



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 28

THURSDAY 4 AUGUST 2011

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

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Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 0423 to 0473)	06 September 2011
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 0474 to 0497)	07 September 2011
Q & A No. 28 (Including Question Nos 0498 to 0521)	08 September 2011

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(Paper No. 26)

- 0423 CONVEYANCE OF INMATES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0424 CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER POSITIONS—Mr Clayton Barr to ask the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 0425 PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT STAFF—Mr Michael Daley to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0426 COMMUNITY-BASED ADDICTION PROGRAMS—Mr Robert Furolo to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0427 BUS SERVICE 235—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0428 FIXED SPEED CAMERA—NEWCASTLE ROAD, JESMOND—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0429 HOMELESSNESS IN THE HUNTER REGION—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0430 ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COMMUNITY SERVICES—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0431 CABRAMATTA COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0432 CANLEY VALE COMMUTER CAR PARK—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0433 FAIRFIELD INTERCHANGE—Mr Nick Lalich to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0434 CLOSE THE GAP STRATEGY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—
- 0435 REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PLUMBING ISSUES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0436 CORRESPONDENCE WITH CHIEF JUSTICE BATHURST—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0437 EMPLOYEES ON "UNATTACHED LIST"—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0438 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ORDERS AND PERIODIC DETENTION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0439 NSW CRIME COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0440 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0441 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CORRECTIONAL CENTRES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0442 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NSW ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0443 COST CUTTING MEASURES WITHIN TAFE—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0444 APPLICATIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0445 CHARGE BARGAINING—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

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- 0446 WORK PERFORMED BY HUGO HALLIDAY—Mr Paul Lynch to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0447 COTTAGE FAMILY CARE CENTRE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0448 WILLIAM CAREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL—DEDICATED BUS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0449 BRIDGE OVER CAMBRIDGE AVENUE CAUSEWAY—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0450 READING RECOVERY PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0451 FUNDING OF LOCAL SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0452 REDUCTION OF RED TAPE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 0453 CYCLEWAY NETWORK—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0454 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0455 REDUCTION OF PRISON POPULATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 0456 REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI FROM PUBLIC HOUSING—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0457 JOBS CREATION—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
- 0458 REGIONAL RELOCATION INITIATIVE—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Treasurer—
- 0459 MEMORIAL DRIVE (NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR)—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0460 CRIMINAL INFRINGEMENT NOTICES—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 0461 PRIMARY HEALTH FACILITY—Mr Ryan Park to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0462 LEICHHARDT BUS DEPOT—CANCELLATION OF SERVICES—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0463 COST OF DISCONTINUED METRO PROJECT—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0464 COMPENSATION CLAIMS—Mr Jamie Parker to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0465 CARBON TAX—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Treasurer—
- 0466 IMPACT OF DEBT ON BUDGET PREPARATIONS—Mr Chris Patterson to ask the Treasurer—
- 0467 HOUSING NSW—PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—Mr Andrew Rohan to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0468 REAL ESTATE AGENTS—COMPLAINTS—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Fair Trading—
- 0469 PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

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- 0470 PROPERTIES AND TENANTS—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0471 VACANCIES AND TURNAROUND TIME—WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE—Mr Jai Rowell to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0472 OUT OF HOME CARE PROGRAM—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- 0473 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE—Mr Richard Torbay to ask the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

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- 0474 PUBLIC DENTAL PROGRAM—MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0475 STUDENT VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE LEARNING—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Education—
- 0476 ILLAWARRA ADVANTAGE FUND—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- 0477 AMBULANCE BLOCK—WOLLONGONG HOSPITAL—Ms Noreen Hay to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0478 FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0479 FUNDING FOR FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0480 NETBALL PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0481 FUNDING FOR NETBALL PLAYERS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation—
- 0482 COST OF BOTTLED WATER—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0483 FIRSTNET COMPUTER SYSTEM—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0484 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0485 PAYMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0486 SURGICAL WAITING LISTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0487 BACKGROUND CHECKS ON DOCTORS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0488 HOSPITAL PERFORMANCES—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0489 ESTABLISHMENT OF TASKFORCE—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0490 WALKOUT RATES FROM EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 0491 HOSPITAL BEDS OPENED—Dr Andrew McDonald to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0492 COASTAL WETLAND PROTECTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 0493 GARDENS OF STONE AND MINING OPERATIONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW—
- 0494 WALSH BAY BUSES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Transport—
- 0495 END STAGE KIDNEY DISEASE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- 0496 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES—Mr Greg Piper to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- 0497 BULLYING AT WESTMEAD HOSPITAL—Mr Nathan Rees to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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- 0498 POLICE STATION CELLS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- (1) How many police stations in New South Wales do not have a cell to accommodate persons in custody?
 - (2) Of these stations, how many have cells that have been decommissioned?
 - (3) Of the stations referred to above, what is the break-down of this number between metropolitan and country stations?
- 0499 NO SMOKING POLICY—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—
- (1) Does the Government intend to enforce the rule to stop people from smoking near hospital entrances or indeed on any of the grounds, car parks or in any vehicles on site, so that the health and comfort of constituents will be assured?
 - (2) Has this policy failed to stop people lighting up at the John Hunter Hospital in Wallsend because it is not being enforced?
 - (3) Will the Government assure patients, visitors and staff of major public hospitals that the No Smoking policy around those hospitals is succeeding?
- 0500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) Why are international students not allowed to take advantage of transport concessions available to all domestic students?
 - (2) Why is the Government discouraging international students from studying here by such discrimination?
- 0501 REVIEW OF SOLAR PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery to ask the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—
- (1) Has the Government carried out its promise of conducting an urgent review of the solar program, as promised on behalf of solar energy consumers and the solar industry?
 - (2) Is the Government aware that solar jobs are being axed at an unprecedented rate and that householders are increasingly uncertain about their solar future?
 - (3) Has the Government made any progress on policy announcement regarding this vital renewable energy industry?
- 0502 PAYROLL TAX REBATE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer—

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How many businesses within the electorate of Bankstown are eligible for the Payroll Tax Rebate introduced as part of the Government's Jobs Action Plan?

- 0503 POLICE STRENGTH NUMBERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With reference to the police strength numbers posted on the NSW Police Force website:

- (1) (a) Do these figures accurately represent the current allocation of police personnel across New South Wales?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (2) What is the reason for the discrepancy between authorised numbers of police officers in Bankstown and actual numbers of police officers?
- (3) What action will the Minister take to increase the number of police officers allocated to the Bankstown Local Area Command?

- 0504 PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With reference to the Government's commitment to see "the total number of school zone flashing lights in NSW increase to an estimated 1,000 by 2015", how many of these proposed 1,000 new school zone flashing lights will be located in the Bankstown electorate?

- 0505 FREE BANKSTOWN SHUTTLE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the Minister maintain the Free Bankstown Shuttle implemented by the previous Government?
- (2) Will the Minister expand the Free Bankstown Shuttle's route within the Bankstown CBD?

- 0506 SOUTH WEST RAIL LINK PROJECT—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

What works were undertaken as part of the South West Rail Link Project:

- (1) prior to March 2011;
- (2) following March 2011?

- 0507 BANKSTOWN LINE SERVICES—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What is the current capacity of the Bankstown train line?
- (2) Does the Government plan to increase services on the Bankstown train line?
- (3) (a) Does the Government plan to provide any of its additional express services to the Bankstown line?
- (b) If not, why not?

- 0508 BANKSTOWN LINE ROLLING STOCK—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What rail rolling stock is currently in use on the Bankstown line?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to provide new rail rolling stock on the Bankstown line?

- 0509 PUNCHBOWL RAILWAY STATION PATRONAGE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

Given your advice that in regards to a potential Easy Access upgrade for Punchbowl Railway Station "The key criteria for prioritisation include patronage . . ." (Question 0413):

- (1) What is the current daily patronage of Punchbowl Station between Monday and Friday?
- (2) How does this compare to other stations on the Bankstown line and in Greater Sydney?

- 0510 YAGOONA RAILWAY STATION PATRONAGE—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Transport—

Given your advice that in regards to a potential Easy Access upgrade for Yagoona Railway Station "The key criteria for prioritisation include patronage . . ." (Question 0273):

- (1) What is the current daily patronage of Yagoona Station between Monday and Friday?
- (2) How does this compare to other stations on the Bankstown line and in Greater Sydney?

- 0511 COUNSELLING AND STUDENT SUPPORT POSITIONS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Government's commitment to "Trial 50 New Counselling and Student Support Positions to commence at the beginning of the 2012 school year":

- (1) How many of these positions will be allocated to schools in the Bankstown electorate?
- (2) What criteria will be used to determine the location of these positions?

0512 PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—

With reference to the Government's commitment to see "the total number of school zone flashing lights in NSW increase to an estimated 1,000 by 2015", how many of these proposed 1,000 new school zone flashing lights will be located in the Bankstown electorate?

0513 NEW TEACHERS—Ms Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Education—

How many of the Government's proposed 900 new teachers will be allocated to the Bankstown electorate?

0514 ASTHMA AND ALLERGENS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to reports that allergens such as pollen and mould spores are on the rise, causing an increase in asthma levels:

- (1) To what extent are the levels of asthma and allergic rhinitis in NSW currently increasing or decreasing in line with global trends?
- (2) What research has the Government conducted into the link between fluctuations in allergen levels and changes in levels of asthma and allergic rhinitis?
- (3) What measures has the Government considered to adapt to an increase in allergen, asthma and allergic rhinitis levels?
- (4) What measures has the Government considered to reduce the level of allergens?
- (5) What mechanisms does the Government currently have in place to monitor the levels of allergens in the atmosphere?
- (6) To what extent has the Government carried out research exploring the effects of increased pollution levels on allergen levels?

0515 174 DOWLING STREET—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to Housing NSW land at 174 Dowling Street Woolloomooloo:

- (1) How long has the Government owned this site, and how long has the land been vacant?
- (2) Did Housing NSW evict the community garden from this site in 2009?
- (3) Did Housing NSW advise the gardeners that the site was to be developed to provide more social housing?
- (4) Did the State budget 2010-2011 include provisions for construction on this site to be carried out in the last financial year?
- (5) What funding has been allocated for the development of this site?
- (6) What action has been taken to date to provide social housing on this site?
- (7) Does the Government still plan to construct social housing on this site, and if not, what are the plans for this site?
- (8) What action has the Government taken to prevent rat, cat and pigeon infestations, vandalism and rubbish dumping at this location while the site remains vacant?
- (9) When will the Government develop 174 Dowling Street to ensure the community benefits from this unused public asset?

0516 WOOLLOOMOOLOO HOUSING NSW COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to Housing NSW commercial properties in Woolloomooloo:

- (1) How many commercial properties does Housing NSW control in Woolloomooloo?
- (2) How many of these properties are not currently leased, and how long has each vacant property been empty?
- (3) What is the estimated rental income lost due to these vacancies and what costs have been incurred in ongoing maintenance and repair of malicious damage?
- (4) What action has the Government taken to prevent empty Woolloomooloo properties being vandalised?

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- and infested with rats and pigeons?
- (5) What consideration has the Government given to alternate uses for vacant commercial property, such as for housing or community use?
 - (6) Will the Government consider using these properties for social housing, and could these properties be used for this purpose?
 - (7) Will the Government provide access to these premises for community activities such as artist studios, or other projects to provide community benefit?
 - (8) What long-term plans does the Government have for vacant commercial properties in Cowper Wharf Road Woolloomooloo?
 - (9) What long-term plans does the Government have for long vacant commercial properties in Cathedral Street?
- 0517 UNAUTHORISED PARKING ON HOUSING NSW LAND—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—
- (1) How does Housing NSW monitor unauthorised parking on its property, including in the inner city where there is high demand for parking spaces?
 - (2) How many complaints has Housing NSW received from tenants about unauthorised parking on Housing NSW land in the inner city?
 - (3) How does Housing NSW prevent unauthorised parking on Housing NSW land?
 - (4) What action will the Government take to enforce parking and traffic arrangements on its property?
 - (5) What action can tenants take if they are concerned about unauthorised vehicles parking on Housing NSW property?
- 0518 INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION PROJECT—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) Is the Government committed to implementing the Greenway walking/cycling path and bush care sites as part of the Inner West Light Rail Extension Project?
 - (2) Will funding for the Inner West Light Rail Extension and Greenway walking/cycling path be maintained?
 - (3) What is the timeframe for the completion of the Greenway project?
- 0519 INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL EXTENSION—CONSTRUCTION—Ms Carmel Tebbutt to ask the Minister for Transport—
- Have there been any changes since 26 March 2011 to the allocation of funding or the plans for construction of the Inner West Light Rail Extension and the accompanying Greenway shared walking/cycling path and bushcare sites?
- 0520 OAK FLATS POLICE STATION PARKING—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- In relation to the new state-of-the art police station at Oak Flats, when will the Minister's office comply with council car parking controls for Crown Development Application(s) given that there are currently in excess of 300 employees with no provision for parking, which results in vehicles being parked in residential streets and the car park at Oak Flats Railway Station, to the disadvantage of local residents and commuters?
- 0521 FLINDERS RAILWAY STATION—Ms Anna Watson to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) (a) Can the Minister confirm that the new Flinders Railway Station will be completed as promised by the previous Government?
 - (b) If not, why not?
 - (2) If yes, can the Minister provide an update/forecast and an estimated timeframe for completion of this project?