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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 38

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2007

The Questions and Answers Paper is published for each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous 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.

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 22 (Including Question Nos 0951 to 0986)	20 November 2007
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 0987 to 1021)	21 November 2007
Q & A No. 24 (Including Question Nos 1022 to 1089)	22 November 2007
Q & A No. 25 (Including Question Nos 1090 to 1116)	23 November 2007
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 1117 to 1140)	27 November 2007
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 1141 to 1188)	28 November 2007
Q & A No. 28 (Including Question Nos 1189 to 1239)	29 November 2007
Q & A No. 29 (Including Question Nos 1240 to 1263)	30 November 2007
Q & A No. 30 (Including Question Nos 1264 to 1299)	11 December 2007
Q & A No. 31 (Including Question Nos 1300 to 1357)	12 December 2007
Q & A No. 32 (Including Question Nos 1358 to 1420)	13 December 2007
Q & A No. 33 (Including Question Nos 1421 to 1444)	14 December 2007
Q & A No. 34 (Including Question Nos 1445 to 1483)	18 December 2007
Q & A No. 35 (Including Question Nos 1484 to 1535)	19 December 2007
Q & A No. 36 (Including Question Nos 1536 to 1600)	20 December 2007
Q & A No. 37 (Including Question Nos 1601 to 1627)	21 December 2007
Q & A No. 38 (Including Question Nos 1628 to 1685)	01 January 2008

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(Paper No. 22)

*0951 PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTORS REGISTRY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Has the Department of Fair Trading had discussions with an organisation, Pre-Purchase Inspectors Registry (PPI)?
- (2) Has this organisation highlighted a fact that about 70 per cent of pest and building inspectors providing services are not licensed?
- (3) How many complaints have been lodged by consumers about the standard of service by pest and building inspectors?
- (4) How many of these complaints were lodged in each of the last five years?
- (5) Are consumers protected by Professional Indemnity Insurance if the pest and building inspector is licensed in New South Wales?
- (6) Are consumers protected by Professional Indemnity Insurance if they contract the services of such an inspector who is not licensed to do such services?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

(1) No.

(2) No. In the single letter I received from this company, there was no mention of this figure, merely a statement that the principal of the company had "come across many pest and building inspectors" that he believed were not appropriately insured or licensed.

(3) and (4) It should be noted that Fair Trading does not licence pest inspectors and that pre-purchase building consultants have only been required to hold a building consultancy licence since 1 January 2004.

From 1 January 2003 the Office of Fair Trading has received a total of 146 complaints about building and pest inspectors. While the nature of the complaint varies, essentially they all relate to the standard of service provided.

(5) and (6) There is no mandatory requirement for pest or building inspectors to carry professional indemnity insurance. However, consumers may possibly be covered by professional indemnity insurance, this depends on the qualifications and registrations held by the person undertaking a building inspection. For example, where the inspector holds registration as an architect and/or engineer, there may be professional indemnity insurance in place covering the building inspection report prepared.

*0952 PRIVATISATION OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED ENERGY BUSINESSES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the privatisation of Government-owned energy businesses:

(1) On 12 March 2007 did the Premier write a letter to the United Services Union saying:

"The privatisation of the State Government-owned energy companies is not on the agenda. In fact, the NSW Government's commitment to this sector is stronger than ever with record investment in new and upgraded electricity infrastructure."

(2) Did the Premier or the Premier's Chief of Staff receive any briefing or report discussing any proposal to privatise any energy assets before 12 March 2007?

Answer—

The Owen Inquiry was commissioned to provide expert advice, based on independent and impartial evidence, on NSW's future energy needs.

The Premier is on record, prior to the 2007 State Election, stating a preference for all new electricity generation capacity to come from the private sector.

It is possible to accept Professor Owen's recommendations while still keeping electricity assets in public ownership. Professor Owen suggests leasing generators to private operators, while keeping them in public ownership. Likewise the existing energy companies, Energy Australia, Integral Energy and Country Energy, would continue in Government ownership fulfilling their distribution function.

Before agreeing to any of Professor Owen's recommendations the Government will need to be satisfied that prices can be kept as low as possible, the environment is protected and there is job security for the workers currently employed in electricity businesses.

*0953 DERELICT BUILDING—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In relation to the derelict building at 6 Hastings Parade, North Bondi:

- (1) Is this property an asset of the Department of Housing?
- (2) If not, what is the ownership of the property?
- (3) What is the status of the repair or development of the property?
- (4) When was it last tenanted?
- (5) What are the Government's intentions in relation to the property?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The property is jointly owned by the department and Waverley Municipal Council.
- (3) to (5) The property is structurally unsound and is to be redeveloped in keeping with its heritage listing in collaboration with Waverley Council. The property is vacant.

*0954 SECURITY MEASURES—POWER STATIONS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to security measures at power stations:

- (1) Since September 2001, what reviews have been undertaken to assess security measures at power stations?
- (2) Do all employees at power stations undergo police background checks?
- (3) Are all employees and visitors required to display identification whilst on site at power stations?
- (4) Are all visitors required to pass through metal detectors and x-ray baggage checks before entering power stations?
- (5) How often are security measures at power stations audited, by whom, and when was the last time all power stations were audited?
- (6) Have all power stations in New South Wales passed auditing of their security measures, and if not, which power stations are yet to comply?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The NSW Critical Infrastructure Protection Management Framework relies on a cooperative approach based on the agreed roles and responsibilities identified in the National Guidelines for Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Terrorism. Under these arrangements, owners/operators are responsible for providing adequate security of their assets, actively applying risk management techniques to their planning processes and conducting regular reviews.

*0955 DOCS CASEWORKER SHORTAGE IN RURAL NSW—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

With regards to the job advertisement in the rural newspaper The Land on 4 October 2007 seeking applications to fill vacant caseworker positions "in your area":

- (1) Who was the successful advertiser tenderer and where are they from?
- (2) How much money is being spent on this advertising campaign?
- (3) (a) In which media does the ad appear in and what editions?
(b) Are the ads appearing in rural media outlets only or also in metropolitan outlets?
- (4) (a) How will the advertising program be assessed as successful?
(b) What are its performance criteria?
- (5) What criteria representing a typical caseworker were used to select the model in the advertisement?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) I am advised that the Department of Community Services complies with NSW Government advertising requirements.

*0956 SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORKS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Have the Shoalhaven and Orange community-based suicide prevention networks set up under the auspices of Wesley LifeForce received any financial or other assistance from the NSW Department of Health or their Area Health Services?
- (2) If so, what specific assistance has been provided to these organisations?

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- (3) Will the Minister provide a similar level of assistance to the Young community suicide prevention network if the community decides to proceed with the network following the community meeting in Young on 17 October?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health Mental Health Program (Southern Hospital Network, which includes the Shoalhaven area), Crossroads Youth Health Service in Nowra and the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital have nominated staff to attend monthly meetings of the Suicide Prevention Network in an advisory capacity.

(3) During the inaugural community meeting in Young, the Greater Southern Area Health Service committed to provide assistance to a network established at Young as follows:

- The participation of staff in the network
- Regular attendance at ongoing meetings
- Lead role in establishing an initial steering committee meeting
- Access to existing networks, local contacts and clinical expertise as required.

*0957 LOGGING AT MOUNT RAE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Why did the Department of Environment and Climate Change approve the Property Vegetation Plan that has led to the logging of native forest in the Mount Rae area?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that Upper Lachlan Shire Council had indicated its intention to refuse approval for this logging to proceed leading the proponent to withdraw his Development Application?
- (3) What action is the Minister going to take to ensure that this logging does not damage sensitive wildlife and native trees in the area?
- (4) Did the Minister's department take an audit of wildlife and vegetation species in the Mount Rae area prior to the logging commencing?

Answer—

- (1) Private Native Forestry Property Vegetation Plans were recently approved in the Mount Rae area. After signing a property vegetation plan, landholders are required to comply with the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 when logging native forests on private land. Landholders are entitled to have a property vegetation plan approved provided they agree to and can satisfy the requirements of the Code of Practice.
- (2) Whether or not development consent is required is a matter for Council to determine in light of its Local Environmental Plan and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. I am aware that a development application was previously submitted and that the applicant subsequently withdrew the application on advice from Council that it was not needed.
- (3) Private native forestry is now regulated by the Code of Practice that ensures environmental outcomes are improved or maintained. In addition, I have granted biodiversity certification of the Code on the grounds that it satisfies the objects of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The Code contains an extensive suite of conditions to protect the environment, including native vegetation and threatened species.
- (4) The Department of Environment and Climate Change is working co-operatively with landholders to arrange botanical surveys of the area.

*0958 MEAL COSTS—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

What is the cost of providing food to patients at Hornsby Hospital over the past 5 years and, if this work is outsourced, what are the details of this outsourcing?

Answer—

I am advised:

Catering cost information is provided in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's publicly available Annual Report each year. The work is not outsourced.

*0959 LOCAL COUNCIL TRAFFIC COMMITTEES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) How many local councils in NSW have traffic committees?

- (2) How many of these and which councils meet face-to-face on a regular basis?
(3) What is the usual timeframe for these meetings i.e. monthly?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

Traffic committees operate pursuant to the provisions of the Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Act 1999, not under the Local Government Act 1993.

The honourable member may wish to direct her more detailed questions to the Minister representing the Minister for Roads.

*0960 FOOD QUALITY—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

Are there food quality reviews or benchmarks undertaken to monitor the quality of meals at Hornsby Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service's Area Food Services undertake twice a year patient surveys. In addition, the Area's Quality Business Unit undertakes annual surveys to ensure benchmarks, which were set by patient focus groups, are achieved.

*0961 ANAESTHETIC MACHINES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the NSW Government provide basic equipment to public hospitals such as anaesthetic machines?
(2) How much money has been raised by the letter of appeal to Sutherland Shire residents by Sutherland Hospital to purchase anaesthetic machines?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government provides equipment through the allocation of funding to the Area Health Service.
(2) An amount of approximately \$28,000 was raised as at 23 October 2007.

*0962 REPLACEMENT OF TREES—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many trees have been removed from the Cronulla Sutherland Rail Corridor as part of the duplication of the Cronulla railway line?
(2) How many trees will be planted as part of the landscaping plan for the duplication of the Cronulla railway line?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the Cronulla Rail Line Duplication project is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation website at www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

*0963 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—COMPLAINTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What was the total number of complaints at Sutherland Hospital about patient health/medical services provided in:

- (a) 2000;
(b) 2001;
(c) 2002;
(d) 2003;
(e) 2004;
(f) 2005;
(g) 2006;
(h) 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

(a) to (e) inclusive

The NSW Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Program was introduced in 2004 supported with an

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allocation of \$55 million over a period of four years.

The Patient Safety and Clinical Quality Program aims to increase safety and improve efficiency and effectiveness of patient care outcomes on an ongoing basis.

The Program is designed to encourage the development of a reporting culture in the NSW Health system and ultimately reduce adverse patient incidents.

One of the major components of the Patient Safety and Clinical Quality program has been the statewide rollout of a uniform Incident Information Management System (IIMS) in all Area Health Services.

The incident management system has been in place since May 2005 and provides a comprehensive systematic mechanism to enable incidents to be electronically notified and managed.

In Area Health Services, all clinical incidents and complaints are being notified and managed through IIMS. There is no grouping for patient health/medical services as specified in the Member's question and to extract the data at this level would involve an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

*0964 FUNDRAISING BY CALL CENTRES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) Who authorises fundraising events for the Rural Bushfire Brigade and volunteers that are conducted by telemarketing call centres?
- (2) Does the fundraising require legislation or is it covered by legislation?
- (3) How much do call centres earn per fundraising event?
- (4) How are fundraising events reported and to whom?
- (5) Are reports prepared and available publicly detailing expenditure of moneys raised by call centre events?
- (6) How does a resident identify that the call soliciting money on behalf of a fire brigade or the organization is bona-fide?
- (7) What questions should the resident ask to confirm the identity and authority of the caller?
- (8) How many fraudsters are prosecuted for raising funds in bogus campaigns in NSW?

Answer—

The Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) utilises call centres for the purpose of fundraising. The RFSA is independent to the NSW Rural Fire Service and is a not-for-profit organisation representing the interests of its members. RFSA membership is open to all rural fire service fire fighters within NSW.

Residents who wish to donate but are concerned as to the validity of the caller or who they purport to represent are advised not to provide any credit details over the phone but rather, ask for an invoice to mailed to them.

The responsibility for legislation covering fundraising activities including the Lotteries and Art Unions Act 1901 and the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 rests with the Minister for Gaming and Racing.

*0965 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS—FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many motor vehicle accidents have occurred in the years from 30 June 2000 to 30 June 2007?
- (2) How many of the accidents that occurred between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2007 resulted in a fire or explosion post-crash?
- (3) How many accidents occurred which included heavy transport vehicles?
- (4) How many explosions are attributed to heavy transport vehicles?
- (5) Is the Roads and Traffic Authority concerned about the incendiary nature of accidents that have occurred resulting in injury and/or death?
- (6) Is there any evidence that there has been an increase in motor vehicles exploding upon impact compared with other years prior to 2000?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available on the Roads and Traffic Authority website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*0966 MPS SUITABILITY—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What criteria is used to determine if a MPS is suitable for a country town?
- (2) Are MPSs appropriate only for towns with a population of less than 5,000 people?

- (3) If a decision is made to establish an MPS in a small town where there is a private aged care facility, will it be included in the newly proposed MPS or will the MPS offer additional beds of a public nature for aged care?
- (4) Does the decision by Government to fund a MPS before the process of negotiating with other parties including private aged care providers etc. is completed, mean that the MPS will go ahead regardless of the negotiations with other service providers?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) There are a number of factors that are taken into consideration when determining the suitability of an MPS model. The Australian and State Governments have agreed that the following factors, whilst not all are required, are taken into consideration:

- An ageing community profile;
- A deficit of Commonwealth aged care places ie high (nursing home) and low (hostel) residential aged care places and Community Aged Care Packages;
- Limited access to a regional centre;
- Where there is no existing aged care provider locally;
- Presence of an acute hospital, but not essential;
- Catchment population of an MPS varies, but is generally around 1,000 to 4,000;
- Difficulties in delivering discrete/cost effective services to the community due to viability concerns, infrastructure or other identified reasons; and
- Community support for the model.

(3) Extensive consultation is held with all key stakeholders at the onset of the planning process for a potential MPS, which includes any existing aged care providers where they wish to be included. The funding of residential aged care beds is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The decision to include an existing aged care provider varies dependant on a range of factors.

(4) No.

*0967 PURCHASE OF ACCREDITED GREEN POWER—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What percentage of energy purchased for the operations of Parliament House is accredited green power?
- (2) What plans does the NSW Government have to increase the amount of accredited green power purchased for Parliament House?
- (3) With regard to the requirement for public service agencies to purchase a minimum of six per cent green power:
 - (a) What plans does the NSW Government have to increase the amount required above six per cent?
 - (b) Is it a requirement for the six per cent minimum to be "accredited" green power?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water.

*0969 RECYCLING OLD CARS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Does the NSW Government collect statistics on the number of cars illegally dumped in NSW?
- (2) If so, how many cars were illegally dumped in NSW in:
 - (a) 2006;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2004?
- (3) If not, what are the plans to start collecting this data?
- (4) Is the NSW Government aware of legislation in the United Kingdom that requires owners of end of life vehicles (ELV) to bring their ELV to an authorised treatment facility to be de-polluted before it gets recycled, following which owners are issued with Certificates of Destruction removing their responsibility for the vehicle?
- (5) What consideration has the NSW Government given to introducing similar requirements in NSW?

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(6) Did the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries provide reports in 2006 to the NSW Government, as requested by the former Environment Minister, about reducing "shredder floc", the residual from shredding metal particularly cars, which can leach in to landfill?

(7) If so, what is the NSW Government's response to report findings?

(8) If not, when does the NSW Government intend to receive reports?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government does not collect statistics on the number of illegally dumped vehicles.

The NSW Government is aware of UK legislation requiring vehicle owners to take end of life vehicles to authorised treatment facilities to be "de-polluted" before being disposed of.

In correspondence to the former Minister for the Environment in September 2006, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries stated that it saw no obstacle to working constructively with representatives of the automotive parts recycling and vehicle dismantling industry on reducing shredder floc. This would include work to identify measures to remove hazardous wastes from end of life vehicles.

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries also cited its current participation in a cooperative partnership with Sustainability Victoria and the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association to identify opportunities to increase the level of recovery and recycling of plastics used in vehicles. The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries has not provided a report to the NSW Government on reducing shredder floc.

The NSW Government is currently monitoring these projects with a view to exploring opportunities for future initiatives in NSW.

*0970 MAINTENANCE SPENDING—ELECTORATE OF DAVIDSON—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—

In the financial year 2006-07, of the \$256 million spent on school and TAFE maintenance, exactly how much over \$1 million was spent in the Davidson electorate?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. This funding includes over \$700,000 per day on maintenance to ensure schools and TAFEs are safe and efficient places to teach and learn.

In 2006-07, \$1.592 million was spent on programmed maintenance and essential urgent repairs in the Davidson electorate. In addition to this, schools in this area would also have benefited from preventative maintenance provided as part of the Department of Education and Training's maintenance contracts.

There are no TAFE buildings within the Davidson electorate.

*0971 ROADS AND TRAFFIC UPGRADES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What plans does the Government currently have to:

- (a) upgrade Wakehurst Parkway;
- (b) upgrade the Pacific Highway between Roseville and Turramurra;
- (c) introduce extra lights and pedestrian crossings on Forest Way?

Answer—

I am advised:

The former Health Minister announced in March 2006 a site had been identified at Frenchs Forest for a new Northern Beaches Hospital.

Any road improvements required to support the development will be taken into account during the Department of Health process for the delivery of the hospital.

A long-term plan is currently being developed in association with the Ku-ring-gai Town Centre Plan. Investigations will be undertaken on the Highway from the F3 to North Sydney as part of the Government's "Pinch Points" strategy.

*0972 BELROSE BUS ROUTE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When is it planned to introduce a bus service from Belrose to North Sydney or Milsons Point?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government's metropolitan and outer-metropolitan bus reforms are now complete, with all bus operators in Sydney, Newcastle, the Lower Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra and the Blue Mountains signed up to new contractual arrangements.

Belrose is located in Metropolitan Region 14 for which the contract holder is Forest Coach Lines.

As part of the new bus contracts bus operators are required to undertake annual service reviews. One of the reviews in the first three years of the contract must be a major review designed to develop an integrated network plan for the region.

Forest Coach Lines held a Regional Planning Forum at Forestville RSL on 4 July, 2007.

Following the Regional Planning Forums, bus operators are responsible for conducting community consultation on any network design or route changes proposed for the coming year.

*0973 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the Lower Tweed Traffic Management Plan fails to address the traffic flow problems that will arise from the RTA's preferred option for the development of the Pacific Highway Banora Point upgrade (Sexton Hill):

What alternatives will the RTA provide to address:

- (a) the traffic flow congestion in Minjungbal Drive;
- (b) the intersection capacity problems at Minjungbal Drive and Machinery Drive?

Answer—

Please refer to my answer to Question 0241.

*0974 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that an RTA representative at the public meeting to release the RTA's 2007 Noise & Vibration Report for the proposed Pacific Highway Banora Point upgrade (Sexton Hill) stated that "the RTA has doubts about the reliability of traffic flow data":

- (1) (a) Have any detailed counts on the Pacific Highway at Banora Point been conducted since 2001?
 - (b) If no, why not?
- (2) (a) Are the figures for the most recent traffic count publicly available?
 - (b) If yes, where can they be obtained?
 - (c) If no, will the Minister make them publicly available?
- (3) (a) Will a detailed traffic count be conducted on the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill?
 - (b) If no, why not?
 - (c) If yes, on what date?
- (4) Will the Minister ensure that no decisions regarding the Pacific Highway at Banora Point be made until reliable traffic flow data on the road is collected?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is preparing an environmental assessment on the preferred concept option for the Banora Point upgrade. This assessment will include detailed information on a wide variety of investigations and planning considerations, including traffic data and noise considerations.

The environmental assessment will be placed on display for public comment upon completion. This is expected to take place in early 2008.

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*0975 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given that the RTA's 2007 Noise & Vibration Report for the proposed Pacific Highway Sexton Hill upgrade has resulted in widespread community concern following comments by an RTA representative that "steep grades contribute to higher noise levels. Grades of 5% or more generate unacceptable levels of noise so we have 'tweaked' the plans to reduce the grade on Sexton Hill to 4.5%":

- (1) Will a reduction of a half of one percent have any significant impact on the level of noise generated?
- (2) If a reduction in gradient reduces noise generation, will consideration be given to Community Option C, which has less than 1% grade variation over its entire length?

Answer—

Please refer to my answer to Question 0974.

*0976 JENOLAN CAVES RESERVE TRUST—COMPLAINTS RECEIVED—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many complaints from members of the public did the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and/or administrator Mr Alan Griffin receive in 2004-05?
 - (a) How many of these complaints were about Caves House?
 - (b) How many of these complaints were about water?
 - (c) How many of these complaints were about power blackouts?
- (2) How many complaints from members of the public did the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and/or administrator Mr Alan Griffin receive in 2005-06?
 - (a) How many of these complaints were about Caves House?
 - (b) How many of these complaints were about water?
 - (c) How many of these complaints were about power blackouts?
- (3) How many complaints from members of the public did the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and/or administrator Mr Alan Griffin receive in 2006-07?
 - (a) How many of these complaints were about Caves House?
 - (b) How many of these complaints were about water?
 - (c) How many of these complaints were about power blackouts?

Answer—

In 2004-05, 46 complaints were received, all of which related to Caves House.

In 2005-06, 11 complaints were received, all of which related to Caves House.

No complaints were received in 2006-07.

*0977 SCHOOL ZONE SPEED CAMERA—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many accidents would the RTA normally require before deciding to install a speed camera in a school zone?
- (2) How many accidents have occurred on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, outside St Bernadette's Primary School since 1 July 2002?
- (3) How many of these were serious accidents causing injury?
- (4) How many students from St Bernadette's were injured in these accidents?

Answer—

I am advised:

The following criteria are applied to all school zones in NSW before a site is considered suitable for a fixed speed camera:

Where a school is bounded by more than one road, a single length of road must be selected which includes a school 40 km/h zone. That length will be the one that will achieve the maximum road safety benefit from the installation of a fixed speed camera around the school. That length must also meet the following:

- (a) The number of crashes along the selected road within the school zone must exceed 10 crashes for a 3 year period and include at least one crash in school zone times and
- (b) The AADT must exceed 10,000 and
- (c) There must be potential for conflict between pedestrians and vehicles during school zone times

within the 40 km/h school zone and

- (d) The physically site requirements must be inspected and found to be suitable for the installation of a fixed speed camera.

In total, 29 crashes have occurred on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, outside St Bernadette's Primary School for the period since July 2002 (2007 data is incomplete). These include 16 towaway crashes and 6 injury crashes. Two crashes occurred during school zone times. One of these was an injury crash.

*0978 KURNELL DESALINATION PILOT PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to the Kurnell desalination pilot plant:

- (1) How many million litres of seawater were pre-treated during the pre-treatment phase of the pilot plant testing?
- (2) Were reverse osmosis (RO) seawater desalination units on the site during pre-treatment testing?
- (3) If so, how many RO units were on the site?
- (4) What was the desalination capacity of each RO unit in million litres per day?
- (5) How many million litres of water did all the RO units desalinate during the pilot plant study?
- (6) Did the pilot plant operators or bidding consortiums request permission to operate the RO units to desalinate water?
- (7) What was Sydney Water's response to requests to operate the RO units?
- (8) What was the response of NSW Government staff and representatives to requests to operate the RO units?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) It is estimated that approximately 40 million litres has been pre-treated.
- (2) The reverse osmosis pilot plant was installed and commissioned in April 2007.
- (3) One.
- (4) 0.014 million litres per day.
- (5) The quantity of desalinated water was not measured but is estimated to be less than 1 million litres.
- (6) to (8) Sydney Water is not aware of any formal requests to operate the reverse osmosis unit.

*0979 ADDITION TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Regarding the possible addition of Crown land at lots 195 and 196 Cabbage Tree Road, Ingleside to Kuring-gai Chase National Park, what are the issues regarding the existing uses of these lots that need to be resolved by the Department of Lands?

Answer—

The land in question is subject to the Warriewood / Ingleside precinct land study, which has been reinstigated by Pittwater Council under the direction of the Department of Planning.

As part of this study, the Department of Lands has engaged Landcom to collate, prepare and provide input into planning studies regarding the future allocation of the Crown land on its behalf.

*0980 TAXI LICENSING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding the licensing of taxis:

- (1) How many licensed taxis are currently in operation in metropolitan Sydney?
- (2) Are there plans to issue new licences and, if so, when and how many?
- (3) How can the acute shortage of taxis serving Pittwater be addressed?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that there are 5,120 licensed taxis in the Sydney Metropolitan Transport District.
- (2) The number of taxi licenses that exist at any time is determined by market forces, meaning supply and demand, and the Ministry of Transport does not place any cap on license numbers. There are actually more taxi licenses in the Sydney area now than six years ago, with 5,120 licenses currently registered, up from 4,306 in 2001.
- (3) Any taxi licensed to operate in the Metropolitan Transport District can operate in the Northern Beaches area and the number of taxis on the road in Sydney is increasing each year. Where the

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Northern Beaches was only serviced by Manly Warringah Cabs in 2001, it now has two locally-based operators, with Premier's Peninsular Cabs now operating 20 taxis in the area.

*0981 TURIMETTA HEADLAND—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Is it safe for people to swim, snorkel or dive in the immediate vicinity of the cliff face sewage outfall at Turimetta Headland?

Answer—

Beachwatch monitors water quality at two swimming locations in the vicinity of the ocean outfall at Turimetta Headland:

- Warriewood Beach, which is located approximately 900 metres to the north of the headland, and
- Turimetta Beach, which is located approximately 750 metres south of the headland.

Beachwatch monitoring indicates that both locations have met 100 per cent of the swimming water quality guidelines over the last three years.

A number of factors need to be considered in determining whether it is safe to swim, snorkel or dive in the immediate vicinity of the outfall, including the elevated risk of drowning in the strong currents generated by the outfall.

*0982 COUNTRYLINK RAIL SERVICES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to CountryLink Rail Services:

- (1) What are the reasons for the breakdowns experienced in September 2007, including:
 - (a) a Melbourne/Sydney XPT that broke down on leaving Melbourne and remained in Melbourne for 4 days for repair;
 - (b) the Dubbo XPT being replaced by an Xplorer service;
 - (c) a Sydney/Melbourne XPT leaving Sydney with no sleeping car; and
 - (d) a Casino/Sydney XPT being hauled empty by a hired diesel locomotive?
- (2) What is the Government's policy regarding preventative maintenance of CountryLink rolling stock (carriages and engines)?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that the daily Grafton/Sydney and Sydney/Grafton XPT services are retained?

Answer—

- (1) (a) to (d) Delays to CountryLink services can be caused by a range of unique challenges such as delays on the CityRail network, increasing use of longer freight trains on interstate lines and speed restrictions imposed by the ARTC during extreme heat conditions.

Many of these factors are often out of CountryLink's hands, however, CountryLink works closely with the ARTC to ensure that passengers are given a reliable service and certainty of arrival and departure times when unexpected issues arise.

- (2) CountryLink rollingstock is serviced and maintained in accordance with the Technical Maintenance Plan prepared by the Engineering & Planning section of the Rollingstock Division, Asset Maintenance Group.

Maintenance and servicing of carriages and engines is performed at regular intervals.

This includes routine major component changes as part of the periodic maintenance schedule, and major repairs or refurbishments.

- (3) There is no intention of replacing or reducing any of the current CountryLink services.

*0983 TESTING FOR OLDER DRIVERS—PROPOSED CHANGES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to proposed changes to testing arrangements for older drivers:

- (1) What is the percentage of NSW residents with no access to public transport?
- (2) How many drivers aged over 85 years old live in those regions?
- (3) What provisions will be made for over 85-year-olds living over 10 km out of town to have access to basic necessities and medical services?
- (4) What daily time factor applies to the 10 km radius?
- (5) Is the kilometrage cumulative?

- (6) Will enforcement become an additional duty for NSW Police, or will a separate body of mileage monitors be formed?
- (7) How will infringements be detected and what will be the penalties?
- (8) Is the same kilometrage available for all groups or will it be commensurate with age?
- (9) What is proposed for drivers in locations where the front gate is located more than 5 km from the residence?
- (10) Have details of administration and enforcement been addressed and costed?
- (11) Has the impracticality of implementing this proposal in areas away from public transport been considered?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is committed to preserving the independence of older people. As the population ages, maintaining the mobility of older people is a growing challenge.

That's why the RTA released an Older Driver discussion paper, to encourage public debate. The discussion paper is about providing more choice and less testing for older drivers.

Currently drivers do not have a choice when they reach 85. They must sit an annual driving test if they wish to remain on our roads. Many drivers only drive in local areas on roads they know well. That's why the discussion paper puts forward a second option – the local licence.

Under the proposal drivers would have a choice when they reach 85. They could automatically be issued with a local licence and remain mobile, or they would be able to still sit a test if they want to drive with no restrictions for long distances.

For many older drivers being able to get to the local shops, doctor and church is critical and the local licence would give them a hassle-free option to stay mobile, without sitting an annual test.

For those who still drive long distances nothing would change from the current situation and they would still sit an annual test.

The consultation period on the older driver discussion paper has now closed, with more than 24,000 submissions received. The RTA is in the process of assessing these submissions and will report to the Government in due course.

*0984 BELLINGEN DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Bellingen District Hospital and the understanding of many in the local community, including hospital staff, that the State Government intends closing the maternity ward:

- (1) What are the Minister's plans for maternity services in the Bellingen Valley?
- (2) If it is the Minister's intention to close the maternity ward, can the Minister guarantee that expectant mothers and babies' health will not be jeopardised as a result?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Maternity services at Bellinger River District Hospital remain unchanged.

The New South Wales Department of Health is currently developing an education, policy directive and guidelines strategy to improve fetal welfare surveillance, neonatal resuscitation and obstetric emergency management, and to enhance outcomes for mothers and babies in New South Wales.

All Area Health Services are required to undertake staged actions to be undertaken between now and 31 March 2008 for all New South Wales Hospitals, including Bellinger River District Hospital.

To facilitate this process the North Coast Area Health Service and the Rural Doctors Association are progressing a joint working party to consider the most appropriate way to respond to the staged actions.

The impact of the education, policy directive and guidelines strategy will be to increase patient safety, whilst continuing to allow low risk births at Bellinger River District Hospital now and in the future.

*0985 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

In the Budget paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-31 there is the following statement:

The following agencies have a Minor Works Program only:

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Office of Children

What is the amount of funds and what programs are in the Minor Works Program for programs in the Myall Lakes electorate?

Answer—

The Office for Children's capital funding of \$99,000 in 2007-08 is allocated under Treasury's Minor Works program for in-house plant and equipment. The Office for Children has no capital programs in the Myall Lakes or other electorates.

*0986 CONTRACT NUMBER 2390—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Does the Government operate under contract number 2390 for the provision of office machinery to public education institutions?
- (2) If so, when did the contract commence?
- (3) If so, what was the term of the contract?
- (4) Is the Government seeking to terminate or renegotiate this contract before its expiry date?
- (5) If so, why?

Answer—

I am advised:

The contract commenced on 1 January 2006 for a three year period. There is provision to exercise two one-year extension options.

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*0987 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) How many complaints have been lodged by consumers against a company by the name of:
 - (a) A,AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA Blackout Shutters Pty Ltd trading as Comfort Control Shutters; and/or
 - (b) Blackout Shutters Pty Ltd; and/or
 - (c) Comfort Control Shutters?
- (2) If any, how many of these complaints were received in each of the past five years?
- (3) If any, what was the nature of these complaints?

Answer—

The Office of Fair Trading advises me that:

- (1) (a) None.
- (b) None.
- (c) One.
- (2) The complaint against Comfort Control Shutters was received in May 2007.
- (3) The complainant advised that a shutter had stopped working eight months after it was installed. The trader attended to the repair, however, the problem continued and the complainant engaged his own electrician. The trader had sent the customer an invoice for the repair which the customer disputed, arguing he should not be responsible as the product was faulty and the initial repair was unsatisfactory. Fair Trading attempted to mediate the dispute, however, it was not possible to resolve and as a result the complainant was advised of his option of pursuing the matter through the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal.

*0988 PROPOSED F6 FREEWAY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the proposed F6 freeway:

- (1) Have any RTA officials undertaken an assessment of the F6 freeway proposal?
- (2) If so, will this assessment be made publicly available?
- (3) Has the RTA received any briefing from the private sector on the proposed F6 freeway?

Answer—

I am advised:

The F6 transport corridor has been in place since 1951. There are currently no plans before the Government for a specific project in the corridor.

*0989 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN—Mr Peter Debnam 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 State Infrastructure Strategy: New South Wales 2006-07 to 2015-16 and the Minister's response to Written Question 0116:

What "major construction projects" were sampled for the "statistical analysis" [Written Question 0116] that demonstrated "a distinct reduction in cost overruns", as asserted in the State Infrastructure Plan [pg 14]?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The major construction projects sampled were 2005-06 projects with a total cost over one million dollars. The analysis involved calculating for each project, the percentage between its then current predicted or actual final cost and its original approved budget. The average percentage change per project was then calculated for those projects that commenced prior to the introduction of Gateway and for those that commenced after the introduction of Gateway. The latter group showed a 50% reduction in average percentage change compared to the earlier group.

*0990 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to a renewable energy supply for the Kurnell desalination plant:

(1) Did a briefing take place on 3 October 2007 in the Sydney Water head offices between Sydney Water and potential renewable energy suppliers?

(2) Given that the Minister said on 15 October 2007 about the briefing:

"We've briefed 22 of the players in the industry sector, which is a considerable number, and there is very significant interest in this,"

Which 22 'players' received the briefing referred to by the Minister?

(3) Were potential renewable energy suppliers told at the briefing that the proposed initial contractual arrangement did not provide any certainty of volume of renewable energy after 24 months?

(4) What deadline was given to the companies for completion of the generation projects?

(5) When do the proposed contracts come into effect and when do they expire?

(6) How many tendering companies can be successful?

(7) What upfront fees will be required from all tendering companies?

(8) Will all renewable energy supplied to the Kurnell desalination plant be supplied from new capacity built after 2007?

(9) Will the desalination plant be consuming only renewable energy from its first day of operation?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

(1) Yes.

(2) The following companies were briefed: Allco Wind Energy Management Pty Ltd, Atdam Pty Ltd, EnergyAustralia, Eraring Energy, Res Southern Cross, Babcock & Brown, Wizard Power Pty Ltd, Parker & Partners, AGL Hydro Partnership, Carnegie Corporation Ltd, Elpicon Power Systems, Energy Decisions, Origin Energy, Allens Arthur Robinson, Acciona Energy, EPURON Pty Ltd, Integral Energy, ABN AMRO Australia, Wideform Holdings Pty Ltd, COzero Pty Ltd, Wind Power Pty Ltd, Pacific Hydro, Roaring 40s, International Power (Australia) Pty Ltd, Wind Power Queensland Pty Ltd, and Country Energy.

(3) No. Attendees at the briefing were advised that "after the first two years' operation, energy demand depends on dam storage levels".

(4) Sydney Water requires renewable energy be available to power the plant from September 2009.

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- (5) Sydney Water expects to award a contract in March 2008. Sydney Water will negotiate a contract term that offers the best value-for-money.
- (6) The number of successful companies is dependent on the response from the market.
- (7) As is the usual practice for Sydney Water tenders, proponents are required to purchase the Request for Proposal. The cost is \$200.00. There are no further Sydney Water fees for participation in the procurement process.
- (8) The energy may be supplied from existing or new accredited renewable generation facilities.
- (9) Yes.

*0991 PATIENT ADMISSIONS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many patients from NSW were admitted to hospital in the ACT during the years 2005 and 2007?
- (2) Will the Government provide a breakdown of admissions by postcode?

Answer—

The information sought is not routinely collected and reported by postcode basis and to answer the question would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department from the exercise of its core functions.

*0992 NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Health—

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

Answer—

I am advised:

Whilst Area Health Services collect information on negligence claims settled, they would need to go through individual files to confirm the exact terms of settlement were in each case.

To answer the Honourable Member's question further in the detail requested would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of NSW Health from the exercise of its core functions.

*0993 CORRESPONDENCE—LAND AT HUSKISSON—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

When will a response be provided to correspondence from me and the former Member for South Coast, John Hatton, in relation to the funding options for a parcel of land at Huskisson, currently owned by the Huskisson RSL Club and situated at the corner of Owen and Currambene Streets, Huskisson?

Answer—

I responded to this correspondence on 13 November 2007.

*0994 NORTH NOWRA LINK ROAD—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the Minister approve plans to allow construction of the North Nowra Link Road as promised by the Member for Kiama prior to the March 2007 election?

Answer—

I am advised the Department of Planning issued the proponent, Shoalhaven City Council, with requirements for the preparation of a formal Environmental Assessment on 16 April 2007. The environmental assessment and decision making processes are dependent upon receipt of a satisfactory Environmental Assessment from the proponent. The Department advises me this has not occurred to date.

*0995 SECURITY FENCING—HAVENLEE SPECIAL SCHOOL—Mrs Shelley Hancock 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—

When will funds be provided for security fencing at Havenlee Special School in North Nowra as promised by the Member for Kiama prior to the March 2007 election?

Answer—

Since 1996, the NSW Labor Government has installed more than 570 security fences in schools across the state at a cost of more than \$55 million. During 2007/08 59 security fencing projects are planned to be completed at a cost of \$10.5 million. These projects form part of the Building Better Schools Program, under which 200 schools will receive security fencing over the term of the current government at an estimated cost of \$39 million.

It is worth noting that prior to 1996, none of the state's public schools had security fencing.

Havenlee School and North Nowra Public School have been identified by the Department of Education and Training for the provision of security fencing. These projects are included in the NSW Labor Government's \$2 billion Building Better Schools Program and will be provided within the term of the current Government.

*0996 YOUNG CRISIS ACCOMMODATION CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) What specific meetings and actions has the Department of Community Services taken to assist the Young Crisis Accommodation Centre to find new accommodation following your interview about the future of the centre on ABC Riverina Radio on 19 September 2007?
- (2) On what date did these meetings occur?
- (3) With whom have these discussions been held?
- (4) What specific outcomes have been achieved since 19 September 2007?
- (5) Will you confirm that Department of Community Services staff have told the Young Crisis Accommodation Centre that there is no funding available to purchase new premises?
- (6) If this is the situation, what specific action will you take to provide beds and shelter to the approximately 80 women and children victims of domestic violence that the centre currently assists each year?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (6) A series of meetings have been held with DoCS and Young Crisis Accommodation Centre management staff and committee, the most recent of which on 24 September 2007 included representation from Argyle Community Housing and the Office of Community Housing.

DoCS has been negotiating with the Department of Housing, Office of Community Housing and Argyle Community Housing to develop accommodation options for the clients of Young Crisis Accommodation Centre.

DoCS is aware that the Centre needs new accommodation options from 30 June 2008 and will continue to work with the Centre which is maintaining its operations from its current premises.

*0997 MEN'S SHEDS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Does the NSW Department of Health or any Area Health Service provide any financial assistance to any Men's Shed in NSW?
- (2) If so, what assistance is provided?

Answer—

I am advised:

A review of NSW Health funded non-government organisations (NGOs) does not reveal any funding allocated to Men's Sheds in NSW via the NGO Grant program.

It is possible that Area Health Services provide funding to Men's Sheds, but an accurate response to that aspect of the question cannot be provided in the time available.

*0998 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT YASS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Given that the Occupational Therapist at the Yass Community Health Centre, Ms Bezjak, retired from the position about one month ago, what action has the Greater Southern Area Health Service taken to fill this position?
- (2) Has this vacant position been advertised outside the Greater Southern Area Health Service?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What action has the Greater Southern Area Health Service taken to ensure that Occupational Therapy Services from the Yass Community Health Service continue uninterrupted whilst a replacement staff member is being sought?

Answer—

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(1) to (4) I am advised that Ms Bezzak was the sole Speech Pathologist at Yass Health Service, not an Occupational Therapist.

The Greater Southern Area Health Service has advertised externally in order to recruit to this position. As an interim measure, urgent cases are being supported by Speech Pathology services at Goulburn pending recruitment.

Occupational Therapy services continue uninterrupted.

*1000 F3 SOUND BARRIERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) What is being done to improve quality of life for people living in Mount Kuring-gai by reducing noise levels from the F3?

(2) When will there be a southern extension to the eastern sound barriers along the F3 at Mount Kuring-gai?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is to undertake surface treatment of the section of F3 Freeway at Mount Ku-ring-gai to provide a quieter pavement. This work is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Further information can be obtained from the project details and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the F3 widening available at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1001 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

In Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at pages 5-84 and 5-85 the following entries appear:

New Works:

Administrative Assets IT Projects various
Community Housing various
Community Housing Asset Improvement various
Crisis Accommodation various
Crisis Accommodation Asset Improvement various
Office Accommodation and Administrative Assets various
Public Housing various
Public Housing Asset Improvement various

Work-in-progress:

Community Housing various
Crisis Accommodation various
Public Housing various

What are the implications for the Hornsby electorate in relation to this funding?

Answer—

Public Housing Asset Improvement – an allocation of \$305,000 to be spent to improve existing dwellings in various locations across the Hornsby electorate.

*1002 CYCLEWAYS—CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Cronulla electorate?

(2) How much money has been spent on cycleways in the Cronulla electorate in 2006-07?

(3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Cronulla electorate in 2007-08?

Answer—

I am advised:

The planning for new cycleways in the Cronulla electorate is a matter for Sutherland Council. Council has an existing Bike Plan. The implementation of the proposed works from within that bike plan is subject to the priorities of the Council. All NSW Councils have a yearly opportunity to submit candidate cycleway projects to the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) for 50/50 funding consideration.

During 2006/07 the RTA provided \$100,000 to Sutherland Council for cycleways. In 2007/08 Sutherland Council has been allocated \$150,000.

*1003 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What volume of sewage overflows entered the environment of Port Hacking in:

- (a) 2000;
- (b) 2003;
- (c) 2005;
- (d) 2007?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that dry weather overflows, generally caused by blockages in small sewer pipes, accounted for less than 1 megalitre of discharge per year into Port Hacking between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Wet weather overflows occur when stormwater enters private sewer and sewer mains, causing the transport capacity of these pipes to be exceeded. The volumes of discharge shown below, where available, reflect the number and intensity of storms during the reporting period.

- (a) Not readily available without extensive computer modelling.
- (b) 3 megalitres in 2003/04.
- (c) 4 megalitres in 2005/06.
- (d) Not currently available.

Sydney Water is investing approximately \$150 million over four years to reduce wet weather overflows in the sewerage catchments across Sydney. Works are nearing completion in the catchment of Port Hacking to reduce wet weather overflows to Gunnamatta Bay and Cronulla.

*1004 FOOD QUALITY—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

Are there food quality reviews or benchmarks undertaken to monitor the quality of meals at Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that patient satisfaction surveys are conducted annually at Sutherland Hospital.

*1005 SAME SEX ADOPTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Community Services—

Following the Review of the Adoption Act 2000 that reported to Parliament in October 2006, ABS Census statistics showing about 4,000 children currently living in families with same sex couple parents, and the 2007 Victorian Law Reform Commission's report recommending recognition of child-parent relationships in same sex families:

- (1) Has the Government reviewed the research and reputable literature on the impacts of same sex relationships on child development, and what is the result of this analysis?
- (2) Has the Government assessed the experience of other jurisdictions where same sex couples can adopt, and what is the result of this assessment?
- (3) What action will the Government take to provide legal certainty and rights for children who live in families with same sex couple parents?
- (4) When does the Government plan to provide amendments to the Adoption Act 2000?

Answer—

(1) and (2) The eligibility of gay and lesbian couples to adopt was referred by the former Minister to the Ministerial Advisory Committee (an expert advisory group providing advice on policy, legislation and service issues) for further consideration and advice. In the course of its deliberations, the Committee considered the results of research regarding children parented by same-sex couples and examined legislation and practice on same-sex adoptions in other jurisdictions.

(3) and (4) The advice of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the review of the Adoption Act 2000 is currently being considered.

*1006 YOUTH GANGS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Community Services—

With respect to the 2007 review of youth gang research carried out by the University of Tasmania's Rob White for the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, which identifies that successful programs are based on youth participation and social inclusion, and include detached youth workers:

- (1) What youth gang research has the NSW Government carried out?

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- (2) What programs designed to include alienated young people does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?
- (3) What detached youth worker programs does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?
- (4) What programs designed to direct young people into education, training and work does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?
- (5) What programs designed to involve young people in "community space" does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?
- (6) What programs designed to involve young people in decision-making and service provision does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?
- (7) What other programs designed to prevent youth gang-related problems does the NSW Government provide in the Sydney electorate?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) The issues you raise are a matter for my colleague the Minister for Youth.

*1007 COMMERCIAL WATER USE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

Given the decision to maintain low-level residential water restrictions in NSW in response to the threat of long-term drought:

- (1) With regard to a Sydney Morning Herald report that 14 of Sydney's 50 top commercial water users have increased their consumption, how many of the 14 companies has the NSW Government approached in response to the increase, to discuss methods to reduce water use?
- (2) In the case of not having approached all companies, what plans does the NSW Government have to discuss water use reduction with the companies not yet approached?
- (3) What consideration has the NSW Government given to introducing mandatory restrictions for commercial water users to reduce their water use?
- (4) What consideration has the NSW Government given to preventing commercial users from using potable water where recycled water use is feasible?

Answer—

- (1) It would appear that Ms Moore's question relates to a Sydney Morning Herald article by Matthew Moore dated 24 July 2007. To clarify, that article refers to 10 of Sydney's 50 top commercial water users, not 14 as stated in the question.

Contrary to the claims in the Herald article of 24 July, large water users are in fact substantially reducing their consumption of potable water. The article does not distinguish between consumption of potable water and recycled water, and makes only passing reference to the massive investment in recycling that is now underway.

The NSW Government was already working with all 10 customers identified in the article to reduce potable water use through improved water efficiency and use of recycled water. The increased use of recycled water means the consumption of potable water by Sydney's top 10 water users is already down 20% compared to 2003. By 2010, potable water consumption is expected to be down 60% compared to 2003 levels. Improved efficiencies should reduce potable water consumption even further.

- (2) The NSW Government is working with all 10 companies.
- (3) As stated in the 2006 Metropolitan Water Plan, the Government will review drought restrictions once the current drought ends and develop a new restrictions regime to apply in future droughts. This review will examine options for ensuring that all water users contribute optimally to water savings during drought periods.
- (4) The Government has made a commitment to introduce a Recycled Water State Environmental Planning Policy that will require major new developments in Sydney to utilise recycled water if they are located adjacent to the Recycled Water Grid. The Government has also created a five year \$100 million Recycling and Stormwater Harvesting Program, as part of the \$340 Climate Change Fund, to help connect business, councils and residential properties to the Grid.

Large existing commercial and industrial users are required to complete Water Savings Action Plans which identify potential recycling opportunities. Many of these identified projects have received assistance from the Water Savings Fund, making more recycling projects feasible than ever before.

*1008 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the NSW Department of Lands website for the daily monitoring reports on the Tweed Sand Bypass Project shows infrequent updates of seabed contour maps of the Tweed River:

- (1) Will the daily monitoring reports (since the beginning of this project in 2000 to present date) from Letitia Spit through to Kirra Reef, incorporating the result of the Jack Evans Boat Harbour, be provided in electronic format?
- (2) What are the short-term trends that have been identified from the daily monitoring of this project?
- (3) What long-term trends have been predicted from the daily monitoring of this project?

Answer—

- (1) Up to date photos of beach conditions from Duranbah Beach to North Kirra Beach are already available on the project website (www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au). More detailed information from 2002 to present is available on the University of NSW website (www.wrl.unsw.edu.au/coastalimaging/public/tweed). Daily wave records are provided through the University of NSW website, as well as the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency website (www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/coast_and_oceans/beaches_and_dunes/tweed_river_sandbypassing_project). Jack Evans Boatharbour is not a part of the Tweed Sand Bypass Project and is not monitored by the project.
- (2) Identified short-term trends include:- initial large quantity of sand that is moving slowly through the beach system near Kirra continues to disperse under the influence of storm swells; good navigation conditions at the Tweed River entrance are being maintained; landward movement of Duranbah Beach is not occurring as rapidly or as extensively as predicted; Rainbow Bay is beginning to behave more naturally in response to sand delivery to the Snapper Rocks East sand outlet; the pumping operation is successfully delivering the natural quantity of sand that would drift naturally along Letitia Beach to the southern Gold Coast beaches; and Kirra Reef is recovering and growing in its exposure as sand moves northwards and Kirra Beach continues to move landward.
- (3) Predicted long-term trends include:- bypassing system will meet its operational objectives into the future by maintaining a natural level of sand nourishment to southern Gold Coast beaches and improved Tweed River entrance navigation; the southern Gold Coast beaches will trend to narrower beaches as the mass of sand presently located near Kirra Beach disperses; surfing opportunities will trend back to point breaks; the southern Gold Coast beaches will generally behave as they did pre-1960s; Letitia Beach will adjust to the pumping system and alignment will generally be in the position it is currently, but will cut and build in response to storm erosion; Duranbah Beach will reach a stable position and will require periodical sand nourishment; tidal range in the Tweed estuary will be generally unaffected and, as a consequence, seagrass and other habitat will not be affected; and the Tweed river entrance will require ongoing periodical dredging each two years or more frequently.

*1009 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the NSW Department of Lands website contains limited information on the environmental management of the Tweed Sand Bypass Project:

- (1) Will copies of the 2006-2007 Environmental Protection Report & Environmental Impact Study and other relevant environmental assessments for the Tweed Sand Bypass project be provided in electronic format?
- (2) Will approval be given for the representation of two Coastal Alliance community action group members to participate in the working group of this project and to also attend working group meetings?
- (3) Who are the parties that are in charge of monitoring this project?

Answer—

- (1) No. Copies of the project's 2006/07 environmental monitoring report will be made available in hardcopy format. The project's Stage 1 and Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statements and Impact Assessment Studies are also available in hardcopy at various libraries.
- (2) Composition of the Advisory Committee is set out in the Heads of Agreement as contained in Schedule 2 of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Act 1995. It is not proposed to change the composition of the Committee. However, the Agreement acknowledges the importance of community input and provides for community consultation through the various stages and steps of the Project. In this regard, Advisory Committee meetings provide access for interested community

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members to express their views. Representatives of the Coastal Alliance have attended more recent Advisory Committee meetings.

- (3) The interstate project Working Group is responsible for implementation of the project. NSW is the nominated Coordinating State under the Deed of Agreement between the States, and is broadly responsible for project delivery and monitoring. This function is carried out by the NSW Department of Lands.

*1010 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the NSW Department of Lands website does not contain specific funding and expenditure on the Tweed Sand Bypass Project:

- (1) Will the total budget allocation and financial expenditure on this project since the beginning of this project in 2000 to present date, be provided?
- (2) Will a breakdown of the contributions made by the Qld Government, NSW Government and Gold Coast council to the budget allocation and financial expenditure on this project since the beginning of this project in 2000 to present date, be provided?
- (3) Will an outline of the future budgets for this project for the next three years be provided?

Answer—

- (1) The Project website is currently being upgraded and will include financial information regarding Project costs. The current website upgrade is scheduled for completion by 31 January 2008.
- (2) The financial contributions by the funding partners will be included in the website revision.
- (3) The basis for future financial requirements will be included in the website revision.

*1011 CLASSES FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN—Mr Michael Richardson 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—

Which primary schools in northwestern Sydney have special classes for autistic children? How many are available in each of these classes?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Training currently has classes in north western Sydney for students with autism at North Rocks Public School, Winston Hills Public School, Caddies Creek Public School, Sherwood Ridge Public School and Rouse Hill Public School. There is a total of 56 places available in these classes.

*1013 CORRESPONDENCE—ROSS VAN—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is an acceptable length of time to answer a representation from a Member of Parliament?
- (2) When will the Minister answer the representation I made on 7 November 2006 on behalf of Mr Ross Van of West Pennant Hills regarding noise barriers on the M2?

Answer—

I am advised:

A response has been sent.

*1014 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What is the latest estimated completion date for the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The new Northern Beaches Hospital is recognised as a high priority in the NSW Health Department's Capital Strategic Investment Plan. Once detailed planning is completed for this major project, it will be submitted to Government for funding approval.

*1015 BICYCLE RIDING ON PAVEMENTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Regarding the existing legislation concerning the use of bicycles:

- (1) If a child under the age of 12 years rides a bicycle on the pavement, is it classed as a "road vehicle"?

(2) Is it compulsory for that bicycle to be fitted with a bell or horn?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to the Australian Road Rules is publicly available on the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1016 UNPAID CREDITORS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What are the names, amounts and length of time unpaid of all creditors of Mona Vale Hospital as at:

- (a) 31 December 2006;
- (b) 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that management of creditor payments is maintained at an Area Health Service, not an individual hospital, level.

This is an Area-wide purchasing and accounts payable policy that enables the Area Health Service to achieve competitive pricing for goods and services.

*1017 RAINWATER TANK REBATE—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Has the Minister received an application from Mr S Diehm for a rainwater tank rebate of \$1,500?
- (2) If so, when was that application received?
- (3) Was any acknowledgment sent indicating the application was received?
- (4) If so, when?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) If not, when will Mr Diehm's application be processed?

Answer—

Mr Diehm's application for a rainwater tank rebate was received on 20 August 2007. He was sent a rebate cheque for \$1500 on 16 October 2007.

In order to ensure that applications are handled as quickly as possible, acknowledgements are sent after they have been processed. Provided applications are complete and valid, they should be processed within 60 days.

*1018 MANAGER—BULAHDELAH HOSPITAL—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is there a full-time manager appointed at Bulahdelah Hospital?
- (2) Is not, why not?
- (3) If not, how long and why has the position been vacant?
- (4) If not, when will a full-time manager be appointed at the Bulahdelah Hospital?
- (5) If a full-time manager is not to be appointed, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) A manager was appointed to the manager's position at Bulahdelah Health Service in August 2007. This person is currently on long service leave occasioned by illness. Another manager has been appointed to relieve in this position.
- (2) to (5) Not applicable.

*1019 LIBRARY FUNDING—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

When will the Minister consider an increase in library funding, including capital works?

Answer—

Decisions regarding funding allocations are made in accord with the annual budget process.

*1020 RURAL FIRE SERVICE—WATER TRANSPORTATION—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In areas affected by drought could the Rural Fire Service cart water to farms for stock and domestic supplies?

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Answer—

The NSW Rural Fire Service's primary role is fire protection and this takes priority over any other function.

On occasions the RFS has provided additional water for fire fighting purposes to towns where water supplies have been disrupted.

RFS appliances are not commissioned to transport potable water and therefore are generally not suitable for this use. However, the RFS has in its fleet a number of bulk water carriers that are located throughout NSW that could be used to transport water if it were required provided they were not needed for fire fighting operations.

*1021 DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

Will the Minister reduce the level of frivolous departmental requests to shires to provide information, comply with requests or surveys, as they are impeding shire staff who have more important tasks to carry out?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

The Department has undertaken a review of the existing local government planning and reporting framework, with a view to strengthening councils' strategic focus and "cutting red tape" in planning and reporting processes.

An options paper with a series of proposed reforms was issued to all councils, relevant government agencies and industry groups, and the Department conducted an extensive consultation program with the sector to gauge its opinion of the proposals.

The sector has indicated support for a proposal to streamline the existing planning and reporting framework and introduce a mandatory long-term strategic plan and asset management strategies for councils.

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*1022 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FIRES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) For each of the past five years, how many dwellings owned by the Department of Housing have been burnt down in the Mount Druitt area?
- (2) How many of these dwellings were vacant at the time of the fire damage?
- (3) How many of these fires were considered to be deliberately lit?
- (4) How does the number of fires in Department of Housing dwellings in the Mount Druitt area compare to other housing estates managed by the department?
- (5) Is the Department of Housing notified by police if any person or persons are arrested for these fires?
- (6) If so, how many persons in each of the past five years have been charged by police for the setting of fires in Department of Housing dwellings in the Mount Druitt area?

Answer—

(1) to (5) Housing NSW considers the risk of fires in public and community housing to be a very serious matter. Housing NSW works closely with the NSW Fire Brigade and Local Government to reduce the risk of fire and actively promote tenant awareness of the dangers of fire.

The Government's investment in fire safety has reduced the number of fatalities and injuries by fires over the past decade by some 60%.

To further reduce fire hazards in public and community housing, the Government has implemented the Fire Safety Program. The types of work carried out under the Fire Safety Program primarily involves installation of smoke seals around doors; protection of floor/wall penetrations; replacing entrance doors to new standards; applying new technology fire resistant paint finish to ceilings, doors and stacks; emergency lighting and improvements to party wall separations in roof spaces.

(6) Police charges have been laid on 22 occasions in regards to severe arson attacks on DOH properties in

the Mount Druitt 2002-007.

- *1023 SALT INTERCEPTION PLANT—WALLA WALLA—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What arrangements have been made for operation of the Salt Interception Plant at Morgan's Lookout near Walla Walla?

Answer—

In recent years drought funding has been provided to cover the cost of operating the Billabong Creek Salt Interception scheme for short periods to provide water supply for landholders.

The Government is currently considering options to enable the scheme to operate for the next six months, while negotiations are being finalised for the longer term operation of the scheme.

- *1024 NGO GRANT PROGRAM—MENTAL HEALTH—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

(1) In the 2007-2008 budget, what percentage of expenditure on mental health services is allocated to the NGO Grant Program?

(2) How does this percentage compare with the national average?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Funding under the Mental Health NGO Grants Program for 2007-08 is currently subject to consideration and approval by the Minister for Health.

The Government remains committed to investing strongly in mental health activity in the non-government sector.

(2) The question on a comparative analysis of NGO funding with the national average should be referred to the Commonwealth Government.

- *1025 HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

(1) What has been the total expenditure on health care infrastructure in the Albury electorate in each of:

(a) 2005;

(b) 2006;

(c) 2007 to date?

(2) What projects have been completed in those same periods and are they all fully operational?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not budget or record expenditure on the basis of electorates. To extract data against individual facilities and electorates would involve an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

- *1026 ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—COMPLAINTS—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

How many complaints were received relating to patient health/medical services provided at Albury Base Hospital in each year, inclusive, between 2000 and 2007 to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

In Area Health Services, all clinical incidents and complaints are being notified and managed through IIMS. There is no grouping for patient health/medical services as specified in the Honorable Members question and to extract the data at this level would involve an unjustifiable diversion of resources.

- *1027 POLICE RESOURCES—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

(1) How many patrol cars are attached to the Albury Local Area Command?

(2) How many full-time equivalent police officers are attached to Albury Local Area Command?

(3) How many positions are currently unoccupied because of sick leave, extended leave, secondment or other reasons?

Answer—

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The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) 41.
- (2) 145.27.
- (3) Leave management is a matter for the Local Area Commander and varies on a daily basis. There are three vacant positions within Albury Local Area Command which are currently subject to recruitment action.

*1028 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AFFECTED BY BLACKOUTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When traffic lights are affected by a blackout, what processes are in place to ensure traffic is not slowed as a result?
- (2) Has the Government considered employing field-based traffic flow engineers to improve congested intersections?

Answer—

I am advised:

Stop signs are installed on all minor road approaches at all signalised intersections. Rule 63 of the Australian Road Rules states, "the driver must comply with rule 67 as if the sign were a stop sign at an intersection without traffic lights." Rule 67 deals with stopping and giving way at a stop sign or stop line at an intersection without traffic lights. Portable generators can be installed at critical intersections and Police can provide point duty.

Roads and Traffic Authority Traffic Engineers work both in the office and in the field to monitor traffic conditions.

*1029 AIR-CONDITIONERS—SERVICING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How often are air-conditioning units at NSW hospitals and schools serviced?
- (2) Will you release the state-wide schedule of maintenance for schools and hospitals?

Answer—

I am advised:

The servicing of air-conditioning units at NSW hospitals is the responsibility of the NSW Department of Health.

The servicing of window air-conditioning and split air conditioning units of less than 15 kilowatts output in NSW schools is the responsibility of individual school principals.

The Department of Commerce has on behalf of the Department of Education and Training established contracts for the servicing of central air conditioning systems and split air conditioning systems of 15 kilowatts or greater output.

*1030 NORTH HEAD SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What action is being taken to reduce odours from trucks travelling from the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant?
- (2) Has funding been allocated to build the sewage pipe in the Northside Storage Tunnel and when will it become available?
- (3) When does Sydney Water plan to halt the ocean outflow from the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) Commissioning has commenced on a new biosolids management facility, as part of an upgrade of the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant. This has significantly reduced truck movements from the facility to approximately one per day. The trucks transport biosolids off-site for use in agriculture and horticulture.

Sydney Water is aware of complaints regarding biosolids odours from the trucks since commissioning commenced on the new facility, and is addressing these issues ahead of a formal acceptance test for the facility. As part of the process, Sydney Water has committed to installing a safe, odour neutralising system that will spray the biosolids prior to them leaving the plant.

- (2) The Northside Storage Tunnel was completed in 2000.
- (3) There are no plans to halt the ocean outflow from the North Head Sewage Treatment Plant.

*1032 NSW LOTTERIES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How much does NSW Lotteries pay per year to rent space at 198 Pitt Street?
- (2) What is the rent rate per square metre?
- (3) Who signed the rent contract on behalf of the Government and when?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) This matter does not fall within the Finance Portfolio.

*1033 CRISIS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What assistance does the Office of Community Housing provide to people seeking crisis accommodation?
- (2) What funds have been allocated in the current budget?

Answer—

- (1) The Office of Community Housing does not provide direct crisis accommodation services however it supports a number of non-government organisations through the Crisis Accommodation Program and managed by non-government organisations to provide short to medium-term accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and in crisis.

The Office also supports two initiatives aimed at providing long-term accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The My Place initiative provides long term housing to support services to homeless people who sleep in public places and/or who are recurrent users of homeless crisis accommodation services in the inner-city, and the Port Jackson Supported Housing Program which provides long term accommodation to priority client groups with moderate to high support needs who could not otherwise sustain a tenancy.

- (2) \$15.38M has been allocated for the Crisis Accommodation Program in the current budget.

*1034 "DROP-OFF-AND-GO, PICK-UP-AND-GO" KIT—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How much did the Government spend distributing the 'Drop-off-and-go, Pick-up-and-go' kit to schools?
- (2) How many schools have taken up the program?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 'Drop-off-and-go, Pick-up-and-go' kit was funded as part of the Roads and Traffic Authority's \$120 million road safety budget.

*1035 BUS AND FERRY PATRONAGE—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What are the patronage figures for the Manly Ferry and Jet Cat services for January to September 2007 and January to September 2002 and each year between?
- (2) What are the patronage figures for Sydney buses for January to September 2007 and January to September 2002 and each year between?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Sydney Ferries Corporation reports on patronage as required in its annual report.
- (2) State Transit reports on patronage as required in its annual report.

*1036 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) How many complaints were made to Sydney Ferries in September of each year from 2002 to 2007?
- (2) How many safety incidents did Sydney Ferries record in September of each year from 2002 to 2007?

Answer—

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I am advised:

Sydney Ferries Corporation reports on information about customer complaints and safety performance as required in its annual report, and each month on its website, www.sydneyferries.info

- *1037 CHATSWOOD STATION INTERCHANGE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the upgrade to the Chatswood Railway Station Interchange be complete?

Answer—

I am advised that information regarding the upgrade to Chatswood Transport Interchange is available at the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation's website, www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

- *1038 272 AND 273 BUS ROUTES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What action will the Minister take following petitions by local residents in the Willoughby electorate regarding their concerns with frequency and reliability of bus routes 272 and 273?

Answer—

I am advised that the Willoughby area has experienced strong growth in bus patronage since January this year, particularly on Route 272 and 273.

State Transit has taken action to respond to this increase in patronage by reallocating resources where they are needed most. This means fewer empty buses and more buses at the places and times that people want to catch them.

Additional services have also been provided to assist with the increase in customers. As a result, an extra 80,000 passengers are now using Route 273 every week.

I am also advised that prepaid ticketing on Route 272 was introduced on 19 November, 2007 which will streamline operating times and provide a more reliable bus service for customers on both routes.

- *1039 NAROOMA AND EDEN HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What community health services exist in the towns of Narooma and Eden?
- (2) At what times are each of those services provided to those communities?
- (3) What podiatry services and cancer screening is provided in Narooma and Eden?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that people are concerned about the lack of services and the lack of information about those services in these communities?
- (5) What were the community health service budgets in Narooma and Eden in the financial years 2006-2007, 2005-2006, and 2004-2005?
- (6) What is the Government doing to broaden the community services and increase the service delivery to Eden and Narooma?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) The communities of Eden and Narooma are well served by an integrated community health service. Some of these services are provided directly by the Greater Southern Area Health Service through the Eurobodalla Health Cluster. Other services are provided by the South East NSW Division of General Practice, the Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Commonwealth through the Home and Community Care Program and voluntary agencies. Area Health Services generally manage their financial year accounts on a whole of Area basis for the hospitals and community health services under their control. Details of Area Health Service budgets are included in their publicly available Annual Reports.

The list of services provided through the Eurobodalla Health Cluster includes a wide range of primary and community services including oncology, renal dialysis, mental health, drug and alcohol, Aboriginal health, dental care, palliative care, post acute care, dementia and aged care, sexual health, health promotion, child and family care, diabetes care and community nursing. Further I am advised that there is a footcare service provided in the Narooma Community Health facility.

The NSW Government is committed to strengthening primary health and continuing care in the community. The Eurobodalla Health Service has a Health Advisory Committee comprising membership from the local community including Narooma. Recently this committee asked for

feedback from the community about local health services. The results of this survey are being collated and will be considered at planned meetings with the local health service managers.

*1040 BEGA BY-PASS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Did Mr Mike Kelly of Queanbeyan contact you regarding the Bega by-pass?
- (2) In light of the Federal Labor Party's commitment of \$15 million to finalise building the Bega by-pass, has the Roads and Traffic Authority costed the project at \$15 million?
- (3) If not, what is the cost of the project?
- (4) When will the project be built?
- (5) What is the cost of purchasing the additional land to build the Bega by-pass?

Answer—

The honourable member is referring to an announcement made by Federal Labor, the details of which are a matter for them.

*1041 STROKE RECOVERY SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of community concerns about stroke recovery on the Far South Coast?
- (2) What is the Government doing to rectify the crisis in stroke recovery on the Far South Coast?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) Bega Valley Community Health Service has recently established an outpatient restorative care / rehabilitation group to be held weekly at Pambula Community Health Centre, under the auspice of its Transitional Aged Care Program. This group will support clients who have recently experienced a medical event that has impacted on their capacity to manage independently at home.

A focus group to consult with the local community on stroke recovery issues is to be conducted in early 2008 by the Bega Valley Cluster of the Greater Southern Area Health Service.

*1042 PRINCES HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many fatalities have occurred on the Princes Highway in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (2) How many motor accidents occurred on the Princes Highway in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (3) How many people have been injured on the Princes Highway in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is available on the Roads and Traffic Authority website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*1043 PRINCES HIGHWAY RANDOM BREATH TESTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many random breath tests have been conducted on the Princes Highway in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (2) How many motorists failed a random breath test in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- (3) In light of these answers will the Minister provide resources to the highway patrol on the Princes Highway?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) Police information systems are operational, not statistical, and the information requested by the Honourable Member is unable to be ascertained.

(3) Local Area Commands allocate resources to each of their sectors on a needs basis. Workload and other policing data are continually examined to ensure policing resources are allocated adequately.

*1044 JEWISH PRIVATE SCHOOLS—Mr Peter Debnam 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—

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With regards to Jewish private schools and the Minister's response to Question No 0469:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that only Jewish private schools in New South Wales have the need to utilise security guards for external perimeter protection?
- (2) Will the Government provide funding for the current level of security guards at Jewish private schools?

Answer—

The assertion that only Jewish private schools in New South Wales have the need to utilise security guards for external perimeter protection is noted.

Non-government schools are required to spend their State funding in one or more of the following five areas: Teaching and ancillary staff salaries; Professional development; Curriculum development; Maintenance and General Operations. These schools then have the discretion to decide their own priorities for using this funding, which could include security measures for staff and students.

*1045 GREENHOUSE ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to Greenhouse Abatement Certificates (NGACs):

- (1) How many energy efficient light bulbs are given away or installed to earn one NGAC?
- (2) How many NGACs have been generated in 2005-06 and 2006-07 by giving away or installing energy efficient light bulbs?
- (3) Is there any survey into how many energy efficient light bulbs have been received but not installed, and if so, what was the result of that survey?

Answer—

(1) NGACs for light bulbs are calculated by:

NGACs = Default Abatement Factor x Installation Discount Factor x number of light bulbs

If the light bulbs are given away, an Installation Discount Factor of 0.4 is applied to account for the probability that some of these products given away are not installed. If the light bulbs are installed by the accredited party, no Installation Discount Factor applies.

Default Abatement Factors for energy efficient light bulbs range from 0.3 to 0.9 NGACs per bulb, depending on the manufacturer's rated life of the light bulb. In 2007, most accredited parties distributed light bulbs with a rated life of 15,000 hours or more, which are eligible for a Default Abatement Factor of 0.9 NGACs per bulb.

An energy efficient light bulb is therefore eligible for between 0.12 and 0.9 NGACs, depending on its rated life and whether it is given away or directly installed by an accredited party.

(2) The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (GGAS) accounts for the creation of NGACs on a calendar year basis. The GGAS registry tracks NGAC creation by Rule and Accreditation, but cannot specifically distinguish an NGAC created for an energy efficient lightbulb.

The Scheme Administrator estimates that:

- in the financial year 05/06, approximately 525,000 NGACs were created with respect to energy efficient light bulbs.
- In the financial year 06/07, approximately 6.4 million NGACs were created with respect to energy efficient light bulbs.

This estimate is based on records of the number of light bulbs distributed each quarter (for which records exist from 1 July 2006 to the present) and the number of NGACs created each quarter.

However, an NGAC can be created for a lightbulb any time up to 18 months after it was distributed, and accredited parties do not necessarily create NGACs immediately on distributing products.

(3) In July, 2006 the Scheme Administrator, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, engaged Newspoll to conduct a survey of 400 households in the greater Sydney area. The survey examined the installation rates of light bulbs and showerheads given away by accredited parties under GGAS. The results showed that, at the time the survey was conducted, 46% of light bulbs received through giveaway programs prior to the survey had been installed. However, 94% of respondents reported that they intended to install the remaining light bulbs.

Following the results of this survey, the Demand Side Abatement (DSA) Rule was amended on 28 August 2006 to apply an Installation Discount Factor of 0.4 to light bulbs given away after 1 October 2006. Prior to this time, an Installation Discount Factor of 0.8 applied to light bulb giveaways.

A similar survey was included in IPART's household survey in 2006. The results of this survey are not yet finalised.

*1046 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to a renewable energy supply for the Kurnell desalination plant:

- (1) How were the energy requirements and time periods determined in "Energy Scenario B" [NSW Government RFP 0810000001, pg 11]:
 - (a) 400GWh per year for all of years 1 to 5;
 - (b) 9 MWh or RECs for all of years 6 to 8;
 - (c) 200GWh per year for all of years 9 to 15; and
 - (d) 9MWh or RECs for all of years 16 to 20?
- (2) How were the energy requirements and time periods determined in "Energy Scenario C" [NSW Government RFP 0810000001, pg 11]:
 - (a) 400 GWh per year for all of years 1 to 5;
 - (b) 200GWh per year for all of years 6 to 8;
 - (c) 400GWh per year for all of years 9 to 15; and
 - (d) 200GWh per year for all of years 16 to 20?
- (3) Why is Sydney Water unable to give any certainty on energy requirements after the initial 24 months of operation?
- (4) Does Sydney Water intend purchasing:
 - (a) accredited GreenPower?
 - (b) a single contract including electricity supply and RECs from all new generators?
 - (c) separate contracts for RECs from an accredited generator and electricity supply from an existing generator?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) and (2) The energy requirements and time periods relate to potential operating scenarios for the plant.
- (3) The energy requirements of the plant will be determined by dam storage levels.
- (4) (a) Sydney Water requires that the source of the renewable energy is accredited by a Federal or State regulator, which includes the Office of Renewable Energy Regulator and the GreenPower scheme.
 - (b) and (c) Sydney Water is prepared to consider single tenders for the supply of both renewable energy certificates and electricity, or tenders for separate contracts for the renewable energy certificates and the electricity.

*1047 TERMEIL CREEK BRIDGE—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When will a decision be made regarding the location and upgrading of the Termeil Creek Bridge?
- (2) What is the Minister's response to community outrage regarding an option for the bridge realignment to traverse the property of Mr Les Stewart at Termeil?
- (3) Why has the RTA discontinued liaison and consultation with affected and concerned community members regarding the Termeil Creek Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is undertaking preliminary investigations into the compatibility of the Termeil Creek Bridge alignment options with any future realignment options to the north.

The next phase of the community consultation will occur when the investigations are complete.

*1048 MILTON HOSPITAL SERVICES—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Health—

When will the Minister response to concerns from the Milton-Ulladulla area that paediatric and obstetric services will no longer be provided at Milton Hospital?

Answer—

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I am advised:

In relation to obstetric services, the Acting General Manager of the Southern Hospital Network (which includes the Milton-Ulladulla area), and the Acting Director of Clinical Operations of South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health have both recently stated that there are no plans to reduce obstetric services provided at Milton Hospital.

In relation to paediatric services, Milton Hospital does provide general Level 2 paediatric care. Patients can be transported to the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital to the north, or Moruya Hospital to the south for higher level care.

- *1049 CROOKHAVEN LIGHTHOUSE—Mrs Shelley Hancock asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

What is the Minister's response to requests from the South Coast community to urgently upgrade the Crookhaven Lighthouse and surrounds?

Answer—

Crookhaven Heads Lighthouse is one of fourteen lighthouses in NSW under the management of the Department of Lands. As part of its strategy for managing these assets, the Department recently completed a Condition Survey of all of the lighthouses to determine maintenance needs over the next decade and to prioritise allocation of available resources.

The Condition Survey confirmed that Crookhaven Heads Lighthouse has been subject to sustained attacks by vandals over a number of years, principally due to its isolated location. The lighthouse would require a major maintenance program to bring it to a reasonable state of repair. It would however, remain prone to further vandal damage.

I am advised that the lighthouse itself is no longer operational and that NSW Maritime has relocated its light to a pole at an adjacent location because of repeated vandalism.

The Department is in a process of considering the maintenance of lighthouses on a State wide basis so that available resources can be applied in a prioritised manner. In that regard you would be aware that I recently announced substantial maintenance programs for the Kiama and Warden Head lighthouses.

The future needs of the Crookhaven Heads Lighthouse are being assessed as part of this process.

I am advised that while Crookhaven Heads Lighthouse is located within a Crown Reserve, there is no appointed trust manager. Shoalhaven City Council manages the surrounding reserve land.

The Department is pursuing funding options and will be entering into discussions with Shoalhaven Council with a view to future management of the site by Council and perhaps a community-based management committee.

The process in appointing a management committee will provide an opportunity for those members of the local community, who have expressed some concerns, to volunteer for an active role in managing its refurbishment and ongoing maintenance.

- *1050 EDUCATION OF TIBETAN CHILDREN—Mr Brad Hazzard 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 specific funding and programs are in place or proposed to assist Tibetan children and their families attending Dee Why Public School?
- (2) What provision is there within the department to acknowledge the amazing work undertaken at Dee Why Public School by the Principal and ESL teachers, other staff and school community families supporting the Tibetan families?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Department of Education and Training's Multicultural Programs Unit has allocated funding which has assisted Dee Why Public School in supporting Tibetan children and their families through a Families in Cultural Transition program in 2006/7. This program supports Tibetan families to access essential information and community support; a Settling In program which focuses on particular issues of resettlement; school uniforms and other essential school supplies; a Tibetan Teachers Aide one day per week to support the specific learning needs of the students; teaching resources to support the specific learning needs of the students; a Homework Centre to support the students in Years 3 to 6; a preschool playgroup for families to support the settlement of families and

the children's transition to formal schooling; and additional English as a Second Language teaching support.

Dee Why Public School has been established as a Community Centre Project with a focus on Tibetan families. The school has direct links with the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Community Services with this project.

- (2) The quality work being undertaken at Dee Why Public School is widely acknowledged and appreciated by the Department. The Northern Sydney Region refers to the work of the Dee Why Public School Principal and staff through its newsletters which feature equity programs operating in schools across the region.

- *1051 FISHER ROAD SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard 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 you address the concerns of the school council for Fisher Road School, Dee Why, where disability funding programs have been cut to the point where the school is having to cut a number of programs for the children with disabilities?

Answer—

Fisher Road School provides outstanding programs for children with disabilities in the Northern Sydney Region. Over the last three years the school has had significant funding for their programs.

The Department of Education and Training will continue to support Fisher Road School and work closely with the principal to deliver excellent educational programs.

- *1052 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

When will the construction of the new Northern Beaches Hospital commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

The new Northern Beaches Hospital is recognised as a high priority in the NSW Health Department's Capital Strategic Investment Plan. Once detailed planning is completed for this major project, it will be submitted to Government for funding approval. It anticipated that construction of the new Hospital would then be commenced.

- *1053 AGENCY NURSES—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

How many nursing shifts at Manly Hospital were filled by agency nurses in the financial year 2006-07?

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. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

- *1054 AGENCY NURSES—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

How many nursing shifts at Mona Vale Hospital were filled by agency nurses in the financial year 2006-07?

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. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

- *1055 MANLY HOSPITAL LAUNDRY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the expenditure on laundry at Manly Hospital in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

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The NSW Department of Health and Area Health Services do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, I can advise that all Area Health Services use a standard format when preparing their financial statements for inclusion in their Annual Reports. In each case any laundry costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of "Domestic Supplies and Services". This also captures expenses such as Cleaning & Toilet Materials, Housekeeping Contracts, Kitchen & Tableware, Removal of Trade Refuse and Uniforms. I refer the Honourable Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1056 MANLY HOSPITAL—FOOD EXPENDITURE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the expenditure on food provision for patients at Manly Hospital in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Answer—

I refer the Hon Member to my response to Question 0591.

*1057 MONA VALE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the expenditure on laundry at Mona Vale Hospital in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

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. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, I can advise that all Area Health Services use a standard format when preparing their financial statements for inclusion in their Annual Reports. In each case any laundry costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of "Domestic Supplies and Services". This also captures expenses such as Cleaning & Toilet Materials, Housekeeping Contracts, Kitchen & Tableware, Removal of Trade Refuse and Uniforms. I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1058 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—FOOD EXPENDITURE—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the expenditure on food provision for patients at Mona Vale Hospital in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07?

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. To answer this question in the level of detail sought would substantially and unjustifiably divert the resources of the Department and Area Health Service away from the exercise of their core functions.

However, I can advise that all Area Health Services use a standard format when preparing their financial statements for inclusion in their Annual Reports. In each case any food supply costs would be reported under Note 5, Other Operating Expenses and, more specifically as a component of "Food Supplies". I refer the Member to the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service Annual Reports.

*1059 POLICE PRESENCE AT BATHURST RACES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many NSW Police were deployed to the Bathurst locality for the 2007 Bathurst 1000 race?
- (2) How many of these police were drawn from stations in the electorate of Burrinjuck?
- (3) Which specific stations were these officers drawn from?
- (4) Which Police stations in the Burrinjuck electorate were closed because of the deployment to Bathurst?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) Operation Baraba, mounted to provide a safe and secure event for the Bathurst races, involved police from a number of areas including Chifley Local Area Command, the Sydney Police Operations Centre, Highway Patrol, Licensing and the Major Events and Incidents Group. Ascertaining the total number of officers involved in this ten day operation would entail a manual examination of daily rosters, a task which would represent an unreasonable diversion of policing resources.
- (2) Officers were drawn from Police Stations within Local Area Commands not electorates.
- (3) Officers were drawn from Cootamundra, Gundagai, Tumut, Grenfell, Goulburn, Yass and Tuena stations.
- (4) Tuena was covered by a mobile patrol during the deployment.

*1060 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many families have been assisted by the Southern Tablelands Early Intervention Project announced by the Minister for Community Services in October 2006?
- (2) Does the Department of Community Services receive information about outcomes from Mission Australia, which is the auspicing body for this program?

Answer—

- (1) 48.
- (2) Yes.

*1061 LIBRARY FUNDING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Will you confirm that funding cuts in the NSW Budget means that the purchasing budget of the Cootamundra Library has had to be cut by 50 per cent?
- (2) What percentage cut has been passed on to other library services in the Burrinjuck electorate?

Answer—

- (1) No. Cootamundra will receive an increase in funding from the State Government this year.
- (2) Most other councils in the Burrinjuck electorate also receive an increase in funding in 2007/08. The only exception is Weddin Council which receives a reduction of \$6 or 0.02% due to population changes.

*1062 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What is the policy on hazard reduction of land in transport corridors, especially along the Main Northern Rail Line (in the Hornsby electorate and the F3 from Wahroonga to the Hawkesbury River)?
- (2) When will hazard reduction occur on transport corridors in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

- (1) Each land owner or manager is obliged to prevent and minimise the spread of fire on or from their land (Rural Fires Act 1997, section 63).

I am advised that while there is no specific strategy for minimizing the impact of bush fire on transport corridors, land managers such as RTA who are responsible for road verges and strips along the F3 and Rail Corp who are responsible for railway easements undertake slashing, mowing and or burning to reduce any fire risk.

- (2) Extensive areas adjacent to the northern transport corridor have been subject to wildfires or hazard reduction works over the last 10 years. Limited areas of hazard reduction works are proposed immediately adjacent to the corridor but are not specifically designed to protect transport links.

*1064 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING HOMES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many Department of Housing homes (houses, units and duplexes etc.) are there in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How many are currently occupied?
- (3) What plans are there for new stock or purchase of existing stock and how many extra will there be in total?

Answer—

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- (1) There are 267 public housing dwellings in the Hornsby electorate.
- (2) 99%
- (3) The Department of Housing recently purchased 10 units in the Hornsby electorate which are currently being refurbished.

*1065 UNPAID CREDITORS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What are the names, amounts and lengths of time unpaid of all creditors at Sutherland Hospital as at:

- (a) 31 December 2006;
- (b) 30 June 2007?

Answer—

I am advised that management of creditor payments is maintained at an Area Health Service, not an individual hospital, level.

This is an Area-wide purchasing and accounts payable policy that enables the Area Health Service to achieve competitive pricing for goods and services.

*1066 TOM UGLYS BRIDGE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the repainting of Tom Uglys Bridge be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Repainting of the northbound bridge will be completed as soon as practicable. The RTA will provide information to the community.

*1067 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—BUILDING WORKS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

What is the latest completion date for building works being carried out at Sutherland Hospital?

Answer—

Completion dates for current major capital works located within the grounds of the Sutherland Hospital Campus are:

- (a) Sutherland Renal Dialysis Satellite Unit - Feb/March 2008.
- (b) Sutherland Non-Acute Mental Health Unit - Early 2009.
- (c) Privately developed and operated Nursing Home - Revised date to be determined, following submission and approval of Development Application by Sutherland Council.

*1068 RURAL SUICIDES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many recommendations from the "Suicide in Rural New South Wales" report of November 1994 have been implemented?
- (2) Which recommendations have been implemented?
- (3) Of those recommendations not implemented, how many are a work in progress?
- (4) How many recommendations were rejected and which were they?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) Thirty-six recommendations were made in the Standing Committee on Social Issues' Report on Rural Suicide tabled in Parliament in November 1994.

Twenty-six of those recommendations were directed to the Minister for Health either for action within the Health portfolio, or in concert with other State Departments or national bodies.

With the passage of time, there has been a change in health priorities and in the environment impacting on suicide prevention initiatives.

I am advised that the intent of the recommendations involving NSW Health have been actioned over the intervening twelve years.

I also refer you to the Government Response to Question 0461 raised in relation to this Report on 15 April 1997, and the response provided on 20 May 1997.

- *1069 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will construction work commence on the North West Rail Link?

Answer—

I am advised that information regarding the North West Rail Link project is available on the Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation's website, www.tidc.nsw.gov.au

- *1070 CORRESPONDENCE—DAMIEN PIGOTT—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Member for Baulkham Hills receive a response to representations on behalf of Mr Damien Pigott, Chair, Our Lady of Lourdes Parent Body, addressing the need for improved safety for students who attend Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School who are forced to walk across Windsor Road to gain access to and from this school?

Answer—

I am advised:

A response has been sent.

- *1072 EX-PRISONER SUICIDE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Noting the recently published study of suicide amongst ex-prisoners, particularly males, that found a rate of suicide amongst ex-prisoners up to four times higher within six months of release than after this immediate post-release period [Medical Journal of Australia 2007:187 (7) 387-390]:

- (1) What action has the Government taken to prevent suicide amongst ex-prisoners?
- (2) What specific programs does the Government provide to prevent suicide amongst male ex-prisoners?
- (3) What specific supports does the Government provide to ex-prisoners during the first six months after release?
- (4) What additional post-release support services to help the re-integration and rehabilitation of ex-prisoners has the Government provided in order to address ex-prisoner suicide?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to provide additional services to address this awful rate of death?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Government, via the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and Justice Health, provides a range of co-ordinated suicide-prevention programs within the correctional system. These programs are linked to services provided to inmates released to parole supervision.

Symptoms associated with suicide and other forms of self-harm are assessed and treated during custody in order to best prepare inmates for release into the community. The Department of Corrective Services liaises with community mental health services to, as far as possible, ensure compliance with medication regimes and attendance at outpatient treatment facilities. Justice Health also provides a Mental Health Court Liaison Service to divert mentally ill persons from custody.

The Department of Corrective Services also provides funding, through its Community Funding Program, to a number of non-government supported accommodation services for released offenders. These services offer case management and support from case workers to residents.

The Correctional Centre Release Treatment Scheme is a Justice Health initiative, in collaboration with Community Offender Services, which operates at a number of locations and provides a pre and post-release through care scheme for offenders who have problems with drug and alcohol abuse and mental illness, ensuring that accommodation and immediate survival needs are attended to immediately upon release. Senior psychologists have also been engaged by Community Offender Services for the past two years.

- *1073 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

Given that the NSW Department of Lands website for the Tweed Sand Bypass Project does not contain the specific information required:

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- (1) Who are the senior officers from the NSW Department of Lands that are representing the NSW Government on this project?
- (2) What is the length of the contract between Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd and the NSW Department of Lands?
- (3) How often have performance reviews been conducted on this contract since the beginning of the project in 2000 to present date?
- (4) Will these performance reviews be put on the Tweed Sand Bypass Project website?

Answer—

- (1) Graham Harding, General Manager of Crown Lands NSW; Craig Abbs, Project Director NSW; and Ian Taylor, Project Manager for NSW and Queensland Governments.
- (2) The contract between the Governments and McConnell Dowell Corporation Limited is for a period of 25 years and will end on 30 September 2024.
- (3) The review of the operator's performance against the contract requirements is undertaken on an ongoing basis, using a variety of methods, including site inspections, surveys, measurement, audits and documentation reviews. These actions are carried out at various intervals including weekly, monthly and annually.
- (4) The website contains information that is used to assess performance, such as surveys. It is not proposed to include details of all contract surveillance and management activities on the website.

*1074 DISABLED PERSONS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

Given the Minister has advised the total cost of purchasing, renovating and fitting out 30 Parkes Lane, Terranorra so that it is suitable for use by disabled persons has amounted to \$1 million:

- (1) What is the detailed cost breakdown of this \$1 million sum?
- (2) On what date were the modifications to this property completed?
- (3) What are the additional costs that have been incurred at this facility (such as security, maintenance and garden care) since the fit out of this house was completed?

Answer—

(1)

Purchase price	\$620,000
Acquisition fees including inspections, legal fees etc	\$14,000
Statutory fees such as development application fees	\$10,000
Design + design management	\$70,000
Construction + construction management	\$295,000
Total	\$1,009,000

(2) 5 December 2006.

(3)

Security	\$1,195
Pool and Grounds Maintenance	\$4,480
Total	\$5,675

*1075 DISABLED PERSONS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

Given that the new facility for disabled persons at 30 Parkes Lane, Terranorra has been vacant for over 10 months:

- (1) What are the reasons why this property has been allowed to remain vacant, despite being completed for over 10 months?
- (2) What is the number of youth and adult disabled citizens currently waiting for this type of facility in the electorate of Tweed?
- (3) What is the future budget for the acquisition, modification and fit out of these types of facilities in the electorate of Tweed given that the 2007-08 Budget Paper does not contain specific information regarding funding for disability services in the Tweed?

Answer—

- (1) The allocation of the property was subject to the outcome of an extensive state-wide open tender process for 73 new Specialist Accommodation and Support Places provided for under the NSW Government's "Stronger Together - a 10-year plan for disability services".

The Tender process was concluded, with recommended providers approved and advised by letter on 19 July 2007. Given the longer lead time required for suitable capital purchases and completion of disability access modifications to design standards, the property at Terranora was initially purchased well ahead of the scheduled Tender process. This has enabled the property to be ready for use following service provider selection. The property is now under deed of licence for its intended use and the transition of five people to this home will be completed in November.

- (2) There are currently 23 people on the Accommodation Register from the Tweed area who are seeking some level of supported accommodation, including those individuals referred to the five new places being established in Terranora.
- (3) Growth funds allocated to date reflect planning for both the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years. Tendering was conducted for both financial years' allocations together to minimise the impact of consecutive tendering on the disability services sector and provide early access to 2007-08 support allocations to benefit clients. Property acquisition is guided by the availability of growth funding for service provision. Identification of planning priorities for 2008-09 will occur by March 2008. This will include projected capital requirements.

Additional allocations have also been made in 2007-08 to benefit families within the Tweed area, for both children's and adult respite. Over \$670,000 in recurrent funding has been made available, together with a centre-based respite facility for children to be located on the Southern Tweed Coast.

Over \$600,000 has also been made available in 2007-08 for additional Support Co-ordination, Flexible Respite and Flexible Day Options places for ageing parent carers of people with a disability within the Far North Coast, including the Tweed area.

- *1076 RAIL SERVICES—CARLINGFORD LINE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given the Baulkham Hills Shire Council's intention to significantly increase densities around Carlingford railway station, including allowing the construction of 18-storey blocks of flats, will the Government restore the train services it has cut from the Carlingford line to accommodate the thousands of extra people who will be moving into the suburb?

Answer—

I am advised:

The \$38 million Carlingford Line Passing Loop forms part of the NSW Government's Rail Clearways Program and will also help improve services for families in North Western Sydney.

The project, which involves construction of a train passing loop at Rydalmere Station, will allow the concurrent running of services in both directions on the Carlingford Line and will allow for more flexible and reliable train operations.

Planning for the project is scheduled to commence in early 2008.

- *1077 DISCOVERY OF HUMAN BONES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the discovery of human bones in a 300 metre area of the Kurnell desalination site led to the desalination site being treated as a crime scene?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, how long will the investigation last and what area of the site will be excavated in the search for more bones?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

An area in the vicinity of the located bones was treated as a crime scene by police and approximately 5,000 square metres of land were searched. The examination of the site was completed on 17 October 2007. The investigation is continuing.

- *1078 REPLY TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the acceptable length of time for the departments under your jurisdiction to answer a question or

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a representation from a Member of Parliament?

Answer—

The departments process approximately 15,000 items of correspondence annually.

The length of time taken to prepare an answer to a question or representation for a Member of Parliament varies depending on the issues involved in the inquiry, the complexity of those issues and the need to obtain advice from third parties for incorporation in the final response.

*1079 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—LANE COVE RIVER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What volume of sewage overflows entered the environment of the Lane Cove River in:

- (a) 2000;
- (b) 2003;
- (c) 2005;
- (d) 2007?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that dry weather overflows, generally caused by blockages in small sewer pipes, accounted for less than 2.1 megalitres of discharge per year into Lane Cove River between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Wet weather overflows occur when stormwater enters private sewer and sewer mains, causing the transport capacity of these pipes to be exceeded. The volumes of discharge shown below reflect the number and intensity of storms during the reporting period.

- (a) 462 megalitres in 2000/2001.
- (b) 517 megalitres in 2002/2003.
- (c) 500 megalitres in 2004/2005.
- (d) 1,094 megalitres in 2006/2007.

Sydney Water is investing approximately \$150 million over four years to reduce wet weather overflows in the sewerage catchments across Sydney, including works in the Port Jackson catchment which will benefit the Lane Cove River.

*1080 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—PARRAMATTA RIVER—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What volume of sewage overflows entered the environment of the Parramatta River in:

- (a) 2000;
- (b) 2003;
- (c) 2005;
- (d) 2007?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that dry weather overflows, generally caused by blockages in small sewer pipes, accounted for less than 5 megalitres of discharge per year into Parramatta River between 2004/05 and 2006/07.

Wet weather overflows occur when stormwater enters private sewer and sewer mains, causing the transport capacity of these pipes to be exceeded. The volumes of discharge shown below reflect the number and intensity of storms during the reporting period.

- (a) 2,018 megalitres in 2000/2001.
- (b) 2,891 megalitres in 2002/2003.
- (c) 1,506 megalitres in 2004/2005.
- (d) 4,477 megalitres in 2006/2007.

Sydney Water is investing approximately \$150 million over four years to reduce wet weather overflows in the sewerage catchments across Sydney, including works in the Port Jackson catchment which will benefit the lower Parramatta River. This includes the separation of sewer and stormwater in the catchments of Blackwattle Bay and Darling Harbour.

*1081 TICK RESEARCH UNIT—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

What Government funding is available to help fund the establishment of a tick research unit at the

Narrabeen Coastal Environment Centre?

Answer—

I am advised that NSW Health already provides considerable funding towards tick research through its support of the Department of Medical Entomology at the University of Sydney and the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital.

NSW Health also produces resources for community education such as the "Tick Alert" pamphlet.

(<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2004/pdf/tickalert.pdf>)

The current level of support for tick research is considered appropriate at this time.

*1082 MONA VALE ROAD UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will work begin to upgrade Mona Vale Road between Manor Road, Ingleside and Foley Street, Mona Vale to provide four lanes and a climbing lane, now that the preliminary planning has been completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW is publicly provided in Annual Reports, Budget papers and in policy documents such as the State Infrastructure Strategy. Information is also regularly updated on the RTA website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au and is available in community newsletters distributed by the RTA.

*1083 PENSIONER CONCESSIONS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What arrangements exist to provide concessions or discounts for pensioners in Pittwater to offset increases in council rates caused by higher property values?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

Under the Local Government Act 1993, eligible pensioners are provided concessions on their ordinary rates and domestic waste management services up to a maximum of \$250, and concessions of up to \$87.50 each on water and sewerage rates and charges, where councils provide those services.

Land valuation remains the primary determinant of rates. Under the Act, councils have discretionary powers to ensure they are able to adopt policies to distribute the rates burden equitably or to adopt a rating structure that benefits ratepayers who may be adversely affected by large valuation increases.

Under the Act, councils also have discretionary powers to assist ratepayers who may be adversely affected by large valuation increases. Under section 601 of the Act, councils have the discretion to waive, reduce or defer the payment of the whole or part of the increase in rates where a ratepayer suffers hardship as a result of new valuations being used for the making and levying of rates for a particular year.

In addition to allowing councils to provide relief where hardship has occurred from changes in land valuations, the Act also provides councils with opportunities to assist pensioners by agreeing to the periodic payment of rates (other than by the mandatory quarterly instalments) and writing off interest on unpaid rates.

*1089 CORRESPONDENCE—LINDSAY ROUND—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Did the Northern Sydney Area Health Service withhold from the Minister for Health correspondence from Mr Lindsay Round of Riverstone sent to the Minister for Health on 16 June 2004?
- (2) Are there errors of fact in the Report of the Internal Review into matters raised by Mr Lindsay Round written by Patricia O'Farrell, the In-House Legal Counsel for the Northern Sydney Area Health Service on 17 May 2004?
- (3) Was the Northern Sydney Area Health Service deliberately obstructing the avenues for compensation that Mr Lindsay Round possibly has claims to?
- (4) Has the Minister for Health, the Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Health or the Department of Health failed to acknowledge correspondence from Mr Lindsay Round and if so why have they done so?

Answer—

I am advised that:

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- (1) No.
- (2) I am advised that it has been communicated to Mr Round in writing on several occasions that the information provided to Ms O'Farrell regarding a particular doctor's departure from Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service and, therefore, the doctor's ability to participate in an investigation was incorrect.
- (3) No.
- (4) Mr Lindsay Round has written extensively both by letter and email to the NSW Department of Health and to me as Minister for Health.

I am advised that all issues raised by Mr Round in his correspondence have been responded to. A response has not been provided for each individual piece of correspondence from Mr Round as the issues raised have either been addressed in earlier responses to him, or the information provided in correspondence from Mr Round reiterates information previously provided.

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(Paper No. 25)

*1090 SEPP (MAJOR PROJECTS) 2005—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005 (Amendment No 16):

- (1) Has the Minister received any representation concerning the need for Schedule 1, clause 24 of the Amendment, that would allow the Minister for Planning to approve a facility for the generation of electricity under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 if it:
 - (a) has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million, or
 - (b) has a capital investment value of more than \$5 million and is located in an environmentally sensitive area of State significance?
- (2) If so, who made the representation, and when was the representation made?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of plans to develop a facility for the generation of electricity under Schedule 1, clause 24 of the proposed Amendment?
- (4) If so, where is the site of the proposed development, and is the site within an environmentally sensitive area?

Answer—

- (1) Amendment No.16 to SEPP (Major Projects) 2005 was gazetted on 27 July 2007 following public consideration and submissions. My Department has advised no submissions were received in relation to the amendment to Schedule 1, clause 24.
- (2) n/a.
- (3) I have been advised since the amendment was gazetted two applications have been lodged by International Power (Australia) for distillate fuelled power plants.
- (4) These applications are at Herons Creek and Buronga. Neither of the sites are in environmentally sensitive areas of State significance.

*1093 DRUGS IN SCHOOLS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Has the family involved in the distribution of illicit drugs at Windang Public School come to the attention of the Department of Community Services?
- (2) How many cases of children bringing drugs from home into schools has the Department of Community Services been made aware of in:
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2004;
 - (e) 2003?
- (3) How many of the above cases have led to action being taken by the Department of Community Services to:
 - (a) remove the child from the care of the family;
 - (b) engage the family in early intervention counselling?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Statistical information on the number of cases of children bringing drugs from home into schools is not available.

*1096 FOXGLOVE ROAD ACCIDENT—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Given the serious accident at the intersection of Foxglove Road and the Pacific Highway, Mount Colah, at the end of September 2007, will the Minister and the Roads and Traffic Authority reconsider the decision not to install traffic lights at this site?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has applied to the National Black Spot Program to install traffic signals at the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Excelsior Road, Mt Colah. This location is considered the most appropriate as the traffic signals would cater for pedestrians crossing the Highway to access the bus stop near Excelsior Avenue. The RTA also advises the Rural Fire Brigade is located at Excelsior Road, which supports the need to install traffic signals at this location.

*1097 MOONEY MOONEY PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Regarding the closure of Mooney Mooney Public School and reallocation of school resources:

- (1) What was the rationale for the distribution of resources from Mooney Mooney Public School? Does the NSW Department of Education and Training have a policy for equity in state owned distribution of school resources when a school closes?
- (2) On what basis was Cowan Public School given such a generous allocation by-passing the nearest school where the majority of students from Mooney Mooney Public School enrolled at Brooklyn Public School?
- (3) The resources have been temporarily allocated to the schools but in what condition will they be in five years after use at the temporary schools?
- (4) Where have the computers and related technology, previously based at Mooney Mooney Public School been placed, given that no mention has been made of this equipment in correspondence forwarded to the community?
- (5) Why were library resources removed without consultation with the local community if the existing site is to be a community-based site?
- (6) In reply to questions from the school, a letter from Ms Virginia Judge MP dated 20 July 2007 mentions a student with a diagnosed disability, in relation to a monetary amount. Why is this mentioned as a potential resource, when it is departmental policy?

Answer—

Resources have been distributed in a way that will ensure that they are appropriately managed and maintained. If enrolments at Mooney Mooney Public School were to increase in the future, the resources will be returned. As no formal decision has been made to close the school, resources can not be permanently distributed.

The following resources from Mooney Mooney Public School are being located at Cowan Public School: the photocopier, movable whiteboard, book binder and a printer, and at Yarramalong Public School: the computers, data projector and video camera. The decision to locate the library resources at Ashtonfield Public School was made before there was a plan for the alternate use of the site as an outreach branch of Gosford City Library.

Funding allocated for students, including targeted integration funding to support specific students with confirmed disabilities, is available for use by the schools where the students are now enrolled.

*1098 SEWER CONNECTION REBATES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

- (1) What are the arrangements for "rebates" to be paid to residents in Brooklyn and Dangar Island connecting to the sewer now the STP and preparations are almost complete?
- (2) What is the criteria for the rebate and how much will it be?

Answer—

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Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) and (2) There will be no "rebate" paid to property owners within the Government's Priority Sewerage Program in Sydney Water's area. Following Sydney Water's completion of a sewerage scheme, NSW Treasury provides a beneficiary contribution to Sydney Water based on reticulation of lots, rather than property owners paying a contribution for the sewerage system infrastructure to be installed for their property.

*1099 MAINTENANCE WORK—PUBLIC SCHOOLS—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 timetable for the Department of Education and Training preparing the annual program of maintenance work for public schools?
- (2) What public schools in the Davidson electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Education Department?
- (3) What is this outstanding work?
- (4) When is each work request scheduled for completion, if at all?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government is investing a record \$873 million this financial year to upgrade and maintain NSW public schools and TAFEs. This funding includes over \$700,000 per day on maintenance to ensure schools and TAFEs are safe and efficient places to teach and learn.

The Department of Education and Training develops an annual program of maintenance works between July and December of each year and the program is then progressively implemented.

The Department of Education and Training has identified maintenance work to be carried out at six schools in the Davidson electorate – Davidson High School, Frenchs Forest Public School, Kambora Public School, The Forest High School, Wakehurst Public School and Willoughby Girls High School

Maintenance work includes kitchen upgrades, resurfacing access roads and car parks, roof repairs, painting and general repairs. The work is scheduled to be completed during the current term of Government.

*1101 "STATE OF THE STATES" REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- (1) In the 2006 "State of the States" report released by the Evatt Foundation where did New South Wales rank out of the six States in the area of Industry?
- (2) How does the Government propose to improve this ranking in the next report?

Answer—

- (1) The area of "Industry" described in the publication is purely an indicator of industry assistance. The indicator is based on states' expenditure on primary industries, mineral, fuels and energy, and manufacturing and other industry services sourced from the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC).

CGC data is designed to help determine the State/Territory grant shares of the Goods and Services Tax.

The rankings are based on the ratio of spending on industry assistance to a CGC adjusted model of what an average state budget should spend in per capita terms. The adjustments take into account the disadvantages or 'disabilities' of states in the cost of providing services for the purpose of 'horizontal fiscal equalisation'.

The publication does not assess the appropriateness of the level of assistance or the effectiveness of the states' expenditure.

"Industry" is only one of the five indicators under the economic policy area. NSW ranked second in the production measure and third in the number of full-time jobs it created.

Overall, NSW was ranked third in economic policy performance. The resource-dominated states of QLD and WA, the biggest beneficiaries of the resources boom, were ranked first and second respectively.

These measures point to the resilience and strength of the NSW economy.

- (2) The Government will continue to assist industry and drive economic growth. It will also continue to promote NSW in major markets as a destination for international investment, events and tourism and as a source of world class products.

As detailed in the State Plan "Growing Prosperity across NSW", the Government's priorities are to:

- Maintain and invest in infrastructure to support our growing economy
- Cut red tape
- Increase participation in education and training
- Maintain the State's AAA rating.

- *1103 PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

As the Premier's biography on the NSW Parliament website has no details of any previous private sector employment before becoming a Member of Parliament, has the Premier had any private sector employment experience that relates to his portfolio responsibilities?

Answer—

The Premier's full biography is available on the Parliamentary website.

- *1104 HARBOUR BRIDGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How much annual revenue is collected in Harbour Bridge tolls?
- (2) What areas is this money allocated to and how much (to the nearest million dollars) is allocated to each area?
- (3) What is the annual cost for maintaining the Harbour Bridge?
- (4) What is the annual revenue paid to the Government from Bridge Climb activities?
- (5) When was the construction of the Harbour Bridge paid for?
- (6) When will the Harbour Bridge toll be removed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Revenue figures are available in the RTA Annual Report. All revenue is invested in NSW roads.

- *1105 FRENCHS FOREST HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the answer to previous question 0039 on Frenchs Forest Hospital still correct in indicating that the planning process should be completed in the second half of 2007?
- (2) If not:
 - (a) When will the planning stage be completed?
 - (b) What is the new timeline to overall project completion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Health Department is now considering the Health Service Plan (HSP).
- (2) (a) The next planning stage, the Project Definition Plan, should commence in early 2008, and be completed within 12 months.
 - (b) The timeline for overall project completion will be confirmed as part of the Project Definition Plan.

- *1106 TOLL CASH-BACK SCHEME—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Which major roads have a toll cash-back scheme in place?
- (2) What is the basis for such a scheme on these roads when it does not exist for others?
- (3) When will the tolls on these roads be removed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information regarding the Cashback Scheme is available on the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- *1107 HARBOUR TUNNEL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- (1) How much annual revenue is collected in Harbour Tunnel tolls?
- (2) When will the construction of the Harbour Tunnel be paid for?
- (3) When will the Harbour Tunnel toll be removed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Revenue figures are available in the RTA Annual Report. The Harbour Tunnel will revert to Government ownership in 2022.

*1108 DENTAL DELAYS—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that Tweed Heads Hospital had a budget allocation for four full-time dentists but only three positions were filled:

- (1) Why has the fourth position not been filled?
- (2) (a) Was the money for this fourth position transferred to another area as indicated in a press release by the media manager for Northern Rivers Health Mr Robin Osbourne?
(b) If so, what area was this money transferred to?
- (3) Does Northern Rivers Health intend to employ, as originally specified in the budget allocation, four full-time dentists at Tweed Heads Hospital?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) I am advised by the North Coast Area Health Service that the 2007/2008 budget allocation for the Tweed Heads Dental Clinic is for three full-time Dentists. I am advised that the North Coast Area Health Service issued a press release on 22 August 2007 that referred to the "fourth dentist position", it should have stated the "third dentist position". This was an error in the press release for which the Chief Executive of the North Coast Area Health Service apologises.

*1109 ADDITIONAL BEDS—TWEED HEADS HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the NSW Department of Health advised in February 2007 that 27 new beds would be allocated to Tweed Heads Hospital and the CEO of Northern Rivers Health, Mr Chris Crawford, advised in May 2007 that these beds would be operational by the end of 2007:

- (1) (a) Is Mr Crawford's assessment of the timeframe for these beds becoming operational correct?
(b) If not, what is the new planned operational date for these 27 beds?
- (2) What are the dates and number of times at which the Tweed Heads Hospital has been placed on the Queensland Emergency Bypass?
- (3) What is the current level of 'Access Levelling' within the Emergency Department of Tweed Heads Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) It is anticipated that the 30 bed ward will be operational by mid 2008.
- (2) Statistics on Queensland Ambulance redirection have only been kept since 1 January 2006. Since January 2006 to 29 October 2007 the Tweed Hospital has been on Queensland ambulance redirection a total of 168 times.
- (3) The terminology "Access Levelling" is not used by NSW Health or the North Coast Area Health Service.

*1110 PUBLIC RADIATION THERAPY—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment)—

Given that the current practice for radiation therapy in the Tweed is that Tweed Hospital only provides treatment to in-patients (approximately 10-20 patients each year), whilst all out patients must pay for this treatment:

- (1) (a) What is the number of mammograms conducted in the Tweed electorate each year?
(b) What is the state average of number of mammograms conducted?
- (2) (a) Does the master plan of the Tweed Heads Hospital set aside space for radiation therapy bunkers?
(b) If yes, will the Minister provide a copy of this master plan?
- (3) What is the actual number of registered cancer sufferers within the Tweed electorate and the two

surrounding electorates?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) Figures are not available by State Electorate.
(b) I refer the Hon Member to my media release of 22 October 2007.
- (2) No.
- (3) Figures are not available by State Electorate.

*1111 RAINWATER TANK REBATE SCHEME—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) How many applications has the Minister received for the rainwater tank rebate scheme?
- (2) How many applications are outstanding and waiting to be processed?
- (3) When will these applications be processed?
- (4) Are individual applications acknowledged when received?
- (5) If not, why not?

Answer—

4,791 applications were received between 1 July 2007 to 19 November 2007, of which 3,377 have been paid. 1,414 applications are currently being processed.

Provided the application is complete and valid, applications are being processed within 60 days of receipt.

In order to ensure that the applications are handled as quickly as possible, acknowledgements are sent after they have been processed.

*1112 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Designated Development) Regulation 2007:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Court of Appeal held in 2006 that "it would be contrary to the intent of the legislation now in force to hold that an activity which falls within one of the categories listed in Pt 1 of Schedule 3 should necessarily lose that character because it only forms part of a greater development or is not the main purpose of the Development"?
- (2) Has the Minister decided that the amendment does not contradict the ruling of the Court of Appeal?
- (3) Did the Minister reach this decision on his own?
- (4) (a) Has the Minister received legal opinion that contradicts the ruling of the Court of Appeal?
(b) If so, who provided it and when?
- (5) What guideline is used to distinguish between minor and major sewage treatment works, and minor and major sewage storage systems?
- (6) Under this amendment, could sewage treatment works and sewage storage systems that were ancillary to a development be developed without an Environmental Impact Statement?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The decision was inconsistent with a policy position established by the Government in 1990 and which formed the basis of the provisions in schedule 3. I am advised the Court of Appeal went on to recognise that it was open to the Minister to amend the Regulations with respect to the classes of development which comprise designated development. In the case of Residents Against Improper Development Incorporated v Chase Property Investments Pty Ltd [2006] NSWCA 323, Tobias JA [at para 195] stated that this would be a more appropriate response and, "in any event, it is always open to the Minister to amend category 29 of Pt 1 of Schedule 3, if so advised" in order to exclude certain types of development from the Regulation.
- (3) With the benefit of advice from the Department of Planning.
- (4) No.
- (5) I refer you to clauses 29 and 37A of the Regulation.
- (6) The development as a whole would undergo assessment through a Statement of Environment Effects ('SEE') that is submitted with the Development Application. The SEE can report on the environmental impacts of the development proposal and how it is planned to minimise those impacts.

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*1113 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—PAYMENT OF LAND RATES AND LEVIES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) Does the Department of Housing, or other Government agency on behalf of the department pay land rates and other levies to local councils to help fund council services in Housing Department estates?
- (2) If so, what is the total amount paid to local Government councils in New South Wales for the following years:
 - (a) 2006-2007?
 - (b) 2005-2006?
 - (c) 2004-2005?
 - (d) 2003-2004?
- (3) For the abovementioned years, what is the total amount paid by the State Government for such rates to the Blacktown City Council?

Answer—

- (1) Housing NSW pays rates to local councils in the same way as any other property owner.
- (2) Housing NSW includes details of its rate payments in its Annual Reports.
- (3) 2006-2007 - \$7.9 million
2005-2006 - \$7.7 million
2004-2005 - \$7.3 million
2003-2004 - \$7.2 million

*1114 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many police officers will be based at the new Mona Vale Police Station when it is opened?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his Question on Notice No. 1262 on the same subject.

*1115 CAT SCANNER—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

When will the CAT scanner at Mona Vale Hospital be replaced?

Answer—

I am advised

A submission for replacement of the Computed Axial Tomography (CAT) scanner at Mona Vale Hospital is currently being assessed.

*1116 AMBULANCE CALL-OUTS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health—

How many times were ambulances dispatched to attend emergencies in the Avalon area, defined by postcode 2107, in 2006-07?

Answer—

I am advised:

Ambulance Service records indicate that the total number of ambulance emergency responses to the Avalon area, as defined by postcode 2107, during 2006/07 was 552.

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(Paper No. 26)

*1117 PROCESSING OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Does the Department of Local Government monitor councils' performance in relation to the time taken to process Development Applications (DAs)?
- (2) What is the average time taken by all councils in this State to process DAs in the most recent period surveyed?

- (3) How does this performance compare to the previous three surveys?
- (4) How does the performance of councils in the Sydney metropolitan area compare to:
 - (a) the Hunter Region;
 - (b) the Illawarra Region;
 - (c) rural areas?
- (5) How does the performance of Western Sydney councils such as (a) Blacktown, (b) Penrith, (c) Parramatta and (d) Fairfield compare to the average of metropolitan councils?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your questions:

- (1) The Department of Local Government currently reports on councils' performance in relation to the time taken to process Development Applications (DAs). The information is included in the Department's Comparative Information publication. The latest available figures are from the soon to be released 2005-06 publication.
- (2) The average time taken by all councils in this State to process DAs in 2005-06 is 51.1 days.
- (3) The mean time for processing DAs in 2002-03 was 50.5 days; in 2003-04 it was 53.4 days; and in 2004-05, 52.9 days.
- (4) The average time for processing DAs in 2005-06 for the 43 councils in the Sydney statistical division was 58.3 days.
 - (a) For the 11 councils in the Hunter statistical division the average time for processing DAs was 61.3 days.
 - (b) For the 5 councils in the Illawarra statistical division the average time for processing DAs was 42.8 days.
 - (c) For the 93 councils outside the Sydney-Hunter-Illawarra statistical divisions the average time for processing DAs was 36.6 days.
- (5) The average time for processing DAs for the identified councils in Western Sydney was:
 - (a) Blacktown City Council: 42.2 days
 - (b) Penrith City Council: 41.3 days
 - (c) Parramatta City Council: 69.3 days
 - (d) Fairfield City Council: 49.4 days

The average time for processing DAs for the 43 councils in the Sydney statistical division was 58.3 days.

*1118 ETHANOL BLENDED FUELS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

In relation to the Premier's comments on 23 October 2007 about public sector use of ethanol blends:

- (1) Did the Premier say, "I have instructed all public service workers with fleet vehicles to use ethanol blend at all times, wherever possible"?
- (2) Will all vehicles in the Government fleet use ethanol blend E10 fuel?
- (3) How will it be enforced?
- (4) Will Government fuel cards be restricted to the purchase of ethanol blend fuel only?
- (5) To further promote ethanol, will all Ministers be required to also "lead by example" and drive vehicles using E85 fuel or hybrid vehicles?

Answer—

- (1) - (3) See Press Release, issued 23 October 2007.
- (4) No. Fleet vehicles are used across NSW, including in areas where ethanol blends are not yet consistently available.
- (5) The NSW Government is leading the country with policies to promote alternative fuels, and managing their sensible implementation.

*1119 NORTH RHEIN-WESTPHALIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to Inter-Departmental Committees in the Department of Water and Energy and formerly the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability and the Minister's response to Question 0260:

- (1) On what date was the Inter-Departmental Committee on the North Rhein-Westphalia Memorandum of Understanding formed, what is its current status, where and when has the committee meet and who attended?

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- (2) Have the activities of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the North Rhein-Westphalia Memorandum of Understanding taken committee members outside of Sydney and, if so, where and when did the committee members travel?
- (3) What foreign delegates did the Inter-Departmental Committee on the North Rhein-Westphalia Memorandum of Understanding meet with and when did they meet?
- (4) What has the Inter-Departmental Committee on the North Rhein-Westphalia Memorandum of Understanding achieved?
- (5) On what date was the Inter-Departmental Committee on Renewable Energy Options for Lord Howe Island formed and what is its current status, where and when has the committee met and who attended?
- (6) Have the activities of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Renewable Energy Options for Lord Howe Island taken committee members outside of Sydney and, if so, where and when did the committee members travel?
- (7) What has the Inter-Departmental committee on Renewable Energy Options for Lord Howe Island achieved?
- (8) Did the operations of either of these Inter-Departmental Committees accrue any expenses and, if so, what expenses were accrued?

Answer—

(1) The Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) on the North Rhein-Westphalia (NRW) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held its first meeting on 27 July 2005. The committee is still active and has met in Sydney four times since that date. The committee has members from the Department of Water and Energy (formerly Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability), Department of Environment and Climate Change, Department of State and Regional Development, Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) and Department of Premier and Cabinet (Natural Resources and Economic Development Branch).

(2) All travel undertaken was in accordance with the Premier's Department guidelines on travel.

(3) The committee and/or the committee coordinator have met with representatives from the NRW Government five times in Sydney.

(4) The IDC implements the MoU, which aims to facilitate the development of collaborative activities in these fields to achieve progress in the following areas:

- networking;
- exchange of information and formation of partnerships;
- collaboration in research and science; and
- initiation of cooperative projects.

The committee has facilitated a number of valuable contacts between researchers and companies in NSW and NRW, in the areas of clean coal research and renewable energy. The pursuit of joint research and demonstration projects is ongoing.

(5) The IDC on Renewable Energy Options for Lord Howe Island held its first meeting on 11 June 2004, and met four times in Sydney. The committee is no longer active, and held its last meeting on 3 December 2004. The committee had members from the former Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, Department of Commerce, Lord Howe Island Board, NSW Treasury, former NSW Greenhouse Office and former Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

(6) All travel undertaken was in accordance with the Premier's Department guidelines on travel.

(7) The final report of the committee made the following recommendations:

- implementation of a program for identified cost-effective and community acceptable demand management and energy efficiency measures;
- a detailed evaluation of upgrading the existing diesel generators on the Island to more fuel efficient units; and
- detailed evaluation of the costs and logistics of installing a wind turbine or solar photovoltaic system on the Island.

All of these recommendations are being undertaken by the Lord Howe Island Board, with the assistance of the Department of Water and Energy. The first recommendation to be implemented is the energy efficiency program, which is currently the subject of an application to the Commonwealth Government for assistance under the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program.

(8) All expenses accrued were consistent with the Premier's Department guidelines and within the

Department's reported budget.

*1120 SYDNEY FERRIES PATRONAGE FIGURES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to Sydney Ferries and the Minister's response to Question 0377:

- (1) Given the Minister's answer asserts, "accurate patronage figures for Eastern Suburbs wharves is not available" [Question 0377], what management information is currently used by Sydney Ferries to assess the "growth in demand" and performance of services?
- (2) Given that the Minister's previous responses to questions about the Rose Bay service in 1996 and 2004 provided passenger patronage figures, can the Minister provide passenger patronage figures to and from the following wharves for each month from July 2004 to September 2007:
 - (a) Darling Point?
 - (b) Double Bay?
 - (c) Rose Bay?
 - (d) Watsons Bay?
- (3) If not, what has changed since 2004 that passenger patronage figures no longer exist?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) Sydney Ferries Corporation reports on passenger journeys as required in its annual report.

*1121 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many suicides have occurred in the area now covered by the Greater Southern Area Health Service during:
 - (a) 2002;
 - (b) 2003;
 - (c) 2004;
 - (d) 2005;
 - (e) 2006;
 - (f) to date in 2007?
- (2) When was the Suicide Prevention Strategy that you referred to in your letter M07/9340 dated 18 October 2007 first approved?
- (3) As this area has been substantially in drought since February 2002, what is the reason that this strategy will not be available for another 18 months?
- (4) What specific parts of this strategy (if any) are in place as of 23 October 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The number of people who have died as a result of suicide in the Greater Southern Area Health Service, based on Australian Bureau of Statistics publication "3309.0 Suicides, Australia 2005"; is 46 in 2002, 45 in 2003, 32 in 2004 and an estimated 43 in 2005. (Numbers for 2005 include an estimate of the number of deaths that were registered in 2006, for which confirmed data was unavailable at time of production.)
- (2) The Area Health Service adopted the most recent Area Suicide Prevention Strategy in July 2007.
- (3) and (4) The Strategy is available now and incorporates existing and future suicide prevention initiatives. Elements of the strategy are already in place. Further elements will be progressively delivered over the next 18 months. Programs currently in place include the Rural Mental Health / Drought Support package (in collaboration with the NSW Centre for Rural Remote Mental Health), School Link and Yarn-Up Aboriginal Mental Health programs.

*1122 MURRUMBATMAN PUBLIC 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—

With reference to your letter RML 07/3984 dated 18 October 2007, what are the specific criteria that would be required by the Department of Education and Training to open a public school at Murrumbatman?

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Answer—

The Department of Education and Training requirements for opening a new primary school are:

- there is a sufficient threshold number of dwellings in an area to justify a sustainable school – approximately around 2,000 plus dwellings;
- demographic characteristics and projections support the long-term demand for a school; and
- a new school will not jeopardise the viability of existing school facilities.

There are no known plans for any significant rezoning or residential development in the Murrumbateman area that would demographically justify establishing a new school.

The current level of enrolment demand being generated from Murrumbateman and its surrounding hinterland can be catered for within existing school provision in neighbouring urban centres.

Opening a school at Murrumbateman would only take away enrolments and resources from other government schools and is unlikely to result in improvements to the learning environments of local students.

*1123 DOCS OUT OF HOME CARE POLICY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Why does the link on the DoCS website for your policy on Out of Home Care direct you to the Children's Guardian website?
- (2) Is DoCS meant to form their own policies around the Children's Guardian's standards and benchmarks?
- (3) If so, why aren't DoCS policies on OOHC that surround the Children's Guardian's position on the DoCS website?
- (4) Is the department in the process of developing new policies and if so what is the program's timeline?

Answer—

- (1) The Children's Guardian accredits and monitors designated agencies, including DoCS, under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 and Regulations. The DoCS website contains a link to the NSW Out-of-Home Care Standards and related benchmark policies because DoCS and out of home care services funded by DoCS are required to meet these standards.
- (2) to (4) As part of the Children's Guardian's Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program DoCS is required to provide policies and procedures that address these standards and benchmarks. DoCS is currently finalising the Service Provision Guidelines which contain DoCS policies relating to out of home care services and the roles and responsibilities of DoCS and other agencies. These Guidelines will be publicly available on the DoCS website in early 2008.

Other information relating to the Out of Home Care program is currently available under the "Community Partners" section of the DoCS website.

*1124 RELOCATION OF SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT—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—

What is the result of a Department of Education and Training officer's meeting with the Principal of Asquith Boys High School, designed to review the proposed relocation of the potentially dangerous and crumbling basketball court at the school?

Answer—

Minor repairs were carried out to the surface of the basketball court in question in early 2006 to alleviate trip hazards.

The Principal of Asquith Boys High School has informed the Department of Education and Training's Asset Management Unit that the school and school community do not want the basketball court to be repaired.

Officers from the Department of Education and Training met with the Principal on 29 October 2007. At this meeting the school confirmed previous advice that it intends to submit a Major Capital Works proposal to the Department for a multi-purpose gymnasium in the location of the basketball court adjacent to the administration block.

The Department has explained to the Principal that this project would compete with other projects across the region and the State for inclusion in a future Major Capital Works program.

Relocation of the basketball court has not been raised for consideration.

- *1125 EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—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—

What educational facilities (specialist) are available for children with autism?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education and Training provides an extensive range of services to support students with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities, including those with autism can choose to enrol their child in a regular class, a support class or a special school.

Students with autism who are enrolled in a regular class are supported by the Funding Support program. This program supports the teaching and learning of a student with a confirmed disability in a regular class.

Where parents choose to enrol their child in a special class the Department offers a range of special classes in both regular and special schools that cater specifically for students with autism and classes for students with other disabilities such as an intellectual disability and autism.

In addition to these classes specialist outreach teachers with expertise in the area of autism are also provided to support the teaching and learning of students with autism.

- *1126 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL ZONES—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the school 40 kph zones in the Hornsby electorate without flashing lights have these installed? In what order, school by school, will these flashing lights be installed?

Answer—

I am advised:

On 26 September 2007, the Premier announced a \$46.5 million four-year program to further enhance the safety of students in school zones.

Flashing light technology and electronic alert systems will be installed in a further 400 school zones, comprising the rollout of 100 systems a year over the next four years.

This new technology is reliable, highly visible and doing a good job slowing people down in school zones.

School zones are being selected for the new technology rollout based on risk criteria including traffic and pedestrian volumes, surrounding speed limits and crash history.

- *1127 FAULTY SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

With respect to prima facie evidence indicating the speed camera at Ewingsdale on the Pacific Highway was faulty during the period of 28 March 2007 to 24 July 2007:

- (1) Is an average of 97 infringements per day, in the stated period, compared to an average of 13 per day in October 2006 abnormally high and prima facie evidence that the camera may well have been faulty?
- (2) Is it a fact that:
 - (a) there is excellent sign posting advising motorists they are approaching a speed camera and that the speed limit is 60kph;
 - (b) many drivers had witnesses in their cars who swear the driver was not speeding;
 - (c) an advisory speed sign operated most of the time at the southern approach to the speed camera letting motorists know what their speed was;
 - (d) many of the drivers who have been alleged to have been speeding know only too well the speed camera is there as they go through it on a regular basis, know the penalties and are unlikely to speed?
- (3) Will you introduce a moratorium on the collection and issuing of any more infringement notices for the period in question (i.e. 28 March 2007 to 24 July 2007) for three months so that:
 - (a) further investigations can be conducted as to the camera's accuracy during the stated period; and

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- (b) affected motorists, including many who will lose their licences and their jobs as a result of alleged multiple infringements, are given time to prepare their case for a challenge in court?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Roads.

- *1128 FAULTY SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

With respect to prima facie evidence indicating the speed camera at Ewingsdale on the Pacific Highway was faulty during the period of 28 March 2007 to 24 July 2007:

- (1) Is an average of 97 infringements per day, in the stated period, compared to an average of 13 per day in October 2006 abnormally high and prima facie evidence that the camera may well have been faulty?
- (2) Is it a fact that:
 - (a) there is excellent sign posting advising motorists they are approaching a speed camera and that the speed limit is 60kph;
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 - (d) many of the drivers who have been alleged to have been speeding know only too well the speed camera is there as they go through it on a regular basis, know the penalties and are unlikely to speed?
- (3) Will you introduce a moratorium on the collection and issuing of any more infringement notices for the period in question (i.e. 28 March 2007 to 24 July 2007) for three months so that:
 - (a) further investigations can be conducted as to the camera's accuracy during the stated period; and
 - (b) affected motorists, including many who will lose their licences and their jobs as a result of alleged multiple infringements, are given time to prepare their case for a challenge in court?

Answer—

I am advised:

Like all speed cameras in NSW, the speed camera on St Helena Hill undergoes a rigorous testing and maintenance regime, which includes testing at least 15 times each year.

In response to community concern, the RTA carried out thorough investigations on the St Helena Hill speed camera. These investigations confirmed the camera was working accurately.

I am further advised that the RTA examined a random sample of speed camera offences that were recorded in June and found that in every case the camera was correct.

RTA technicians, along with the camera's manufacturers, visited the St Helena Hill site to conduct further tests on the speed camera. These tests also proved the camera was working accurately and there were no faults in the system.

The St Helena Hill camera was last tested on 20 September 2007, again establishing the camera was working accurately.

- *1129 PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SUBSIDY SCHEME—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 Petroleum Products Subsidy Scheme Northern NSW, for the period 1997 to the present:

- (1) What is the total per annum volume and dollar value of petroleum supplied under this subsidy?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the total amount of unleaded and diesel petroleum supplied per annum under this subsidy?
- (3) What is the per annum volume and dollar value breakdown of the retail and wholesale purchases of petroleum under this subsidy?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The following table relates to questions (1) and (2).

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Financial Year	Motor Spirit		Diesel Fuel on Road		Total	
	Litres	Subsidy	Litres	Subsidy	Litres	Subsidy
2000-01	419,539,139	\$22,763,634.08	233,960,017	\$13,035,070.74	653,499,156	\$35,798,704.82
2001-02	453,847,755	\$24,416,928.17	263,826,944	\$14,486,506.63	717,674,699	\$38,903,434.80
2002-03	453,205,895	\$24,408,026.82	267,712,226	\$14,707,571.90	720,918,121	\$39,115,598.72
2003-04	451,932,762	\$24,558,593.88	259,941,744	\$14,516,767.28	711,874,506	\$39,075,361.16
2004-05	458,416,932	\$24,802,704.40	279,025,811	\$15,441,098.14	737,442,743	\$40,243,802.54
2005-06	449,494,444	\$24,267,095.62	290,109,546	\$16,125,758.38	739,603,990	\$40,392,186.14
2006-07	453,373,763	\$24,400,706.74	304,059,489	\$16,865,322.89	757,433,252	\$41,216,108.31
Total	3,139,810,690	\$169,617,689.71	1,898,635,777	\$105,178,095.95	5,038,446,467	\$274,745,196.50

Information is only available from 1 July 2000, and is reported on financial year basis.

Motor Spirit includes leaded and unleaded petrol no further breakdown is available.

(3) The Office of State Revenue does not collect information on retail and wholesale purchases of petroleum under the subsidy, as this information is not required to pay the subsidy.

*1130 QLD/NSW CROSS-BORDER AMBULANCE SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to QLD/NSW cross-border ambulance services:

- (1) What is the total number of cross-border ambulance trips conducted by the Queensland Ambulance Service into New South Wales since the inception of this scheme?
- (2) What is the total amount of money provided to the Queensland Ambulance Service for transporting patients into New South Wales since the inception of this scheme?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The reference to the "scheme" in the Member's question is ambiguous and any interpretation of the question would be subjective. I suggest the Member provide further clarification if a response to this issue is still required.

*1131 DRINK-DRIVING OFFENCES—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

Given that the Tweed electorate has the highest per person rate of drink-driving offences in NSW:

- (1) What is the monthly number of drink-driving offences committed in the Tweed electorate for the past 24 months?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the monthly number of drink-driving offences committed by the following age groups in the Tweed electorate for the past 24 months:
 - (a) 17-25 years?
 - (b) 25-45 years?
 - (c) 45+ years?
- (3) What is the monthly State average of drink-driving offences committed across NSW?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) Police information systems are operational, not statistical, and data is not organised by electorate. The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) analyses NSW recorded crime statistics. This question is more appropriately addressed to the Attorney General, within whose portfolio the Bureau resides.

*1132 SEWER MINING REGULATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Why did the Minister in a letter to the Chairman of the Legislation Review Committee dated 10

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September 2007 reject the idea of a regulation specifically dealing with sewer mining?

- (2) Does the Minister have any plans to introduce a regulation dealing with this issue?

Answer—

The Government introduced a regulation dealing with the assessment regime for sewer mining in February this year.

- *1133 KANGAROO POPULATIONS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What is the current estimated population of grey kangaroos in New South Wales?
- (2) What is the current estimated population of red kangaroos in New South Wales?
- (3) Has the Minister's department made submissions to the Minister for Primary Industries concerning Hunter and Mudgee-Merriwa Rural Lands Protection Boards' plans to increase the area open to commercial shooting of kangaroos?

Answer—

I am advised that in areas where aerial surveys of kangaroos are undertaken the most recent estimates of grey and red kangaroos are approximately 3.7 million and 2.5 million respectively.

An application for a new kangaroo commercial harvest zone was received by the Department of Environment and Climate Change in September 2007. The application was tabled at the Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel meeting on 1 November 2007 and will be discussed further at the March 2008 meeting.

- *1134 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) How many reports of suspected child abuse or neglect were made to the DoCS Helpline from Postcode 2154 (Castle Hill) in the years (a) 2002-03, (b) 2003-04, (c) 2004-05, (d) 2005-06, and (e) 2006-07?
- (2) How many of these reports were for:
 - (a) drug/alcohol abuse;
 - (b) domestic violence;
 - (c) physical abuse;
 - (d) sexual abuse;
 - (e) psychological abuse; and
 - (f) neglect?

Answer—

Detailed information on reports of suspected child abuse or neglect by the postcode of the caller is not available.

- *1135 CORONIAL MORTUARY—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

Where will the new Coronial mortuary for Sydney be built and when?

Answer—

I am advised that consultants have been engaged to develop options on the service arrangements and asset requirements for delivering a single facility.

The location and proposed timetable for construction of the new Coronial Mortuary are subject to Cabinet's endorsement of the recommendations to be presented in the consultant's report.

- *1136 TREE LOPPING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Regarding the lopping of trees in Pittwater by contractors working on behalf of Energy Australia:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of numerous complaints from local residents about this work?
- (2) What systems are in place to ensure such work is carried out to an acceptable standard without undue damage to trees?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) EnergyAustralia performs vegetation management in accordance with its Tree Safety Management Plan which was developed as required by the Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001.

Routine audits are conducted by EnergyAustralia on its vegetation management contractors to monitor the quality of their work.

EnergyAustralia also employs qualified aborists who provide advice on vegetation matters related to routine vegetation management work undertaken by EnergyAustralia.

In 2006/07, EnergyAustralia trimmed more than 390,000 trees under a \$20 million vegetation management program. The aim of this program is to maintain adequate safety clearance between power lines and trees and to reduce the impact of vegetation and wildlife on the network.

Given the number of trees trimmed each year there are relatively few complaints relating to the way in which trees are trimmed. A review showed that the vast majority of customer complaints in the Pittwater area in 2007 were in relation to cuttings left on site in excess of 48 hours.

- *1137 STATE HERITAGE REGISTER LISTING—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

How many submissions were received supporting the proposed listing of Currawong on the NSW State Heritage Register by the end of the public consultation period?

Answer—

I am advised 510 submissions supporting the proposed listing were received.

- *1138 LICENSING OF OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

How many submissions were received opposing the proposed changes to licensing arrangements for older drivers by the end of the public consultation period?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Iemma Government is committed to preserving the independence of older people. As the population ages, maintaining the mobility of older people is a growing challenge.

That's why the RTA released an Older Driver discussion paper, to encourage public debate. The discussion paper is about providing more choice and less testing for older drivers.

Currently drivers do not have a choice when they reach 85. They must sit an annual driving test if they wish to remain on our roads. Many drivers only drive in local areas on roads they know well. That's why the discussion paper puts forward a second option – the local licence.

Under the proposal drivers would have a choice when they reach 85. They could automatically be issued with a local licence and remain mobile, or they would be able to still sit a test if they want to drive with no restrictions for long distances.

For many older drivers being able to get to the local shops, doctor and church is critical and the local licence would give them a hassle-free option to stay mobile, without sitting an annual test. For those who still drive long distances nothing would change from the current situation and they would still sit an annual test.

More than 24,000 submissions have been made the RTA and all will be taken into account when a proposal is put before the NSW Government. The RTA is in the process of assessing public submissions and will report to the Government in due course.

- *1139 CORRESPONDENCE—MRS BENBOW—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Regarding my correspondence on behalf of Mrs Benbow for which I was referred to the Minister's previous correspondence under reference RML 72456 and my subsequent contact with the Minister's office on 28 June 2007, 2 July 2007, 24 July 2007 and 7 September 2007:

- (1) When will the Minister respond to my letter on behalf of Mrs Benbow and address the concerns raised in her letter?
- (2) If Mrs Benbow is not to receive a reply via me, why not?

Answer—

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I am advised:

A response to Mrs Benbow in regards to her correspondence to the Minister for Transport was sent on 23 November 2007.

*1140 NATIONAL PARKS CAMPING FEES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Will the National Park and Wildlife Service increase fees for camping in national parks from 1 November 2007?
- (2) If so, which national parks will have their fees increased?
- (3) If fees are to be increased in national parks, will they be increased in all national parks?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) If not, which national parks will have fees increased?
- (6) What is the present and the expected income from each of the national parks which will have fee increases?
- (7) What will the funds from existing and increased fees be spent on in each national park that has had a fee increase?
- (8) If the total funds of fees are not to be spent on national parks from which the fees are collected, why not?
- (9) If the total fees collected in each national park are not to be spent on the national park from which the fees were collected, how much will be spent in such national parks and where will the balance of fees collected by spent?

Answer—

(1) The majority of campgrounds in our national parks do not charge any fees. Where fees are charged, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has begun introducing a fee increase, effective from 1 November 2007, of just \$2 to \$6 per night. This is only the second increase in camping fees since 1999. It reflects Consumer Price Index adjustments and changes in management costs. In addition, these changes reflect the Government's commitment to competitive neutrality, given the Department provides camping opportunities in competition with other government and private sector tourism and accommodation operators.

(2) to (5) Not all parks have increased fees. Price determinations have been made with reference to the state-wide schedule of fees and considerations such as the level of services and amenities provided and the cost of managing the campground. Further information about camping fees for individual campgrounds is available at the Department of Environment and Climate Change's web site.

(6) to (9) Revenue attributable to camping fees 2006-07 was \$3.39 million. Every cent raised through camping fees is put back into national parks to provide facilities such as picnic tables, walking tracks, barbecues, toilets, and showers and sewerage upgrades. Other important park management programs are funded from this revenue, including conservation work, and pest, weed and fire management.

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- 1141 OVERSEAS ADOPTIONS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1142 ABORIGINAL HEALTH TEAM—CAMPBELLTOWN HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1143 CLOSURE OF ABORIGINAL AFTER CARE SERVICES—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1144 NSW MENTAL HEALTH SENTINEL EVENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1145 TRACKING TRAGEDY—THIRD REPORT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- 1146 THIRD NSW MENTAL HEALTH SENTINEL EVENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1147 ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICES—XAVIER COLLEGE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1148 BUS TICKET INSPECTORS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1149 501 SERVICE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1150 PARRAMATTA INTERCHANGE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1151 BUILDING INSPECTION—“THE OASIS”, PAMBULA—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 1152 BELLS LINE OF ROAD—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1154 ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME INSULATION REBATE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1155 POKER MACHINES AND KENO—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1156 STRAY CATTLE IN NATIONAL PARKS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1157 MATERIAL AID TO THE PEOPLE OF BLACKTOWN—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1158 BROOKLYN/DANGAR ISLAND SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1159 SPECIALIST HOSPICE BEDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1160 HORNSBY CLEARWAYS PROJECT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- *1161 TREE LOPPING BY ENERGYAUSTRALIA—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

Regarding the lopping of trees in the Sutherland shire by Energy Australia:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any complaints from local residents about this work?
- (2) What systems are in place to ensure such work is carried out to an acceptable standard without undue damage to trees?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) EnergyAustralia performs vegetation management in accordance with its Tree Safety Management Plan which was developed as required by the Electricity Supply (General) Regulation 2001.

Routine audits are conducted by EnergyAustralia on its vegetation management contractors to monitor the quality of their work.

EnergyAustralia also employs qualified aborists who provide advice on vegetation matters related to routine vegetation management work undertaken by EnergyAustralia.

In 2006/07, EnergyAustralia trimmed more than 390,000 trees under a \$20 million vegetation management program. The aim of this program is to maintain adequate safety clearance between power lines and trees and to reduce the impact of vegetation and wildlife on the network.

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Given the number of trees trimmed each year there are relatively few complaints relating to the way in which trees are trimmed. A review showed that the vast majority of customer complaints in the Sutherland shire area in 2007 were in relation to cuttings left on site in excess of 48 hours.

- 1162 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1163 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire 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—
- 1164 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire 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—
- 1165 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1166 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1167 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1168 ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- *1170 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—221-227 BOURKE STREET EAST SYDNEY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

Given that the Department of Housing has advertised to sell social housing properties at 221-227 Bourke Street East Sydney:

- (1) On what basis did the study into the future of these properties, as referred to by the former Minister in response to my previous question, determine that the properties should be sold rather than restored for public housing tenants?
- (2) To what extent did the study into the future of these properties consider the views of local Department of Housing tenants or community groups who may be affected by the sale?
- (3) Will all the income from the sale of these properties be returned to inner city public housing?
- (4) If not:
 - (a) What proportion will be returned to inner city public housing?
 - (b) What will the rest of the funds be used for and where will they be allocated?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that many inner city Department of Housing tenants are concerned that the sale of inner city public housing properties will force them out of the area?
- (6) What is the NSW Government's response to that concern?
- (7) Will future sales of Department of Housing properties involve consultation with local Department of Housing tenants or community groups who may be affected by these sales?

Answer—

- (1) The study revealed that the cost of refurbishment was not economically viable. Demolition and redevelopment on the site was also not an option due to the ownership of the adjoining terraces and significant restrictions due to heritage requirements.
- (2) The properties have remained vacant despite being offered to various community groups and organisations for use. Therefore no Housing NSW tenants or community groups were affected by the sale.
- (3) and (4) Funding will be used to acquire properties in high demand areas.
- (5) and (6) There have been no Housing NSW tenants or community groups that have been forced out of the area from the sale of these properties.
- (7) Yes. Housing NSW consults with all tenants and community groups directly affected by sales.

- 1171 ILLEGAL POSTERS—Ms Clover Moore 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—
- 1173 PLANNING POWERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1174 NORTHERN SYDNEY SCHOOLS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- *1175 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- (1) Of the almost 6,000 hours of graffiti removal work conducted under the Graffiti Removal Program last financial year, how many hours were spent in the electorate of Davidson?
 - (2) What was the percentage of overall graffiti removal from privately as opposed to publicly owned property?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) The location of graffiti removal work is dependent on a number of factors. These factors include the willingness of local councils to participate in the program, where the offender resides and if they are on a community service order, as well as occupational health and safety considerations. If a council wishes to see the program operate in their area they should contact the Department of Juvenile Justice.
I am advised no local councils in the electorate of Davidson have approached the Department of Juvenile Justice to undertake the graffiti removal program in the area.
 - (2) The Graffiti Removal Program is conducted in conjunction with local councils. The councils identify the sites and graffiti is removed. Often the removal is on shared property, such as fences, which are jointly owned by Council and the private owner.
- 1176 SAFETY BARRIER—MONA VALE ROAD—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1177 OFFICE OF PROTECTIVE COMMISSIONER—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1178 TOWN CENTRE PLANS—KU-RING-GAI—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1179 LITTER COLLECTION—PACIFIC HIGHWAY—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1180 PRISONER TRANSFERS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1181 RAIN TANK SUBSIDIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1182 INCIDENCE OF MENINGOCOCCAL—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- *1183 SAND MINING—OFFSHORE AREAS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- Is the Government investigating or considering any proposals for sand mining in any offshore areas adjoining Pittwater or Warringah Local Government Areas?
- Answer—
- I am unaware of any proposals for sand mining in any offshore areas adjoining Pittwater or Warringah Local Government Areas.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1184 SAND MINING—PITTWATER AND WARRINGAH LGAS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- *1185 SECURITY AGAINST REHABILITATION FOR FUTURE MINING LEASES—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) Is there an amount of \$831.5 million held as security against rehabilitation for future mining leases in NSW?
 - (2) If so, how is that money held?
 - (3) If so, is interest being earned on such money?
 - (4) If so, how much?
 - (5) If so, who are entitled to such interest?
 - (6) If such interest is paid either partly or wholly to the government, what is such interest expended upon?
- Answer—
- (1) Department of Primary Industries records show as at 7 November 2007 the amount held as rehabilitation security bonds for mining leases is \$753 million. The amount held fluctuates.
 - (2) The money is predominantly held as bank guarantees with a small component, about \$3 million, held as cash in a Crown Trust Account controlled by NSW Treasury and managed by the Department of Primary Industries.
 - (3) This question should be addressed to the Treasurer.
 - (4) See answer to Question 3.
 - (5) See answer to Question 3.
 - (6) See answer to Question 3.
- 1187 M2 SPEED LIMITS—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1188 FLOODWATER COMPENSATION—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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(Paper No. 28)

- 1189 PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN WESTERN SYDNEY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1190 DETERMINATION OF WETLAND LEASES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1191 RECLASSIFICATION OF LEASES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1192 NEGOTIATION OF WETLAND LEASES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1193 MANLY SKIFF CLUB—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1194 NSW MARITIME—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1195 MANLY SKIFF CLUB RENT—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1196 RENTAL CHARGES FOR WETLAND LEASES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1197 REVENUE FROM WETLAND LEASES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

- 1198 LIQUOR AND GAMING LICENCES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1199 PUBLIC TRANSPORT—RUGBY LEAGUE GRAND FINAL—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1201 E10 TASKFORCE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- *1202 TOTAL WEEKLY GAS USAGE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- In relation to total weekly gas usage in NSW:
- (1) Does your department have information on NSW's total weekly gas usage?
 - (2) If so, will you release that data weekly including all previous data?
 - (3) If not, will you take action to obtain and publicly release weekly data on NSW's total gas usage?
- Answer—
- (1) to (3) No, except in times of emergency situations.
- 1203 MACQUARIE-CUDGEGONG WATER SHARING PLAN—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1204 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1205 PURCHASE OF CROWN LAND—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1206 BARTON HIGHWAY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1207 REVIEWABLE CHILD DEATHS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1208 NEW LINE ROAD CRASH AND TRAFFIC FLOW DATA—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1209 BURST WATER PIPE—CHERRYBROOK—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1210 MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT MEETINGS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1211 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL—FUNDRAISING—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1212 FINANCIAL STATUS—BURWOOD AND ASHFIELD COUNCILS—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1213 GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO LOCAL COUNCILS—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1214 RATE INCREASES—BURWOOD AND ASHFIELD COUNCILS—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- *1215 PUBLIC HOUSING—STRATHFIELD—Ms Virginia Judge asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) What is the current status of public housing in NSW?
 - (2) (a) Are there any new projects for 2007-08 for the electorate of Strathfield?

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(b) If so, what are they?

Answer—

(1) Information concerning the status of public housing is available in Housing NSW's 2007 Annual Report.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) 3 Cecil Street Ashfield comprising of 9 dwellings and 4 Orpington Street, Ashfield comprising of 12 dwellings.

- 1216 MEASURES TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER USAGE—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1217 BURWOOD LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1218 MIDDLE EASTERN ORGANISED CRIME SQUAD—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1219 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1220 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1221 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1223 GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS POSTINGS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1224 HSC INDONESIAN LANGUAGE EXAM—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1225 ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1226 SICK LEAVE—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1227 SPRING WATER EXTRACTION LICENCES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1228 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1229 CIVILIAN STAFFING OF LOCAL AREA COMMANDS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1230 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1231 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1232 RAIL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1233 BREACHES OF LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1234 BREACHES OF LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

1235 BREACHES OF LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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(Paper No. 29)

*1240 LAND RELEASES AND RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) How much land, as measured in hectares, has the State Government released for the purpose of residential occupancy in the years:
 - (a) 2006-07;
 - (b) 2005-06;
 - (c) 2004-05?
- (2) How much of this land was released for this purpose in the Sydney metropolitan area?
- (3) What are the latest statistics available from the Department of Planning as to the number of residential dwellings constructed in the above-mentioned years?
- (4) (a) Is the Minister aware of concerns expressed by the Housing Industry Association about the shortfall in building commencements to address the rental shortage in Sydney?
(b) If so, what action has the Government taken to address this issue?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Total dwelling potential in the metropolitan area has increased from 76,439 as at July 2004 to 108,139 as at July 2007. Land was released as follows:

- (a) 2006-07 nil
- (b) 2005-06 391 hectares
- (c) 2004-05 4,930 hectares

(3) For the Sydney metropolitan area, the latest statistics available, show that a total of 52,317 residential dwellings have been constructed over the last three years (within urban and greenfield areas), as follows:

- (a) 2006-07 14,265 dwellings.
- (b) 2005-06 18,058 dwellings.
- (c) 2004-05 19,994 dwellings.

(4) Current low levels of greenfield dwelling production (2,601 dwellings in 2004/05 and 1,972 in 2005/06) are largely a result of macro factors such as increasing interest rates, falling population growth and changing housing preferences rather than any supply limitations.

A key measure available to the Government is the provision of an adequate supply of land for new homes in greenfield and existing urban areas. To address short-term land supply, the State Plan has adopted a target of having sufficient stock of zoned and serviced land in greenfield areas with potential for 55,000 homes by 2009. The State Plan also has a target of providing an additional 640,000 dwellings in Sydney by 2031.

Recent State Government planning reforms have also assisted in alleviating much of the red tape by:

- focusing on strategic planning for growth areas;
- simplifying planning controls;
- improving the development assessment process.

In October 2007 the State Government also announced a comprehensive overhaul of infrastructure charges for new land releases. As a result of the review the State Government's investment in infrastructure for housing development would grow considerably over the next 25 years.

1241 PROPOSED M4 EXTENSION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

*1242 WIND POWER—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

What regions in New South Wales does the Minister consider appropriate for wind power?

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Answer—

It is not my role to select sites for wind power in New South Wales. Site selection is a matter for the wind industry to determine in accordance with environmental planning laws. My role is establishing policy settings that bring forward least cost renewable energy for consumers.

- 1243 COAL ROYALTIES AND CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1244 NURSING STAFF—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1245 SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1246 BREWARRINA AND WALGETT DOCS OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1247 MAINTENANCE WORK PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS—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—
- 1248 DOCS HELPLINE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1249 HORNSBY HOSPITAL PUBLIC DENTAL CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1250 CALVARY MATER NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1251 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1252 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- *1253 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?
- Answer—
- The project under the heading "Various" for Wagga Wagga in the 2007/08 capital budget is modifications to a new respite home at 27 Sterling Boulevard, Tatton, at a cost of \$350,000.
- 1254 EPPING TO CHATSWOOD RAIL LINK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1255 SELECTED TREE LOPPING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1256 LAND CORRIDOR—GARIGAL NATIONAL PARK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1257 "OBVIOUS OVERSIGHT"—PETER MERCIECA AND LAURA MCHARG—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1258 SPEED LIMIT ON NSW WATERWAYS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1259 MENTAL HEALTH IN NSW—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1260 CROSS-BORDER HEALTH ISSUES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

- 1261 REVIEW OF COASTLINE POLICIES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1262 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1263 POLICE PRESENCE IN PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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(Paper No. 30)

- 1264 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1265 REVESBY TURNBACK FACILITY—Mr Alan Ashton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1266 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1267 ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE—Mr Peter Debnam 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—
- *1268 FEED-IN TARIFFS—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to feed-in tariffs:

- (1) Will the Minister follow South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT and announce a feed-in tariff for excess electricity sold back to the grid from solar photovoltaic systems?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, how will the feed-in tariff from these sources be set?
- (4) Is the Minister aware industry advice is that a feasible feed-in tariff would need to be at least double the retail price of energy?

Answer—

The NSW Government's approach is to establish market conditions to bring forward the least cost renewable energy to minimise the cost impact on consumers.

- 1270 DISCHARGING OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1271 REFURBISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S WARD AT BOWRAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1272 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1273 EQUINE INFLUENZA—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1274 BOWNING DEVIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1275 LIVERPOOL DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES ASSOCIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1276 PROPOSED HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AREAS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1277 HORNSBY CYCLEWAYS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- 1278 SHORELINK PATRONAGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1279 HUNTER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 1280 MOREE BYPASS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1281 TRUANCY RATES—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1282 MAINTENANCE WORK REQUESTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1283 SUMMER POLICING—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1284 TRANSFER OF SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1285 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1286 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1287 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1288 AMBULANCE COSTS—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1289 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1290 COUNTRYLINK SERVICES FROM TWEED TO CASINO—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1291 TWEED LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1292 MAINTENANCE WORK REQUESTS—Mr Anthony Roberts 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—
- 1293 INTER-TIDAL ZONE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1294 CAULERPA TAXIFOLIA—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1295 INTER-TIDAL ZONE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1296 CT AND ULTRASOUND SCANNING—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1297 KILLICK CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1298 EQUINE INFLUENZA—CASUAL EMPLOYMENT—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

- 1299 PLACEMENT OF AUTISTIC STUDENT—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

7 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 31)

- 1300 REGISTERED CHARITIES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1301 RFS TANKER CREW SAFETY—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1302 FOREST AND FIRE TRAILS—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1303 MALABAR TO WEST RYDE METRO LINE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1304 NSW TAXI ADVISORY COUNCIL—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1305 GEOTHERMAL ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- *1306 GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT SCHEME—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme:

- (1) Does the Minister support the comments of Mr Chris Dunstan, NSW Manager of the Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy, who wrote that the GGAS scheme had a "lack of transparency", and with regards to the NGAC public register, that "gaining a clear view of the type and location and scale of projects requires the concentration of a chess master and the determination of Rainman (not to mention a lot of spare time)" (Credit where (carbon) credits are due, EcoGeneration 36, pg 37)?
- (2) Will the Minister make the public register of NGACs "more easily accessible"?

Answer—

- (1) No.
- (2) In 2006 the relevant sections of the Electricity Supply Act (1995) were amended to allow the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, as GGAS Scheme Administrator, to release more information from the GGAS Registry.

Whilst previously any person could search the GGAS Registry to obtain creation details for an individual greenhouse gas abatement certificate, the Scheme Administrator was not authorised by the Act to release aggregated certificate creation data. This was remedied by the 2006 amendments and in its most recent Annual Report entitled 'Compliance and Operation of the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme during 2006' the Scheme Administrator has included significantly increased information on certificate creation.

I am advised that the Scheme Administrator is currently in the process of modifying the Scheme Registry to allow online access to enhanced information.

- *1307 OWEN INQUIRY REPORT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to the Owen Inquiry report:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the comments of Dominique La Fontaine, the Chief Executive of the Clean Energy Council with regards to the Owen Inquiry report:

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"Renewable and clean power generation and energy efficiency can provide more than twice our expected growth in electricity needs to 2020. NSW simply does not have to choose between reliable, affordable power and a cleaner environment."

(2) Does the Minister agree with Ms La Fontaine's comments?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) Professor Owen reported that energy efficiency and renewable energies, like solar and wind power, will play an increasingly greater role in managing and meeting NSW's energy needs. Ms La Fontaine's comments will be considered in the NSW Government's response to the Owen Inquiry report.

The Government is currently preparing its response to Professor Owen's recommendations.

- 1308 ACCESS VISITS—Mrs Dawn Fardell to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1309 TAFE FEES—Mrs Dawn Fardell 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—
- 1310 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—POLICE TRAINING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1311 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1312 CAMPING FEES—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1313 NARRABEEN LAGOON CATCHMENT—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1314 BUS MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—MONA VALE BUS DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1315 BUS MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—BROOKVALE BUS DEPOT—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1316 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1317 BUS FARES—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1318 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITALS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1319 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE RENAL DIALYSIS PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1320 RAIL TRAILS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1321 IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL SHEPHERD—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1322 SEWERAGE CONNECTIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1323 AMBULANCE SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1324 NEW LINE ROAD ACCIDENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1325 NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

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- 1326 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1327 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1328 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1329 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer), Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment)—
- 1330 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1331 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 1332 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1333 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1334 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS ACCREDITATION SURVEY—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1335 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1336 ISO 9001: 2000 CERTIFICATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1337 AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF HEALTHCARE STANDARDS ACCREDITATION—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1338 TRAFFIC COUNTS—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1339 WAITARA RAILWAY STATION—Mr Barry O'Farrell to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1340 HOME BUSINESSES—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1341 MATERNITY UNITS—TWEED ELECTORATE HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1342 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS—TWEED ELECTORATE HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1343 AMBULANCE SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- *1344 BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- Given that tests on 7 and 9 September that showed extremely high levels of potentially toxic algae down as far as 20 metres, do you stand by your statement, made to the Budget Estimates Committee on 15 October that the blue-green algal bloom only affects the top metre of water in Warragamba Dam?
- Answer—
- As stated at the hearing on 15 October 2007, all questions regarding the blue-green algal bloom should be referred to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.
- 1345 PROSPECT WATER FILTRATION PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1348 ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1349 INCREASED SERVICE LEVELS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1350 PROPOSED NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1351 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1352 BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1353 BRISBANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL—TOILET FACILITIES—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1354 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1355 SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1356 DEMOUNTABLES IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1357 FIRE STATIONS FUNDING—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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(Paper No. 32)

- 1358 TRANSACTIONAL SUBSIDIES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1359 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ASSETS—Mr Greg Aplin 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—
- 1360 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1361 ELECTRONIC EMPLOYEE LEAVE SYSTEM—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1362 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1363 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1364 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1365 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1366 ACCRUED LEAVE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- 1367 FISHING LICENCE REVENUE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1368 SPIT BRIDGE OPENING TIMES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1369 MENTAL HEALTH ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1370 COMPENSATION FOR LEGAL COSTS—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1371 WHITE CITY TENNIS COMPLEX—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1372 STRICKLAND HOUSE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1373 ETHANOL-BLENDED FUELS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1374 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REDUCTIONS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1375 GREENHOUSE GAS CREDITS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1376 GOVERNMENT WATER POLICY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- *1377 WARD FAMILY—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- (1) (a) At any time was the Ward family, whose daughter Shellay has allegedly starved to death, tenants of the Department of Housing?
 - (b) If so, where and when?
 - (2) What files are kept by the Department of Housing relating to the Ward family and their children?
 - (3) What files are kept by the Department of Housing relating to the condition of the properties tenanted by the Ward family after they have moved out?
 - (4) Did the department ever have concerns regarding the safety of the Ward children?
 - (5) Did departmental staff ever raise these concerns with the Department of Community Services?
- Answer—
- The Ward family were formerly tenants of the Department of Housing. Given the announcement by the Ombudsman to conduct an inquiry into the death of Shellay Ward, the Department will cooperate fully and provide all necessary files and information into the investigation.
- 1378 WADALBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1379 FOOD EXPENDITURE—MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITALS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1380 MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE—DEE WHY POLICE STATION—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1381 COMPENSATION—STOLEN WAGES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1382 CHILD ADMISSIONS TO ADULT PSYCHIATRIC WARDS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1383 ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY—STAFFING NUMBERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1384 RESPITE SERVICES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1385 JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1386 SCHOOL FUNDING—WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1387 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1388 LICENSING PROPOSALS FOR OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1389 LEVEL CROSSINGS—SAFETY UPGRADES—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1390 DEATHS DUE TO ZYPREXA, AROPAX OR RISPERIDONE—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1391 INCIDENTS RELATED TO ZYPREXA, AROPAX OR RISPERIDONE—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1392 40 KPH WARNING LIGHTS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1393 40 KPH WARNING LIGHTS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1394 40 KPH SPEED ZONES—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1395 40 KPH SPEED ZONES—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1396 SPEED INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Wayne Merton 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—
- 1397 SYDNEY WATER CORPORATION—GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1398 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1399 ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY—GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1400 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1401 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1402 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1403 BLUE-GREEN ALGAL INCIDENT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1404 BLUE-GREEN ALGAL INCIDENT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1405 GUIDELINES FOR THREATENED SPECIES ASSESSMENT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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- 1406 SPEED CAMERAS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1407 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1408 OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1409 INSTALLATION OF FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1410 FLASHING LIGHTS IN SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1411 40 KPH SCHOOL ZONES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1412 FUNDING FOR WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1413 SCHOOL FUNDING—WATER SAVING DEVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1414 YOUTH ORCHESTRA—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1415 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1416 AVALON POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1417 SCHOOL AIR-COOLING SYSTEMS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1418 SCHOOL BUS ROUTES—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1419 WATER CHARGES—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1420 REHEARING THRESHHOLD—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

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(Paper No. 33)

- 1421 MOUNT PIPER POWER STATION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1422 BIOENERGY ELECTRICITY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1423 CARBON CAPTURE PILOT PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1424 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1425 AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIME—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1426 HORNSBY HOSPITAL DENTAL CLINIC—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1427 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—OPERATING THEATRES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1428 PORT HACKING FERRY CHANNELS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1429 NEW SPEED CAMERA—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1430 AQUATIC WEEDS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1431 SANE COURSE—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1432 ILLEGAL WATER EXTRACTIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1433 PRISONER FOOD COST—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1434 PUBLIC HOUSING—KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1435 AREA HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTOR—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1436 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1437 FIREARM INCIDENT—TWEED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL—Mr Geoff Provest 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—
- 1438 TWEED VALLEY WAY—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1439 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1440 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1441 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1442 ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1443 BRIDGE WIDENING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1444 WATER PIPE INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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(Paper No. 34)

- 1445 INVESTIGATION—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1446 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—

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- 1447 2004 ENERGY GREEN PAPER—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1448 RTA ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONAL AND SPONSORSHIP EXPENDITURE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1449 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET SCHEMES—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1450 SYDNEY TO GOULBURN RAIL SERVICE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1451 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1452 PIPELINE FUNDING—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1453 BRISBANIA SCHOOL TOILETS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1454 NURSE NUMBERS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1455 CHILDREN AT RISK—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1456 CASEWORKERS IN COWRA—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1457 DISABILITY ACCESS FOR CASUAL EMPLOYEES AT ELECTORATE OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1458 GRENFELL MULTI-PURPOSE SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1459 HORNSBY QUARRY—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1460 SOUTH DURAL SERVICE CENTRE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1461 HORNSBY HOSPITAL ADVERTISEMENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1462 PUBLIC HOUSING IN WALLSEND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1463 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1464 STAFF PARKING SPACES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1465 SUPPORT FOR CYCLING—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1466 GAY HATE CRIMES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1467 WATER CANNONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1468 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1469 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1470 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- 1471 PART 3A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1472 PART 3A DOCUMENTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1473 FINALISATION OF DRAFT DOCUMENTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1474 FTE NURSE NUMBERS—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1475 FTE NURSE NUMBERS—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1476 HOSPITAL BED COUNT—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1477 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1478 NARRABEEN LAGOON WALKING TRACK—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 1479 CARE WORKERS FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1480 TRAIN DELAYS—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1481 VALUATION OF LANDS ACT—SECTION 35AA—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1482 RE-LICENSING OF FIREARMS—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1483 COMPENSATION PAYMENT—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

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(Paper No. 35)

- 1484 ACCREDITED TRANSCRIPTION AGENTS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1485 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam 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—
- 1486 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1487 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1488 CORRESPONDENCE TO PREMIER'S OFFICE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1489 ELIGIBILITY TERMINATION PAYMENT—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1490 HOME-BASED BUSINESSES—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

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- 1491 HOME-BASED BUSINESSES—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1492 HOME-BASED BUSINESSES—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1493 YOUNG DEFENSIVE DRIVER TRAINING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1494 SECURITY AT ELECTORATE OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1495 CASEWORKER SHORTAGE IN HUNTER REGION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1496 HORNSBY HOSPITAL OPERATING THEATRES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1497 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES NOTIFICATIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1498 PEAT ISLAND PATIENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1499 CALVARY MATER HOSPITAL—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1500 BURRANEER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1501 PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1502 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1503 PSYCHIATRIC HELP—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1504 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1505 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1506 NORTH WEST T-WAY—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1507 ADDITIONAL BUS LANES—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1508 448 BUS SERVICE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1509 COMMUTER CONGESTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1510 PEAK OIL—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1511 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1512 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1513 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1514 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1515 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

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- 1516 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1517 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1518 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL STAFFING—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1519 DESIGNATED OFFICERS—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1520 GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL INQUIRY—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1521 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1522 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1523 CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1524 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1525 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1526 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1527 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—CLEANING—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1528 COLD CLIMATE PRISONS—Mr Greg Smith to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1529 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS—Mr Greg Smith to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1530 VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Mr Greg Smith to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1531 CYCLEWAYS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1532 AVALON POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1533 COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 1534 IMPEDIMENT TO POLICE—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1535 CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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(Paper No. 36)

- 1536 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—PATIENT NUMBERS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1537 OFFICE OF STATE RECORDS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- 1538 JACKSON BRIDGE—TUMBARUMBA SHIRE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1539 MANLY SKIFF CLUB RENT—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1540 OPENING HOURS—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—
- 1541 WEB FILTERING TECHNOLOGY—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1542 SCHOOLS CLEANING SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1543 FREE WIRELESS SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1544 132 BUS SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1545 JETCAT SERVICE—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1546 MANLY HOSPITAL—MATERNITY SERVICES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1547 COMMUNITY HOUSING—MENTAL HEALTH ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1548 LANE COVE TUNNEL FILTRATION—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1549 ACCESS TO DADHC SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1550 BATEMANS MARINE PARK—PERMIT APPLICATION—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1551 REPORT BY DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENERGY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1552 ROADS FUNDING—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1553 ROSE BAY, BONDI BEACH AND WAVERLEY POLICE STATIONS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1554 BOWRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1555 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL SHOOTING FACILITY—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1556 WINGECARRIBEE TO GOULBURN WATER PIPELINE—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1557 CHILDREN AT RISK OF HARM—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1558 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1559 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Community Services—

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- 1560 MANLY AND MONA VALE HOSPITAL—OPERATING THEATRES—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1561 DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING STAFF—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1562 STALL HOLDERS—THE ROCKS MARKET—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1563 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION—OXFORD FALLS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1564 THE ROCKS MARKET—VISITORS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1565 HERITAGE REVIEW—SUBMISSIONS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1566 PLANNING REVIEW—SUBMISSIONS—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1567 GRENFELL MEN'S SHED—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1568 TYRA KUEHNE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1569 ROCKFALL AND CLOSURE OF MCELHONE ST WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1570 BOAT PUMP-OUT FACILITY FAILURE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1571 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—UNIT FAULTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1572 SECURITY FENCE—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—
- 1573 TRANSIT POLICE—Ms Virginia Judge to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1574 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1575 NEW CYCLEWAYS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1576 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—CLEANING COSTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1577 ROADWORKS—ADDITIONAL BUS LANE—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1578 40 KPH SPEED LIMIT—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1579 TOURISM REGULATION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1580 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 1581 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1582 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

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- 1583 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1584 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1585 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1586 BLUESCOPE STEEL—COMPENSATION FOR EMISSION COSTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1587 JOINT COMMITTEE ON BIOBANKING—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1588 NORTH WEST T-WAY—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1589 WARATAH RIVULET—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1590 PART 3A GUIDELINES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1591 BUS ACQUISITIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1592 BUS SERVICES—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1593 RYDE HOSPITAL—CLEANING COSTS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1594 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL—NON-MEDICAL STAFF—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1595 AMALGAMATION PROPOSALS—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1596 WORLD YOUTH DAY—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1597 APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE—Mr Greg Smith to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1598 WATERFRONT PROPERTIES—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1599 AMBULANCE NUMBERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1600 BUS NUMBERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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(Paper No. 37)

- 1601 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL BEDS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1602 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

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- 1603 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFFING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1604 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1605 MACQUARIE GENERATION—Mr Peter Debnam 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—
- 1606 INTEGRAL ENERGY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- 1607 STATEFLEET—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1608 SCHOOL CLOSURES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1609 HARDEN MURRUMBURRAH BRIGHTER FUTURES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1610 DEATH OF GEORGIA CHANT—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1611 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1612 SHORELINK CONTRACT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1613 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1614 ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESS—HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—
- 1615 NATURE TOURISM CAMPAIGN—HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1616 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1617 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1618 STAFF NUMBERS—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1619 DENTAL CARE—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1620 DENTAL CARE—TWEED HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1621 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1622 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Allan Shearan to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1623 MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—ELECTIVE SURGERY—Mr Allan Shearan to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1624 WATERFRONT TENANCIES—PITTWATER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

- 1625 STAFFING LEVELS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1626 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1627 CLASSIC CARS—LPG CONVERSIONS—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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(Paper No. 38)

- 1628 JURY DUTY—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What regulations or legislation are in place to protect an employee's job security when he or she is required to spend time away from the workplace to perform jury duty?
 - (2) Can an employee sign away any of the abovementioned protections under any State or Federal award or workplace agreement?
 - (3) If so, what are the details?
 - (4) Has the State Government received any complaints from people who have performed jury duty that their job security or working conditions have been affected because they have undertaken this duty?
- 1629 HYDROTHERAPY POOL—ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How long will the hydrotherapy pool at Albury Base Hospital remain closed?
 - (2) What is the reason for the current extended closure?
 - (3) Given that the pool was out of action for over two months in 2003-04, what maintenance measures are undertaken to ensure this essential rehabilitation and therapy service remains operational?
 - (4) What alternative rehabilitation and therapy services are being offered to patients, people with disabilities, people suffering chronic pain and elderly users of the hydrotherapy pool?
- 1630 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- (1) What funding allocations have been made in the 2007-08 budget for floodplain management projects in NSW?
 - (2) Have funds been quarantined specifically for:
 - (a) floodplain management generally;
 - (b) particular areas?
 - (3) Which areas are subject to planning for flood mitigation works in 2007/08?
- 1631 LOWER HUNTER POLICE WORK-BANS—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- In relation to foreshadowed work bans by Lower Hunter Police:
- (1) Given that the commitment of 28 extra offices for the Lower Hunter Local Area Command has not satisfied the Lower Hunter Branch of the NSW Police Association in their ongoing industrial dispute, can the Minister advise of any change to front-line, first-response officer numbers in the region?
 - (2) Are front-line staffing arrangements in the Port Stephens region appropriate and do they meet minimum requirements in relation to actual officer work-loads?
 - (3) Will the Minister intervene in this dispute given the threat of strike action, which could see lives endangered?
- 1632 PORT STEPHENS CRIME—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- In relation to crime in Port Stephens:
- (1) Can the Minister advise as to what action the Government and/or his department can take to curb the number of complaints regarding juvenile delinquents engaging in criminal behaviour with impunity in Port Stephens?

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- (2) Does the Minister consider it a severe problem that many residents in the Port Stephens community feel the police are powerless to prevent young offenders from ruining their lives?
- 1633 PORT STEPHENS POLICE STATION—Mr Craig Baumann to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- In relation to Port Stephens Police Station:
- (1) Can the Minister advise as to the current status of the proposed Port Stephens Police Station funded in the 2007/08 Budget Papers?
 - (2) Will the foreshadowed work bans proposed by the Lower Hunter branch of the NSW Police Association expedite the process of resourcing and developing this piece of law enforcement infrastructure?
 - (3) In light of the Minister's denial that a dedicated Port Stephens Local Area Command is on the Government's agenda, can the Minister advise of any other proposed option that might alleviate the strain on Lower Hunter Police resources?
- 1634 MENTAL HEALTH TEAMS—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Are there plans to reinstate community mental health teams in Hercules Street, Chatswood?
 - (2) When will a decision be made public given the Government indicated 3 years ago the move to the Royal North Shore Hospital site was temporary?
- 1635 REINSTATEMENT OF BUS SERVICES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- How will you respond to growing community concern and demand for the reinstatement of bus services that were cut from the Willoughby electorate in September 2006?
- 1636 "QUICK WINS"—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- In relation to the "Quick Wins" announcement in the September 2005 edition of "Better Buying":
- (1) What is the current status of the "guidance list of products called 'Quick Wins' to direct government buyers to greener products"?
 - (2) How many products are on the Quick Wins "guidance list"?
 - (3) Is the "guidance list" publicly available?
- 1637 CENTRE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- In relation to the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets' [CEEM] "Response to recent comments on the CEEM Draft Report" published in response to the Minister's comments on the "CEEM Draft Report" into the GGAS Scheme from 2003 to 2005:
- (1) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that the Minister's statement that, "since 2003 there has been a reduction of more than 41 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions" is, according to CEEM, "not supported by the evidence to date" (p. 39) and that "actual physical emissions in both NSW and Australia have risen rather than been reduced over the life of GGAS." (p. 39)?
 - (2) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "approximately 80% of the certificates for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 periods were created by plant that were performing their 'low emission activities' before the scheme began and so these activities can't be claimed to have reduced emissions again since the GGAS started" (p. 39)?
 - (3) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim, "that a scheme whose first stated intent is to reduce emissions created through NSW electricity consumption but has, to date, seen approximately 70% of the claimed abatement occur in offset activities not related to electricity supply and use in NSW, lack coherence and credibility" (p. 40)?
 - (4) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "inclusion of pre-existing projects in GGAS reduces the cashflow available to drive deployment of the new low emission technologies required to reduce NSW emissions between now and 2020, and would appear to provide NSW energy users poor value for money in driving emission reductions" (p. 41)?
 - (5) What is the Minister's response to the CEEM claim that, "Hazelwood power station in Victoria is some forty years old, perhaps the most greenhouse polluting power station in the OECD, did not participate in the earlier voluntary scheme as far as we are aware, yet is an accredited NGAC creator. Over the last three years NSW energy consumers have paid the owners of Hazelwood some \$10

million for their claimed contribution to emissions reductions, a period over which the number of NGACs created by Hazelwood bears little relationship to the change in physical emissions for the plant" (p. 41)?

- 1638 CLEAN COAL WORKING GROUP—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- In relation to the "Clean Coal Working Group"
- Delta Energy website, [<http://www.de.com.au/default.aspx?ArticleID=5436>]:
- (1) Is the "Clean Coal Working Group" different from the "Clean Energy Roundtable" [Legislative Council Hansard, 29 May 2007] or the "Clean Coal/Energy Roundtable" [Written Question 0895]?
 - (2) If they are different, which individuals represent which organisations or businesses on the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
 - (3) When was the inaugural meeting of the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
 - (4) What funds and staff are allocated to supporting the "Clean Coal Working Group"?
 - (5) How often will the "Clean Coal Working Group" meet and where will it meet?
- 1639 TRADING HOURS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- On what basis has the department amended the regulations concerning trading hours for retail outlets in Goulburn to allow them to trade on public holidays, including Boxing Day?
- 1640 TERMEIL CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) When will the Minister provide a response to my concerns regarding the Termeil Creek Bridge project as conveyed to the RTA in January 2007 and to the Minister from the RTA in January?
 - (2) When will the Minister address my concerns regarding unanswered correspondence from January 2007 as conveyed to him in September 2007?
 - (3) Considering that this project is listed for commencement in the 2007-2008 budget, when will the Minister respond to the concerns of the community and Mr Les Stewart in particular?
- 1641 LINEAR ACCELERATOR—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health—
- In light of the comments made by Minister for Women, Verity Firth, regarding the Government's intention to consider the provision of a linear accelerator at Shoalhaven Hospital, when will a decision be announced regarding this project?
- 1642 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL CROSSINGS—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- Which school crossings in the South Coast electorate will be enhanced by the provision of flashing lights over the next three years?
- 1643 GOSFORD AND WYONG HOSPITALS—EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many people presented to the emergency department at (a) Gosford Hospital and (b) Wyong Hospital in 2005 and 2006?
 - (2) How many were seen in the targeted time in 2005 and 2006?
- 1644 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports for (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City were received by the Department of Community Services (DoCS) for 2005 and 2006?
 - (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
 - (3) How many children subject to level 1 reports received a visit from a DoCS caseworker within the prescribed time?
- 1645 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Chris Hartcher to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) What is the staffing of Department of Community Services (DoCS) in (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October 2007?
 - (2) What is the budget allocation for DoCS in (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October

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- 2007?
- (3) How many mandatory notifications were received by DoCS for (a) Wyong Shire (b) Gosford City for the year ended 31 October 2007?
- (4) How many children are in DoCS care for (a) Wyong Shire and (b) Gosford City as at 31 October 2007?
- 1646 WORKCOVER BENEFITS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) Is the WorkCover Board undertaking a review of WorkCover benefits?
- (2) If so, when will this review be completed?
- (3) Will this report be made available to the general public?
- 1647 YASS COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many babies were born to parents living in the 2582 postcode area during:
- (a) 2005;
- (b) 2006;
- (c) to date in 2007?
- (2) How many of these babies were born in:
- (a) Goulburn Hospital;
- (b) a Canberra Hospital;
- (c) Boorowa Hospital;
- (d) Harden Hospital;
- (e) Gundagai Hospital?
- (3) How many of these mothers and babies were subsequently transferred to Yass Hospital for postnatal care?
- 1648 MINISTERIAL CHILD PROTECTION COMMISSION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) When will the Ministerial Child Protection Commission headed by the Hon James Wood QC begin to take submissions from the public?
- (2) Will the commission hold public hearings?
- (3) What is the address for submissions to the commission?
- (4) From what date will the commission be receiving submissions for the public?
- (5) On what date will submissions to the commission close?
- 1649 SEWERAGE CONNECTION—BROOKLYN AND DANGAR ISLAND—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- By what process does the sewerage connection at Brooklyn and Dangar Island enable more efficient water management at each site?
- 1650 BROOKLYN ROAD BRIDGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- Given that the Brooklyn Road Bridge is in need of a coat of paint, when will the bridge be repainted?
- 1651 RAIL LINE MAINTENANCE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- (1) What Government plans (including dates and times) are there for maintenance of:
- (a) the Northern rail line
- (b) the North Shore rail line
- for the next 12 months as it impacts on the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) What will be the cost of this infrastructure maintenance?
- 1652 GREEN ENERGY—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—
- (1) What are the benefits of using green energy in domestic households?
- (2) How many households in the Wallsend electorate currently subscribe to green energy?

- 1653 HOSPITAL BEDS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many beds are open in all wards at Sutherland Hospital as at 31 October 2007?
 - (2) How many of these beds were designated for:
 - (a) surgical;
 - (b) children's services;
 - (c) palliative care;
 - (d) rehabilitation;
 - (e) medical admission?
 - (3) As elective surgery activity increases in the new year will beds in the surgical ward be increased?
 - (4) How many surgical beds for elective surgery will remain open over the Christmas holiday period?
- 1654 CHILD AT RISK OF HARM—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) How many "child at risk of harm" reports were made regarding children in the electorate of Cronulla?
 - (2) How many were level 1, level 2, level 3 and level 4?
 - (3) How many children subject to the level 1 reports received a visit from a Department of Community Services officer within the prescribed time?
- 1655 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Miranda Local Area Command?
- 1656 OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital?
 - (2) How many agreements out of court have been made to avoid legal action with the Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS)?
 - (3) How many settlements have occurred with non-disclosure clauses in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and to 30 June 2007?
 - (4) How much has been paid by GSAHS in settlements as a result of legal proceedings?
 - (5) How much has been paid by GSAHS on behalf of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in settlements?
- 1657 STANDARDS COMMITTEE—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Is it common practice for a professional standards committee of the HCCC to have their proceedings and deliberations suppressed from the media and the public?
 - (2) If the HCCC standards committee concludes and reports an adverse finding against a practitioner, why is that information suppressed from the public?
 - (3) If a committee's findings are adverse, what action can be taken by the HCCC and how is that action communicated in the public interest?
- 1658 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for the Parramatta Local Area Command?
- 1659 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for Baulkham Hills Local Area Command?
- 1660 DIESEL POWERED CARS—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- How many diesel powered motor cars were registered in NSW in the years 2001 to 2006, inclusive?
- 1661 BUILDING PROFESSIONALS BOARD—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- With regard to the Building Professionals Board, recently established to accredit and audit the over 400 private certifiers across NSW and investigate complaints:
- (1) How many staff members are there in the Building Professionals Board?

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- (2) Since being established, how many complaints has the Building Professionals Board received from consumers with regard to certified construction that complainants say did not comply with Council construction approval or the Building Code of Australia?

1662 KINGS CROSS LATE NIGHT BUS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With respect to the late night bus from Kings Cross to the city, which:

- has reduced crime and anti-social behaviour according to King Cross Police;
 - provides a security officer to travel on the bus funded by the Kings Cross Licensing Accord;
 - has strong support from local businesses and residents; and
 - is used by an average of 200 passengers each Friday and Saturday night, peaking between 2.00 and 4.00pm:
- (1) What evaluation has the Government carried out of the impact of this service?
 - (2) What are the results of the Government's assessment of the value of this service?
 - (3) Will the Government commit to continuing this service?
 - (4) What are the Government's plans for the frequency and times of service?
 - (5) Will the Government provide similar late night transport for other areas it has determined to be 24 Hour Entertainment Zones?

1663 WYNYARD RAILWAY STATION—EVACUATION DRILL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Does the Government have an action plan for a major incident at Wynyard Railway Station involving evacuation of commuters and securing of the site?
- (2) On what date was the last full scale emergency evacuation drill carried out at Wynyard Railway Station and what were the drill outcomes and findings?

1664 REAL ESTATE INVESTIGATION BRANCH—RESPONSE TIMES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—

- (1) Is there a standard maximum response time for matters brought before the Department of Fair Trading Real Estate Investigation Branch?
- (2) What case reassignment process does the department have in place to assist consumers when staff either take leave or are transferred out of the Department?
- (3) Why has the case of Mr John Vandeeper, which has been with the Department for over two years, not been concluded within a reasonable time frame?

1665 SPORTING OVAL—UTS LINDFIELD—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In the light of the shortage of sporting grounds in the Ku-ring-gai Council Local Government Area, what efforts has the Department of Planning made to ensure the sporting oval at the UTS Lindfield site is retained for the use of local sporting teams?

1666 DRINK DRIVING OFFENCES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What is the number of drink driving offences committed in the Tweed electorate by:

- (1) drivers residing in the Tweed electorate:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?
- (2) drivers from Queensland:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?
- (3) drivers residing in any other part of NSW other than the Tweed electorate:
 - (a) during 2006;
 - (b) during 2007 year-to-date?

1667 PATIENT TREATMENT IN TWEED HOSPITALS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—

In relation to patient treatment in Tweed hospitals:

- (1) How many Queensland residents have been treated in hospitals situated in the Tweed electorate for

2007 year-to-date?

- (2) What proportion does the answer to (1) represent against the total number of patients treated in hospitals in the Tweed electorate for 2007 year-to-date?

1668 DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities representing the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development—

In relation to development progress in the Tweed electorate:

- (1) What is the number of state development staff employed in the Tweed electorate?
- (2) What is the total annual budget of state development projects and offices in the Tweed electorate?
- (3) What is the number of state development projects currently being undertaken in the Tweed electorate and the investment value of these projects?
- (4) What is the number of state development projects planned to be undertaken in the Tweed electorate in the future and the investment value of these projects?

1669 LORD HOWE ISLAND—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What plans do the Lord Howe Island Board and the Marine Parks Authority have to deal with elevated nitrate, phosphorous and bacteria levels at the pontoon swimming site and old settlement beach at Lord Howe Island?
- (2) When will the Lord Howe Island Board's strategy for rat and mouse eradication be finalised and implemented?
- (3) Has a date been set for the Lord Howe Island phasmid's return to the wild on the island?
- (4) Given that the eradication of Mallard-Black duck hybrids is listed as a Priority 3 in the Draft Lord Howe Island Biodiversity Management Plan, when will the remaining ducks be killed?

1670 ALGAE LEVELS – CENTRAL WESTERN WATER SUPPLIES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Given that a red alert has been issued for high levels of the potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Burrendong Reservoir near Wellington, what measures are in place to protect the drinking water supplies of Wellington, Dubbo, Cobar, Nyngan and Warren?
- (2) Will algae levels in central western New South Wales water storages increase or decrease with moderate rainfall?

1671 NEW SOUTH WALES DAMS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) Given that the Risk Management Policy Framework for Dam Safety was finished in June 2006 and endorsed by Cabinet on 22 August 2006, where are the new set of Information Sheets promised on the "NSW Dam Safety Committee" website?
- (2) When does the DSC plan to convene the promised industry seminars for explanation, discussion and feedback before finalisation of these Information Sheets?
- (3) What policy document is currently being used to determine the flood capacity of NSW dams?

1672 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many names are listed on the Child Protection Register for North Shore Local Area Command?

1673 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

1674 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

1675 BLUE MOUNTAINS HEALTH SERVICES—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) What hospitals and health services are available in the Blue Mountains electorate?
- (2) Why are Blue Mountains residents routinely transferred to Nepean Hospital to receive basic, primary health services?

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- (3) How many ambulances are available in the Blue Mountains for patient transfers and emergencies?
- (4) How sustainable is it to have a hospital service that relies on transferring patients off the Blue Mountains for care?
- (5) How many surgical sessions were there at Katoomba Hospital in 2006-07?
- (6) For how many days in 2006-07 were the operating theatres at Katoomba Hospital shut?
- (7) Are there plans to close the operating theatres at Katoomba Hospital during the 2007-08 Christmas-New Year period?
- (8) In the event that the Great Western Highway is closed because of a bush fire or another unplanned event, what local emergency health services are available to Blue Mountains residents?
- (9) What is the status of the review currently being undertaken by SWAHS on Katoomba and Springwood hospitals?
- (10) When will the community be informed of the review objectives?
- (11) What is the medium to long-term plan for hospital care for Blue Mountains residents?

1676 HOSPITALS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) How much is the 2006-07 and 2007-08 budget for the hospital's emergency department?
- (2) What is the number of FTE doctors employed in each of the following hospital's emergency department?
- (3) What is the number of FTE nurses employed in each of the following hospital's emergency department?
 1. Prince of Wales Hospital;
 2. St George Hospital;
 3. Sydney Children's Hospital;
 4. Sydney Hospital;
 5. Sydney Eye Hospital;
 6. St Vincent's Hospital;
 7. Sutherland Hospital;
 8. Milton Ulladulla Hospital;
 9. Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital;
 10. Bulli Hospital;
 11. Shellharbour Hospital;
 12. Wollongong Hospital;
 13. Bankstown Hospital;
 14. Bowral Hospital;
 15. Camden Hospital;
 16. Campbelltown Hospital;
 17. Canterbury Hospital;
 18. Concord Hospital;
 19. Fairfield Hospital;
 20. Liverpool Hospital;
 21. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital;
 22. Auburn Hospital;
 23. Blacktown Hospital;
 24. Blue Mountains Hospital;
 25. Hawkesbury Hospital;
 26. Lithgow Hospital;
 27. Mt Druitt Hospital;
 28. Nepean Hospital;
 29. Westmead Hospital;
 30. Royal North Shore Hospital;
 31. Hornsby Hospital;
 32. Gosford Hospital;
 33. Wyong Hospital;
 34. Armidale Hospital;
 35. Belmont Hospital;
 36. Cessnock Hospital;
 37. Glen Innes Hospital;
 38. Kurri Kurri Hospital;
 39. Inverell Hospital;
 40. John Hunter Hospital;

41. Maitland Hospital;
42. Manning Hospital;
43. Narrabri Hospital;
44. Newcastle Mater Hospital;
45. Singleton Hospital;
46. Tamworth Hospital;
47. Albury Base Hospital;
48. Griffith Base Hospital;
49. Wagga Base Hospital;
50. Coffs Harbour Hospital;
51. Grafton Base Hospital;
52. Kempsey Hospital;
53. Lismore Hospital;
54. Murwillumbah Hospital;
55. Port Macquarie Base Hospital;
56. Tweed Heads Hospital;
57. Bathurst Hospital;
58. Broken Hill Hospital;
59. Dubbo Hospital;
60. Orange Hospital.

1677 ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY UNIT—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) What are the details of the Royal North Shore Hospital 12 midnight (bed) census and the count of the number of patients in those beds on the 30th of each month for 2007 in the emergency medical unit?
- (2) How many beds were available for:
 - (a) medical, surgical;
 - (b) acute spinal;
 - (c) acute geriatric;
 - (d) intensive care;
 - (e) paediatric;
 - (f) maternity;
 - (g) NICU that is, neonatal intensive care unit and special care beds;
 - (h) bassinets, and they range from level one cots to level three;
 - (i) burns and plastics;
 - (j) renal dialysis treatment chairs,
 - (k) drug and alcohol and
 - (l) mental health psychiatric acute care?

1678 LISTENING DEVICES ACT—Mr Greg Smith to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) In the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, how many instances were there of the use by police of listening devices under section 5 of the Listening Devices Act for cases of emergency?
- (2) In each of the above years in relation to use of section 5 of the Listening Devices Act, on how many occasions was entry made to premises, vehicles or vessels to:
 - (a) install listening devices;
 - (b) retrieve listening devices?
- (3) In each of the above years, in how many cases did prosecution action take place using evidence gathered by use of listening devices in cases of emergency, pursuant to section 5 of the Listening Devices Act?

1679 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr George Souris to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

With respect to Tillegra Dam:

- (1) Why has Hunter Water not consulted the local community following the release of its "Why Tillegra Now" paper, which promotes "securing our water future"?
- (2) Is Hunter Water using its monopoly powers to railroad the process without consultation?
- (3) Why has Hunter Water committed the region to dam building while other Australian cities and their water authorities are diversifying their sources of water through recycling and rainwater harvesting?

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- (4) Why is Hunter Water planning a dam, which is three times more than is needed by 2031 and which will discourage recycling?
- (5) What is the cost to the community of not investigating the more sustainable, flexible, and less damaging alternatives?
- (6) Why does Hunter Water not have a water plan, unlike Sydney, Gosford and Wyong Councils, and yet be pursuing the construction of Tillegra Dam without consultation and community debate?
- 1680 **BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE**—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- What arrangements exist for Broken Bay Water Police to transport ambulance officers to offshore areas such as Currawong in an emergency?
- 1681 **“000” EMERGENCY SERVICE**—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- Regarding the operation of the "000" emergency service:
- (1) Do the operators rely on a street address to dispatch the required service to the correct location?
- (2) If so, what is the procedure when there is no street address, for example, at a location such as Currawong?
- 1682 **EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE**—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- What are the arrangements for the provision of an emergency ambulance service for Currawong?
- 1683 **CROSS-BORDER COURT PROCEEDINGS**—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Why has a 17-year-old youth, who is known to NSW Police and was due to face court in Queensland on a charge of theft, been able to avoid appearing in court because he has relocated to NSW?
- (2) If a crime is committed in another State, do NSW Police have the power to ensure the perpetrator faces court in the State in which the crime was committed?
- (3) If not, why not?
- 1684 **POLICE DECORATIONS**—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) Are police officers or former police officers entitled to a decoration after 10 years service as a police officer?
- (2) If so, what is the type of decoration available?
- (3) If so, to whom does a former police officer apply for such decoration?
- 1685 **TAREE HIGH SCHOOL—LIFT**—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- (1) Has a lift been, or is one going to be, installed at Taree High School?
- (2) If so, will the lift service each floor of the high school?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If not, how will disabled students, staff or citizens be able to access those areas that the lift will not service?
- (5) If not, will the Minister or his department consider extending the lift to service each floor of the school?
- (6) If not, why not?