key priorities in this area. NSW State Plan Priority S3 specifically targets a reduction in risky drinking by 25 per cent by 2012. State Plan targets R1, R2 and R3 which aim to reduce crime, reoffending and anti-social behaviour, are also relevant.

In order to achieve the S3 target of a reduction in the rate of risk drinking, the Government is employing a range of measures including:

- Social marketing and community education campaigns, for example the "Supply means Supply" program which includes school education, media advertising and signage in and around licensed premises, and the School and Aboriginal Community Education Campaign.
- Targeted programs to support people to adopt healthier behaviour, such as the Controlled Drinking Program and the Your Choice diversionary program, which targets underage persons detected possessing or consuming alcohol in public places, as well as the Sober Driver Program, which aims to reduce the incidence of drink driving across NSW.

On 26 June 2008, the Minister for Health, the Hon Reba Meagher MP, announced the first phase of a three year Responsible Drinking Education Campaign. The campaign will be rolled out this month and will focus on three target groups:

- Adolescents, who will be targeted by the "Be a part of it, not out of it campaign".
- People over 30, who will be targeted by the "Re-think your drink" campaign.
- Parents and teenagers, who will be targeted by a Pocket Guides campaign.

These campaigns will focus on the geographic areas of Canobolas (Orange and Cowra), Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Sydney CBD, Sydney Eastern Beaches and Parramatta. They will be supported in these areas by Community Drug Action Teams.

Information regarding the Government's progress in achieving the State Plan targets is being posted on the State Plan website, [www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au](http://www.stateplan.nsw.gov.au) as it becomes available.

The measures taken towards achieving State Plan targets are supported by the NSW Government's new Liquor Act, which commenced on 1 July 2008. The Act represents the biggest shake-up of the State's licensing laws in a quarter of a century.

The Act contains a number of measures to provide greater protection for the community from alcohol abuse and crime. These measures include:

- Doubling the penalties for licensees who repeatedly serve underage or intoxicated people, and for minors caught inside licensed venues buying alcohol.
- A new definition of intoxicification.
- A self-exclusion scheme for people with chronic alcohol problems to ban themselves from licensed venues.
- The introduction of new offences for anti-social behaviour, including on the spot fines for drunk, violent or quarrelsome people who attempt re-entry after being ejected from licensed premises.
- Providing the Director of Gaming and Racing with the power to determine noise and disturbance complaints, impose and vary licence conditions in disciplinary matters and declare lock outs and curfews in problem areas.
- Providing the Director with expanded powers to ban irresponsible liquor products and promotions.
- Strengthening Liquor Accords and providing them with a process to ban troublemakers from multiple licensed venues.
- The ability to declare an area a "restricted alcohol area", thereby enabling restrictions on the trading hours, the kinds of liquor that can be sold and supplied and the way in which liquor is sold and supplied within that area.

\*3347 FOI CONTRACTS DISCLOSURE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

With regard to contract disclosure requirements in Section 15a of the Freedom of Information Act 1989:

- (1) How does the NSW Government ensure that agencies comply with requirements of Section 15a of the Freedom of Information Act 1989?
- (2) How many "class 3" contracts between a Government agency and the private sector, as defined by Section 15a of the Freedom of Information Act 1989, became effective since 1 January 2007?

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- (3) How many actual "class 3" contracts were available on the tenders.nsw.gov.au website as at Monday 2 June 2008?
- (4) How many of the "class 3" contracts that are not published on tenders.nsw.gov.au between 1 January 2007 and 3 June 2008, are not commercial-in-confidence?
- (5) With regard to "class 3" contracts not available on tenders.nsw.gov.au that are not commercial in confidence:
  - (a) Why are these contracts not available on the website?
  - (b) How are these contracts publicly available?
- (6) Since commencement of Section 15a of the Freedom of Information Act 1989 what measures have been taken to update the search function of the tenders.nsw.gov.au site to make it more easy to use by those searching for contract disclosures?
- (7) Is the NSW Government aware of the website managed by the United States of America at www.usaspending.gov, which provides an easy to use method of finding government contract disclosures?
- (8) What assessment has the NSW Government made of updating the tenders.nsw.gov.au site so that it provides similar easy to use searches as the usaspending.gov site?
- (9) What work has the NSW Government done on drafting Regulations for Section 15a of the Freedom of Information Act 1989?

Answer—

A Premier's Memorandum (M2007-01) was issued in January 2007 which described the (then) new contract disclosure obligations imposed by section 15A of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act). In particular, the Memorandum noted that it is each government agency's responsibility to comply with the new provisions.

A number of class 3 contracts are available on the tenders.nsw.gov.au website. The total number of class 3 contracts which became effective since 1 January 2007, however, is not centrally collected.

The Department of Commerce has conducted a study into possible improvements in the website's search function usability and effectiveness. A redeveloped tenders.nsw.gov.au website, incorporating improvements recommended in the study, is expected to be operational later in 2008.

The Government has sought advice from the Local Government and Shires Association on its view as to whether a regulation should be made to extend the FOI Act's contract disclosure obligations to local authorities. No advice has been received to date.

\*3348 FOX STUDIOS FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

Following the major fires this week in the Universal Studios Los Angeles, which burned across four acres of the site, caused traffic jams for hours and resulted in 10 people being injured:

- (1) Does the Government have emergency plans in place should a similar event occur at Fox Studios in Moore Park, which is surrounded by thousands of residents?
- (2) How does the Government ensure that the Fox Studios site and adjacent Entertainment Quarter can be evacuated in case of fire?
- (3) What environment management provisions are imposed to ensure that highly volatile chemicals used in film sets are not at risk of fire?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to alert local residents in case of emergency, especially during the night, as occurred with this fire?
- (5) What plans does the Government have for managing large scale health needs in case of smoke and fumes from a similar fire?

Answer—

- (1) The Government's Local Emergency Management Plans address the possibility of any hazard occurring, regardless of the likelihood of the emergency. The possibility of such an event occurring at Fox Studios is highly remote as the fire load, storage, usage, size and proximity of buildings to each other are different to Universal studios, thereby significantly reducing the risk,
- (2) At the time the Moore Park precinct changed use, both Fox Studios and the Entertainment Quarter were assessed by a certified fire engineer and Building Code Consultant and verified by the Structural Fire Safety Unit of the New South Wales Fire Brigades. The site complied with requirements of the Building Code of Australia and was found to possess adequate means of egress for occupants and access for the fire service. This egress and access was inspected again on 18 June 2008 to ensure ongoing compliance with the Building Code.

- (3) As Fox Studios and the adjacent Entertainment Quarter do not have licenses to keep dangerous goods or explosives and as no stage sets or flammable matter is stored on site, no fire danger exists other than that allowed for a normal building of that classification.
- (4) The fire at Universal occurred at 4.45 am on a set being used. As is with all fires occurring in NSW the relevant authority in conjunction with Police, utilising the local Emergency Management Plan, will contact residents through pre-determined media. Media Plans apply to all areas of NSW and are implemented at the direction of the response agency or the police at the time of the incident.
- (5) Fires in New South Wales Fire Brigades jurisdiction utilise the New South Wales Fire Brigades Hazmat Response Unit to monitor and test smoke plumes to determine toxicity and where warranted will take remedial action or recommend evacuation as required. Questions relating to large scale health needs should be referred to my colleague, the Minister for Health.

\*3349 PROTECTING TENANTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

Given the increasingly tight rental market, particularly in the inner city, where tenants face almost no vacancies, termination of leases so that landlords can get new tenants paying higher rents, and auctioning of rental properties to the highest bidder:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to prevent auctioning of rental properties to the highest bidder?
- (2) What action has the Government taken to prevent existing tenants being evicted so that new tenants paying higher rents can be offered leases?
- (3) What is the Office of Fair Trading inspection program to monitor rental agreements and problems, and what evidence has the Office uncovered of poor practice in residential leases?
- (4) Will the Government introduce longer leases to help provide security of tenure for long term tenants?
- (5) Will the Government provide longer notice periods for tenants who are being evicted without reason to help protect tenants?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) The Office of Fair Trading has not received any specific complaints about auctioning of rental properties to the highest bidder that have required investigation. The practice itself is not specifically outlawed under existing legislation.
- (2) The Residential Tenancies Act allows for 'no grounds' notice of eviction as this recognises a landlord's rights to regain possession of their property. However, under existing laws the landlord must apply to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal for an eviction order if the tenant does not move out, and the Tribunal must take all the circumstances into account before making the termination order. This would include consideration of both parties' hardship and the landlord's genuine need to obtain vacant possession.
- (3) The Office of Fair Trading recently received a complaint about the manner in which an inner city agent advertised properties for rent. These advertisements advertised a "Tenant Inquiry Range" for several properties. The "inquiry range" advertised a rental range of + or 10% of the market rent for each property. For example, in the case of a property with a market rent of \$300, it was advertised with a range of \$270 to \$330. Fair Trading is of the view that this sort of advertisement could entice prospective tenants who are attracted to the more affordable lower price in the range, but they may not have a realistic chance of getting the property at the lower rate. Fair Trading believes such advertisements could be misleading and is obtaining an undertaking from the agency concerned to cease the practice.

Complaints and inquiries about residential tenancy issues are handled by Fair Trading Centres. Fair Trading maintains an ongoing presence in the marketplace investigating agency trust records and complaints involving potential breaches of legislation, and also investigates serious issues referred from external sources.

- (4) There are no existing upper limits on the duration of leases for residential premises, but the desire of tenants for security of tenure and stability needs to be balanced against the right of landlords to recover possession of their own property. Residential tenancy agreements are commonly for a fixed term of six or twelve months, after which the tenancy can continue indefinitely until ended by either party. Ways to encourage more long term leases was one of the issues raised in the Office of Fair Trading's Residential Tenancy Law Reform Report. Given the wide range of differing views on this matter, the issue of long term leases and, in particular, the development of more flexible tenancy arrangements for long term leases, will be subject to further examination and consultation.

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(5) The Residential Tenancy Law Reform Report recommended that the notice period for tenants who are being evicted on 'no grounds' should be increased from 60 to 90 days. A range of views were received in response to this proposal and the Government is currently considering its position.

\*3350 SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

What is the Minister doing to encourage State Government departments, including her own, to utilise supported employment services, which encourages employment of people with a disability?

Answer—

A priority area under the NSW State Plan is to increase employment and community participation for people with a disability.

The NSW Government is addressing this priority of employment for people with a disability by:

- utilising its Transition to Work Program to develop the employment skills and abilities of young people with substantial disabilities who leave school and are not work ready;
- developing a package of measures that will increase employment in NSW Government agencies; and
- identifying ways to use incentives to generate jobs for people with a disability through the procurement of goods and services.

The initial results of the Transition to Work Program, were released in November 2007. Please refer to question without notice I responded to on 4 December 2007 outlining the successful results of the program.

The NSW Government has also provided \$200,000 to the Australian Employers' Network on Disability association to increase its capacity to work with employers, and is identifying further ways to engage with the private sector.

DADHC is leading a whole-of-government approach to Disability Action Planning for NSW Government agencies. A key outcome area that all agencies will work towards is increasing the employment of people with a disability in the public sector. So that DADHC is able to provide a strong lead on this priority, it is currently putting in place its own recruitment and procurement strategies that will target outcomes against this priority.

In addition, the NSW Government has also responded to the Australian Government's proposal for a National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy, and will be seeking avenues to strengthen the links between State and Commonwealth initiatives in this area, including supported employment services, known as Business Services.

The main responsibility of Business Services is with the Commonwealth Government.

\*3351 REGIONAL BUS PLANNING FORUM—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Regarding the Regional Bus Planning Forum for Contract Region 14 held at Forestville on 4 July 2007, when will the minutes of the forum and an action plan resulting from this meeting be issued to participants as promised at the time?
- (2) Regarding the Regional Bus Planning Forum for Contract Region 12 held at Hornsby on 10 July 2007, when will the minutes of the forum and an action plan resulting from this meeting be issued to participants as promised at the time?
- (3) Why has there been such a protracted delay in issuing relevant forum outcome documentation?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available at Ministry of Transport website, [www.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au)

\*3352 BUS SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many buses travelled from East Lindfield to the city (other than via North Sydney) before 7:30 am Monday-Friday under the timetable before the current one?
- (2) Why are there fewer buses now under the current timetable?
- (3) How many buses travelled from the City to St Ives after 6:30 pm under the timetable before the current one?
- (4) Are there any such buses under the current timetable and, if so, is the introduction of a City to St Ives

post 6:30 pm service being considered?

Answer—

(1) to (4) Timetable information can be found at [www.131500.info](http://www.131500.info)

\*3353 INFRINGEMENTS—EWINGSDALE FIXED SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What are the monthly figures relating to the number of infringements issued from the Ewingsdale fixed speed camera from 29 March 2007 to present date broken down into direction of travel (i.e. southbound and northbound)?

Answer—

I am advised the number of speeding infringements issued for the period 29 March 2007 to 31 April 2008 was 24,811, with 10,326 (42 percent) issued in the northbound direction and 14,485 (58 percent) infringements issued in the southbound direction.

\*3354 RIPPLE STRIPS—PACIFIC HIGHWAY—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) Is the Minister aware of a Report by James Heddle Pty Ltd, Acoustical Consultants in relation to the noise impacts of the 'ripple strips' on the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgraded section of the Pacific Highway at Ocean Shores?

(2) Is the Minister aware it says " it does not make much sense to install ripple strips, designed to generate noise and vibration in a manner that is alerting and alarming, in a section of road identified as needing traffic noise reduction treatments"?

(3) (a) Will the Minister be prepared to take the contents of the Report by James Heddle Pty Ltd, Acoustical Consultants into consideration?

(b) If not, why not?

(4) When will the Minister order the ripple strips to be removed on that section of road at Ocean Shores to enable local population to get some sleep at night?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ocean Shores community engaged an acoustical consultant to undertake noise monitoring on their behalf.

I have asked the RTA to obtain the results of the noise monitoring and take into consideration the report's contents.

\*3355 SYDNEY HARBOUR TUNNEL—UNPAID TOLL—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In regard to the collection of unpaid Sydney Harbour Tunnel tolls:

(1) Why was Mr Andrew Douglas not informed that the RTA image showed the registration plate of the subject vehicle was partially obscured by a "P" plate, when he asserted on a number of occasions that the vehicle in the RTA image was not his?

(2) Are registration numbers of vehicles in RTA images transcribed manually to payment notices?

(3) What safeguards are implemented to avoid human error in transcription?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA's toll violation system recognises a number plate format. Whilst a "P" sign had obscured a character on the number plate on this occasion, the remaining characters were recognised as a valid plate number.

At the time of the routine manual verification check of the image, the processing officer verified the recorded text translation of the plate number with what was visible in the captured image. However, on this occasion the operator inadvertently failed to identify an additional character which had been obscured by a "P" sign. This resulted in a toll notice being incorrectly sent to Mr Douglas.

The toll violation system applies an optical character recognition system that searches for and optimises the number plate, recording the text onto a video recognition system. It is recognised that an error margin exists so all images are manually reviewed.



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The read number is automatically checked against a valid plate registration number prior to a toll notice being sent to the registered operator.

The RTA reviews over 5,000 toll images daily. The RTA is currently looking into improved safeguards in the verification process such as enhanced character recognition to ensure more accurate identification.

\*3356 OLDER DRIVERS—PRACTICAL DRIVING TESTS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the percentage of older drivers currently failing practical driving tests in comparison to drivers in other age groups?

Answer—

I am advised:

Older drivers are given three attempts to pass an aged driving test. Over 90 per cent of older drivers pass the aged driving test within three attempts.

In 2007, the average pass rate for all driving test attempts was 57 per cent.

\*3357 FORWARDING OF REGULATION—Mr Greg Piper asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) In regard to the "administrative oversight" relating to the failure to offer a taxi licence to Bryen and Gaile Smith, has the Regulation been forwarded to the Parliamentary Counsel?

(2) If it has, when will it be signed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) A request to draft a regulation has been forwarded to the Parliamentary Counsel. It is anticipated that the Regulation will be gazetted during 2008.

\*3358 FUNDING FOR KINGSCLIFF TAFE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Given that the Treasurer stated in his 2008-2009 NSW Budget Speech that there would be funding for "19 new school projects and 12 new TAFE projects, at a total cost of \$246 million":

(1) Can the Treasurer confirm that Kingscliff TAFE is one of the 12 NSW TAFEs set to receive funding under the 2008-2009 Budget, as promised by the NSW Government during the 2007 election?

(2) If yes, what is the proportion of the \$246 million that Kingscliff TAFE is set to receive under the 2008-2008 Budget, and what projects will this funding go towards?

(3) If no, why has the NSW Government reneged on its 2007 election promise to grant further funding to Kingscliff TAFE and when can Kingscliff TAFE expect to receive Government funding?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Education and Training.

\*3359 PAYROLL TAX—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

Given that the Treasurer announced in his 2008-2009 Budget speech that the budget "cuts payroll tax from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent" and that the payroll tax rate in Queensland stands at 4.75%:

(1) How much payroll tax was collected from businesses in the Tweed electorate in the:

(a) 2006/07 financial year;

(b) 2007/08 financial year?

(2) Is NSW payroll tax still not low enough to induce businesses to establish operations in NSW rather than in Queensland?

(3) Given the Tweed's close proximity to southeast Queensland and the lower payroll tax rate that Queensland offers, why hasn't NSW's payroll tax been reduced to a comparable rate to provide more incentive for businesses to establish operations in NSW?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The amount of payroll tax collected is based on the registered address of the business. As some businesses in regional areas have their head office in another location, it is not possible for the Office of State Revenue to accurately report on the amount of tax collected by region.

Since 1995-96, reductions in the payroll tax rate alone are expected to save New South Wales businesses around \$1.2 billion in 2008-09. The payroll tax reductions form part of the overall environment which ensures New South Wales remains an attractive location for business to operate.

\*3360 BUDGET FUNDING—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the 2008-2009 Budget:

- (1) Why was there no funding in the 2008-09 Budget for the Pottsville Community Health Centre, which was promised by the NSW Government during the 2007 NSW State Election?
- (2) When can the Tweed expect to receive budget funding for this project, and how much funding will be allocated?
- (3) (a) Of the \$36.7 million allocated to the North Coast Area Health Service under the 2008-2009 Budget, how much will be going to the Tweed Hospital and for what projects?  
(b) If none, why not, and when can the Tweed Hospital expect to receive budget funding for new projects?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Health.

\*3361 NELSON PARADE, HUNTERS HILL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Is the Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill site on the Radiation Information Management System database?
- (2) Did the Department of Environment and Conservation identify the Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill site as requiring upgrading for the storage of radioactive material, and if so, when?

Answer—

- (1) No. The low-level contaminated soil at Hunters Hill is below the criteria that would require regulation as a "radioactive substance" under the Radiation Control Act.
- (2) No.

\*3362 ALEXANDRA CANAL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) What progress has been made in turning Alexandra Canal into "Little Venice" since the Government's draft Alexandra Canal Master Plan was released in 2001?
- (2) When did Sydney Water and the EPA place a "do not touch" order on Alexandra Canal?
- (3) When will the "do not touch" order be removed from Alexandra Canal?
- (4) Will the polluted state of Alexandra Canal have any bearing on determining development applications lodged for adjoining properties?

Answer—

- (1) This is a matter for consideration by the Minister for Planning.
- (2) 10 May 2004.
- (3) I am advised that a remediation order which is effectively a 'do not disturb' order is in place with respect to the Alexandria Canal under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997. This is the most appropriate management action at this time as the clean-up technologies that are available have the potential to increase the risk of harm by disturbing and dispersing contaminated sediments. The order will be removed when the contamination no longer presents a risk of harm.
- (4) This is a matter for consideration by the Minister for Planning.

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\*3363 HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) How much money was or will be given to the Hunter Wetlands Centre because of the Sandgate rail grade separation project?
- (2) What steps will be covered in Hunter Wetland Centre's management of the Sandgate rail grade separation area?
- (3) On what date did/will the Hunter Wetlands Centre begin the habitat restoration?

Answer—

These matters are the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

\*3364 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—OPENING DATE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What is the current projected date for the opening of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest?

Answer—

I am advised by the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service that the timeframe for the Northern Beaches Hospital will be further considered in the next phase of planning.

\*3365 CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

Is there anything delaying the release of the clinical services plan for the public health services on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

The Plan is being considered by Government and will be available following this process.

\*3366 WAKEHURST PARKWAY UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Are there any plans to do works or upgrade Wakehurst Parkway between Narrabeen and Oxford Falls in the next 12 months?
- (2) If yes, what is the nature of these works?

Answer—

I am advised:

A new maintenance contract is expected to be awarded later this year. The successful contractor will be required to submit a program of works to maintain the road to a specified standard.

Until a contract has been awarded and a program agreed, it is not possible to specify what works will be carried out on the Wakehurst Parkway in 2009.

\*3367 VINEYARD RAILWAY STATION—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Given many residents wishing to catch a train to work from the areas of Oakville and Vineyard utilize the station of Vineyard:

- (1) Will the Minister advise if he will ensure the current Vineyard Railway Station remains where it is on behalf of residents, especially elderly residents from the Windsor Country Village who use this station regularly?
- (2) If another station is required for the new development in the Vineyard area, will the Minister ensure that a second railway station will be built?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$432 million Quakers Hill to Vineyard Rail Duplication Project is part of the NSW Government's \$1.8 billion Rail Clearways program designed to improve capacity and reliability on the CityRail network.

The duplication project is being built to help improve the reliability and frequency of train services travelling along the Richmond branch line.

A key feature of the project includes construction of a new Vineyard Station with improved station facilities, a car park and bus interchange. Other features include construction of approximately 10 kilometres of new track; a new Schofields Station providing easy access, a car park and bus interchange; replacement of pedestrian level crossings at Quakers Hill Station and the existing Schofields Station and an upgraded Riverstone Station, incorporating a pedestrian overpass and easy access.

The plans are scheduled to be placed on public exhibition in the next few months and it would be inappropriate to anticipate the outcome of this process.

The issues the local community have raised will be assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment process and will be taken into account when a final decision is made.

\*3368 SCHOFIELDS RAILWAY STATION—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Given many residents wishing to catch a train to work from the areas of Rouse Hill and Kellyville utilize the Railway station of Schofields:

- (1) Will the Minister advise if he will ensure the current Schofields Railway Station remains where it is on behalf of residents, especially elderly residents from Schofields who use this station regularly?
- (2) If another station is required for the new development in the Schofields area, will the Minister ensure that a second railway station will be built?

Answer—

I am advised:

In February this year, the Government announced a proposal to build a new Schofields station as part of the \$432 million Quakers Hill to Vineyard Rail Duplication Project and in the context of the planning for the North West Growth Centre.

The duplication project is being built to help improve the reliability and frequency of train services travelling along the Richmond branch line.

The new station is proposed to be built approximately 800 metres south of the current Schofields Station. The new station would cater for the future growth planned for Sydney's North West, providing more commuter car parking and improved access to the station through the provision of a bus/rail interchange.

This would provide excellent public transport options for the growing population in the North West Growth Centre.

The plans for the proposed rail upgrade are scheduled to be placed on public exhibition in the next few months, and it would be inappropriate to anticipate the outcome of this process.

The issues the local community have raised will be assessed as part of the Environmental Assessment process and will be taken into account when a final decision is made.

\*3369 REFUND OF ADDITIONAL PAYMENT—FREEHOLD LAND TITLE—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the Minister has refused to honour a written promise from the Department of Lands of a refund to Martin and Marion Tebbutt (for the additional payment of money to purchase their freehold land title) based on his claim that the purchase application was rightly processed under the legislation in force at the time:

- (1) Does the Minister accept that the Department's internal audit into the Tebbutt purchase found that "the Minister made an announcement on 6 April 2004 stating that the Government proposed to allow applications for conversion of perpetual leases at 3% of market value"?
- (2) Does the Minister also accept that the same report, in relation to the processing of Tebbutt's application, found that "Final Approval of Purchase/Commencement Date was authorised on 21 June 2004" and that "the documentation to facilitate stamping and title transfer was not prepared until 22 June 2004"?
- (3) Given that:
  - (a) the Minister's Bill to allow applications for conversion of perpetual leases at 3% of market value was in force on 1 July 2004,
  - (b) the registration of title into the Tebbutt's name did not occur until 27 July 2004 and,
  - (c) the Department's website, in August 2004, advised that applications lodged prior to 1 July 2004 could be withdrawn and a new application processed under the new 3% provisions,

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have Martin and Marion Tebbutt in fact purchased their land twice, since the Minister has not allowed the refund?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Apart from the payment of purchase price, which the Audit Report clearly points out was delayed as long as possible by Mr Tebbutt, the Audit Report confirms that negotiations leading to the mutual agreement of a purchase price concluded on 29 August 2002.
- (3) It was Mr Tebbutt's decision to apply to freehold perpetual lease 91122 on 3 September 2001. The legislation in force in 2001 required him to pay the market value of the land as at the date of application.

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\*3370 PATIENT ADMISSIONS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Of patients admitted to public hospitals in New South Wales, what percentage are for:
  - (a) day only stays;
  - (b) patients who stayed one night?
- (2) How do these figures compare with 5 years ago?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the percentage of patients admitted to NSW public hospitals in 2006-07 was 42.4% for day only stays and 16.0% for patients who stayed one night.  
The comparative figures for the 2001-02 year were 40.4% for day only stays and 15.4% for patients who stayed one night.

\*3371 ALBURY AMBULANCE STATION—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) With regard to the 2007 Election announcement of plans for a new ambulance station for Albury when will funding be allocated and what site has been selected?
- (2) Is the newly opened Emergency Service Centre at the airport a preferred site?

Answer—

I am advised by the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW that:

- (1) and (2) The Ambulance Service of NSW expects to commence comprehensive planning studies for a new replacement station at Albury in 2009/10 with construction to follow in 2010/11. The planning studies will determine the functional requirements and location of the new facility. The Emergency Services Centre site will be considered in the planning studies along with all other options.

\*3372 BIRTHS TO NSW RESIDENTS AT WODONGA DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) In the decade (1997-2007) since obstetrics were transferred from Albury to the Wodonga District Hospital in Victoria, how many births have been recorded to parents resident in New South Wales?
- (2) What percentage of those births has been registered as occurring in New South Wales?

Answer—

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

- (1) and (2) Obstetric Services for Albury-Wodonga were consolidated at the Wodonga Regional Health Service (WRHS) in July 1998. For babies born to NSW residents in the WRHS, the parents have a choice of whether to have a Victorian or NSW Birth Certificate issued. For the purpose of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the birth is registered as a birth to a NSW resident regardless of where the birth occurred or which State issues the Birth Certificate.

For the period 1997 to 2005, 5011 births to residents of the Albury Local Government Area have been recorded with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Of those 5011 births, 1566 (31.3%) chose to have a Birth Certificate issued by NSW.

Data for 2006 and 2007 is not yet available through the ABS.

- \*3373 RELIANCE ON OIL—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What initiatives has the Government taken to reduce the State's reliance on oil to reduce the impact of peak oil on NSW?

Answer—

NSW Department of Primary Industries is investing resources in developing alternative sources of energy. These include a \$400,000 project jointly with the University of New England evaluating the potential for second generation biofuels using forest residues. This work is linked to broader second generation biofuels research which is hoped will provide alternative sustainable forms of biofuels to replace at least some fossil fuels.

NSW Department of Primary Industries is also looking at other sources of bioenergy through our membership of Bioenergy Australia and various working groups of the International Energy Agency. These include use of biomass for co-firing of electric generators and pyrolysis.

- \*3374 COMMUTER CAR PARKING—KATOOMBA RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to the Katoomba Railway Station:

- (1) What are the Government's plans for commuter car parking at the station?
- (2) What is the future of Railcorp land around the station which the community seeks to convert to a car park?
- (3) What has been the Minister's response to community representations for better car park facilities at the station?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is very supportive of commuters leaving their cars at selected railway stations and travelling by train to their destination. Significant funding has been spent in establishing new and extending existing commuter car parks across the rail network.

Blue Mountains City Council and RailCorp are currently in discussions regarding the disused goods yard being converted to a commuter car park.

- \*3375 FIREWEED MANAGEMENT REVIEW—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) In light of the review into fireweed management when will the Minister respond to the recommendations brought forward by the recommendations of the committee?
- (2) What were the recommendations of the committee?
- (3) Will the report be released?

Answer—

- (1) I am currently reviewing the report and advice given to me.
- (2) and (3) I will decide on the release of the report and recommendations following my review.

- \*3376 FUNDING FOR BEGA VALLEY SHIRE HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

In light of planning funds set aside for Bega Valley Shire Hospital, has the Treasury approved the \$100 million project?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Health.

- \*3377 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to flashing lights in school zones in NSW:

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- (1) How much of the \$46 million for school-flashing lights announced in September 2007 has been spent?
- (2) Who received the contracts for this work?
- (3) What are the locations of the flashing lights that have already been installed?
- (4) How much is allocated in the next 12 months for this vital work?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2007, the Iemma Government committed to a four year \$46.5 million roll out of new-generation flashing light technology and electronic alert systems into school zones in NSW.

51 sites had flashing lights installed over the 6 month period to the end of June 2008. The locations of these sites will be made available on the RTA website.

Information about tenders and tender award winners may be located on the RTA website and the NSW Government tendering website.

\*3378 CANCER PATIENTS—Mr Andrew Fraser asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the number of cancer patients who have sought treatment at the Coffs Harbour Health Campus but have been transferred to another hospital for treatment?
- (2) What is the origin of these patients, broken down into postcode areas?
- (3) What is the amount of IPTAAS payments made to these patients to access treatment elsewhere?
- (4) To which hospitals have these patients been referred?
- (5) What is the number of patients referred to each of these hospitals?
- (6) What is the number of these patients that could have been treated at the Coffs Harbour Health Campus if they had not been transferred?

Answer—

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

(1) Since the service commenced in May 2007, local data indicates 72 people have been transferred elsewhere for radiotherapy treatment. Of these 72 people, 47 were transferred to receive treatment within a shorter timeframe.

(2) The majority of patients were from the Coffs Harbour and Bellingen Shires.

(3) The total amount of IPTAAS payments paid to-date for these patients is \$48,258.53.

(4) and (5) The hospitals that patients were referred to include:

Hospital Referred	Number of patients
Prince Alfred (Brisbane)	10
Mater (Newcastle)	2
Westmead (Sydney)	1
Royal Prince Alfred (Sydney)	5
Wesley (Tugun)	6
St George (Sydney)	3
St Vincents (Sydney)	1
Canberra (ACT)	1
Royal North Shore (Sydney)	13
Prince of Wales (Sydney)	2
Destination Unknown#	28

# Of note, a number of patients were referred directly from their General Practitioner or Specialist and not by the Coffs Harbour Radiation Oncology Unit. Therefore, no record of their destination is available.

(6) Of the 72 people transferred for treatment, 63 were for cancers that are able to be treated at the Coffs Harbour campus. The other 9 patients required complex radiotherapy that is currently only offered at Tertiary Referral Centres.

\*3379 TAFE EQUITY UNITS AND PROGRAMS—Mr Thomas George asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the document entitled "TAFE NSW: Doing Business in the 21st Century":

- (1) Has the Department of Education and Training proposed to abolish the specialist central TAFE Equity Units, including the Disability Programs Unit, Multicultural Unit, Outreach Unit and Women's Unit?
- (2) How does abolishing the specialist TAFE Equity Units and 60% of jobs in the central Equity and Vocational Access Program strengthen support to institutes in equity provision?
- (3) Will the Minister guarantee that equity staff in institutes such as disability teachers/consultants, outreach coordinators, multi-cultural program coordinators and women's programs coordinators, will have a clear line of specialist support and advice in central office to help them deliver quality programs to the institutes?
- (4) Will the Minister guarantee that funds to support Equity and Vocational Access Programs in institutes will not be cut as part of the restructure?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Unit is proposed to replace the functions of the TAFE NSW Equity Units, including the Disability Programs Unit, Multicultural Unit, Outreach Unit and Women's Unit.
- (2) Three senior specialist positions have been established in the Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Unit. Together with other staff in the Unit, the three managers responsible for Disability Services, Cultural Diversity Services and Partnerships and Workforce Participation will provide advice and support to TAFE NSW Institutes and be the point of contact for external agencies and community organisations.
- (3) The proposed Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Unit will be the clear line of specialist support and advice for equity staff in Institutes.
- (4) There is no proposal to reduce funding.

\*3380 NSW GOVERNMENT CAR FLEET—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What percentage of NSW Government car fleet comprises hybrid technology vehicles?
- (2) What is the average score of the NSW Government car fleet on the NSW Clean Car Benchmarks?
- (3) Are V8 vehicles currently available on the NSW Government contracts for non-emergency vehicles?

Answer—

I am advised:

Hybrid vehicles currently represent 1.9% of the NSW Government passenger fleet. This exceeds the Government target of 1%.

As at 1 June 2008, the Environmental Performance Score (EPS) for the NSW Government Fleet was 11.41/20. This represents a 19.5% improvement since the commencement of the initiative. This score would have been higher if the Federal Department of Transport and Administrative Services had not downgraded all EPS for vehicles on 1 January 2006.

The current NSW Government contract for the purchase of motor vehicles does not include V8 passenger vehicles except for emergency services vehicles. The purchase of V8 vehicles is only undertaken when there has been a business case provided and endorsed by the relevant CEO outlining genuine operational reasons.

\*3381 TESTING OF OLDER DRIVERS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many people in the Goulburn electorate were required to undertake the mandatory 85 years and over driving test?
- (2) How many people actually took the test the Goulburn electorate?
- (3) How many people took the test and failed in the seat of Goulburn:
  - (a) on the first occasion;
  - (b) on the second occasion;
  - (c) on the third occasion?
- (4) How many driving instructors are employed in the Goulburn electorate?
- (5) What is the average waiting time for older drivers who wish to be tested?
- (6) (a) Has the waiting time increased in the past 12 months?
  - (b) If so, why?
- (7) What measures have been taken to reduce the waiting times in the Goulburn electorate?



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(8) What are the top 10 reasons for drivers over 85 failing their initial test and subsequent second and third attempt if taken in the Goulburn electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

There were 372 letters issued to aged drivers in the Goulburn electorate in 2007, advising them that a driving test was required.

People in the Goulburn electorate are served by Goulburn and Mittagong motor registries. In 2007 there were 434 drivers aged 85 and over who undertook the driving test in the two registries. It should be noted that this figure may also include older drivers from outside the electorate.

Of the 434 older drivers who undertook the test at Goulburn and Mittagong motor registries in 2007, 196 failed on their first attempt, 52 failed on their second attempt and nine failed on their third attempt. Some aged drivers decide not to re-attempt the driving test after the first or second attempts.

The driving instructors who train, prepare and present drivers for a driving test are private operators and as such, are not employed by the Roads and Traffic Authority or other government agency.

The average waiting time in the Goulburn electorate is under nine days. Driving test waiting times increase and decrease with seasonal variations. They are targeted to be kept within 15 days.

Increasing resources and expanding testing times as well as improved rostering techniques have been employed to reduce waiting times.

The top ten reasons for failing the aged driving test include:

- (i) Disobeying traffic signs, signals or road markings;
- (ii) Frequently not performing observation checks;
- (iii) Exceeding the speed limit;
- (iv) Performing an illegal act or manoeuvre;
- (v) Failing to give way when necessary;
- (vi) Action requiring testing officer intervention;
- (vii) Frequently not signalling intention;
- (viii) Causing dangerous situation;
- (ix) Colliding with a vehicle, pedestrian or object;
- (x) Failing to maintain proper control of the vehicle.

\*3382 WIND ENERGY—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) What price does Country Energy and Energy Australia pay producers of wind energy in New South Wales to feed energy into the grid?
- (2) If this information is commercial in confidence then what percentage price is the wind energy paid at in comparison with coal power in New South Wales?
- (3) How does the tariff paid to wind energy generators compare with retail tariffs paid by commercial and household customers?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Transactions between electricity retailers and electricity generators, regardless of fuel type, are generally confidential arrangements.

However the Inquiry into Electricity Supply in NSW, that was carried out by Professor Anthony D. Owen, found that the total cost of ultra-critical pulverised fuel coal is approximately \$35 per Megawatt hour (MWh). In comparison, the Inquiry found that the total cost of wind generation is in the range of \$75 to \$90 MWh.

(3) It is difficult to compare the tariff paid to electricity generators, regardless of fuel type, with the retail tariffs paid by end use customers. This is largely because the retail tariffs include several elements, not just generation costs.

In the 2007-2010 Electricity Retail Determination, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) noted that retail tariffs can be broken down into the following cost components:

- Generation Costs - 40%
- Network - Transmission & Distribution Costs - 47%
- Retail Costs - 13%

- \*3383 ENVIRONMENT FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In light of the Rudd Government's budget cut to environment funding announced in this year's budget to NSW from \$99 million in 2007-08 to \$53 million by the 2011-12 financial year, what is the Minister doing to make up this shortfall in funding to the environment budget?

Answer—

Questions about Federal funding should be addressed to the Federal Government.

This question appears to refer to the funding arrangement under the Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country Program. The NSW Government has announced \$25.9 million for a new natural resource management investment program called Catchment Action NSW. This is in addition to the \$40 million in ongoing operational funding already allocated to the State's Catchment Management Authorities.

In 2008/9 the Commonwealth and State Governments will also be investing a further \$61.76 million drawing on funding that was held back because the drought has reduced opportunities for some land restoration projects.

This total funding will enable the Catchment Management Authorities to continue to deliver on the State Plan's 13 State-wide natural resource management targets under priority E4.

- \*3384 UNDERAGE DRINKING—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many charges for underage drinking have been laid against how many people in relation to incidents in Goulburn since the beginning of this year?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

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

- \*3385 OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE WORK—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What public schools in the Goulburn electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Department of Education?
- (2) What is the outstanding work?
- (3) When is each work scheduled for completion?

Answer—

Maintenance in schools across the State is an ongoing activity, constantly delivered throughout the year through a comprehensive suite of initiatives designed to best meet a range of circumstances:

- Preventative Maintenance is regular work performed by a contractor to keep specific building elements and equipment in good repair.
- Programmed Maintenance is work based on items that are picked up in the bi-annual condition assessments of each school. Annual maintenance plans are developed by schools in conjunction with their local Asset Management Unit.
- Essential Urgent Repairs are maintenance works undertaken immediately by the contractor if required by the school, with the school contributing up to its specific contribution limit.
- The Extra Maintenance Program is a four year statewide program aimed at injecting additional funding into priority areas.

The Department of Education and Training continues to work with Principals and school communities to identify priority projects to deliver safe, well-maintained learning environments for the students of New South Wales.

- \*3386 RESPITE BEDS—WAKEHURST—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) What number of respite beds are there in Wakehurst?
- (2) What are the addresses of the respite facilities in Wakehurst?

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(3) How many beds are blocked and on what date did they become blocked?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care holds information by Local Planning Area. I am advised in the Northern Sydney Local Planning Area 38 respite beds operated by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and 17 respite beds operated by the non-government sector including 2 emergency beds that may be accessed by constituents of Wakehurst.

I am further advised there are 14 respite beds operated by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care; and five respite beds operated by The Spastic Centre in the Wakehurst part of the Northern Sydney Local Planning Area.

(2) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care-operated respite facilities in Wakehurst are:

Dee Why Children's Respite - Lynwood Avenue  
Forestville Children's Respite - Angophora Crescent  
Wheeler Heights Respite (Adults) - Heather Street  
The Spastic Centre-operated respite unit is:  
South Creek Road, Dee Why.

(3) I am advised there are no unavailable beds in Wakehurst.

\*3387 FUNDING FOR RESPITE FACILITIES—WAKEHURST—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

What has been the actual:

- (a) budget;
- (b) funds expended

on each respite facility in Wakehurst in each of the last 3 years?

Answer—

(a) The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) holds information by Local Planning Area.

I am advised that budget figures for respite facilities in the Northern Sydney LPA and state seat of Wakehurst are:

Dee Why Children's Respite, Lynwood Avenue -  
2005/06 - \$498,289  
2006/07 - \$534,333  
2007/08 - \$561,544  
Forestville Children's Respite, Angophora Crescent -  
2005/06 - \$478,029  
2006/07 - \$511,603  
2007/08 - \$615,585  
Wheeler Heights Respite (Adults), Heather Street -  
2005/06 - \$482,989  
2006/07 - 494,018  
2007/08 - 678,204  
The Spastic Centre-operated respite unit, South Creek Road, Dee Why -  
2005/06 - n/a  
2006/07 - \$364,403  
2007/08 - \$315,839

(b) I am advised expended funds are:

Dee Why Children's Respite, Lynwood Avenue -  
2005/06 - \$466,550  
2006/07 - \$512,339  
2007/08 - \$603,574  
Forestville Children's Respite, Angophora Crescent -  
2005/06 - \$474,034  
2006/07 - \$605,862  
2007/08 - \$552,781  
Wheeler Heights Respite (Adults), Heather Street -

2005/06 - \$583,235

2006/07 - \$661,120

2007/08 - \$576,433

DADHC is unable to provide information on funds expended for the non-government operated facility.

\*3388 NARRABEEN LAKE—CATCHMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

(1) What is the Minister doing to deliver on the promise by the Hon. Bob Debus to conserve the catchment of Narrabeen Lake?

(2) Will the Minister honour the promise by former Minister Debus and if so when?

Answer—

(1) The Department of Lands is currently finalising a brief for the engagement of an appropriate consultant to undertake the planning process.

(2) Yes. A draft plan of management should be ready for public exhibition in early 2009.

\*3389 DIALYSED BEDS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

(1) When will the Minister ensure the promised 6 dialysed beds are operative at Mona Vale Hospital?

(2) What is the actual date these beds will be opened?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Following extensive stakeholder consultation, a suitable site within the main building of Mona Vale Hospital has been identified for establishment of a 6-chair renal dialysis unit. The concept design for the proposed location has been approved by key stakeholders, including clinicians.

\*3390 MENTAL HEALTH BEDS—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

Does the Minister have any plans to provide mental health beds for adolescents on the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

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

On the Northern Beaches, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are currently provided both to Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals, and in the neighbouring community.

The Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, mental health planning 2005 – 2016, includes a purpose built 12 bed Area-wide Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Inpatient Unit, at Hornsby Hospital.

\*3391 HOME OWNERS WARRANTY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

(1) Has the Minister received advice from consumers that the current home owners warranty is not working satisfactorily?

(2) If so, how many such expressions of concern has the Minister had in the last 12 months?

(3) If so, what are the main causes of concern?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

(1) The Office of Fair Trading is able to investigate complaints about insurers approved under the Home Building Act 1989, to provide home warranty insurance in New South Wales. A complaint means an alleged breach or failure by an insurer (including an intermediary or service provider of an insurer) to comply with the legislative requirements or its conditions of approval to operate in the NSW home warranty market including the market practice guidelines, claims handling guidelines or any other condition imposed by the Minister.

Insurers are required to have in place effective internal complaint handling mechanisms. Fair Trading can only become involved in a complaint about an insurer following the completion of the insurer's internal dispute resolution process and where the insurer has been unable to appropriately resolve the complaint.

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- (2) Since 1 January 2007, the Office of Fair Trading has received 13 complaints in relation to insurers; ten complaints from consumers and three from builders.
- (3) The main causes of concern for consumers are time delays and decisions on claims. Consumers concerned about the decision on a claim and whether the rectification method is appropriate can lodge an application with the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal for a review of the insurers settlement offer.

Builders are concerned about recovery proceedings, whether they are given the opportunity to rectify and whether the insurer's rectifications costs are accurate.

\*3392 PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

What number of additional public homes will be provided in the next:

- (a) 1 year;  
(b) 2 years;  
(c) 3 years?

Answer—

Housing NSW's long-term asset planning involves building or acquiring 12,000 homes over the next 10 years.

\*3393 STAPHYLOCOCCUS PATIENTS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients suffered staphylococcus in Manly Hospital in each of the last 5 years?  
(2) How many of them were considered to have contracted the condition in Manly Hospital?

Answer—

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

- (1) and (2) The data sought is not routinely reported as healthcare associated staphylococcus infection and colonisation has not been a clinical indicator during the time in question.

\*3394 DEATHS IN MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many deaths occurred in Manly Hospital in each of the last 5 years?  
(2) How many were attributable to errors in provision of services by health care professionals?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1)

Year	Number of deaths in Many Hospital
2003	227
2004	252
2005	227
2006	230
2007	241

Most deaths in Australia occur in hospitals. They include death from cancer, motor vehicle accident and heart attack, amongst others.

(2) The NSW Department of Health is committed to public reporting and has published annual reports on incident management since 2004. There is now a commitment to publish these reports every six months in collaboration with the Clinical Excellence Commission.

The most recent report, Incident Management in the NSW Public Health System 2007 January-June is available for public access at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/incident\\_management.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2007/incident_management.html) and the website at <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/documents.html>

\*3395 REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT 1993—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) (a) As noted on page 79 of the NSW Ombudsman Report of Renewable Deaths in 2006 Volume 2: Child Deaths, has DoCS actually made the recommendations for improvements to reporting that, as was stated to the NSW Ombudsman, were to be made in late 2007?  
(b) If so, on what date were these recommendations made?  
(2) (a) Has the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NSW Police Force referred to in this

recommendation been completed and implemented?

(b) If not, when does the Minister anticipate that this MOU will come into force?

Answer—

Work is under way and continues between NSW Police and DoCS to improve reporting.

\*3396 POLICE PROSECUTOR—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What steps is the Minister for Police taking to employ a rural police prosecutor with a good knowledge of rural crime to assist in the successful prosecution of stock theft cases?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Prosecutors have an overall independent understanding of the law. Information received from a Rural Crime Investigator or an informant greatly assists a prosecutor on a specific rural criminal matter.

\*3397 MAIN ROAD 54—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How much of State Road 54, Goulburn to Bathurst remains to be sealed?
- (2) When will the Roads and Traffic Authority allocate funding to seal this road?
- (3) When will the entire length of this road be sealed?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$846,000 provided in the 2006/07 NSW budget was used to seal approximately 1 km, and to undertake preparatory work on a further 3km of the road. \$715,000 was provided in 2007/08 to seal an additional 2km of road.

A further \$500,000 has been budgeted in 2008/09. This will deliver an additional 1km of sealing of more expensive works through rougher terrain.

The NSW Government is committed to maintaining the road asset and improving road safety and in 2008/09 will allocate Upper Lachlan Shire Council over \$3.2 million for work on State and Regional Roads.

\*3398 PROGRAMS TO COMBAT PROBLEM GAMBLING—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What projects are available to combat problem gambling?
- (2) Where are these available?
- (3) Are there information packs available for non-government organisations and Government facilities that deal with people with gambling problems?

Answer—

This matter falls within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister for Gaming and Racing and the question should be re-directed accordingly.

\*3399 RAILWAY STATION CAR PARKS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the expansion of Gosford rail commuter car park be commenced?
- (2) How many car spaces are there currently in the car park?
- (3) How many extra spaces will be provided by the increase?
- (4) When will the rail car park at Hornsby railway station have its car spaces increased to meet rising demand with more trains allegedly commencing and completing their journeys at Hornsby?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Gosford Station precinct is currently undergoing major upgrading work as part of the Gosford Stabling Project. A recent audit undertaken by RailCorp indicates that there are over 1000 spaces within the Council owned car parks surrounding Gosford Station.

The Federal Government has committed funding to expand the Gosford commuter carpark.

The Hornsby Station Platform 5 and Stabling Project is part of the NSW Government's Rail Clearways

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Program, designed to improve capacity and reliability on the metropolitan rail network.

Upon completion of the project there will be approximately 475 commuter car spaces available.

\*3400 HOUSING POLICIES—LOCAL COUNCILS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)

- (1) How many councils in NSW have a "homeless" policy?
- (2) How many have an "affordable housing" policy?
- (3) Which councils have one or both of these policies?

Answer—

Such matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister for Housing, the Honourable Matt Brown MP. However, I am able to provide the following information in response to your questions:

- (1) NSW councils are free to develop policies on the homeless according to local need. The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW have prepared a Model Policy on Homelessness to assist councils in this regard.

The Honourable Member may also wish to direct these questions to the Minister for Housing if she would like further information, as the Centre for Affordable Housing is the lead agency for the Government's response to affordable housing.

\*3401 ALLEGED ASSAULT BY TEACHER—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Following an urgent representation on 4 February 2008 regarding an alleged assault by a teacher at a local school in the Hornsby electorate, that remains unanswered, when will the Minister be responding to the concerns of the parents?

Answer—

I am advised a reply has been sent.

\*3402 SYDNEY WATER CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR WATER USERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

- (1) Did Sydney Water formerly have a body which consulted with major water users and customers?
- (2) If so, what was the name of the body and when was that body created and when did it cease to exist?
- (3) Why did it cease to exist?
- (4) Which organisations were represented on the body?
- (5) Is the Minister prepared to reconstitute the body and include organisations such as the Nursery and Garden Industry Association?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Sydney Water Corporation (SWC) supports a number of consultative and advisory groups.

Two of SWC's established groups are the Corporate Customer Council and the Commercial and Industrial Customer Forum. These groups provide input on a range of policy, planning and service decision-making processes. Group members include representatives from peak organisations that bring a wealth of environmental and business experience, and include major water users. However, the evolving nature of urban water matters means that new groups are established, and others cease to function, when and as appropriate and required.

Given businesses use almost one-third of Sydney's total water usage, Sydney Water has also developed its Every Drop Counts (EDC) Business Program to assist businesses to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into their processes. Over 385 of the biggest water users have voluntarily joined Sydney Water's EDC Business Program to realise combined savings of around 37 million litres of water each day.

- (2) to (5) No single body is used to consult with major water users and customers.

\*3403 PUBLIC HOUSING—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many dwellings have been recently purchased in the Hornsby electorate for occupation by

Department of Housing residents and at what cost?

- (2) Where are they located?
- (3) When will these dwellings be ready for occupation?
- (4) How many dwellings in the Hornsby electorate are unoccupied and how long have they been unoccupied?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Housing NSW recently purchased a complex of ten units in the Hornsby electorate at a cost of \$1.792 million.

(3) All units are currently occupied.

(4) The number of Housing NSW properties that are vacant in any area changes on a daily basis as houses are vacated by tenants, are cleaned and repaired ready for the next tenant as is required under the Residential Tenancies Act, and are then reoccupied.

\*3404 TRANSIT POLICE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many Transit Police are assigned to the Newcastle and Hunter rail network?
- (2) Has the introduction of Transit Police been a success?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) The Broadmeadow Commuter Crime Unit (CCU), which patrols the Newcastle/Hunter rail network, has an authorised strength of 21 officers. This Unit is also supported in the south by Brisbane Water CCU.
- (2) Yes. Transit Police/CCUs have been operating successfully for over twenty years.

\*3405 MIRANDA LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many of the new police graduates will be, or are now, part of the sworn police staff of the Miranda Local Area Command?
- (2) What were the police numbers before this allocation?
- (3) What are current police numbers in this Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Miranda Local Area Command has been allocated eight Probationary Constables from the latest attesting class on 9 May 2008.
- (2) and (3) Details of police numbers at Local Area Commands are posted on the NSW Police Force internet site, [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)

\*3406 JUVENILE CONFERENCE PROGRAM—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—

- (1) How many youths are or have been involved in a juvenile conference in the Cronulla electorate?
- (2) What is the success rate of this program?
- (3) What is the rate of recidivism in the Cronulla electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) For the period 1 January 2006 to 13 June 2008 there have been approximately five young people involved in YJC conferences in the Cronulla electorate.
- (2) Youth Justice Conferencing has a high level of success, with the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research reporting that 42 per cent of offenders who complete conferences do not go on to re-offend within a five-year period. (Source: BOCSAR study Re-offending among young people cautioned by the police or who participated in a youth justice conference, October 2006.)
- (3) Recidivism data is collected on a statewide basis by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) and is not available by electorate.

\*3407 FLASHING SPEED WARNING SIGNS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many schools in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area have flashing speed warning signs



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erected?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has installed flashing lights at five locations within the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area. These five flashing lights sites cover the following eight schools:

- Annangrove Public School
- The Kings School
- Burnside Primary School
- Redeemer Baptist School
- Cumberland High School
- Glenhaven Public School
- Model Farms High School
- St Bernadette's Primary School.

\*3408 NSW MARITIME—STAFF MORALE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) What staff surveys have been conducted of staff within NSW Maritime since 2000?
- (2) How have survey results indicated a declining staff morale?
- (3) What key performance indicators are kept in NSW Maritime to measure morale?

Answer—

- (1) Three staff surveys have been conducted since 2000.
- (2) and (3) The surveys are prepared by external consultants. In the 2007 survey the consultants concluded "7 in 10 would recommend NSW Maritime as an employer to a friend which is a key indicator of a healthy organisation".

\*3409 BELL FAMILY JETTY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

With respect to Question 2521 regarding the Bell Family jetty:

- (1) Did the tenure for the jetty expire when Mr Bell senior died, when Mrs Bell died, or at any other time in the past?
- (2) If the tenure has been reinstated, why was this done and by whom?
- (3) Is it proposed that the new structure described in the DA will have shared public access?

Answer—

(1) and (2) A previous lease for the jetty was terminated in 2004. Development consent for rebuilding the jetty was granted in 2007. A new lease is currently being negotiated. The issuing and/or termination of leases is a standard business practice.

(3) The proposal in the DA was to rebuild the existing structure. There will be pedestrian access to the foreshore over the landward end of the private facility.

\*3410 TENDERS FOR OUTBOARD ENGINES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- (1) In the first half of 2006, or at any other time, did anyone from NSW Maritime exert pressure on Honda or any dealer to abstain from bidding or quoting on new outboard engines?
- (2) Who quoted against Buxton Marine for supply of outboard engines to NSW Maritime in the first half of 2006?
- (3) If Buxton Marine was not an accredited supplier of Honda at the time, in what capacity did they quote?
- (4) Who won the tender for two new outboard engines in around April/May 2006, and why?

Answer—

(1) No. Similar matters were part of a complaint to ICAC. The ICAC determined it would take no further action in relation to the complaint.

(2) NSW Maritime received quotes from six marine dealers for the supply of outboard engines in the first half of 2006.

(3) Not Applicable.

(4) Based on quotations received, engines were purchased from Kroboats and Buxton Marine.

\*3411 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Will the Minister respond to the following correspondence:

- (a) Saunders, ref: MIN07/3584, sent 26 November 2007 and two follow-ups sent since;
- (b) Schaeche, ref: MIN07/3090, sent 6 August 2007, and one follow-up sent since?

Answer—

I have responded to the correspondence in question.

\*3412 OXLEY HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is the progress of the final two acquisitions for the Oxley Highway corridor upgrade?
- (2) What is the reason for the rise in the past twelve months of the overall expected cost of the Oxley Highway upgrade to almost double its expected cost in the previous year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is currently negotiating with land owners over outstanding property acquisitions.

The Oxley Highway upgrade was announced in 2002 and the estimated cost was \$80 million in 2002 dollars. Since this time road construction costs in NSW have been increasing at between 6-15 % per annum.

As the project is no longer being undertaken in stages, this means the full project is now scheduled for completion in 2011.

I am advised the Oxley Highway upgrade will improve road safety and provide shorter travel times for motorists travelling from Wauchope and surrounding areas into Port Macquarie.

\*3413 3A APPLICATION—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Does the consent of a landowner need to be given before a part 3A application can be considered by the State?
- (2) If so, does consent 'subject to approval' qualify as enough for consideration?

Answer—

(1) The consent of the relevant landowner(s) is required before the Minister for Planning can determine an application under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, unless:

- (a) the application is made by a public authority; or
- (b) the application relates to a critical infrastructure project; or
- (c) the application relates to a mining or petroleum production project; or
- (d) the application relates to a linear infrastructure project; or
- (e) the application relates to a project on land with multiple owners designated by the Director-General of the Department of Planning.

(2) Yes.

\*3414 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT REFORMS—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What assurances and safeguards will be provided to prevent the concept of biobanking being exploited by Government and developers now that the Government has voted against the concept of biodiversity neutrality being a codified part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act reforms?
- (2) What assurances and safeguards will be provided to prevent negative impacts on climate change from Government and developers now that the Government has voted against the concept of climate change neutrality being a codified part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act reforms?
- (3) What assurances and safeguards will be provided to prevent negative impacts on energy management by Government and developers now that the Government has voted against the concept of energy neutrality being a codified part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act reforms?

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- (4) What assurances and safeguards will be provided to prevent negative impacts on catchment action plans by Government and developers now that the Government has voted against the concept of catchment management being a codified part of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act reforms?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Adequate provisions are included in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, strengthened by the proposed reforms, to ensure that biodiversity, climate change, energy management and catchment management issues are appropriately considered on their merits in planning strategies and development applications.

\*3415 PORT MACQUARIE HOSPITAL—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the progress of a cardiac catheterisation unit for Port Macquarie?  
(2) What is the progress of the Port Macquarie Hospital Masterplan upgrade, including progress on the fourth wing and the emergency department and intensive care unit improvements identified by the Premier as a priority when the hospital was bought back to the public network in February 2005?

Answer—

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

- (1) A future Cardiac Catheter Laboratory is identified in the Port Macquarie Base Hospital Site Master Plan that was completed in August 2006. North Coast Area Health Service has been working with clinicians and has prepared documentation to assess the need for the service cardiac catheterisation services at Port Macquarie, and examine possible options.  
(2) A number of major developments have occurred at Port Macquarie Base Hospital in line with the Master Plan including the new Integrated Cancer Care Centre, a new 12 bed gazetted Mental Health facility, the development of a Renal Dialysis Unit and upgrade of the Central Sterilising Department.

North Coast Area Health Service is examining an extension to the Port Macquarie Base Hospital Emergency Department.

The Fourth Pod at Port Macquarie Base Hospital remains a high priority in line with the Master Plan. This project will be considered along with other competing priorities across the State when determining funding priorities for the forward capital works program.

\*3416 DIESEL-FIRED POWER PLANTS—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) How many power plants in New South Wales are diesel-fired?  
(2) If any, where are they located and what size are they?

Answer—

- (1) One.  
(2) The National Electricity Market Management Company (NEMMCO) website has these details.

\*3417 COUNCIL LAND SALES—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) What are the guidelines for councils on doing "direct deals" over land sales and can these guidelines be clearly spelt out?  
(2) If there is a choice between an open tender process or a direct deal, does the department have a preferred approach when land sales are being considered by a local authority and if one is preferred, what is the rationale for that preference?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government recently directed all NSW councils to obtain an assessment of the fair value of all operational land in their possession.

All councils were required to establish the fair value of all operational land by 30 June 2008. Generally, an independent qualified valuer will undertake this assessment.

This valuation will assess the market value of the land after identifying all elements that would be taken into account by buyers and by the council in setting a sale price.

- (2) Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993 specifically excludes council land sales and purchases

from the tendering requirements of the Act.

Therefore, there is no requirement for Council to undertake a tendering process for land sales.

\*3418 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Robert Oakeshott asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will the Minister respond to the following correspondence:

- (a) Prasad, ref: M07/4998, sent 23 July 2007, and 4 follow-ups sent since;
- (b) Woolmer, ref: M07/4529, sent 3 July 2007 and 4 follow-ups since;
- (c) Greater Taree City Council, ref: M07/5335, sent 6 August 2007 and 3 follow-ups since;
- (d) Bassett, ref: M07/4499, sent 2 July 2007 and 3 follow-ups sent since;
- (e) Stimson, ref: M07/4306, sent 21 June 2007 and 3 follow-ups since?

Answer—

I am advised responses to all the nominated items of correspondence have been issued.

\*3420 RIPPLE STRIPS—PACIFIC HIGHWAY—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) (a) Have the identical type of ripple strips used on the Pacific Highway at Ocean Shores been used in other urban areas in New South Wales?
  - (b) If so, where?
  - (c) If not, why were these ripple strips installed in an urban area without sound walls on a road where the speed limit is 110km per hour and the road is constantly used by heavy vehicles including B-doubles?
- (2) (a) Does the RTA plan to use these ripple strips in other urban areas without sound walls on roads subject to heavy vehicle movements?
  - (b) If so, where would those ripple strips be used again in NSW?
- (3) Has the draft report on noise levels in the Ocean Shores area been completed yet?
- (4) When will this report be released to the public?
- (5) Do the noise levels measured comply with the permitted levels in the EIS for the Brunswick Heads to Yelgun upgrade?
- (6) (a) Does the RTA intend to either remove the ripple strips or build noise mitigation structures to reduce noise levels in the Ocean Shores area?
  - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

Audible profile (ripple strips) line marking has been used in other urban areas in New South Wales. These include Picton Road, between Picton and Wollongong and Appin Road, Appin. It has also been used on the F3 Freeway in a 110 kilometre per hour speed zone where noise walls have been installed.

This type of line marking is used to provide audible and visual warnings that vehicles are moving out of a through lane. In a high speed environment, it can assist in preventing accidents by alerting drivers of vehicles that wander out of the lane or off the roadway.

The RTA is committed to the safety of all road users. It considers current standards in road design along with community and environmental impacts in determining features for individual projects.

The report on operational noise in the Ocean Shores area will be made available to residents shortly.

\*3421 ACUTE CARE BEDS—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that in his 2008/09 Budget speech, the Treasurer announced "\$49 million for the full year cost of an additional 180 acute care beds added in November to ease the pressure on the busiest emergency departments" and that a submission to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services by a medical professional stated that the Tweed Hospital Emergency Department regularly reaches occupancy levels of 108%:

- (1) Does the Minister agree that the Tweed Hospital urgently needs additional beds to alleviate the pressure?
- (2) How many of the 180 acute care beds will be allocated to the NCAHS?
- (3) How many of the 180 acute care beds will be allocated to the Tweed Hospital?

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(4) If none, why not?

Answer—

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

(1) to (4) 16 acute care beds were announced in the 2008/09 Budget for the North Coast Area Health Service.

\*3422 TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that North Coast Area Health Service CEO Chris Crawford told ABC News that the extra \$37 million in budget funding to the North Coast Area Health Service would 'mean more hospital beds and better services':

(1) What service improvements can the Tweed Hospital expect from this extra funding?

(2) When is it expected that these service improvements will be made?

(3) (a) Given the shortage of midwives, dentists and other frontline medical staff at the Tweed Hospital, does the 2008/2009 Budget contain provisions for the employment of more medical staff at the Tweed Hospital?

(b) If yes, how much funding has been allocated and what additional positions have been created?

(c) If not, why not?

Answer—

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

(1) to (3) The North Coast Area Health Service is working with hospitals, services and clinical managers to determine the allocation of new funding that will be provided to all North Coast Area Health Service entities.

\*3423 TRAIN SERVICES—TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given that the Deputy Premier advised during his 2005 visit to the Tweed that RailCorp's Hunter rolling stock would not be given to the Tweed-Murwillumbah rail line as they were still required on the Hunter line, but noting that these rolling stock are no longer needed on the Hunter line as they are being offered for sale on the RailCorp website (reference: RFT 08/07002):

(1) (a) Will the Minister allocate these rolling stock to the Tweed-Murwillumbah rail line?

(b) If yes, when?

(c) If not, why not?

(2) (a) Will the Minister provide funding for the restoration of the Tweed-Murwillumbah rail line?

(b) If yes, when?

(c) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Ministry of Transport has been asked to advise the Government regarding long term transport strategies for the region.

A Cross Border Transport Taskforce has been established which comprises the Directors General of the NSW Ministry of Transport and the Queensland Department of Transport to examine this issue.

A joint Queensland/NSW discussion paper, examining ways to meet the existing and future transport needs of the region, was released last year and submissions received.

The recommendations proposed by the Task Force, following this period of public consultation, are now being considered.

\*3424 DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM NELSON PARADE, HUNTERS HILL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

(1) Given that the Minister for Health has advised (question 2824) that "contaminated waste soil and materials removed from (Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill) are proposed to be safely disposed of to a landfill licensed to accept industrial waste", and that the SITA Environmental site in Kemp's Creek is

the only Sydney landfill licensed to accept industrial waste, is it the Minister's intention to dispose of radioactive waste from Nelson Parade there?

(2) If not, where does the Minister intend to dispose of radioactive waste from Nelson Parade?

Answer—

- (1) Excavated material from any remediation at properties at Nelson Parade will need to be assessed according to established guidelines and then disposed of, or stored, according to requirements regulated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Waste from the Nelson Parade site would only be able to be disposed of to a licensed landfill that can lawfully accept the material. As the remediation and final assessment of the waste material has not yet occurred, further information on the actual sites cannot be provided.
- (2) See the response to (1).

\*3425 CASTLEREAGH LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL DEPOT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Why did the Minister reply to Question 2823 that "no material taken from the Hunters Hill site (Nelson Parade) as part of the remediation will be taken to Castlereagh as this facility is no longer an operational landfill," when the Minister for Planning had replied to Question 2296 that "waste from a remediation site that is inert waste may be disposed of at the Castlereagh Liquid Waste Disposal Depot site with development consent"?
- (2) Who is right about Castlereagh being an operational landfill - the Minister for Planning or the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment?

Answer—

- (1) The Castlereagh facility is no longer an operational landfill. The facility is able to receive some waste of a quality suitable for rehabilitation works for the site. No waste will go to Castlereagh from the clean up of Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill.
- (2) Both ministerial answers are correct.

\*3426 ALEXANDRA CANAL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

- (1) Did the NSW Government commit \$4.2 million in 2001 to restore the Alexandra Canal?
- (2) Was the money used for its intended purpose?
- (3) What specific sites were restored using these funds?
- (4) What specific restoration work was carried out?
- (5) How much will it cost to restore the heritage listed sandstone walls that line the canal?

Answer—

This matter is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

\*3427 SOUTH EASTERN SYDNEY ILLAWARRA AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much money did the Government announce would be invested for health services and infrastructure in South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service at the time the 2007-2008 budget was brought down?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my 2007/08 budget media releases of 19 June 2007 available on the NSW Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

\*3428 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much money did the Government announce would be invested for health services and infrastructure in Greater Southern Area Health Service at the time the 2007-2008 budget was brought down?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my 2007/08 budget media releases of 19 June 2007 available on the NSW Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

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\*3429 NORTHERN SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE FUNDING—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

How much money did the Government announce would be invested for health services and infrastructure in Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service at the time the 2007-2008 budget was brought down?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my 2007/08 budget media releases of 19 June 2007 available on the NSW Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

\*3430 MONA VALE ROAD UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Are there any current plans for road works or upgrades to Mona Vale Road in the next 12 months?
- (2) If so, what are the details of these plans?

Answer—

I am advised Mona Vale Road is identified in the State Infrastructure Strategy 2008-09 to 2017-18.

The Roads and Traffic Authority will be undertaking road pavement rehabilitation of Mona Vale Road between Forest Way and Richmond Ave to improve ride quality. Work is expected to be completed by October 2008, weather permitting.

\*3431 DIALYSIS PATIENTS—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

How many patients that received renal dialysis treatment at Royal North Shore Hospital between January 2007 and January 2008 were residents of the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

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

For the calendar year 2007 (January 2007 to January 2008), 40 individual patients resident in the Northern Beaches received dialysis treatment at Royal North Shore Hospital.

\*3432 YEAR 12 GRADUATES—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many students from schools in the Pittwater electorate graduated from Year 12 in 2006?
- (2) How many students from schools in the Pittwater electorate graduated from Year 12 in 2007?

Answer—

- (1) 425 students.
- (2) 431 students.

\*3433 CROWN LAND—RIVER STREET, MACKSVILLE—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

In relation to Crown Land on River Street, Macksville (between the Star Hotel and the Salvation Army), which has previously been used as a carpark:

- (1) Was this land recently sold by the Government?
- (2) If so, given that this land was previously earmarked for a possible police station/courthouse redevelopment, what were the reasons for the decision to sell?
- (3) If so, was there any public consultation or notification in relation to the proposal to sell the land?

Answer—

The land has been identified as Lot 1 DP 580564 and Lot 2 DP 328797 standing in the name of the State Property Authority. Your question should therefore be directed to the Hon John Watkins MP, Minister for Transport and Minister for Finance, as the Minister responsible for the State Property Authority.

\*3434 BUS SERVICES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to bus services in NSW:

- (1) What is the Government doing to guarantee parity of wages for country drivers with their metropolitan counterparts?
- (2) Will the Government extend the 131500 Transport Infoline to include public transport options in rural and regional areas?

Answer—

- (1) On 10 June 2008, I issued a media release which read:

Deputy Premier and Transport Minister John Watkins today announced that the Lemma Government would fund a seven per cent wage increase for rural and regional bus drivers.

The wage increase is part of the recently announced new contracting and funding arrangements for rural and regional bus services.

"This is good news for rural and regional bus drivers, of course, but also for their passengers and the communities they serve," Mr Watkins said.

"The new rural and regional bus contracts will be progressively rolled out from July 2008, and they'll incorporate additional responsibilities for bus drivers.

"Some of these are tasks that drivers are already performing such as pre-departure safety checks and appropriate management of school student behaviour.

"Under the new contracts, drivers will also play an enhanced role in areas such as improved reporting on operational performance, complaints handling and customer information."

Mr Watkins said the wage increase recognised that bus drivers all across NSW perform an essential service, often in quite difficult operating environments.

"Over recent years rural and regional bus drivers have had to take on increased responsibilities, including occupational health and safety and accreditation requirements," Mr Watkins said.

"New contracts add further responsibilities which are essentially about enhancing the safety, reliability and adequacy of bus operations.

"That's why it's appropriate to extend the Bus Industry Reform Allowance – given to metro drivers as part of bus reform in 2005 to outer metro drivers in 2006 – to rural and regional bus operations.

"This will also help deal with the driver shortage which is a very real problem for many rural and regional operators.

"Under new contracts all rural and regional bus drivers will be paid the allowance, at a cost of over \$58 million over seven years."

Minister Watkins said base wage rates would increase as new contracts were signed, with back payment to 1 July 2008.

"Funding arrangements under the new contracts will include a labour rate adjustment mechanism to be applied annually, and funding to operators will increase in line with this, with award or agreement negotiations then a matter for those directly involved," Mr Watkins said.

"Funding operators for the seven per cent wage increase will, along with other enhanced contractual provisions, help to ensure sustainable bus services and provide certainty for rural and regional communities into the future.

"Families, schools and communities in rural and regional NSW depend on their local bus service transporting students safely to and from school on a daily basis.

"Bus drivers are at the heart of this essential service so it's important that we recognise their efforts by paying them appropriately.

"Adequate reimbursement for drivers combined with greater financial security for operators means peace of mind for hard working rural and regional families."

- (2) As the Honourable Member should be aware, the Transport Infoline 131 500 includes the Country Transport Database, which contains timetable information for bus and train services across rural and regional NSW.

\*3435 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In the Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-68, 5-69 and 5-70 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

I am advised:

Funds for works are not allocated on an electorate basis.



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\*3436 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In the Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-54, 5-55 and 5-87 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) These major works-in-progress are primarily statewide programs and funding is not allocated on an electorate basis.

\*3437 BUDGET ALLOCATION— ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In the Budget Paper No. 4 at pages 5-41, 5-83 and 5-84 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the electorate of Myall Lakes?
- (2) If so, what works are in the electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

Budget Paper No. 4 at Page 5-83 and Page 5-84

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A complete breakdown of the items listed as "various" in Budget Paper Number 4 has not been done for each electorate. In the 2008-09 State Budget, the amount allocated to the Electorate of Myall Lakes for public housing works and asset improvement is \$2.45 million and community housing is \$0.46 million.

\*3438 BUSHFIRE HAZARDS—BURGESS ROAD FORSTER—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) Did Great Lakes Council advise ratepayers of 65-79 (inclusive) Burgess Road Forster that the section of reserve opposite those properties was identified as bushfire prone?
- (2) (a) Did Great Lakes Council receive a report dated September 2007 from Eco Logical Pty Ltd concerning the issue of bushfire hazards in Burgess Road Forster?
  - (b) If so, did such a report show the study area for assessing bushfire prone land was from 27 Burgess Road to the southern end of Burgess Road?
  - (c) If so, why was the study area in the report enlarged from the area previously classed as fire prone land mentioned in (1) hereof?
- (3) Who from the Council commissioned the report?
- (4) (a) Was that report signed by any person from Eco Logical Pty Ltd?
  - (b) If so, by whom?
  - (c) If not, who was responsible for the preparation of the report?
- (5) (a) Was the report released to those people affected by bushfire hazards at Burgess Road Forster?
  - (b) If not, why not?
- (6) If a report dated September 2007 was received pursuant to clause 1, hereof, did it say inter alia in its conclusion: "The level of bushfire attack on the site is classified as extreme with the existing APZ along Burgess Road according to PBP. Under current legislation for new dwellings this APZ would be sufficient if buildings were constructed to Level 3 of AS 3959-1999. However, it is likely that many existing houses do not comply with this level of construction and that a wider APZ up to 38 metres, would be required to provide adequate bushfire protection to existing dwellings"?
- (7) What was the APZ proposed for this area by the Great Lakes Council?
- (8) (a) Did any officer of Council contact Eco Logical Pty Ltd about the September 2007 report or any related matters to the report after it was received?
  - (b) If so, whom?
  - (c) If so, what were the terms of such discussion?
- (9) (a) Was a subsequent report received by Great Lakes Council from Eco Logical Pty Ltd dated October 2007 concerning bushfire hazards at Burgess Road Forster?

- (b) If so, did Great Lakes Council commission this report?  
 (c) If so, from whom did Council commission this report?  
 (d) If so, why was a subsequent report commissioned?  
 (e) If so, who prepared such report?
- (10) (a) If a further report dated October 2007 was received by Council did it say in its Bushfire Risk Assessment Conclusion "that there is a low level of bushfire threat at the site"?  
 (b) If so, did any officer of Great Lakes Council ask Eco Logical Pty Ltd to explain why a report dated September 2007 stated "The level of bushfire attack on the site is classified as extreme with the existing APZ along Burgess Road according to PBP", and in the report into the same issue dated October 2007 states "that there is a low level of bushfire threat at the site"?  
 (c) If so, what was the explanation?  
 (d) If no explanation was sought, why not?  
 (e) If no explanation was sought was it because the October report supported Council's position in relation to bushfire hazards at Burgess Beach?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

While planning and development, including bushfire management, are local government functions, they are not functions of councils controlled by the Local Government Act 1993, and therefore do not fall within the local government portfolio.

The Member may therefore wish to refer his questions to the Minister for Emergency Services or raise his questions directly with the General Manager of Great Lakes Council.

- \*3439 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF MYALL LAKES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In Budget Paper No. 4 at 5-15 there are various works listed at a location shown as "Various":

- (1) Are any of the works listed as "Various" located in the Electorate of Myall Lakes?  
 (2) If so, what works are in the Electorate of Myall Lakes and what is the estimated cost of such works?

Answer—

I am advised there are no works under "Various" as listed on Budget Paper No 4 (pages 5-15) that relate to the electorate of Myall Lakes.

- \*3440 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Minister reply to my letter to him dated 1 November 2007 (ref: M07/9232) and further follow up letters dated 28 March and 6 May 2008 concerning certain requirements by the Roads and Traffic Authority pertaining to the development known as Precinct 2B?

Answer—

I am advised a response to correspondence M07/9232 has been issued.

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(Paper No. 73)

- 3441 CONTRACTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE TENDERS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- \*3442 GOVERNMENT GRANTS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What was the nature and total amount of grants to Wingecarribee, Goulburn, Mulwaree, Palerang and Upper Lachlan councils in 2006-07 and 2007-08 by the State Government?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

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The NSW Local Government Grants Commission, which is established under the Local Government Act 1993, makes recommendations on federally funded financial assistance grants to local councils. These are untied grants, able to be used by councils for any purpose.

The entitlements for 2006-07 were:

Wingecarribee: \$3,615,293  
Goulburn Mulwaree: \$3,665,108  
Palerang: \$2,232,855  
Upper Lachlan: \$2,665,221

The estimated entitlements for 2007-08 are:

Wingecarribee: \$3,650,117  
Goulburn Mulwaree: \$3,779,220  
Palerang: \$2,309,311  
Upper Lachlan: \$2,811,410

According to the Councils' 2006/07 financial statements, the following grants were received from the State Government:

Wingecarribee: \$2,668,000  
Goulburn Mulwaree: \$5,918,000  
Palerang: \$844,000  
Upper Lachlan: \$1,317,000

Neither I nor the Department of Local Government collect details of grants paid by other State Government agencies.

- 3443 DEFIBRILLATORS AND OXYVIVA POLICY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3444 BROULA KING GOLD MINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3445 CHILD OF LIDIA ILIEVSKI AND STEPHEN NEWCOMBE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3446 SECURITY FENCE—GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3447 RENAL DIALYSIS TREATMENT—ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3448 SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3449 HOUSING IN SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3450 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF CRONULLA—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3451 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF CRONULLA—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3452 TREATMENT OF SHARON HEMPEL AT BATHURST BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Gerard Martin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3453 TERM LIMITS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- \*3454 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING DWELLINGS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many Department of Housing dwellings were there in NSW as at 30 June 2007?  
(2) How many Department of Housing dwellings are there in NSW now?

- (3) How many of these are owned by the NSW Government?  
 (4) How many of these are overseen by housing co-operatives?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Information concerning Housing NSW dwellings is available in the Housing NSW Annual Report.

\*3455 TERM LIMITS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLORS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What consideration, if any, has the Government given to setting maximum term limits for local government councillors and for the position of mayor?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The Local Government Act 1993 requires ordinary elections for councillors and popularly elected mayors to be held every 4 years. There is no intention to review this requirement at this time.

The Local Government Act requires elections for a mayor elected by the councillors from one of their number to occur every 12 months.

There are no plans to restrict, by legislation, the terms of Councillors or Mayors, as it is a choice to be made by electors as part of the democratic process.

3456 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

3457 DRINK DRIVING IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

3458 TWEED HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

3459 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY—MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—

\*3460 SANDGATE RAIL GRADE SEPARATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Did the Government use the biobanking provisions to enable development of the Sandgate rail grade separation?  
 (2) Why did GHD describe the Sandgate area as 'potential habitat' of the Green and Golden Bell Frog when National Parks and Wildlife Service has recorded 17 actual sightings in the immediate area?  
 (3) Why did the national Parks and Wildlife Service and Department of Planning ignore the Environmental Impact Statement's recommendation that compensatory frog habitat be constructed as part of the project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) No.  
 (2) That is a matter for GHD to clarify.  
 (3) The advice was not ignored - provisions for preservation of the frog habitat are contained in the conditions of approval.

3461 ABORIGINAL SERVICE PROGRAMS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

3462 MID NORTH COAST CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—

3463 TRAFFIC SUPERVISOR—OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

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(Paper No. 74)

- 3464 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3465 LEVEL CROSSING MONITORING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3466 COURT SECURITY—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—
- \*3467 TOURISM NSW FUNDING—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) Given the O'Neil Report identified serious deficiencies in NSW Government funding for tourism, can the Minister provide details as to how the NSW Government will increase tourism investment in Port Stephens?
  - (2) In the wake of the O'Neil Report, have additional funds for tourism been directed to the Port Stephens region?
  - (3) Will any increase in the Tourism NSW budget be directed at reopening the Sydney Visitors Centre and Sydney Airport?
- Answer—
- (1) and (2) The Government's initial response to the O'Neill Report on the Review into Tourism in NSW required the release of the report for targeted consultation with industry, with a view to submitting a NSW Tourism Strategy within three months. This process is currently being coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in conjunction with the Department of State and Regional Development. It is therefore premature to indicate where the funds will be allocated.
- (3) No, the provision of last minute accommodation bookings is not the core business of Tourism NSW.
- 3468 CURFEWS FOR INNER-CITY PUBS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3469 PORT STEPHENS LOCAL AREA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3470 PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND AT FAME COVE—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3471 DENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN PORT STEPHENS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3472 LICENSING OF LEARNER DRIVERS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3473 DADHC RESTRUCTURE—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3474 QUANDIALLA HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3475 YASS JUNCTION TO YASS TOWN RAIL LINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3476 CHILDCARE CENTRE REGISTER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3477 NURSING HOMES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3478 HORNSBY HOSPITAL FUTURE WORKS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- 3479 NEW LINE ROAD CHERRYBROOK—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3480 CANCER PATIENTS AT CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3481 AGED CARE FACILITY—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL GROUNDS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3482 PARKING FACILITIES AT SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3483 DUPLICATION OF THE CRONULLA RAILWAY LINE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- \*3484 PROPOSED ELECTRICITY REFORMS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- Which schools, hospitals, roads, railways and other facilities will be delayed if proposed electricity reforms do not take place?
- Answer—
- The Government's electricity plans will have a positive impact on the State's balance sheet. Some \$15 billion in additional spending will be avoided.
- If the Government was required to make the necessary investment in electricity we would have to reprioritise existing capital projects.
- 3485 CHILDREN WITH LEUKAEMIA—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3486 ALLOCATED POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3487 INSURANCE TAXES—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3488 FIRE SERVICES LEVY—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3489 MULTI ELECTORATE TRANSPORT PROGRAMS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3490 CITYRAIL SHORTFALL ON CAR SETS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3491 3 X 3 FUEL LEVY—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3492 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3493 RAIL FUNDING IN THE TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3494 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

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- 3495 INVESTIGATION INTO BULLYING AND HARASSMENT CLAIMS—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3496 SERVICES FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING—Mr George Souris to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3497 SCHOOL BUS ROUTES—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

**19 JUNE 2008**

(Paper No. 75)

- 3498 CHARGES RECORDED—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education—
- 3499 DIVIDENDS FROM THE GENERATION SECTOR OF THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3500 SAFETY OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- \*3501 WAITING TIME FOR PUBLIC HOUSING—MANLY—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What is the current average waiting time for public housing in the Manly electorate?
- (2) How many applicants are currently on the waiting list for public housing in the Manly electorate?

Answer—

- (1) The time an applicant spends on the housing register varies and changes constantly. Many factors influence how long each applicant waits including the type of accommodation sought (e.g. number of bedrooms, style of dwelling); the type of household (e.g. aged couple, single person); and special needs (e.g. ground floor requirements, modifications).
- (2) The number of people on the housing register awaiting accommodation varies and changes constantly.

- 3502 "PINCH POINT" ROAD NETWORK STRATEGY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3503 FERRIES 2010 STRATEGY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3504 WATERFRONT LAND RENTAL—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3505 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO WALKER INQUIRY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3506 STATEFLEET MOTOR VEHICLES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- \*3507 PROMOTION OF THE NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Will any of the Government's additional \$40 million in funds to revitalise the State's tourism industry (announced in June 2008) be spent to promote the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

The Government's initial response to the O'Neill Report on the Review into Tourism in NSW required the release of the report for targeted consultation with industry, with a view to submitting a NSW Tourism

- Strategy within three months. This process is currently being coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet in conjunction with the Department of State and Regional Development. It is therefore premature to indicate where the funds will be allocated.
- 3508 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES IN RAYMOND TERRACE AND MAYFIELD—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3509 REGULATION AND SALE OF ANIMALS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3510 INTERSECTION OF WILLIAMTOWN DRIVE AND NELSON BAY ROAD, WILLIAMTOWN—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3511 OVERSEAS STUDENTS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3512 GLENBROOK RAILWAY STATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3513 REVIEW OF THE ISOLATED PATIENTS TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Steve Cansdell to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3514 HOME OXYGEN SERVICE—Mr Steve Cansdell to ask the Minister for Health—
- \*3515 YAMBA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) Why was the rent of Yamba Golf and Country Club increased from \$6,080 to \$75,000 by the NSW Department of Crown Lands?
  - (2) (a) Given that the Yamba Golf and Country Club has experienced financial difficulties in recent years will the Minister move to freeze the club's rent at \$6,080 so that the club can continue to remain financially viable and can continue to provide the lower Clarence area with sporting and social facilities?  
(b) If not, why not?
- Answer—
- (1) The new rebate policy applying to Crown land leases held by registered clubs means that Yamba Golf and Country Club is no longer entitled to a rebate because the club's gaming revenue exceeds \$1 million. The policy ensures that all registered clubs are treated equitably and consistently when determining rents and eligibility for rebates.
  - (2) As always, if the club is suffering genuine financial hardship, the club should contact the Department of Lands. Cases of demonstrated hardship will be reviewed sympathetically by the department.
- 3516 NARDY HOUSE—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3517 MODEM AT QUANDIALLA HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3518 MOTORCYCLE FRONT NUMBER PLATES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3519 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BUDGET—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3520 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—



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- 3521 HORNSBY CLEARWAYS PROJECT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3522 WET BERTHING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3523 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI—WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3524 DEATHS IN SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3525 COMMUTER CAR PARKING—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3526 MANDATORY LICENCE TESTING—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3527 OUT-OF-COUNTRY BUS DRIVERS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3528 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LONG SERVICE PAYMENTS CORPORATION—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3529 LONGWALL MINING IN NSW—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3530 FACTORY FARMING STATISTICS—PIGS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- \*3531 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW RESOURCES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- With regard to the NSW Ombudsman review of Freedom of Information legislation in NSW:
- (1) What resources has the NSW Government provided and/or committed to provide to the NSW Ombudsman to conduct its review into Freedom of Information legislation?
  - (2) To what extent will additional resources be made available at the request of the NSW Ombudsman to ensure that the review is able to address all concerns with the current Freedom of Information system?
  - (3) What instructions has the NSW Government given to its agencies and departments to cooperate with the NSW Ombudsman while conducting the review?
- Answer—
- The Government welcomes the Ombudsman's review. The Premier has advised Parliament that the Government will provide whatever assistance and cooperation the Ombudsman requires for this process. The Ombudsman has not made any request to the Government for additional resources. The Premier wrote to the Ombudsman in April 2008 to advise that NSW Government agencies will be pleased to work constructively with his office during his review.
- 3532 PADDINGTON BOWLING CLUB—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- \*3533 PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- (1) What is the Department of Fair Trading doing to prevent private investigators claiming that they can

legally access information that is not legally available to them?

- (2) How many private investigators have been successfully pursued in NSW for making such claims in the past two years?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that matters relating to private investigators should be addressed to my colleague, the Hon D A Campbell MP, Minister for Police.

- 3534 WSN TIP SALE PROCESS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3535 WSN TIP CURRENT LEVEL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3536 SCRIM TESTING ON THE PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3537 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES AT TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3538 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ACUTE CARE SERVICES AT TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3539 PUBLIC SECTOR WASTE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3540 WRAPP PLANS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3541 RECYCLED MATERIALS POLICIES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3542 EASTERN QUOLLS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3543 SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3544 LOGGING ON PRIVATE LAND—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3545 WASTE REDUCTION AND PURCHASING POLICY—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3546 SINGLE SLICE CT SCANNERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3547 MIXED WASTE GARBAGE BINS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3548 E-PASS TOLL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3549 DISASTER MANAGEMENT—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

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- 3550 CLIFF OVERHANGS—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3551 CLIFF FACE—COTTAGE POINT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3552 PENSIONER REBATES FOR RESIDENTS IN RETIREMENT HOMES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

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(Paper No. 76)

- 3553 WOOL INDUSTRY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3554 CROSS BORDER HEALTH—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3555 TOOMELAH WATER CRISIS—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- \*3556 STATE ENVIRONMENT PLANNING POLICY (SENIORS LIVING)—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) How many development applications have been approved in New South Wales under the State Environment Planing Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (2) How many development applications have been rejected in New South Wales under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (3) How many development applications have been appealed to the Land and Environment Court under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (4) How many of the development applications that were appealed to the Land and Environment Court under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 were approved planning instrument?
  - (5) How many dwellings have been approved in New South Wales under the Land and Environment Court under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (6) How many applications has each individual council received under the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (7) How many councils have applied for exemptions from the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?
  - (8) How many councils are exempt from the State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) (Seniors Living) and former SEPP 5 planning instrument?

Answer—

(1) to (6) I am advised that, to the extent this information is gathered, it is published in the Department of Planning's Local Development Performance Monitoring Report 2006-2007, which is available on the Department's website.

(7) and (8) The Department of Planning has advised me that fifteen councils have applied for exemptions and that seven councils presently possess partial exemptions.

- 3557 DROUGHT RELIEF PACKAGES—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3558 MOTORCYCLE GREEN SLIPS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- 3559 BLUE-GREEN ALGAE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3560 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND FOR THE PUBLIC FACILITIES PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3561 CLIMATE CHANGE FUND FOR THE RECYCLING AND STORMWATER HARVESTING PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3562 REGISTERED GUN LICENCES—GOULBURN—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- \*3563 SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Why has the Department of Planning proposed in its eight draft subregional strategies that there should be, until at least 2031, no supermarkets in 564 suburbs, only a single small supermarket in 79 suburbs and no more than two supermarkets in 40 suburbs?
  - (2) What studies were used to formulate this proposal?
- Answer—
- (1) I am advised by the Department of Planning that there is no such proposal within the eight draft subregional strategies.
  - (2) See answer (1).
- \*3564 RETAIL SPACES IN SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Why have villages now been capped to 50 retail spaces in the subregional strategies when there was no cap in the December 2005 Metropolitan Strategy?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- There was and is no "cap" of retail spaces in any centre type.
- \*3565 CATEGORIES IN THE METROPOLITAN AND SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Why was the category of "village" (identified in the Metropolitan Strategy) split into two categories "village" (where a "small" supermarket is permitted) and "small village" (where no supermarket is permitted) in the draft subregional strategies?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- To acknowledge the variation that exists between centres and to provide greater choice in terminology for future planning.
- \*3566 DEFINITIONS IN THE METROPOLITAN AND SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Why was the definition of a "small group" of shops, that was included in the Metropolitan Strategy, changed in the subregional strategies from up to 10 to up to 5?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The Metropolitan Strategy does not contain a definition for the term 'small group' of shops. The term is used in that document as a description.
- \*3567 RADIUS OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Why was the radius of neighbourhood centres changed from a 200 metre radius in the Metropolitan Strategy to a 150 metre to 200 metre radius in the subregional strategies?
- Answer—

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I am advised:

The Metropolitan Strategy allocated a notional radius of "approximately 200 metres" for neighbourhood centres. Stakeholder workshops for the Subregional Strategies produced a radius of 150 – 200 metres for neighbourhood centres as a guide to reflect the actual variation in size of these small centres in different localities across Sydney.

\*3568 DRAFT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY 66—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What is the government's intention with regard to the "Draft State Environmental Planning Policy 66" and its associated policies, which was exhibited in 2004, but has neither been finalised nor withdrawn?

Answer—

The draft policy has played an important role in developing transport and infrastructure related provisions in both the Metropolitan Strategy and Standard Local Environmental Plan Instrument. The draft policy will be updated to better reflect current and emerging land-use trends.

\*3569 LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT RULING—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Is it satisfactory that the Land and Environment Court said that it could not approve a store selling cheese, because it would enable competition with an existing general store and "disturb the present balance" (in *Agostino & Anor v Penrith City Council* [2002] NSWLEC 222)?

Answer—

The Court makes judgements as it sees fit.

\*3570 LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT RULING—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Is it satisfactory that in *Centro Properties Limited v Warringah Council and Anor* [2003] NSWLEC 145 the planning system prevented a new retail shopping centre from being created on the basis that existing retail traders may be affected by the new business?

Answer—

The Court makes judgements as its sees fit.

\*3571 LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT RULING—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Is it satisfactory that in *Woolworths Ltd v Wyong Shire Council and Ors* [2005] NSWLEC 400 the Court found it was legitimate to use a local environment plan to permit only one shopping centre in a region?

Answer—

The Court makes judgements as it sees fit.

3572 HEAVY VEHICLE INSPECTION SITE AT YOUNG—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

3573 ZOUCHE STREET BRIDGE YOUNG—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

3574 ORANGE COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3575 HORNSBY HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

3576 CHARGES FOR UNDERAGE DRINKING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

3577 HOMELESS PEOPLE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3578 NURSES AND BUREAUCRATS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

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- 3579 AUTISM SPECIAL UNIT—SHORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3580 GRANTS TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 3581 CHILDREN WITH LEUKAEMIA—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3582 COUNSELLORS FOR MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3583 RESOURCES FOR MALE SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATORS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 3584 BUSES FOR M2 MOTORWAY—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3585 BUSES FOR M2 MOTORWAY—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3586 OUTSTANDING MAINTENANCE—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3587 BELROSE WSN LANDFILL SITE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3588 ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3589 EXTRA FUNDING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3590 RURAL MIDWIVES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3591 RADIATION FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3592 BREAST CANCER FACILITIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3593 LICENCE OR PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCY OF WATERFRONT LAND—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3594 LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3595 BUS TRAVELLING TIMES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3596 BUS TRAVELLING TIMES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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- 3597 LICENCES FOR WATERFRONT LAND ACCESS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3598 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3599 MARTIN BRIDGE—TAREE—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

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(Paper No. 77)

- 3600 RABBIT CALICIVIRUS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3601 FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 3602 RAINWATER TANK REBATE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3603 CHILD OF PETER AND MICHELLE NICHOLAS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3604 MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3605 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3606 DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3607 CRONULLA BEACHES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3608 PLANNING AND ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3609 PLANNING LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 3610 ELECTRICITY LEGISLATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3611 SHERATON HOUSE—VEHICLE PURCHASE—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3612 TWEED HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3613 KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

- 3614 TWEED HOSPITAL STAFFING—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3615 MAJOR ASSESSMENTS COORDINATOR—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3616 ADVERTISED POSITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3617 THREATENED SPECIES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

**25 JUNE 2008**

(Paper No. 78)

- 3618 WORLD YOUTH DAY—JOURNEY OF THE CROSS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3619 REVENUE FROM FISHING LICENCES—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3620 BOAT RAMP AT NORTH ARM COVE—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3621 WORLD YOUTH DAY—TRANSPORT—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3622 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND MOBILITY PLAN—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3623 CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO BEACH—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3624 COURT RULE—D'ARCY V BEGA VALLEY SHIRE COUNCIL—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3625 MERIMBULA HOME NURSING—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3626 OLD BEGA HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3627 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- \*3628 EXTERNAL ADVISORY PANEL—DEVELOPMENTS CONSIDERED—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

How many developments were considered by the External Advisory Panel in each of the following months:

- (a) April 2008;
- (b) May 2008;
- (c) June 2008 (to date)?



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(d) When will the External Advisory Panel be disbanded?

Answer—

- (a) Nil.
- (b) 3.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) The Panel will operate up until such time as the Planning Assessment Commission (proposed under the NSW Planning Reforms) has been constituted and is fully operational.

\*3629 SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the Minister release the final version of the following subregional strategies:

- (a) Central Coast;
- (b) East;
- (c) Inner North;
- (d) North East;
- (e) South;
- (f) North;
- (g) South West;
- (h) West Central;
- (i) North West?

Answer—

The final Central Coast Regional Strategy was released on 26 June 2008.

The final versions of the Subregional Strategies for the ten subregions in the Sydney Metropolitan area will be released once submissions have been properly considered and the documents finalised.

\*3630 NORTH KELLYVILLE PRECINCT—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Will the Minister make public any of the submissions into the North Kellyville Precinct planning documents?

Answer—

No.

\*3631 MAJOR PROJECT 06-0232—FINDINGS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) When does the Minister expect the "expert" panel, established to consider Major Project 06-0232 (Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Facility), to report their findings to the Minister and/or his department?
- (2) (a) Will those findings be made public?
- (b) If so, when?
- (c) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) I expect the panel to submit its report after they finish their deliberations on the project.
- (2) Yes, in due course.

3632 RESPONSE BY OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

3633 YOUNG HOSPITAL MAMMOGRAM X-RAY MACHINE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—

3634 WAITING TIME FOR SURGERY—CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE MINISTER—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—

3635 HORNSBY HOSPITAL CT SCANNER—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

- 3636 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3637 BREAST CARE NURSES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3638 SPORTS RAGE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3639 RESPONSE TO EMAILS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3640 HOMELESS PEOPLE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3641 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL ADMISSION NUMBERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3642 CYCLE TOURISM—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3643 FACTORY FARMING STATISTICS—CHICKENS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- \*3644 TOWN CENTRE PLANS—KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Did Ku-ring-gai Council send the Minister its proposed Town Centre plans in December 2006, prior to his deadline?
  - (2) When did the Minister or his department first reply in writing to council with relevant comments on these submitted plans?
  - (3) When did the Minister appoint the current planning panel to Ku-ring-gai Council?
  - (4) Did the Minister appoint the planning panel largely due to an alleged delay from council in finalising the Town Centre plans?
  - (5) When does the Minister expect the Planning Panel will finalise the Town Centre plans?
  - (6) Is this expected finalisation date satisfactory to the Minister?
- Answer—
- (1) Yes.
  - (2) 30 May 2007.
  - (3) 29 February 2008.
  - (4) My reasons for appointment are published on the Department of Planning website:  
[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planningsystem/pdf/kuringgai\\_town\\_centres\\_reasons\\_for\\_panel\\_2.pdf](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planningsystem/pdf/kuringgai_town_centres_reasons_for_panel_2.pdf)
  - (5) The independent Panel will finalise its work when it sees fit.
  - (6) N/A - see above.
- \*3645 VERIFICATION OF CLAIM—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- Given the response to Question 3225 regarding the tender process at Blackwattle Bay, did the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (which conducted the Expressions of Interest process on behalf of NSW Maritime) ever check or verify the claim by Bass and Flinders that they had operated charter vessels since 1978?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The expression of interest evaluation process was reviewed by independent probity auditor Deloitte, who concluded that the process had been conducted in a fair and equitable manner with due regard to probity.
- \*3646 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- When will the Minister respond to:
- (a) the written request from Mayor Nick Ebbeck of Kur-ring-gai Council to him last year regarding the location of gun shops and a proposed Kur-ring-gai Council LEP amendment;

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- (b) the issues relating to the location of gun shops as raised in my letter to the Minister for Police, dated 23 June 2007, which was referred to the Minister for Local Government, who then indicated in October 2007 that he was referring the matter to the Minister for Planning for a response?

Answer—

I understand the issue is now redundant as consent for the gun shop was issued.

\*3647 **NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE—KU-RING-GAI**—Mr Barry O'Farrell asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) made a presentation - Endangered areas of Ku-ring-gai - to the Heritage Office in October 2005 concerning the impact of SEPP 53 on nationally significant heritage within Ku-ring-gai?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in 2007 the National Trust (NSW) nominated "Ku-ring-gai's Urban Conservation Areas within the context of the Original Blue Gum High Forest" as one of the Top 10 Heritage At Risk Places in Australia?
- (3) In its dealings with Ku-ring-gai Council over SEPP 53, what specific steps have departments taken to protect these nationally significant heritage items?
- (4) Why has the Minister refused to give approval to Ku-ring-gai's proposed Urban Conservation Areas?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Clause 9 of SEPP 53 provides protection for heritage items and heritage conservation areas by requiring referral of the development application to the Heritage Council for comment. I am advised by the Department of Planning that not all of the National Trust nominated urban conservation areas are recognised as heritage conservation areas under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. The Department has asked Ku-ring-gai Council to prepare a draft comprehensive Principal local environmental plan (LEP). Such an LEP may nominate new heritage conservation areas if supported by a study.
- (4) No draft local environmental plans proposing heritage conservation areas have been referred to me for consideration. Proposals to date have been handled by the Department of Planning.

3648 **DRIVING TESTS—LAKE CARGELLIGO RTA**—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

3649 **TRAIN SERVICE FROM NEWCASTLE**—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

3650 **CLIENTS OF KANANGRA CENTRE**—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

3651 **DAY LEAVE FROM KANANGRA CENTRE**—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

3652 **KINGSCLIFF BOWLS CLUB**—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

3653 **DEATH OF SAM MURPHY**—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

\*3654 **CAMP WOLLUMBIN**—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

In relation to Camp Wollumbin, a riverside camp located on the shore of Lake Cudgen that operated as scout and youth fitness camp:

- (1) (a) Does NPWS still perform periodic maintenance on the facilities at Camp Wollumbin?
- (b) If yes, how often does NPWS carry out maintenance and what was the date of the last

maintenance works completed?

(2) (a) Does NPWS plan to reopen Camp Wollumbin as a scout and youth fitness camp?

(b) If not, what plans does the NPWS have for Camp Wollumbin?

Answer—

Camp Wollumbin is managed by the Department of Lands. Question relating to current and future management options should be addressed to the Minister for Lands, the Hon Tony Kelly MLC.

- 3655 TENDER RFT 0800361—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3656 ROTARY WING TENDER SELECTION PANEL—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3657 ROTARY WING TENDER—APPROVED OPERATORS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3658 HELICOPTER SERVICE CHARGES—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

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- 3659 NEW DWELLINGS—MOUNT DRUITT ELECTORATE—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3660 VALUATION ADVICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3661 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—STATE-OWNED GENERATORS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3662 COAL CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3663 NO DISCONNECTIONS POLICY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3664 NO DISCONNECTIONS POLICY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 3665 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3666 STATE PROPERTY AUTHORITY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3667 YOUTH HOMELESSNESS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3668 SALES OF ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

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- 3669 REAL FUTURES PROGRAM IN PORT STEPHENS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3670 RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN THE PORT STEPHENS REGION—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3671 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR MEN—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- \*3672 REMOVAL OF REBATE FOR SOLAR PANELS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- In relation to solar energy:
- (1) Does the Minister support the Federal Government's move to slash the rebate for residential solar panels?
  - (2) (a) Has the Minister done an analysis as to the impact of this decision on NSW households wanting to invest in alternative energy?
  - (b) If so, what are the results?
- Answer—
- This matter is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Energy.
- 3673 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3674 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3675 COUNTRYLINK COACH—TRAVEL INCIDENCE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3676 OUTER SUBURBAN CARS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3677 GRAFTON VALUER GENERAL'S OFFICE—Mr Steve Cansdell to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3678 SOUTHERN BREAKWALL/WALKWAY—YAMBA—Mr Steve Cansdell to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—
- 3679 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES—CUSTODIAL CARE—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3680 NURSE MAGGIE MCGRATH EMPLOYMENT AND LEAVE—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3681 X84 BUS SERVICE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3682 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT—Mr Thomas George to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- \*3683 KANGALOOON BORE FIELDS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

Now that the Minister for Water has declared there is no longer an "emergency" need for the Kangaloon bore fields to supply water to Sydney, on what grounds will the development applications for the bore fields be assessed under Part 3A of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979?

Answer—

The Government has announced that it will defer implementation of the Kangaloon Borefields project, but will proceed to secure necessary planning approvals in case the project is needed in the future. There remains a current and valid application under assessment by the Department of Planning, which will be determined by the Minister for Planning in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

- 3684 BOWRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL RELOCATION—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3685 GREY-HEADED FLYING-FOX RECOVERY PLAN—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3686 TILLEGRA DAM—ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3687 TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3688 BOAT HARBOUR AT CRONULLA—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- \*3689 LONG WALL MINING IN THE NEPEAN RIVER—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the planning panel set up in relation to long wall mining in the Nepean River conclude their hearings and release their final conclusions?

Answer—

The report of the Strategic Review of the Impacts of Underground Coal Mining on Natural Features in the Southern Coalfield was released on 10 July 2008.

- 3690 METROPOLITAN WATER PLAN—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- \*3691 HILL TOP SHOOTING FACILITY APPLICATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When is the planning panel set up in relation to the Hill Top shooting facility Part 3A application due to conclude its hearings and release its final conclusions?

Answer—

The panel will conclude its hearings when it is ready to do so. The panel's report will be released in due course.

- \*3692 THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA PLANNING STRATEGY—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) What involvement has the Minister, his office or the Department of Planning had in the development of Wyong Council's draft for 'The Entrance Peninsula Planning Strategy'?
  - (2) (a) Has the Minister, his office or the Department of Planning had any correspondence with Coles or developers about the strategy?  
(b) If so, what?
  - (3) Has the Minister, his office or the Department of Planning given any directions to Wyong Council on this matter?

Answer—

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- (1) None, however I am advised that the Department of Planning has provided Planning Reform funding and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Wyong Council for the preparation of The Entrance/ Long Jetty Planning Strategy. Wyong Council has provided the Department of Planning with progress updates on the development, status and timing of the project, and the Department has asked the Council to ensure that the local strategy is consistent with the Central Coast Regional Strategy.
  - (2) No and the Department of Planning advise that it has not received any correspondence from Coles, their representatives or other developers about The Entrance/Long Jetty Planning Strategy.
  - (3) No and I am advised that the Department of Planning has not issued directions to Wyong Council, other than requests for the Council to:
    - (a) provide updated reporting under the Memorandum of Understanding;
    - (b) not exhibit The Entrance/Long Jetty Planning Strategy until the Council had considered the Central Coast Regional Strategy; and
    - (c) advise how they intend to address the Central Coast Regional Strategy population projections.
- 3693 AUBURN COUNCIL—AUBURN CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3694 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 3695 NSW AMBULANCE STATION STAFFING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3696 UNANSWERED CORRESPONDENCE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3697 HORNSBY HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3698 USE OF SUTENT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3699 ERADICATION OF CANE TOADS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3700 REGIONAL FLAGSHIP FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3701 WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON HEAVY VEHICLES—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- \*3702 QUEENSLAND HUNTER GAS PIPELINE—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Under what circumstances did the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline receive state project significance?
  - (2) What evidence-based approach was used by the Department of Planning or other Government Departments in promoting the 'route' through private land holdings as opposed to travelling stock route corridors with specific reference to:
    - (a) Environmental impact studies undertaken;
    - (b) Local farm land impact;
    - (c) Future impact of land sub division in lieu of proposed easement rights;
    - (d) Identified local/regional benefits within the Moree and Narrabri Shires?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Queensland to Hunter gas pipeline is a 'Major Project' under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 because it meets the criteria specified in State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005. In particular, it meets the requirements of clause 26A, being 'development for the purpose of a pipeline in respect of which a licence is required under the Pipelines Act 1967'.

- (2) The Department of Planning has not promoted any particular route for the proposed pipeline. The route selection process is the responsibility of the Proponent and must be justified and assessed through an Environmental Assessment prepared in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- 3703 ORANA FAR WEST SAFE HOUSES—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3704 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3705 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DOCTORS AND NURSES – SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3706 DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3707 PROVISIONAL DRIVING TESTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3708 REBATES FOR RAINWATER TANKS—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3709 REBATES FOR RAINWATER TANKS—PARRAMATTA—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3710 MARINE SANCTUARIES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3711 TRAIN NOISE—WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3712 FURTHER CUTS TO 311 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3713 MILLERS POINT PUBLIC HOUSING—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3714 HOUSING NSW—CONTACT WITH TENANTS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- \*3715 PROPERTY—LIZARD ROCK, MORGAN ROAD OXFORD FALLS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) Will the minister provide an assurance that the property currently owned by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, in the vicinity of Lizard Rock on Morgan Road Oxford Falls, will not be the subject of a spot rezoning?
  - (2) What was the substance and outcome of discussions the Minister had with Warringah Council regarding a proposed rezoning of this site?
  - (3) Will the Minister provide an assurance that normal local government and community consultation processes will not be discarded in consideration of any proposal regarding this site?
  - (4) What discussions have you had with developers Laing O'Rourke regarding this site?
- Answer—
- (1) The decision to rezone any land is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and any application to the Minister for rezoning will be subject to merit assessment and due process.
  - (2) Issues relating to broad strategic planning and environmental considerations were discussed. No outcome or decision was made.
  - (3) See answer to question (1).



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- (4) I do not recall any discussions with this developer.
- \*3716 CREDIT CARD MONITORING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- (1) What procedures does the Sydney Foreshore Authority have in place to monitor credit card expenditure so that it complies with Government guidelines?
  - (2) How many individual incidents of credit card misuse by authority executives have been revealed in the past year?
- Answer—  
I am advised:
- (1) The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has well established policies and expenditure approval procedures which are consistent with Government requirements for credit card use.
  - (2) One incident involving a minor amount was identified. The amount has been repaid in full and the Authority has reviewed its processes to minimise the risk of future incidents occurring.
- 3717 DELIBERATELY LIT BUSHFIRES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3718 AMBULANCE OFFICER RECRUITMENT—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3719 ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY—SUBSIDISING OF ELECTRICITY—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 3720 RTA DRIVER TESTING OFFICERS—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3721 HOMELESS CHILDREN UNDER FIVE—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3722 TWEED POLICE NUMBERS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3723 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3724 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AT SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3725 ADVERTISED POSITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3726 NORTHERN BEACHES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3727 NORTHERN BEACHES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FUNDING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3728 BLACKOUTS—MONA VALE TO AVALON—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- \*3729 AFFORDABLE LIVING—PITTWATER ELECTORATE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- What specifically is the department doing to provide more affordable living in the Pittwater electorate?
- Answer—

I am advised:

The Department is assisting the supply of private affordable housing in the Pittwater electorate as follows:

- Supporting the preparation of the Pittwater local environmental plan to allow secondary dwellings in the urban areas of the council area.
- Reviewing development applications referred by local councils which propose the loss of low rental accommodation (eg, strata subdivision of low rental flats). Where appropriate, determination of these may result in the developer being required to make a contribution to a community housing organisation to provide alternative low rental housing in the area.

\*3730 FUNDING FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

How much money did the Government provide to Pittwater Council in 2007 for the removal of graffiti in the Pittwater electorate?

Answer—

This question should be redirected to the Attorney General.

3731 CONTAMINATED SANDS—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—

3732 BOATING SERVICE OFFICERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

\*3733 DEDICATION OF LAND AT CURRAWONG—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development, and Acting Minister for the Central Coast—

If the Department of Environment and Planning accepts the dedication of land at Currawong offered by Eco-villages, would the department then be liable for damages resulting from any rock falls from this land onto the balance of the Currawong site?

Answer—

This is not a matter for the Minister for Lands.

3734 RESULTS OF BUS LANES MONITORING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

3735 HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—

3736 SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO HEALTH—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—

3737 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—URUNGA TO WARRELL CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

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3738 HOME DETENTION PROGRAM—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

3739 COST OF IMPRISONMENT FOR INMATES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—

3740 OAKLANDS TO BENALLA RAILWAY—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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- 3741 WILCANNIA TOURISM PROJECT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3742 “BREAKING THE SILENCE” REPORT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3743 FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 3744 SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES HEAD OFFICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, Minister for Justice, and Acting Minister for Education and Training—
- 3745 GOVERNMENT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3746 ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKERS—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3747 CITYRAIL SERVICES—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3748 IR POWERS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- \*3749 IR POWERS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- In relation to Industrial Relations powers:
- (1) Will the NSW Government refuse to transfer IR powers to the Federal Government?
  - (2) If not, will the NSW Government refuse to transfer IR conditions for State public sector workers to the Federal Government?
- Answer—
- The Commonwealth Government is implementing a new Commonwealth industrial relations system with the transition to "Forward with Fairness".
- The NSW Government is working, and will continue to work, actively with the Commonwealth to ensure a fair IR system for all.
- 3750 DRINK DRIVING—ELECTORATE OF GOULBURN—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3751 VANDALISM RELATED CRIME—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3752 BIO BANKING SCHEME—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3753 ILLAWARRA/SOUTH COAST CANCER PLAN—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3754 HELPING HANDS PROGRAMME—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3755 SHOALHAVEN MENTAL HEALTH UNIT—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3756 TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3757 REDPLOYMENT OF TRANSIT OFFICERS—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- 3758 ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3759 ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3760 NSW GOVERNMENT SPECTACLES PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 3761 BUDGET ALLOCATION—ELECTORATE OF HORNSBY—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Water—
- 3762 ACCOMMODATION FOR FIONA WAY—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 3763 HORNSBY BOWLING CLUB—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 3764 BUDGET ALLOCATION—HORNSBY SHIRE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 3765 FOOTPATH SMOKING—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- \*3766 GAY AND LESBIAN MARDI GRAS FUNDING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

With reference to my question to the Premier in April 2008 about NSW Government funding for the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, a hallmark event for 30 years that is estimated to contribute more than \$45 million to the New South Wales economy:

- (1) What assessment has been made of this event, which the Premier said would be considered for funding by Events NSW?
- (2) Has a decision been made about Government support for this event?
- (3) Will the Government provide financial support to new Mardi Gras and what funding will be provided?

Answer—

I am advised that a proposal has been received in relation to the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and is currently being assessed by Events NSW.

I am further advised that several meetings have occurred with Events NSW and that Events NSW will be in a position to make a recommendation on government support in relation to the longer term sustainability of the Mardi Gras in the near future.

- 3767 REDFERN AND SURRY HILLS BUSES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 3768 TRAVEL TO CHINA—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 3769 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3770 WALSH BAY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 3771 FIREARMS LICENCES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3772 FIREARMS LICENCES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 3773 HOSPITAL RE-RATING ASSESSMENT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 3774 PROPOSED ADDITION OF CROWN LAND TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
TUESDAY 15 JULY 2008

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- 3775 PROPOSED ADDITION OF UNRESERVED LAND TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—
- 3776 UPGRADE OF MONA VALE ROAD—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, Minister for Commerce, Acting Minister for Industrial Relations, and Acting Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 3777 SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales