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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 30

WEDNESDAY 7 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. 19 (Including Question Nos 0772 to 0807)	30 October 2007
Q & A No. 20 (Including Question Nos 0808 to 0870)	31 October 2007
Q & A No. 21 (Including Question Nos 0871 to 0950)	01 November 2007
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
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25 SEPTEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 19)

*0772 VALUATION OF LANDS ACT—SECTION 35AA—Mr John Turner 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) Under Section 35AA of the Valuation of Lands Act it is noted that a person is not entitled to object to any valuation used as the basis of a land tax assessment if the valuation has previously been the subject of an objection (except with the permission of the Valuer-General). Why is this provision within the Act?
- (2) Further in the same section it is stated that the fact that the person seeking to make the objection was not an owner, occupier or lessee of the land at the time that the earlier objection was made does not of itself constitute a special reason for allowing the person to make an objection. Why is this provision within the Act, and does it not prejudice people who may have legitimate objections on taking ownership of the land after an earlier objection to the valuation?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Valuation of Lands Act is administered by the Minister for Lands.

*0773 EQUITY DIVISION—SUPREME COURT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many cases were lodged in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court of New South Wales during the year 2006?
- (2) How many claims have been lodged in the first six months of 2007?
- (3) How many cases lodged actually go to a full hearing of the Supreme Court?
- (4) How many full hearings were heard in the year 2006?
- (5) How many Court rooms are set aside to hear Equity matters in the Supreme Court?

Answer—

(1), (3) and (4) I refer the honourable member to the Supreme Court's Annual Review 2006.

(2) Details will be published in the Supreme Court's Annual Review 2007.

(5) Up to 25 courtrooms are available for civil hearings in the Law Courts Building. Courtrooms in other buildings can also be used for these cases.

*0774 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENCES—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

In relation to the Environmental Protection Licences for power stations:

(1) For the following electricity generators what were the licensed load limits for assessable pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07:

Coal Fired Generators

- (a) Bayswater
- (b) Eraring
- (c) Liddell
- (d) Mt Piper
- (e) Munmorah
- (f) Redbank
- (g) Vales Point
- (h) Wallerawang?

Gas Turbine and Reciprocating Gas Generators

- (i) Appin Mine
- (j) Broken Hill
- (k) Camellia
- (l) Lucas Heights
- (m) Hunter Valley
- (n) Smithfield
- (o) Teralba

- (p) Tower Mine
- (q) Wilga?

Biomass Combustion Generators

- (r) Broadwater Sugar Mill
- (s) Harwood Sugar Mill
- (t) Visy Paper, Tumut
- (u) Whytes Gully?

(2) For the above electricity generators what were the licensed concentration limits for discharged pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07?

(3) For the above electricity generators what were the licensed volume and mass limits for discharged pollutants in 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07?

(4) In the years 2004-05, 2005-06 or 2006-07 have any of the above electricity generators exceeded any of the licensed pollutant limits described in (1) to (3)?

Answer—

All Environment Protection Licences may be viewed on the Public Register on the Department of Environment and Climate Change website.

Where applicable, the licence will contain conditions that list the relevant pollutant load limits, concentration limits, and volume and mass limits.

There are concentration limits but no load limits attached to licences for coal fired generators. The electricity generators are subject to the "polluter pays" scheme, which uses financial incentives and penalties to encourage licensees to minimise the amount of pollution discharged to the environment.

Each year licence holders report on their level of compliance with licence conditions. Details of any non-compliance reported by a licence holder are also available on the Department's Public Register.

*0775 BELLS LINE EXPRESSWAY—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 proposed Bells Line Expressway:

- (1) Have any Treasury officials undertaken an assessment of the Bells Line Expressway proposal?
- (2) Has the Treasurer received any briefing from "The Bells Line Expressway Group" on the proposed Bells Line Expressway?
- (3) Has the Office of Infrastructure Management completed analysis of the proposal, and if so, will this analysis be made publicly available?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Details on assessments undertaken by government with regard to the Bells Line of Road were outlined by the Minister for Roads in his statement dated 25 May 2007.

*0776 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS—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—

What cost-benefit and opportunity cost analyses does Treasury undertake when evaluating proposed capital expenditure projects?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Details on the development of capital expenditure projects can be found in the State Infrastructure Strategy.

*0777 FUNDING FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SERVICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

At what level of indexation were payments to non-Government organisations, providing social and community services in NSW, increased in the 2007-08 State Budget?

Answer—

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In 2006/2007 the Department indexed service payments at a rate of 3.3 per cent to help non-government organisations meet pay rises under the Social and Community Services Award. The Department maintained this rate of indexation in 2007/2008.

These increases have been welcomed by both the Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS) and the Australian Services Union and contrast with the Commonwealth Government's decision to pay indexation at just 2.1 per cent on its share of funding for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, increasing financial pressure on these vital services.

*0779 SMOKE DETECTORS IN NSW GOVERNMENT OFFICES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Does NSW Government legislation and regulation require that all NSW Government offices, including electorate offices, be fitted with smoke detectors?
- (2) When were these requirements introduced?
- (3) Which electorate offices are not equipped with smoke detectors?
- (4) When will smoke detectors be fitted in these electorate offices?

Answer—

I am advised that when designing government office buildings it is general practise to comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) which encompasses provisions for safety (including safety from fire and fire resistance).

The specific issue of the provision of smoke detectors in electorate offices is an issue for the Parliament and should be referred to the Presiding Officers for response.

*0780 HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will Hornsby Hospital come in on budget in the 2006-07 financial year?
- (2) If not, is there a budget surplus or deficit?
- (3) If so, what is this budget surplus or deficit?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (3) Area Health Services generally manage their financial year accounts on a whole of Area basis for the hospitals under their control.

*0781 RENAL DIALYSIS—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) (a) How many people in the Hornsby electorate are being transferred to a renal dialysis unit within the electorate?
(b) Where are these units located?
- (2) (a) How many people in the Hornsby electorate are being transferred to a renal dialysis unit outside the electorate?
(b) Where are these units located?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) Detailed inpatient, satellite and home dialysis patient data for the public and private sector is not available from a single dataset.
(b) No public units are located in the Hornsby electoral area.
- (2) (a) Detailed inpatient, satellite and home dialysis patient data for the public and private sector is not available from a single dataset.
(b) Public units, located outside the Hornsby electoral area, that provide inpatient or satellite dialysis for patients from within the Hornsby electoral area are:
 - Royal North Shore Hospital;
 - Sydney Dialysis Centre, Elizabeth Bay (training for home dialysis);
 - Westmead Hospital;
 - Westmead Children's Hospital;
 - Concord Hospital;
 - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
 - Gosford Hospital;
 - St Vincent's Hospital.

*0783 RED LIGHT CAMERA—BAULKHAM HILLS—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

How much revenue has been generated by the red light camera on the Windsor Road/Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road intersection in the following years:

- (a) 2003 to 2006 inclusive?
- (b) How many infringement notices have been issued for the same intersection during this period?

Answer—

I'm advised:

For the red light camera located at the Windsor Road/Old Northern Road and Seven Hills Road intersection, from 2003 to 2006 inclusive there were 2,511 infringement notices issued to the face value of \$662,051.

*0784 SPEED CAMERA—CASTLE HILL—Mr Wayne Merton 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) How much revenue has been generated by the speed camera on Old Northern Road Castle Hill since it was installed for:
 - (a) traffic proceeding in the direction of Dural/Pennant Hills;
 - (b) traffic proceeding in the direction of Baulkham Hills?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued in respect of (1) (a) and (b) above?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Since installation of the speed camera on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, there have been 3,678 infringement notices issued to the face value of \$410,673 to motorists travelling in the direction of Dural/Pennant Hills.

Since installation of the speed camera on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, there have been 1,349 infringement notices issued to the face value of \$137,353 to motorists travelling in the direction of Baulkham Hills.

*0785 SPEED CAMERA—KURRAJONG—Mr Wayne Merton 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) How much revenue has been generated by the speed camera on Bells Line of Road Kurrajong in the years 2004 2005 2006 inclusive for:
 - (a) traffic proceeding in the direction of Lithgow;
 - (b) traffic proceeding in the direction of Richmond?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued in respect of (1) (a) and (b) above?

Answer—

I'm advised:

For the years 2004 to 2006 inclusive, there were 1,729 infringement notices issued to the face dollar value of \$171,293 for the speed camera located on the Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong proceeding in the direction of Lithgow.

For the years 2004 to 2006 inclusive, there were 13,393 infringement notices issued to the face dollar value of \$1,715,483 for the speed camera located on the Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong proceeding in the direction of Richmond.

The camera proceeding in the direction of Lithgow was operational from July 2006.

*0786 ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Clover Moore 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 respect to Ultimo Public School:

- (1) How many classes can this school provide since it was refurbished in 2003, and how many classrooms are available at this school?

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- (2) What is the total student capacity of this school?
- (3) What classes are currently operating, how many students are enrolled in each class, which classes are full and how many student places are available in those classes that are not full?
- (4) How many students are on waiting lists for enrolment at this school?
- (5) How many students have been refused enrolment over the past two years and for what reasons?
- (6) What other Public Schools are available close to Ultimo and Pyrmont where students could be enrolled?
- (7) What changes have been made to the school's catchment area since 2003?
- (8) What changes are planned to the school's catchment area?
- (9) What does the 2006 Census data show about future student needs for this school?
- (10) Based on the 2006 Census data, how many school age children are expected to be living in Ultimo and Pyrmont in 2011?
- (11) How will the Government manage the increasing demand for student places in Ultimo and Pyrmont?

Answer—

(1) Ultimo Public School has 12 classrooms with associated support spaces for practical activities and withdrawal areas.

(2) 305 students.

(3) Eleven classes are currently operating at Ultimo Public School.

Class	Enrolments
1	18
2	18
3	17
4	22
5	26
6	24
7	25
8	22
9	25
10	27
11	31

Ultimo Public School maintains a buffer in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy to accommodate local students arriving throughout the year.

(4) There are two student enrolment applications on the waiting list. Waiting lists may be established for non-local students. Waiting lists are current for one year.

(5) Seven students have had their application for enrolment not accepted over the past two years. Four students were out of area applications; one student applied for early entry to Kindergarten and did not proceed with the application; one student was referred to Cleveland Street Intensive English High School and one student was age appropriate for secondary school.

(6) Glebe Public School and Fort Street Public School.

(7) Following consultation with school representatives, the Department of Education and Training altered the school's catchment boundary in 2003 from Bay Street, Ultimo to Wattle Street, Ultimo.

(8) None.

(9) Census data indicates minimal growth in the school aged population.

(10) Census data indicates that total enrolments of 260 to 270 local area students may be anticipated over the next five years.

(11) Ultimo Public School has the capacity to accommodate local enrolments from within its designated catchment boundary. The school's enrolment committee manages out-of-area demand to ensure that there are sufficient permanent spaces available for future local enrolments.

*0788 PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS FOR THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED—Ms Clover Moore asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

With regard to accessing public transport for people with disabilities:

- (1) Is the NSW Government aware that passengers who use mobility aids, such as scooters, are being turned away by bus drivers even when public transport staff inform them that their aids are suitable for use on public transport?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of special permits being issued to passengers who use mobility aids during special events such as past 'city to surfs' to reduce public transport access problems?
- (3) What consideration has the Government given to creating a permanent permit system to prevent mobility impaired passengers unnecessarily being declined access to public transport by drivers?
- (4) What are the NSW Government's plans to ensure that all bus and train stations are fully accessible by mobility impaired passengers, including being appropriately fitted with lifts?
- (5) What is the time line for these plans?
- (6) Is the NSW Government aware of complaints from mobility impaired patrons that lifts in disability access train stations are often out of order?
- (7) How often are City Rail staff required to check that lifts are operational?
- (8) How soon are lifts that are out of order required to be fixed?
- (9) What training are bus drivers and City Rail staff required to undertake on assisting mobility impaired passengers access public transport?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) State Transit's policy on carriage of wheelchairs and mobility aids is set out clearly on its website at www.sta.nsw.gov.au

(3) The NSW Government is represented on the Accessible Public Transport National Advisory Committee which is investigating the labelling of mobility devices which meet the guidelines of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. Better labelling of suitable mobility devices would enable bus operators to easily identify those devices which are capable of boarding and being carried on buses.

(4) and (5) Providing equitable access to public transport services is a key Government objective and barriers to access are being progressively removed to meet the travelling needs of people with disabilities. In this regard, the NSW Government is committed to meeting the compliance requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act's Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport over the timeframes specified.

(6) to (8) As well as regular checks by station staff, RailCorp responds to customer feedback and complaints by restoring services as soon as possible.

Lifts are regularly inspected by station staff and engineers carry out routine maintenance on a monthly basis. When notification is received of an out of order lift, technicians are required to attend within 60 minutes for metropolitan areas and 90 minutes for regional areas.

In the case of lift breakdowns, station staff can implement a range of alternative travel plans for commuters, including advising guards so announcements can be made to inform customers and diverting of passengers to other stations.

(9) All new and current State Transit drivers are trained in operating fully wheelchair accessible buses and in providing services to mobility impaired passengers.

CityRail train guards receive training to assist mobility impaired passengers which includes the following:

- all procedures included in providing direct assistance to a passenger in a wheelchair for boarding or alighting from a train;
- assembling, utilising and disassembling the portable platform ramp which can assist passengers (including those who use wheelchairs or electric mobility scooters) to board or alight from a train safely; and
- communication with the rail coordination centre to arrange taxi transport from the next accessible stop for passengers unable to alight at their destination station due to an absent or vandalised platform ramp.

*0789 RAIL SAFETY ISSUES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Have any rail safety issues been reported to CityRail since 1 July 2007 that relate to Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, Gordon or Pymble railway stations?
- (2) If so:

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- (a) How many?
(b) What are they?

Answer—

I refer the member to <http://www.trainsmart.com.au/>

*0790 CITY TO BELROSE BUS SERVICES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Given the lack of evening bus services from the City to Belrose, what plans are there to increase services beyond 8:00pm?

Answer—

I am advised:

The City to Belrose service was introduced on 1 June 2005 by Forest Coach Lines.

Patronage figures for the 8.00pm service are being monitored to determine whether there is a need to increase existing services.

*0791 ST IVES BUS INTERCHANGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What plans are there for a new major bus interchange facility to be built at St Ives?
(2) When will it be built?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The NSW Government will conduct scoping studies for 25 interchanges at rail stations and on strategic bus corridors throughout Metropolitan Sydney. These scoping studies will analyse existing and future interchange functions and passenger flows and develop concept designs for upgrade. New scoping works will now take place in the following locations:

- Penrith
- Macquarie Centre
- Normanhurst
- Caringbah
- North Strathfield
- Cronulla
- Canley Vale
- Beverly Hills
- Brookvale/Dee Why
- Neutral Bay
- Spit Junction
- Maroubra Junction
- Randwick Junction
- Pendle Hill
- Rooty Hill
- Narwee
- Newtown
- Denistone
- Leightonfield
- Allawah
- Baulkham Hills
- M2 Bus Stops
- Kingsford
- Cremorne Junction
- Crows Nest

The 25 interchanges were selected following a thorough evaluation process, including existing and forecast future patronage and consideration of where strategic bus corridors or rail lines intersect.

The scoping studies, estimated at \$1.5 million, are expected to be completed by mid-2008, with the first phase of works to commence in the 2008-09 financial year.

*0792 WILDLIFE CORRIDOR—BILLINUDGEL NATURE RESERVE—Mr Donald Page asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) (a) Is there a development application for a three day trial event Splendour in the Grass for August 2008 on a site which includes a State significant wildlife corridor adjacent to the Billinudgel Nature Reserve in the Shire of Byron where it is proposed some 22,500 patrons would be present each day?
- (b) Has the NSW Government invested approximately \$15m over the past 20 years in the conservation of this general area including the wildlife corridor?
- (c) Has the RTA invested approximately \$6m in compensatory habitat, fauna movement devices and extensive rehabilitation associated with the Pacific Highway upgrade in an effort to enhance the functioning of the wildlife corridor?
- (d) Is the Marshall's Ridge (Jones Road) wildlife corridor already protected on a State-level, after the NSW Planning Minister initiated the Cleland Inquiry in 1997 to resolve conflicting land uses?
- (2) (a) Is there any proposal for the applicant to enhance the corridor or will the corridor be adversely affected by the proposed event?
- (b) If so, what are the details in relation to this situation?

Answer—

- (1) (a) This is a matter for Byron Shire Council as the consent authority.
- (b) to (d) These matters do not fall within my portfolio areas.
- (2) (a) and (b) These questions should be directed to Byron Shire Council.

*0793 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

The Minister for Roads has advised that the RTA will continue to consult with local businesses and the community about the options to assist businesses situated on the eastern side of Minjungbal Drive including the provision of on-ramps and off-ramps as part of the upgrade to the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway.

Will the Minister arrange a high-level, on-site meeting between the Minister for Roads, the Minister for Commerce and the Tweed Heads Chamber of Commerce and local business owners to address the ongoing concerns of the business community?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has modified the concept design to improve access to the business area at South Tweed Heads.

The RTA recognises the modified concept will impact on a number of businesses and has held discussions with those affected with the aim to reduce the amount of land required and improve the visual impacts of the design.

The outcomes of these discussions and modifications will be further detailed in the environmental assessment for the upgrade, which is expected to be placed on display for public comment early next year.

*0794 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and previous advice from the Minister for Roads to refer to the RTA website for information regarding the drilling and blasting of material for the Pacific Highway upgrade at Banora Point:

As the RTA website does not contain the required information, can the Minister advise why the RTA told the community that Community Option C would require drilling and blasting, but withheld information that the RTA's own preferred option would require blasting of up to 36,000 cubic metres of material in the proposed deep cutting?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on minor blasting and/or excavation requirements for the Banora Point upgrade is included in the October 2006 Preferred Concept Report and the September 2006 independent Assessment of Deep

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Tunnel Options Costs report prepared by the firm of Flagstaff Consulting Group Pty Ltd, which includes reference to the 36,000 cubic metres of rock excavation required for the deep cutting.

Both of these reports are available on the project website.

The grade of the concept design for the modified B preferred option has been developed to minimise the amount of rock excavation. Preliminary investigations have indicated that most of the rock can be excavated by ripping with the use of a bulldozer. Small pockets of harder rock may require chemical/hydraulic splitting or the use of controlled blasting.

Further assessment of the geotechnical issues will be carried out during the environmental assessment and refinement of the concept design.

*0795 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway and previous advice from the Minister for Roads to refer to the RTA website for information concerning the construction of two bridges over the Terranora Inlet in the South Tweed:

- (1) As the RTA website does not contain the required information, can the Minister explain if there is any arrangement between the RTA and Tweed Shire Council relating to the two bridges which require construction over the Terranora Inlet as part of the traffic management plan for the South Tweed?
- (2) (a) Will the RTA be providing the Tweed Shire Council with any financial assistance in the construction of these two bridges?
(b) If yes, how much?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Lower Tweed and Pacific Highway Traffic Master Plan, placed on public display in October 2006, identified a schedule of works which will require funding by Tweed Shire Council and/or the RTA.

There is a table outlining responsibility for funding, including the new bridges over the Terranora Inlet in the Tweed Traffic Master Plan.

The two new bridges over the Terranora Inlet provide benefits to both highway traffic and local traffic. It is proposed that the structures be jointly funded by Tweed Shire Council and the RTA.

*0796 SPEED CAMERAS—LANE COVE TUNNEL—Mr Anthony Roberts 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) How much revenue has been raised from the speed cameras in the Lane Cove tunnel since their implementation?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued with respect to question (1)?

Answer—

I'm advised:

There have been around 17,372 infringement notices issued, with around 6400 withdrawn by the Roads and Traffic Authority.

The face dollar value of the remaining infringements is approximately \$1.19 million.

*0797 ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why has legislation on assisted reproductive technology still not been tabled in Parliament, given that the exposure bill was presented in 2003 and the previous Minister advised me in 2005 that the Government was "considering the submissions made in response to the exposure draft Bill and . . . developing legislation for introduction into Parliament"?
- (2) What action is the Government taking in the meantime to secure the records of donor offspring already conceived in NSW?
- (3) (a) Will the Government put in place a voluntary register to enable donor offspring and past donors to lodge their details, so that identification may take place if desired by both parties?
(b) Given that the previous Minister advised in 2005 that this issue was being considered as part of the review process, what determinations, if any, have since been made?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The Government is continuing to develop legislation on assisted reproductive technologies. It is anticipated that the legislation will be available for introduction to Parliament in the near future.
- (2) The records relating to the conception of donor offspring are subject to regulation under relevant privacy legislation including the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). Medical practitioners providing assisted reproductive technology services are also required to comply with the record keeping requirements of the Medical Practice Regulation 2003.
- (3) (a) An administratively established voluntary register has been proposed to complement the legislative proposals.
(b) N/A.

*0798 NORTH COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) In relation to Tweed Hospital:
 - (a) What is the estimated electricity and water load at Tweed Hospital?
 - (b) Is it correct that the Hospital is currently at capacity for these services?
 - (c) Are there plans to expand Tweed Hospital to cope with growing demand?
 - (d) If so, to where, and when?
 - (e) If not, why not?
- (2) In relation to Murwillumbah Hospital:
 - (a) What consideration has the Government/NCAHS given to expanding Murwillumbah Hospital to cater for the region's growing needs?
 - (b) When was the upgrade of two operating theatres at the Hospital completed?
 - (c) What was the cost of the upgrade?
 - (d) To what average capacity are these operating theatres used, that is, for what proportion of available time are these operating theatres used?
 - (e) Why are surgical procedures for which there is a backlog at Tweed not transferred to Murwillumbah instead?
 - (f) Why were these theatres upgraded if they are not being fully utilised?
 - (g) If Murwillumbah GPs were to withdraw their services from Murwillumbah Hospitals' emergency department, how would NCAHS ensure this department would remain open?
 - (h) Would Murwillumbah patients have to travel to Tweed Heads?
 - (i) Would they be given priority over patients from the Gold Coast?
 - (j) If Tweed Hospital were on bypass, where would these patients be sent?
- (3) How many full-time equivalent staff doctors, and how many visiting GPs service the emergency departments of Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah Hospital?
- (4) (a) What proportion of the NSW population lives in the North Coast Area Health Service?
(b) What proportion of health services funding is allocated to this Area?
- (5) In relation to doctor training:
 - (a) Are Tweed and Murwillumbah Hospitals used as teaching hospitals for Bond University?
 - (b) Does the university pay the NSW Government for the teaching services provided at the hospitals?
 - (c) (i) If so, how much?
(ii) Is the revenue directed to the hospitals, NCAHS or consolidated revenue?
 - (d) (i) Given that Murwillumbah Hospital is the centre of a rural-doctor training program, why are facilities at Murwillumbah Hospital being downgraded?
(ii) What plans are in place to maintain the quality of the training program?
- (6) (a) Did Gold Coast Medical Imaging offer to provide a CT scanner at Murwillumbah or Tweed Hospitals, on a commercial or subsidised basis?
(b) If so, what was NCAHS's response?
- (7) (a) Does the North Coast Area Health Service Advisory Committee have any representation from the Tweed LGA?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

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(1) (a) The peak summer electricity load for the Tweed Hospital is approximately 1,700 amps. Water use is approximately 26,500 kilolitres annually.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Projects currently under construction at The Tweed Hospital include:

- New 30 bed medical ward
- New Fixed Breastscreen Centre
- Clinical Education and Research Institute

Construction of these facilities is expected to be completed in 2008.

(2) (a) Since 2001 over \$3.1 million has been spent on upgrading clinical and support services. This includes:

- Engineering infrastructure upgrade
- Operating Theatre renovations
- Bathroom and Ward upgrade
- Rural student placement program

Operationally, in the last few years Surgical Services have been networked to provide for an expanded role for Murwillumbah District Hospital in Urology, Gastroenterology and Ophthalmic Surgery. The Emergency Department now has 24/7 on-site medical cover and medical imaging services expanded to include ultrasound.

(b) and (c) This \$1.15 million project was completed in May 2003.

(d) On average the two theatres at Murwillumbah are utilised to approximately 50% of total capacity (ie; 10 lists per week of potential 20 lists per week).

(e) Surgical services are networked in the Tweed Valley. Surgical cases are routinely scheduled between the two facilities and additional lists are scheduled at both hospitals, subject to each facility's role delineation. This means that only certain types of less acute surgery can be performed at Murwillumbah District Hospital. Therefore, many of the operations scheduled to be performed at The Tweed Hospital could not be performed at Murwillumbah District Hospital.

(f) At the time this project was planned, the reasons for retaining the second Operating Theatre at Murwillumbah District Hospital included:

- The surgical workload could not be managed by one Operating Theatre.
- Improved networking and scheduling of surgeon's lists across the two Tweed Valley Hospitals.
- Improved emergency case scheduling and reduced disruption for elective lists.
- Capacity for future requirements.
- Option of emergency of caesarean theatre easier to maintain if two theatre complex maintained.
- Need for back up Operating Theatre, when other Theatre is out of operation while routine maintenance is undertaken.

(g) and (h) Currently, Murwillumbah GP's provide less than 20% of the Emergency Department rostered medical cover. Any roster gaps as a result of the unavailability of GPs would be filled by short-term Career Medical Officer redeployments and recruitment of locum medical officers until permanent medical staff were recruited.

(i) All patients presenting at NSW public hospitals are prioritised according to the national triage categories, which are determined on the severity of the patient's clinical presentation at the time. Under the Australian Health Care Agreements patients resident in one State cannot be prioritised over patients resident in another State because of their place of residence alone.

(j) The Tweed Hospital does not go on bypass for NSW Ambulances so this situation would not arise.

(3) The Tweed Hospital Emergency Department has approximately 28.5 FTE staff doctors. There are no VMO GP's employed at The Tweed Hospital.

Murwillumbah District Hospital Emergency Department has approximately 5.5 FTE staff doctors and currently 5 GP VMO's participating in the Emergency Department medical cover roster.

(4) (a) and (b) Approximately 7%.

(5) (a) to (c) In 2006/07 the North Coast Area Health Service received \$380,205 from Bond University for teaching services at The Tweed Hospital. The revenue is directed to the hospital where the teaching occurred.

(d) (i) Facilities at Murwillumbah District Hospital have not been downgraded.

(ii) The Rural Doctor Training Program at Murwillumbah District Hospital is managed by University Department of Rural Health and Sydney University not the North Coast Area Health Service.

(6) (a) Yes, on a commercial basis following a competitive tender process.

(b) Gold Coast Medical Imaging offered a second-hand CT scanner to Murwillumbah District Hospital. This offer was not accepted given the significant costs associated with installation, ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the machine.

The Tweed Hospital CT scanner is a contractual arrangement with Gold Coast Medical Imaging.

(7) (a) and (b) The North Coast Area Health Advisory Council currently has twelve members with two representatives from the Tweed LGA.

*0799 STATE ROAD FUNDING—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

(1) What is the amount of expenditure provided by the State Government for State funded roads, and which are not regional or local roads, on a local government area by local government area (LGA) basis for the years ended 30 June 2005, 2006 and 2007 for:

(a) funding provided to councils under single invitation maintenance contracts;

(b) council contracted works on behalf of the State Government; and

(c) works contracted by the State Government with external contractors?

(2) What is the breakdown by lengths in kilometres of these State funded roads for each LGA in NSW?

(3) What is the breakdown by lengths in kilometres of roads classified as highways within each LGA in NSW?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW are publicly provided in Budget papers and are regularly updated in community newsletters and the annual Information Paper to Councils on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

*0800 WATER POLICE UNITS—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many Water Police units are permanently and exclusively assigned to Pittwater?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The Broken Bay Water Police Sector has an authorised strength of 15 officers and is responsible for an area from Bird Island to Long Reef including inshore areas such as Pittwater, Broken Bay, Cowan Creek, the Lower Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Waters.

*0801 PENINSULA TOY REPAIR GROUP—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

In relation to the licence agreement between the Peninsula Toy Repair Group and the Department of Education regarding the site of the Toy Repair Workshop on Department of Education land at Ingleside:

(1) What are the details of the current licence agreement?

(2) Is there an option to renew the licence, and, if so, how long is the renewal term?

(3) Will any part of the land subject to the licence be rezoned as part of the proposed Ingleside Land Release?

Answer—

(1) The Peninsula Toy Repair Group currently holds a five-year licence over part of a vacant site owned by the Department of Education and Training at Ingleside. The licence commenced on 1 December 2005, with a nominal rental of \$1 per annum.

(2) Yes, the licence has a renewal option of five years.

(3) The site is included in the area identified as the Ingleside Land Release Area. However, as the land release is in the preliminary stages, details about zoning of individual sites are not available at this time.

*0802 WATER AND SEWAGE CONNECTION—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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Is it illegal for households to be connected to the mains public water supply if they are not also connected to the mains public sewage system?

Answer—

No.

*0803 OUTSTANDING LEGAL CASES—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

How many outstanding legal cases are there against the NSW Department of Education and Training concerning bullying in NSW Government schools?

Answer—

Of the cases currently before the courts involving the NSW Department of Education, there are 4 in which plaintiffs allege bullying at school.

*0804 TEACHER TRANSFERS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred throughout 2006?
- (2) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred to start at the beginning of Term 1, 2007?
- (3) What is the total number of primary and secondary school teachers transferred after the start of Term 1, 2007?
- (4) What is the number of students affected by these transfers?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The total number of classroom teachers, executive staff and principals who moved to another school and entered on duty in a new school throughout 2006 was 2,927.

The total number of classroom teachers, executive staff and principals who moved to another school and entered on duty in a new school throughout 2007 as at 1 October 2007 was 2,841.

Principals allocate teachers to classes. Information on the number of students in the classes of those teachers who moved is not collected centrally by the Department of Education and Training. Furthermore, not all teachers who move to another school have direct responsibilities for face-to-face teaching, for example non-teaching principals are included in the data.

*0805 STAFF VACCINATION—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the NSW Health regulation concerning the compulsory vaccination of all staff, be it medical or otherwise:

- (1) Why was this policy introduced?
- (2) Who was involved in drafting the policy and for what purpose?
- (3) Have there been cases reported whereby an unvaccinated hospital staff member has been proven to have passed on a vaccine-preventable illness to a patient?
- (4) Have there been cases of vaccinated staff members doing the same?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The purpose of Policy Directive PD2007_006 Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases is to assist employers to meet their occupational health and safety (OHS) obligations and their duty of care to staff, clients and other users of health service premises; and to advise staff of their rights and responsibilities in relation to these OHS and duty of care requirements. The Policy also aims to reduce the transmission and incidence of the specified vaccine preventable diseases in health care settings.
- (2) A steering committee comprising experts in infectious diseases, immunisation, infection control and health services implementation. Extensive consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders and relevant unions. The Policy has been endorsed by the Health Services Union, NSW Nurses' Association, the Australian Medical Association (NSW), the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation (NSW) and the NSW & Australasian College of Surgeons.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Health has not been presented with evidence of such an occurrence.

*0806 24-HOUR POLICING—GREAT LAKES AREA—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Minister met with the Commissioner of Police to discuss 24-hour policing in the Great Lakes area?
- (2) If so, when did that meeting take place?
- (3) If so, where did that meeting take place?
- (4) If so, what was the outcome of that meeting?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) and (3) As part of my regular meetings with the Commissioner of Police.

(4) The allocation of resources is an issue for the Commissioner of Police. I have communicated to the Commissioner of Police the community's concerns. The Region Commander advises that staffing and operating hours at Forster Police Station are considered sufficient for current requirements.

*0807 FLEXIBLE CYSTOSCOPY EQUIPMENT—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the flexible cystoscopy procedure is not available at the Manning Rural Referral Hospital?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that hospitals without flexible scopes require the patient to undergo the procedure using a rigid cystoscope under a general anaesthetic as opposed to the flexible cystoscopy procedure, which only requires a local anaesthetic?
- (3) Are there any plans to provide Manning Rural Referral Hospital with flexible cystoscopy equipment including a sterilising unit?
- (4) If so, when will the flexible cystoscopy procedure be available at the hospital?
- (5) If no plans exist for the provision of flexible cystoscopy equipment at the Manning Rural Referral Hospital, why not?

Answer—

(1) and (2) Yes.

(3) to (5) I am advised that the Manning Hospital is presently looking at options for the establishment of a flexible cystoscopy service. Subject to the outcome of this investigation, the Area Health Service will consider incorporating the provision of a flexible cystoscopy service at Manning Hospital in its forward plans.

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*0808 MOBILE PHONE SAFETY—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the latest information available to the Department of Health concerning any studies that have linked the use of mobile phones to human health?
- (2) Have any studies shown the use of mobile phones can cause brain diseases and/or cancers?
- (3) Has the Department of Health made any comment or lodged any submissions to any organisation on this issue?
- (4) If so, what has been the general position of the Department of Health on this subject?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The latest report on the health effects of mobile phones was published by the United Kingdom Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Program in September 2007. The UK program reviewed all the research published on mobile phones and health and concluded that to date there is no evidence of increased cancer or other adverse health outcomes related to the use of mobile phones. The UK report noted however that there is insufficient research to be certain that there is no adverse health effect for use of mobile phones by children, or for periods longer than ten years.

Previous advice given by NSW Health in response to media and other inquiries on this issue is consistent with the findings of the UK report. That is, it is sensible to employ risk-reduction measures such as hands-free devices when using mobile phones. This is particularly recommended for children.

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*0809 CROSS BORDER HEALTH INTEGRATION—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

Given that the Victorian Department of Human Services is recruiting a full-time Senior Project Officer to work directly on the integration of Albury and Wodonga Health Services, when will NSW Health appoint an Albury-based Senior Officer to assist in implementation of the agreement signed in 2003?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Greater Southern Area Health Service (GSAHS) has appointed a Project Director – Albury Wodonga (GSAHS) to facilitate the cross border health integration project.

The Project Director commenced duty on 2 October 2007.

*0810 LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What assistance will be provided to Greater Hume Shire Council, farmers and emergency services between Henty and Albury as a result of proposed railway level crossing closures associated with the Southern line upgrade?
- (2) Will private road level crossings be retained with upgraded safety devices so that farmers can continue to access their properties?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and the relevant road authority are responsible for the rail line and the level crossings between Henty and Albury.

Prior to seeking the closure of a level crossing, the ARTC as the track owner, needs to satisfy the requirements for:

- onsite inspections and detailed reassessments of the relevant level crossing that have been conducted;
- ensuring appropriate community consultation has occurred and that alternative road routes have been assessed for their impact on the community, including farmers and emergency services; and
- ensuring alternative crossing points are both safe and practical.

In the event that the ARTC recommends the closure of any such crossing, a key factor in considering whether to approve such closure will depend on the safety and practical access for farmers to their properties.

*0811 MENTAL HEALTH CARE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) Why was Mr Robert Hesp refused admission by the Tweed Heads Hospital Mental Health Clinic and by the Richmond Clinic despite being referred by a Tweed Heads Magistrate on the advice of an eminent psychiatrist?
- (2) On the date of the referral how many beds were occupied in both clinics?
- (3) How many mental health beds are available in the Tweed Heads and Richmond Clinics?
- (4) What arrangements are currently being made to ensure that Robert Hesp receives appropriate mental health support?
- (5) Do you agree with the comment made by the State's Head Psychiatrist during the 7.30 Report on Monday 17 September 2007 that a couple of weeks in jail can be very therapeutic for people suffering schizophrenia because of the regular routine with discipline?
- (6) Is this process of admission to a corrective services institution a preferred policy for mental health patients?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) A patient's mental illness acuity is central to a decision to recommend a Section 33 assessment. Mr Hesp was not found to be mentally ill and could not legally be involuntarily detained under the Mental Health Act. This decision was in no way influenced by the availability of acute beds at Tweed Valley Clinic. Beds were available at the clinic on both occasions Mr Hesp was admitted for assessment.

The NSW Government funds a range of mental health services delivered through Justice Health to ensure that people with mental illness in contact with the justice system receive appropriate best practice treatment and care.

In accordance with privacy regulations any further comment on Mr Hesp's circumstances would be inappropriate.

*0812 SENTINEL EVENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —

- (1) When was the Third Report of the NSW Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee delivered to you and why has it not yet not been released?
- (2) Given that the Second Report was titled "Tracking Tragedy 2004" what period is covered by the Third Report?
- (3) When will the Government Response to the Third Report of the Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee be available?

Answer—

- (1) and (3) The Third Report of the NSW Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee was delivered to the Government in May 2007 and I requested NSW Health prepare an Interim Government Response prior to release of the report. This has been done and a copy of both reports has been tabled in both Houses and is available on the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au

I am advised that the Government's Final Response to Third Report of the Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee will be available early in the New Year.

- (2) For its Third Tracking Tragedy Report, the Committee looked at suicide deaths occurring during the 2003 – 2005 period and homicides involving mental health patients occurring during the 2004 – 2006 years.

*0813 TRAIN COMMUTERS SAFETY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are the State Government's plans to improve safety for commuters standing on trains given increasing incidences of overcrowding and lack of adequate safety handles?

Answer—

I am advised:

Safety is the NSW Government's top priority for public transport.

CityRail trains are fitted with grab-rails, as well as hand-rails on internal stairs and on some seats for increased passengers comfort and safety.

The Iemma Government's record investment in new trains will provide an extra 22,000 seats to commuters over the next seven years. This is a 16 percent increase in capacity compared to today.

The increase will come from the purchase of 626 new air-conditioned train carriages under Australia's largest ever rollingstock contract, worth \$3.6 billion.

The first of the new trains are scheduled to be delivered for testing in late 2009 and to begin entering service in 2010.

However, commuters are also benefiting from extra capacity as a result of the roll-out of 122 new Outer Suburban Carriages (OSCARs) worth \$439 million on intercity services to the South Coast, lower Blue Mountains and Central Coast.

Not only will these new trains deliver safer, more reliable and comfortable services to commuters, the trains they replace will be transferred to suburban lines across Sydney to increase train sizes and services in high demand areas.

In the past 12 months, we have introduced new suburban services, including:

- 7.18 am from Sutherland to Bondi Junction;
- 7.42 am from Campbelltown to the City via Sydenham;
- 8.56 am from Penrith to North Sydney via the City; and
- 6.26 pm North Sydney to Penrith service.

Additional services are already planned to start later this year and next year on the Western, Illawarra, Campbelltown, Bankstown and North Shore lines during morning and evening peaks.

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The new Epping to Chatswood line, currently being built at a cost of more than \$2 billion, and other Clearways projects will also boost capacity. It will provide a capacity for an additional four trains per hour on the busy Western Sydney Line, bringing significant improvement to the thousands using that service on a daily basis.

*0814 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health—

Given that it is now nearly 3 years since the Chatswood Mental Health Team was "temporarily" urgently relocated to the Royal North Shore Hospital site, will the Minister provide a firm time-frame for the rebuilding or refurbishment and return of the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre to its Chatswood site in Hercules Street?

Answer—

Questions of detail should be referred to the Minister for Mental Health. In this instance, I am advised that:

A number of mental health buildings on the Chatswood site have already been re-furbished. A development application is currently with Willoughby Council to build a demountable on the Hercules Street site. This will house the Assertive Recovery in the Community Team until all the Royal North Shore Community Mental Health Service are co-located with other community health services, in a new purpose built building in the Community Precinct on the Royal North Hospital campus. This is planned to occur in 2009. Acute and recovery mental health services will be provided at Hercules St Chatswood in a new Community Health building planned for that site, as part of the "hub and spoke" model for delivery of community health.

*0815 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre in Hercules Street, Chatswood:

- (1) When was the Chatswood Community Mental Health Team moved from the Chatswood site to the Royal North Shore Hospital site?
- (2) (a) Were any other community mental health teams relocated at around the same time?
(b) If so, what was the performance of the other teams using the same criteria?
- (3) (a) Was any other community mental health team relocated from Chatswood to the Hospital site at around the same time?
(b) If so, which one and what was the performance criteria used in this instance applied throughout Sydney and in the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service?
- (4) Was the performance of all other services in Northern Sydney Central Coast Hospital and community mental health teams assessed using the same criteria over the same period?
- (5) What was the result of this assessment and how did the performance of each team change?

Answer—

For future reference, please submit questions regarding mental health to the Minister for Mental Health. In this instance, I can advise that:

- (1) The Chatswood Community Mental Team (1) moved from the Chatswood site to the Royal North Shore Hospital site in November 2004.
- (2) and (3) The Psychosis in Young People's Team (PIYP) relocated, at around the same time, from the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre to the Royal North Shore Hospital site.

The criteria used to assess the impact of the relocation were the number of individual clients seen per fortnight. This was determined by referrals from Royal North Shore Emergency Department as a proportion of all referrals to the team, and proportions of clients seen according to postcode. The Psychosis in Young People's Team is a small specialist team, that has specific referral criteria, and client numbers did not change between 2004 and 2005. There is also no change in referrals from Emergency Department or clients by postcode.

(4) and (5) No, only the performance of those teams that were relocated from Chatswood to Royal North Shore Hospital were assessed to test the claims being made that this move would be a barrier to clients accessing the services.

*0816 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to comments made in the Budget estimates committee in March 2006 by Dr Stephen Christley, regarding the performance of the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre since it was moved to the Royal North Shore Hospital site:

- (1) Did Dr Christley assess the performance of the centre as having increased the number of clients seen by 10% since it has been relocated to the hospital site?
- (2) (a) Did Dr Christley compare the performance of the centre with other extended hours teams in the area, that were not relocated?
(b) If so, what was the result of the comparisons?
- (3) What criteria were used to assess the performance of the centre and the community mental health teams?
- (4) Did the performance assessment criteria take into account the trends in referrals, client registrations, individual and group occasions of service and client hours?
- (5) What were the trends using all these criteria since the Chatswood team moved to the hospital site?
- (6) How do the 2005 and 2004 trends compare with 2003 trends based on these criteria?

Answer—

Questions relating to mental health should be directed to the Minister for Mental Health. However, in this instance I can advise that:

- (1) There was a 10% increase in the number of clients seen, per fortnight, by the Extended Hours Team after the team had been relocated to the Royal North Shore Hospital site.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) N/A
- (3) Beside the number of individual clients seen per fortnight, the Chatswood Mental Health Extended Hours Team and the Psychosis in Young People's Team were compared pre and post relocation by referrals from the Royal North Shore Hospital Emergency Department as a proportion of all referrals to the team and there was an analysis of clients seen by residential postcode.
- (4) The criteria used are outlined in (3) above. Group occasions of service and client hours were not assessed.
- (5) For clients seen per fortnight, an increase of 10% was noted in 2005 as compared to 2004. For referrals from Emergency Department, there was no change between 2004 and 2005. For clients seen by postcode, there was no change in proportion of clients seen by postcode between 2004 and 2005.
- (6) No analysis was done using 2003 data.

*0817 GRAFTON HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Steve Cansdell asked the Minister for Health—

In relation to health services in the Clarence electorate:

- (1) In reference to the then Minister for Health, the Hon Morris Iemma's announcement of 24 May 2005, of \$3.9 million in funding for Grafton Hospital operating theatres, when will this money be invested?
- (2) In reference to the recent downgrading of Grafton Hospital by the North Coast Area Health Service from Category 3/4 to Category 3, which has caused operations on children to be cancelled for lack of insurance, when does the Government propose to reinstate Grafton Hospital's Category 4 status?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In May 2005 the former Minister for Health, the Hon Morris Iemma MP, as part of 2005/06 Budget, announced that \$3.9 million would be allocated for the continued planning of statewide projects including Wagga Wagga Hospital redevelopment, the redevelopment of Manning Base Hospital Emergency Department, Byron Bay Coastal Hospital redevelopment and Grafton Base Hospital operating theatres.

North Coast Area Health Service received \$300,000 from the announced funding allocation to undertake further planning on the upgrade of the Operating Theatres at Grafton Base Hospital. This funding was used to complete a draft Service Procurement Plan and Project Definition Plan for the proposed Operating Theatre redevelopment and a Clinical Services Plan and Master Development Plan for Grafton Base Hospital.

- (2) Grafton Base Hospital peer hospital grouping classification is as a District Group 1 facility, in recognition of the volume and care provided by the facility. This peer grouping classification has not been changed. Role delineation relates only to services and is not used to classify hospitals.

The Department of Health does not delineate hospital roles but has developed, in consultation with clinicians and service planners, the Guide to Role Delineation of Health Services. The Guide is used

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by Area Health Services as part of their planning processes to assess the mix and complexity of services required to meet their communities health needs.

In planning for services, Area Health Services are required to look at the networks and inter-relationships and health facilities across the Health Service to ensure an integrated approach. It is possible for services within a particular facility to range in complexity and the Guide recognises the importance of not only individual clinical services, but a range of clinical support services and clinician support necessary to provide safe quality services.

The Guide clearly states that Area Health Services are expected to apply the guidelines within a degree of flexibility, giving appropriate consideration to the functionality of services.

Role delineation is not intended to form a "lowest common denominator" to which all services should be reduced.

For most services Grafton Base Hospital is role defined as a level three Hospital. In practice, for most services Grafton Base Hospital operates at up to and including level four. Previously, this was accommodated by role defining most services at Grafton Base Hospital as level three/four. However, such split role definitions are no longer used within the NSW Health system.

This issue has since been resolved by North Coast Area Health Service confirming that, where necessary and appropriately, Grafton Base Hospital Paediatric Services can operate at level four.

Agreements have also been reached with Specialists for Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General, Ear Nose & Throat and Ophthalmology Surgery Services to be provided at level 4, when required, where patients requiring an Anaesthetic are assessed as level 3. Additional work is ongoing to enable Grafton Base Hospital to operate at level 4 for Anaesthetic Services.

While the North Coast Area Health Service considers that the written advice that it gave in June 2007 is sufficient to enable Grafton Base Hospital Medical Officers to continue to provide appropriate services at level 4, in the light of the Medical Officers individual concerns, it is taking specific action to provide reassurance to each speciality that it can provide appropriate level 4 services.

*0818 WHITE CITY TENNIS COMPLEX—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

What action has the Minister taken to protect from developers the heritage value of the White City tennis complex in Paddington?

Answer—

I am advised the site has been nominated for listing on the State Heritage Register by Woollahra Council. This nomination has not yet been considered by the Heritage Council of NSW.

*0819 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

In relation to the proposed Kurnell desalination plant:

- (1) From which energy retailer will the Kurnell desalination plant purchase electricity?
- (2) What is the estimate of the annual amount of electricity that will be consumed by the proposed plant?
- (3) Will the proposed plant be using renewable energy?
- (4) And if so, what will be the extra cost for the proposed plant to use GreenPower accredited renewable energy compared with conventional electricity?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

- (1) Sydney Water has now gone to the market to seek requests for proposals from industry. Sydney Water expects to enter an agreement in 2008 for the supply of renewable energy such as wind power.
- (2) It is estimated that the plant, operating at full capacity, will use up to around 400 gigawatt hours of electricity per annum.
- (3) The plant will be powered by accredited renewable energy, resulting in no net greenhouse gas emissions.
- (4) The costs of energy to power the desalination plant will be determined once Sydney Water has entered into an agreement with a supplier.

*0820 GOVERNMENT VEHICLE FLEET—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to ethanol usage in the NSW Government vehicle fleet and the Minister's response to Question 0645, what is the usage of E10 by Government vehicles, in both litres and dollars, since 1 July 2006?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Premier has issued a memorandum to NSW public servants directing them to use ethanol-blended fuels in State Fleet vehicles.

When major fleet owners like the NSW Government adopt alternative fuels, it makes production more cost-effective and helps keep prices lower for all users.

This is good news for the environment and good news for regional NSW.

The Premier's announcement reinforces existing NSW Government requirements for relevant staff to use E10 blends.

Unlike the Federal Government, NSW will continue to provide national leadership on issues like alternative fuel use and climate change.

*0821 MR NATHAN REES—Mr Chris Hartcher asked the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) On what date did Nathan Rees resign from his position as Chief of Staff in the office of either former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Milton Orkopolous, or former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Reba Meagher?
- (2) On what date was Mr Rees appointed to this position?
- (3) What was his public service or SES grade and what was his level of remuneration including salary and allowances?

Answer—

- (1) Mr Rees' last day in the position of Chief of Staff to former Minister Orkopolous was 4 August 2006.
- (2) Mr Rees commenced in the position of Chief of Staff to former Minister Orkopolous on 8 August 2005.
- (3) Ministers' Staff Grade 7- remuneration determined by PSWO.

*0822 WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE IN GRENFELL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As the Women's Health Nurse who used to visit Grenfell has left her position, and women from Grenfell have been told that there is a waiting list of about six to seven weeks to visit the closest Women's Health Nurse at Young or Canowindra, what action have you taken to ensure that this service remains available and accessible to the residents of Grenfell, particularly those who are unable to travel for consultations?
- (2) Will you arrange for a relief Women's Health Nurse to continue visits to Grenfell until the vacant position is filled?
- (3) Has this vacant position been advertised?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Women's Health Nurse position based in Cowra has provided a women's health clinic at Grenfell on a monthly basis for the past six years. This position became vacant in June 2007, however, the monthly clinic was maintained until 31 July 2007 as an outreach clinic from Orange. Another two additional women's health nurse positions have become vacant in the region since July 2007, therefore reducing the program's ability to continue a monthly service to Grenfell.

As an interim measure, women can access women's health service via their local General Practitioner or any of the four General Practices in Cowra, including three female GPs.

- (2) I am advised that the Greater West Area Health Service advertised a secondment position to fill the Women's Health Nurse vacancy during August and September 2007. However, this was not successful.
- (3) The Area Health Service has initiated recruitment processes for the three vacancies. In the interim, a temporary position for 6 months will be advertised for internal recruitment shortly.

*0823 REIDS FLAT 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—

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- (1) Will you confirm that lead contamination has been found in the rainwater storage tank used by Reids Flat Public School for drinking water?
- (2) On what date was this situation first reported?
- (3) What is the level of contamination?
- (4) Is this level within Health Guidelines?
- (5) What is the source of this contamination?
- (6) Did the Department of Education write to the parents of children at Reids Flat Public School informing them of the contamination and if so on what date?
- (7) On what date did students at the school switch to drinking bottled water rather than tank water?
- (8) Will you arrange for health checking of students for lead contamination?
- (9) What action have you taken to remove the source of the contamination?
- (10) When will this action be completed?

Answer—

- (1) Very low traces of lead were identified in the drinking water supply at Reids Flat Public School during the Department of Education and Training's tank water testing program.
- (2) 22 June 2007.
- (3) The level of contamination was 0.014 milligrams/litre.
- (4) The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines suggest that up to 0.01 milligrams/litre is an acceptable level of lead in drinking water.
- (5) Identifying the source of such small amounts is difficult, but lead roof flashing can often be the cause. The Department is investigating further.
- (6) School parents were advised by telephone on 22 June 2007.
- (7) 22 June 2007.
- (8) The NSW Department of Health has advised there is no immediate need to carry out health checks on students, given the very low levels of lead measured.
- (9) The Department is planning remedial works at Reids Flat Public School.
- (10) The Department anticipates these works will be completed by the end of Term 4, 2007.

*0824 FAMILIES NSW PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

Which specific local community organisations, schools, and prior to school services will be involved in the "Central West Communities and Agencies Working Together Supporting Children Starting School" twelve-month pilot program being conducted under the Families NSW program?

Answer—

This pilot program is to be conducted in three local government areas: Parkes, Cowra and Bathurst. It is anticipated that all relevant agencies and organisations that provide services to children 0-5 years in these localities will be informed of the project and invited to participate. Relevant services are those that support a child's ability to be a successful learner in a school setting, including community services that support parents to be involved in the school environment. This includes government and non government schools in the towns and outlying centres, early childhood services (pre-schools, long day care centres, family day care services, mobile childcare), health and welfare agencies, and Aboriginal and non Aboriginal community organisations.

The pilot program is managed for Families NSW by Orange Community Resource Organisation. The project worker commenced work in September 2007 and is currently developing specific databases of local services in each pilot centre.

*0825 DAMAGED 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 latest update on the damaged basketball court adjacent to the Administration of Asquith Boys High 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.

The school intends to submit a major capital works proposal to the department for a multipurpose gymnasium in the location of the basketball court adjacent to the administration block. This project will be considered for funding in a future major capital works program against competing priorities across the State.

*0826 PUBLIC HOUSING—HORNSBY ELECTORATE—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) How many public housing dwellings (units and houses) are there in the Hornsby electorate?
- (2) How many are currently vacant?
- (3) How many dwellings have one occupant but more than one bedroom?

Answer—

- (1) There are 267 public housing dwellings in the Hornsby electorate.
- (2) The number of properties that are vacant varies from month to month, for a variety of reasons including properties are in the process of being prepared for reletting to applicants on the public housing register, or they may have been identified for either sale or redevelopment into more suitable accommodation.
- (3) 75, however, some of these tenants will be transferred to properties that meet the household compliment and some tenants are eligible for an extra bedroom due to health or disability needs.

*0827 ASQUITH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL—KITCHENS—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 latest update on the installation of kitchens at Asquith Girls High School?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government has a proud record of investing in our educational facilities, with expenditure of over \$4.8 billion allocated in State Budgets since 1995 on school and TAFE improvements.

The upgrade of the food technology building at Asquith Girls High School was included as part of the 2006/07 Minor Capital Works Program.

Work commenced on 9 May 2007 and the project was completed on 13 August 2007.

*0828 NATIVE VEGETATION COMPLIANCE OFFICERS—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

- (1) What is the requirement on Native Vegetation compliance officers to inform/request permission from property owners prior to inspections?
- (2) What is the role of the NSW Police on these inspections and what is their authority to enter private homes as was the recent case at "Yarrol", Moree?
- (3) Did compliance officers breach privacy by the intimidating use of video?
- (4) What are the components of the "come clean-go clean" policy engaged in by compliance officers when visiting numerous landholders on any given day with specific reference to the Equine Influenza outbreak?

Answer—

When carrying out investigations regarding compliance with native vegetation laws, officers from the Department of Environment and Climate Change may only enter a residence with the permission of the occupier or, in the case of non-residential premises, with the permission of the Director General or delegate. Officers make every effort to seek the permission of landholders to enter property or, if no permission is granted, to advise landholders of their intention to enter a property.

Recently, in the course of their investigations, Departmental officers asked the NSW Police to attend at the Yarrol property. The request was made because the Departmental officers had occupational health and safety concerns in entering the property. No Departmental officers or NSW Police officers went into the homestead. However, I am advised that the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources, with the assistance of Australian Federal Police, have executed several search warrants in relation to this matter, including one on the homestead at Yarrol.

Videoring the scene of alleged crimes during a criminal investigation is not a breach of privacy, but good investigative practice, as courts readily accept video footage into evidence. Departmental officers

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recorded video footage at Yarrol to provide an accurate record of what occurred when they entered the property and of the areas that were cleared.

Departmental officers have always been conscious of bio-security issues, particularly when visiting farms. Since the Equine Influenza outbreak, the Department has followed the advice of the Department of Primary Industries and the State Emergency Control Centre, and has implemented additional procedures to ensure that its officers take extra precautions to prevent the spread of Equine Influenza.

*0829 STATE WATER—WATER CHARGES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Given the extraordinary hardship the current drought continues to generate what is State Water's capacity to waive fixed water charges for irrigators and general security water users?

Answer—

Fixed water charges are a component of the bulk water charges set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. They are intended to cover costs that are incurred by State Water irrespective of whether water is delivered or not.

Fixed water charges have been waived in the past for Lachlan Valley water users due to the severe impact of the drought. The NSW Government will continue to monitor the drought and appropriate drought relief measures.

*0830 TENANT REWARDS—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

What is the Department of Housing's strategy on rewarding good "long term" Department of Housing tenants?

Answer—

Housing NSW has a number of incentives for its tenants that are in place, including:

- Through its Building Stronger Communities strategy, Housing NSW provides many benefits to public housing communities including upgrading homes and recreational areas, employing community development workers, and providing skills and employment opportunities for residents.
- Housing NSW celebrates excellence in young people in public housing by running an annual Youth Achievement Awards scheme;
- Families whose sons and daughters stay on to Years 11 and 12 are eligible for a scholarship;
- Every year, Housing NSW recognises seniors' week and celebrates the achievements of its older tenants; and
- Housing NSW has run a Green Thumb competition for tenants who keep their gardens in excellent condition;
- Good tenants who want to move to the private sector are provided with a reference.

*0831 AGED CARE ASSESSMENT TEAM—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Minister for Health—

Could the Minister advise as to the current staffing levels operating out of the Dubbo Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT), that services many communities in the electorate of Barwon, and the issue of timely assessment of potential/identified aged care residents?

Answer—

I am advised by the Greater West Area Health Service that the Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT), which is based at Lourdes Hospital at Dubbo, provides needs assessments for frail older people, some younger people with disabilities or aged related disease, and facilitates access to appropriate care services.

There are currently 6.4 full time equivalent clinical staff providing these services, and planning is underway to train additional nursing staff in outlying areas to undertake assessments.

I am further advised that Aged Care Assessment Team services are currently under review at both State and Commonwealth level. These reviews are focusing on access to services, quality systems and processes, resource allocation and best practice models.

Greater Western Area Health Service staff are working with Lourdes Hospital management to improve service delivery at the local level and are looking forward to implementing recommendations from the reviews currently underway.

*0832 RAIL BRANCH LINES—Mr Kevin Humphries asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the current status of all rail lines across NSW with particular reference to "grain lines"?
- (2) Is there an intention by the Transport Department to close any of these lines?
- (3) If this is the intention, can the Minister identify these lines and any proposed time frame?
- (4) If lines are to close, what alternatives will be put in place to compensate for any loss of rail transport dedicated to grain haulage and at what cost?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The NSW Government is aware of the importance of the branch line network, which is why on 7 July, 2005 it was announced that an additional \$69 million would be spent over three years on upgrading and maintaining the western NSW restricted rail lines.

This funding package, which followed the \$21 million provided in 2004/05, has enabled major infrastructure improvements and secured the 11 operational lines for the forthcoming harvest, while the Government develops long-term arrangements with the grain industry.

*0833 SPEED CAMERA—BEVERLY HILLS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What is the date of commencement of the fixed speed camera operation at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?
- (2) What was the date of installation of the three high profile advance warning signs for the fixed speed camera at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?
- (3) What was the date of installation of high profile advance warning signs for the fixed speed camera on streets adjacent to King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?
- (4) What is the crash history for the location of the fixed speed camera at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?
- (5) What is the date of the media release detailing the camera location at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?

Answer—

I am advised that the fixed speed camera which the Member refers to is contained within a School Zone which was established in 2002. At 1.05km long it is an unusually long School Zone in order to protect the more than 2000 students at three local schools around the zone.

More than 45 'School Zone' and 'Speed Camera Ahead' signs are already installed on approaches to this School Zone and within this School Zone.

There are three flashing light units for the School Zone on King Georges Road.

The RTA recently erected more signs to complement the existing 11 School Zone speed camera signs.

Additional signage was installed on side streets and on King Georges Rd on Thursday 30 August this year.

School Zones improve safety for students and are critical to reducing speeding around schools.

More than 99 per cent of motorists do the right thing and observe the speed limit in School Zones.

Any motorist in NSW who receives a speeding infringement notice is entitled to challenge that matter in court.

Any motorist who entered King Georges Road from a side street and felt they were not aware of the School Zone were encouraged to write to the CEO of the RTA for a review at, PO Box K 198 Haymarket NSW 1240.

It is of the utmost importance to emphasise that the safety of school children around roads is of paramount importance to the RTA and the Government and thus all motorists are urged to be ever vigilant when driving around schools.

*0834 SALE OF SYDNEY WATER SITE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What price did Sydney Water receive for sale of the old Sydney Water site at Bellingarra Road, Miranda?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised this site was sold for \$11,003,000.

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*0835 REPLY TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

When will the Minister reply to my letter dated 21 August 2007 concerning signage relating to the new fixed speed camera at King Georges Road, Beverly Hills?

Answer—

I am advised:

A response has been sent.

*0836 SPEED CAMERA—WARNING LETTERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Why did motorists who received penalty notices for the new fixed speed camera at King Georges Road Beverly Hills not receive warning letters as has occurred with other new speed cameras?

Answer—

I am advised that the fixed speed camera which the Member refers to is contained within a School Zone which was established in 2002. At 1.05km long it is an unusually long School Zone in order to protect the more than 2000 students at three local schools around the zone.

More than 45 'School Zone' and 'Speed Camera Ahead' signs are already installed on approaches to this School Zone and within this School Zone.

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It is of the utmost importance to emphasise that the safety of school children around roads is of paramount importance to the RTA and the Government and thus all motorists are urged to be ever vigilant when driving around schools.

*0837 CATERING—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health—

On what date did catering at Sutherland Hospital come under the auspice of Sydney South West Health Service as stated in your answer to Question 0624 (Questions and Answers Paper No 19)?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Catering at Sutherland Hospital comes under the auspice of the South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service (not the Sydney South West Area Health Service as previously advised in Question 0624).

*0838 CYCLEWAY—CRONULLA/SUTHERLAND RAILWAY CORRIDOR—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

When will the study for a cycleway on the Cronulla/Sutherland railway corridor be released?

Answer—

In light of the strong community support for this project and advocacy by the Members for Heathcote and Miranda, the NSW Government has agreed to provide \$50,000 to complete concept designs for a potential staged delivery of the cycleway.

These funds will allow concept designs to be completed for two sections of the proposed cycleway, between Gibbs Street and Kareena Road and Yathong Road South and Gannons Road.

*0839 LICENSING TESTS—ELDERLY DRIVERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many drivers over 85 years of age have completed licensing tests in Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Albury and Tamworth in the past 12 months to 30 June?
- (2) How many drivers have failed the test in Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Albury and Tamworth in the past 12 months to 30 June?

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.

Drivers over the age of 85 are permitted three attempts at the driving test and last year, ninety-one per cent of older drivers passed the test within three attempts.

The consultation period on the older driver discussion paper closed last Friday with more than 16,000 submissions received. The RTA will now assess public submissions and will report to the Government in due course.

*0841 “CHILD PROTECTION—RECOGNISING NEGLECT AND ABUSE” SEMINARS—Mr Daryl Maguire 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 questions are asked of all participants in mandatory "Child Protection Recognising Neglect and Abuse" information sessions administered by the Department of Education and Training?
- (2) How many information sessions/seminars have been held in New South Wales?
- (3) Where were they held?
- (4) Are all questions asked in information sessions/seminars identical?
- (5) Where can a copy of the questions asked be obtained?
- (6) Will you provide a copy of the questions deemed suitable to be asked in these information sessions/seminars?
- (7) What is the pass rate or mark required to qualify?
- (8) How is the pass mark determined?
- (9) Does the program refer to the rehabilitation of sexual offenders?
- (10) Does the program refer to the value of the 3Rs in the education process?
- (11) How does the assessment of the values of the 3Rs relate to identifying neglect and abuse of children in the Seminar?

Answer—

(1) to (11) The Department of Education and Training requires all staff to participate in mandatory annual child protection training and development and provides materials to assist principals and other workplace managers to conduct this training. Child protection training and development sessions take place in staff meeting rooms or where staff development activities are normally conducted. There is no pass rate or mark associated with this training.

Child protection training uses indicators to recognise neglect and abuse situations where a student is failing to achieve for no explainable reason. These include "poor concentration", "regression in developmental achievements in younger children", "delay in developmental milestones", "sleeping

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problems" and "persistently negative themes in art work and creative writing". As a result of child protection training, teachers may consider whether a student's poor achievement is an indicator of neglect or abuse. If teachers have reasonable grounds for concern, a report about that student would be made to the Department of Community Services.

The Department of Education and Training does not have responsibility for the rehabilitation of sexual offenders.

*0842 M2 BUS SERVICE—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

How many buses are presently used for the M2 bus service from The Hills to City and North Sydney?

Answer—

I am advised the number of buses operating along this corridor varies, according to the time of day and operating requirements.

If the Honourable Member seeks information on how many bus trips are made, I am advised that this information is available at www.131500.info

*0843 NORTH WEST TRANSITWAY—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

(1) How many buses were allocated to the North West bus transitway when the T-way opened earlier this year?

(2) How many buses presently use the T-way?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that funding for 25 additional buses was allocated for growth in the North West prior to the opening of the North West T-way in March 2007. However, the number of buses using the North West T-way at any one time will depend on operational requirements.

If the Honourable Member seeks information on the number of bus trips along the North West T-way, I am advised that this is available at www.131500.info

*0844 WATER TANK REBATES—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How much has been paid to residents in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area by way of rebate for water tanks?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised that as at 2 October 2007, 1,719 residential rainwater tank rebates, totalling \$583,400, have been paid in the Baulkham Hills Local Government Area since the Rainwater Tank Rebate Program commenced on 20 October 2002.

*0846 KIDNEY DISEASE—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health—

With respect to the latest Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report "Comorbidity of Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease in Australia", which shows a severe disease burden from chronic kidney disease and identifies that about three quarters of people with kidney disease also have heart disease:

(1) What programs does the Government operate to screen and detect people with chronic kidney disease early?

(2) What community education does the Government carry out to inform residents who may have chronic kidney disease and encourage action to protect their health?

(3) What high risk groups for chronic kidney disease have the Government identified and what programs target these groups?

(4) How does the Government ensure that health service providers understand the high levels of comorbidity with chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular disease, and provide appropriate treatment?

(5) What data does the Government collect to monitor trends and coordinate chronic kidney disease programs with other States and Territories?

(6) What is the Government's plan for managing chronic kidney disease, and what outcome measures are used to assess progress?

Answer—

I am advised that:

NSW Health, in collaboration with clinicians and the Area Health Services, has been very active in developing strategies to deal with the various aspects of chronic kidney disease. This collective effort has been ongoing since 2004.

The NSW Renal Dialysis Service Plan to 2011 has been released. This will guide health services to plan how they deliver care to people with kidney disease. As part of the implementation of the Plan, Area Health Services will need to give consideration to prevention of chronic kidney disease. The Health Department itself is working to develop strategies to prevent or slow the progression to end-stage kidney disease, with the long-term aim of reducing the proportion of people requiring dialysis.

The people with Chronic Kidney Disease at high risk of progression to end-stage kidney disease include those with cardiovascular disease; diabetes or metabolic syndrome; or high blood pressure (including women with a history of hypertension during pregnancy); those who smoke; and people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ethnicity.

The Health Department will work to develop strategies to ensure that a basic "Kidney Health Check" is performed on all at-risk individuals, as part of a chronic disease assessment. This involves three simple things: blood pressure measurement; blood sampling to estimate kidney function; and most importantly urine testing to detect protein.

The presence of protein in the urine is a marker for kidney disease and risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Emphasis will be placed on disseminating an understanding of this, and appropriate communication and management of positive results.

NSW Health is ahead of other states and territories in its approach to chronic kidney disease. Significant financial investment has been made to date to improve dialysis services across the state. By way of example, recent enhancements in the order of \$14 million were provided to expand services.

*0847 PROBLEM GAMBLING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

With regard to a 2002 letter from the then Minister for Gaming and Racing, which approved the TAB providing a Premium Customer Staking Facility:

- (1) How was the potential impact of such a staking facility assessed before it was approved for the TAB?
- (2) Given reports that "no customers are currently involved in the scheme", did the NSW Government initiate termination of the scheme?
- (3) If so, why?
- (4) Given reports of people (including some of my constituents) losing their homes by betting through the Premium Customer Staking Facility, what assessment has the NSW Government given to preventing credit betting in the gambling industry in the future?

Answer—

As this matter is before the courts it would be inappropriate for me to comment.

*0848 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—BANORA POINT—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

In relation to the independent assessment of a tunnel option for the Pacific Highway Banora Point Upgrade the Minister for Roads has advised that Flagstaff Consulting was "provided with a series of plans, longitudinal sections and typical cross sections":

- (1) Were Flagstaff Consulting issued with:
 - (a) Full cross sections at a number of chainages?
 - (b) Digital survey data and/or computer generated quantity information?
- (2) Is the Minister satisfied:
 - (a) With the independence of this assessment, given that Flagstaff Consulting were supplied with material from the RTA and their appointed consultants, Parsons Brinkerhoff?
 - (b) That the 6-week time frame for the independent assessment was adequate, given that that RTA's consultants had a 3-year time frame?
- (3) Will the Minister arrange for a new, fully independent assessment of the community's preferred tunnel option, with the independent consultants provided with more detailed information and a timeframe similar to that of the RTA's appointed consultants?

Answer—

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I am advised:

Flagstaff Consulting was provided with a series of plans, longitudinal sections and typical cross-sections, which were prepared as part of route options phase of the Banora Point project.

*0849 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

As the Minister for Roads has advised that a hydraulic study is currently being undertaken as part of the environmental assessment for the RTA's preferred option for the upgrade of the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) Does this hydraulic survey take into account the Maximum Probable Flood Level?
- (2) If yes, when will this survey be made available to the public?
- (3) If no, why not, and what flood level is being used?

Answer—

I am advised:

In response to community concerns, the Maximum Probable Flood Level will be considered in the environmental assessment.

The hydrology and hydraulics assessment will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred concept.

The environmental assessment for the Banora Point upgrade is expected to be finalised and made available for public comment early 2008.

*0850 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

As the Minister for Roads has advised that reports regarding the upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Sexton Hill and the flow of traffic on the Highway make use of traffic data captured from a 2004/2005 traffic investigation, and given that since that time there has been a substantial increase in heavy vehicles using the Pacific Highway rather than the New England Highway:

- (1) Will the Minister arrange for a comprehensive heavy vehicle count (including rigid frame, semi-trailer and B &/or A double combinations) on Sexton Hill to reflect the current traffic situation?
- (2) Will the Minister provide figures for the projected increase in heavy vehicles [as per (1)] on Sexton Hill for when the Port of Brisbane facility and the Yatala Industrial Area come online?

Answer—

I am advised:

In planning for the proposed upgrade, traffic data has been collected from a number of sources, with the most recent being a traffic count taken over a seven day period in February 2007 which identifies different vehicle types.

The results of this survey will be included in the environmental assessment documents to be placed on display for public comment early next year.

*0851 SPEED CAMERA—LANE COVE—Mr Anthony Roberts 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) How much revenue has been raised from the speed camera, located on Centennial Avenue, Lane Cove, for the period July 2006 up to and including 31 August 2007?
- (2) How many infringement notices have been issued with respect to (1) above?

Answer—

I'm advised:

From July 2006 to 31 August 2007, there were 7,060 infringement notices issued to the face dollar value of \$613,884.

*0852 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at the Royal North Shore Hospital for the financial year periods:

- (a) 2000-2001;

- (b) 2001-2002;
- (c) 2002-2003;
- (d) 2003-2004;
- (e) 2004-2005;
- (f) 2005-2006;
- (g) 2006-31 August 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

Northern Sydney Central Coast Health has provided the following response to the question:

- (a) \$3,139,895.
- (b) \$3,262,862.
- (c) \$3,156,570.
- (d) \$3,516,570.
- (e) \$3,502,519.
- (f) \$3,332,716.
- (g) \$4,625,858.

*0853 NURSING HOMES RESIDENTS—Mr Anthony Roberts asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

How many people, located in the local government areas of Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove, and who are located in nursing homes because of severe disabilities, are aged 40 or under?

Answer—

The Australian Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) maintains a database on persons living in residential aged care facilities. DoHA provides data on NSW residents aged less than 65 years to the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to assist with the implementation of the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Program.

According to the most recent data provided by DoHA, as of 31 July 2007, there were no persons aged less than 40 years living in residential facilities within these local government areas.

*0854 TILLEGRA DAM—Mr George Souris asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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?
- (4) Why is Hunter Water planning a dam which is three times more water than is needed by 2031 and which will discourage recycling?
- (5) What is the cost to the community in ignoring the more sustainable, flexible and less damaging alternatives?
- (6) Why does Hunter Water not have a water plan, as do Sydney and Gosford and Wyong Councils, yet is pursuing the construction of Tillegra Dam without consultation and community debate?

Answer—

(1) to (4) These matters fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

(5) I am advised that Tillegra Dam is considered the best option to meet the growth and drought risk needs of the Lower Hunter community for at least the next 60 years.

(6) This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

*0855 REGULATION OF ETHYLENE OXIDE—Mr Rob Stokes 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)—

In relation to the regulation of ethylene oxide:

- (1) When will the review of the regulatory framework be complete?
- (2) What action will be taken to protect the community from ethylene oxide emissions?
- (3) Will the use of ethylene oxide be regulated through inclusion in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the

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Environment Operations Act 1997?

Answer—

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, together with the Protection of the Environment (Clean Air) Regulation 2002, provides a comprehensive regulatory framework to minimise air quality impacts from industry. Commercial and industrial premises must comply with prescribed air emissions standards and, in the absence of such standards, are required to implement all practicable means to prevent or minimise air pollution. This strong framework ensures emissions are controlled to the highest standard to protect human health and the environment at all times.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change has advised me that the review of the regulatory framework for ethylene oxide will be completed by the end of November 2007.

The Department also advises that depending on the nature of commercial and industrial activity, some premises that emit ethylene oxide are already licensed under Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. Where a licence is not required, a company must still prevent or minimise air pollution in accordance with the Act and Clean Air Regulations. Local Government is the regulator for these facilities and have strong powers available to them under the Act to regulate these emissions. In addition, Councils have powers to regulate the activity through development consent conditions under environmental planning legislation.

The Department has provided legal assistance, air quality technical expertise and regulatory support to assist Councils in their regulatory responsibilities. In order to ensure that the current regulatory framework continues to protect human health and the environment, the Department of Environment and Climate Change is reviewing the types of industrial and commercial activities that use ethylene oxide and the full range of tools and approaches available under the legislation to regulate these emissions. As part of this review the Department is currently assessing any changes necessary to the legislation for the Department to licence additional premises, for example, commercial medical sterilisers that use ethylene oxide.

*0856 WATER POLICE—RESPONSE TIMES—Mr Rob Stokes asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the target for the average response time of Water Police attending incidents in Pittwater, and how does the actual response time compare with this target?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Water police taskings are prioritised depending on their urgency. Circumstances including the locations of the incident and the responding vessel influence response times.

*0857 BUS SERVICES—NAMBUCCA RIVER TOURIST PARK—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to bus services for residents of the Nambucca River Tourist Park, located between Macksville and Nambucca Heads:

- (1) Are you aware that the operator, Busways, refuses to pick up or drop off passengers, many of whom are aged and/or having limited mobility, outside the Park which is a short distance off the Pacific Highway, on Champions Way?
- (2) Given your stated commitment to bus reform in regional and rural NSW, and in view of road safety concerns associated with pick up and drop off of passengers on a 100km/hr, single carriageway section of the Pacific Highway, will you seek to negotiate improvements to the bus service (Route 351) provided by Busways?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Ministry of Transport has advised that in designing a bus network, a balance must be achieved between the need for ease of access and minimising travel time. The Ministry of Transport requires bus operators to design bus routes so that 90% of residents in the contract area are within 400 metres of a bus route during the daytime and 800 metres at night-time. Busways Route 351 currently operates five services a day in each direction between Macksville and Coffs Harbour via Nambucca and meets the contractual requirements.

The Ministry of Transport administers funding for community transport projects under the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, which is targeted at the frail aged, younger people with disabilities and carers of these groups. Coffs Harbour/Bellingen/Nambucca Community Transport operates services in the Nambucca area and may be contacted on (02) 6651 1137 for information on available services.

- (2) The Government is committed to the implementation of bus reform in rural and regional NSW, following the successful rollout of the new bus service contracts in Sydney and Outer Metropolitan areas. The aim of rural and regional bus reform is to enable: more flexible service planning, periodic service reviews and community consultation so that services best match local need; transparent contracting arrangements with clear performance and reporting requirements; sustainable funding arrangements; improved cooperation between neighbouring operators; and continuity of service.

The reform process will take into account the diverse range of transport needs in regional centres, coastal hubs, country towns, villages and rural communities. A Rural and Regional Bus Reform Consultative Taskforce has been established with the bus industry to identify appropriate options for contracting, funding and planning bus services in these areas.

To ensure new arrangements are practical and reflect local need, the Taskforce has undertaken consultations in Yamba, Dubbo, West Wyalong, Wagga Wagga, Nowra, Mudgee and Tamworth. A travel pattern survey of the Tamworth area has also been undertaken.

The Taskforce anticipates concluding its deliberations and reporting on preferred options over the next few months, with a view to Government making a decision by the end of the year.

*0858 SCHOOL BUS SEATBELTS—Mr Andrew Stoner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In view of the recent tragic school bus accident near Urunga, and given the Federal Government's \$40 million contribution to installing seatbelts on school buses, will you now implement standards to ensure seatbelts are present on all new school buses, and standing in the aisles of school buses ceases?

Answer—

I am advised:

Any measure that has the potential to save the lives of our school children should be implemented but it is the responsibility of Government to ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved. That's why the NSW Government believes that a measured and evidence based approach to school bus safety is the best one. There are many identifiable risks for school students travelling by bus and seat belts are an effective counter-measure against only some of these.

The NSW Government has engaged independent experts to conduct a risk assessment of school bus routes across NSW based on the "National Guidelines for Risk Assessment of School Bus Routes" agreed by the Australian Transport Council in 2005.

This review has identified areas that may be consistent with National Guidelines for high risk routes. The Ministry of Transport is now examining these areas in detail to establish the appropriate risk management strategy for each route.

Safety measures to be applied may include speed limits and other traffic management tools, defensive driver training or on-board equipment such as seat belts.

The Federal Government's proposed \$40 million expenditure over four years, covering 1,500 buses nationwide, will cover an extremely limited section of Australia's school bus fleet. In NSW alone, there are 2,680 dedicated daily services where buses carry school students. In addition, the announcement has generated confusion as insufficient detail has been provided to rural and regional school bus operators.

The plan does not detail how operations are going to purchase the extra buses needed to carry children to school as a result of the policy. The Commonwealth Government should consider these industry impacts, particularly for rural family businesses which are already facing difficult and uncertain times because of the prolonged drought.

The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth Government providing assistance to improve safety, but would recommend the expansion of the proposal from a "one size fits all" approach to a broader and more evidence based approach. For example, in some locations, seatbelts may not be the most appropriate measure to improve safety.

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The risk assessment process will be completed in coming months and the Government would be happy for the Ministry of Transport to share this information to better inform the Commonwealth Government's decision making on allocation of grants.

The NSW Government is committed to outcomes which are sustainable and flexible enough to provide the most appropriate safety outcome to meet many varying conditions faced on school bus routes.

*0859 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

In the Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-14 there is the following statement:

The following agencies have a Minor Works Program only:

Home Care Service of New South Wales

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

Answer—

Funds are not allocated within the Home Care Service of New South Wales Minor Works Program by electorate. The Northern region, in which the Myall Lakes electorate is situated, will receive \$159,000 from the Minor Works Budget.

*0860 FORSTER POLICE STATION STAFFING—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Did at least three break and enter offences and one enter offence occur in homes of elderly residents in Regency Circuit, Tuncurry with one elderly female resident awoken by a thief in her bedroom on 21 September 2007 approximately during the hours of 3 am and 4 am?
- (2) Did these offences occur when the Forster Police Station was unmanned?
- (3) Did break and enter offences occur in homes of other elderly residents in the Tuncurry and Forster area in that same week when the Forster Police Station was unmanned?
- (4) How does the Minister now justify his comments that there is a perception of crime in the Forster/Tuncurry area when there are actual crimes such as outlined in (1) above?
- (5) When will the Minister provide adequate police to Forster Police Station to ensure the safety of the residents of Forster/Tuncurry by having a 24-hour police station in Forster?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) Four incidents occurred as described. Three of the offences occurred some time between 8.30pm and 7am. The final incident occurred at 3.05am.
- (3) Two incidents occurred at approximately 5am on 18 September. Two other incidents involving elderly residents took place some time between 10pm and 6am.
- (4) and (5) The allocation of resources is an issue for the Commissioner of Police. I have communicated to the Commissioner of Police the community's concerns. The Region Commander advises that staffing and operating hours at Forster police station are considered sufficient for current requirements.

*0861 TAREE RAILWAY STATION—FENCED CAR PARK—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) In the NSW 2007-08 State Budget were any funds allocated for Taree Railway Station?
- (2) If so, are there any plans to provide a fenced car park for the use of the travelling public at Taree Railway Station?
- (3) If so, when will the fenced car park at Taree Railway Station be completed?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) If not, will the Minister allow retired railway employees to park their vehicles in the secure fenced employee car park at the Taree Railway Station when wishing to travel from Taree by train?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) How will the Minister ensure vehicles parked at the Taree Railway Station are kept secure?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) There are two car parks at Taree Railway Station. General parking is located at the north and south of the station building, accommodating approximately 40 vehicles for both customers and railway

staff. For people who are mobility impaired, two disabled car parks spaces have also been allocated, marked at the closest points to the station entry.

In addition, a small fenced car park is located nearby to accommodate seven vehicles for staff.

RailCorp advises that there have been no reported security incidents in relation to the car parks in the unfenced area in the past two years.

(5) and (6) Retired railway employees are permitted to park their vehicles in the employee car park. However, there is insufficient capacity to guarantee parking of additional vehicles for varying lengths of time.

(7) I am advised the car park at Taree station is floodlit and is adjacent to the station platforms and building. Taree Railway Station is also staffed between the hours of 8:30am to 2:00pm.

*0862 REGISTRATION OF NSW VEHICLES—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will frontline staff be increased in Finley, Deniliquin and Moama to accommodate the extra work created by the cancellation of Victoria's ability to register NSW vehicles?

Answer—

I am advised:

Any vehicle that is garaged in NSW must be registered in NSW. All NSW registration transactions are processed through Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) motor registries with the exception of some transactions that are entered directly onto the RTA database by authorised motor dealers.

I am advised vehicles purchased in Victoria by NSW residents in these areas continue to be registered through these motor registries and the workload has remained consistent.

*0863 AEA PAYMENTS—Mr John Williams asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

Will the Minister change the practice of paying AEA's on a casual basis and avoid paying them during school holidays?

Answer—

All School Administrative and Support Staff that are employed on a short-term temporary basis, including Aboriginal Education Assistants, do not receive payment during school vacations.

Short-term temporary employees are employed to work for a period of one term or less, and are paid a loaded hourly rate which incorporates an additional 15 per cent for payment in lieu of a recreation leave entitlement.

*0864 DR BALAJI RAO—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

When will the Minister announce the results of the investigation into Dr Balaji Rao of Tocumwal?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

Briefs of evidence in this matter have been provided to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for advice.

*0865 PRISONER ESCORT DUTY—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

(1) Will the Minister enact the Intra Agency Agreement with the Department of Justice to allow off-duty police to carry out prisoner escort duty instead of the current arrangements?

(2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me they are not aware of a specific agreement entitled, "The Intra Agency Agreement with the Department of Justice" to allow off-duty police to carry out prisoner escort duty.

*0866 NORTH WEST RAIL LINE—Mr Ray Williams asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

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In light of recent comments by the Treasurer that the NSW State Government will now be pursuing a "cheaper option" in terms of providing public transport in the North West of Sydney, will the Minister confirm when the North West Rail Line will be completed to Rouse Hill?

Answer—

I am advised:

In recognition of anticipated population growth and increased demand for rail services, the NSW Government is currently planning for the largest expansion of the metropolitan rail network since the 1930s, known as the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program.

The Government is committed to the delivery of the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program.

This commitment includes an allocation of funding of \$345 million in the 2007/08 budget to progress planning, technical studies and land acquisitions for the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Program.

The Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDC), which is responsible for progressing the necessary technical studies, recently completed a Preferred Project Report for the North West Rail Link, which addresses issues raised in submissions received during the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment.

TIDC submitted the preferred project report to the Department of Planning on 22 May, 2007 seeking approval of the North West Rail Link concept plan.

The preferred project report was on public exhibition from 6 June to 6 August, 2007 and public submissions were invited.

The Department of Planning is now reviewing these submissions and various other reports, which will be considered by the Minister for Planning in due course.

In addition to progressing planning and technical studies, activities are continuing 'on the ground'.

TIDC is undertaking geotechnical studies to provide details of the geology in the North West. These results will feed back into the detailed design of the project.

It should also be noted that the Department of Planning has been allocated \$289 million for land acquisition for the North West Rail Link and South West Rail Link. \$40 million has already been spent on the North West Rail Link.

The NSW Government is committed to the North West Rail Link with the first stage from Epping to the Hills Centre Station proposed to be operational by 2015. The second stage between Hills Centre Station and Rouse Hill is proposed to be operational by 2017.

The Ministry of Transport is also currently investigating the feasibility of extending the North West Rail Link beyond Rouse Hill to provide new stations in the North West Growth Centre.

*0868 REGISTRATION RELIEF FOR THE HORSE INDUSTRY—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will the NSW State Government provide relief to NSW businesses directly affected by the Equine Influenza virus, by temporarily waiving vehicle registration fees on all commercial vehicles used for the transportation of horses or horse products for those businesses, until such time as the Equine Influenza epidemic has passed?

Answer—

I am advised:

A State Government taskforce was established to ensure support services are in place to help affected horse owners cope with the impact of quarantine and movement restrictions. This taskforce is complementing the efforts of NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Police Force.

The majority of vehicles affected by the equine influenza epidemic may be freely used on the road network after suitable disinfectant treatment.

The Roads and Traffic Authority will arrange a simple re-registration process for any vehicles that have their registration cancelled for expiry, or for not complying with a heavy vehicle inspection, while caught in a "lock-down" situation. This will be offered on a case by case basis.

In addition, where an operator has not been able to attend their heavy vehicle inspection booking, a new booking fee will be waived.

*0869 RECYCLED WATER—Mr Ray Williams asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

Has Sydney Water recently increased water charges for reticulated water provided to residents who are connected to the Rouse Hill recycling programme?

Answer—

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water Utilities.

*0870 SAFE, CLEAN WATER FOR SCHOOLS—Mr Ray Williams 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—

Given results from the Health Department showing children at Ebenezer Public School, Cattai Public School and the Brewongle Study Centre are having to drink water from tanks contaminated with lead, when will the NSW State Government provide Ebenezer Public School, Cattai Public School and the Brewongle Study Centre along with other schools across the electorate of Hawkesbury who also use tank water, with safe clean drinking water for their children?

Answer—

The NSW Department of Education and Training and NSW Health have conducted a water quality monitoring program in schools which use tank water for drinking. NSW Health advised that the readings obtained from the testing indicate that there is no immediate health risk posed to students.

The Government is spending \$3.5 million to install filtration systems in schools to ensure the provision of drinking water that meets the 2004 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This work is expected to be completed for the commencement of the school year in 2008.

Ebenezer Public School, Cattai Public School and the Brewongle Study Centre all have additional water tanks located on site from which they are able to draw safe clean drinking water.

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*0871 HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the latest information available to the New South Wales Department of Health concerning any health risk to residents living near high voltage power lines?
- (2) Have there been any studies that link residents near high voltage power lines to increased occurrences of cancers or other illnesses?
- (3) What is the general position taken by the Department of Health on this issue?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) In June 2007 the World Health Organization released a review of the current evidence of electromagnetic radiation and health effects. The Department of Health also has access to reports and journals that publish research on this issue.
- (2) In 2002 the International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that there is limited evidence of these magnetic fields causing childhood leukaemia.
In June 2007 the World Health Organisation concluded a review into electromagnetic radiation and health effects. They did not change the conclusion reached by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.
- (3) The Department of Health advocates prudent avoidance in relation to high voltage power lines. This is consistent with the World Health Organization recommendations.

*0872 CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

- (1) How many new staff have been employed to manage the NSW interagency plan to tackle child sexual assault in Aboriginal communities?
- (2) Given that the plan partners the Department of Aboriginal Affairs with the Federal Government, Police, Attorney General, Departments of Community Services, Juvenile Justice, Corrective

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Services, Health, Education, Housing, the State Parole Authority, non-Government organisations and other groups, are staffing numbers sufficient to manage the huge task?

- (3) (a) Has the Department of Aboriginal Affairs received additional funding to manage the plan?
(b) If so, how much?
(c) If not, how do you intend to manage the partnering requirements?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The Government's Interagency Plan represents a whole of government approach to combat the horrendous crime of child sexual assault. Senior staff drawn from across the NSW Government Agencies are working together to address this most serious issue.

The NSW Government's implementation of the Interagency Plan is based on a strong commitment to working in partnership with the Aboriginal people of New South Wales.

The Government's Interagency Plan is a comprehensive response and represents 88 specific actions and an investment by the NSW Government of \$30M. Agency Heads report to me regularly on the progress of the implementation of the Plan. There is a high level of strong cross-agency cooperation in the delivery of these 88 important actions to protect children from sexual assault which demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to eradicating this most abhorrent of crimes.

*0873 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE—TAMWORTH—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)

- (1) Have any changes been made to the after-hours service for the Tamworth Mental Health Team?
(2) Have any changes been made to the availability of on-call staff from the Tamworth Mental Health Service to help mentally ill patients within the community?

Answer—

I am advised that the answer to your question is as follows:

- (1) and (2) Changes to the provision of on-call mental health services have been implemented at Tamworth by the Hunter New England Mental Health Service in a gradual progression over the past three years in order to improve access to services.

Tamworth Community Mental Health Team provide after-hour services to 11pm seven days a week.

The Mental Health Service has employed additional registered nurses in the Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital Emergency Department which has allowed the community Mental Health Service to restructure its workload. A Psychiatrist is now on call to Emergency Department staff 7 days a week, including after hours.

The Rural Mental Health Access Line is available 24 hours a day with qualified staff providing triage and attending directly to clients, relatives and the public with telephone enquires and service requests.

*0874 WAGGA WAGA BASE HOSPITAL—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Why was Mr Justin Berkhout, who was admitted into the Emergency Department of Wagga Wagga Base hospital following a suicide attempt, left unattended by staff, which allowed him to attempt to take his life again?
(2) Why did Emergency Department staff at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital fail to remove objects that would allow patients to cause self-harm to themselves despite receiving warnings from a patient that this could occur?
(3) Why has the Minister not provided Mr and Mrs Berkhout with a reply to their email inquiring about the death of their son whilst he was receiving treatment in a NSW Government Health facility?

Answer—

(1) and (2) I am advised that the Greater Southern Area Health Service conducted a Root Cause Analysis investigation into the events surrounding Mr Berkhout's death. The Area Health Service has openly disclosed the outcomes of this investigation with the Berkhout family and provided the family with a commitment to improving processes in the Emergency Department at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital.

I am further advised that the Health Care Complaints Commission and the Coroner are also investigating the circumstances surrounding this case. It would therefore not be appropriate to comment further pending the outcome to these investigations.

(3) The Minister for Mental Health has responded to this enquiry on the behalf of the Minister for Health.

*0875 PRESCHOOL FUNDING—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) Has funding been increased to each preschool to take account of waiting lists, operating costs and staffing requirements?
- (2) Are up to 41% of preschool children in NSW missing out on the important transition to school due to high fees?

Answer—

- (1) In the 2007/2008 financial year, DoCS Children's Services Program will provide over \$116 million in funding to more than 1,600 community-based children's services. From 2008/2009, the NSW Government will be investing a further \$29.8 million per annum under the next phase of the Preschool Investment and Reform Plan. The aim of this Plan is to provide subsidised preschool places for an additional 10,500 children, particularly those from families with low incomes.

A total of \$472,290 in additional funding has already been allocated to 17 community based children's services in the Albury Electorate under the Plan to assist them with operational support and provision of fee relief to families, and \$250,000 in one-off funding for the Central Albury Occasional Care Centre towards securing new premises.

- (2) No.

*0876 NSW CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Has the Government appointed a new NSW Chief Information Officer?
- (2) What changes has the Department of Commerce made to reduce duplication and associated costs as outlined in its People First ICT plan?

Answer—

Mr Emmanuel Rodriguez has been appointed to the position of Government Chief Information Officer.

I am advised:

People First, the NSW Government's ICT Strategic Plan, has established the framework for a coordinated government-wide approach to ICT planning, expenditure and allocation of resources.

New arrangements initiated under People First have simplified and improved procurement processes for business and government agencies.

A new ICT Procurement Framework for all ICT contracts has been implemented that supports easier and more timely procurement for agencies, reduces the duplication of procurement processes across government, and lowers the cost of procurement.

*0877 CLEANING CONTRACTS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When did the Department of Commerce last review its cleaning contracts?
- (2) Has the Government received any complaints from schools dissatisfied with the quality of the cleaning service?
- (3) What measures have been made to improve the cleaning service?
- (4) What benchmarks are in place to ensure competitiveness and cleanliness?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2006 the Department of Commerce established new contracts for the cleaning of school and agency sites. These contracts commenced on 29 January 2006 for a period of four years. There are 22 contracts serviced by 6 contractors, covering approximately 5,500 sites state-wide.

The competitiveness of the contracts is established through the tender process for delivery of the services. Benchmarks for cleanliness are contained within the contracts and are reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis with the involvement of school and agency representatives.

*0878 CAPITAL WORKS—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- (1) What percentage of the cost does the government take for managing capital works projects at NSW schools?
(2) What is the average turnaround time for completing capital works at NSW schools?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Office of Public Works and Services within the Department of Commerce provides management services to the Department of Education and Training in relation to its capital works projects.

Fees are not determined on the basis of a set percentage of the cost of the work. They are determined through the identification of the particular services and management activities that are required to complete a project, together with estimates of the management time that is to be allocated.

*0879 RENTAL RATES—Mr Mike Baird asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will the Government finalise its rental rate for all office space at Governor Macquarie Tower?
(2) What is the average rental rate this year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The State Property Authority formally disputed the rental increase sought by the lessor for the 2005 rental review. An independent valuer will determine this matter shortly.
(2) The average rental rate this year is \$629.70 nett per square metre per annum. This is a 2003 figure that was assessed by a valuer and is subject to change pending the outcome of the 2005 and 2007 rent reviews.

*0880 MINISTERIAL INVESTMENT ORDER—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

When will the Government consider amending its Ministerial Investment Order under the Local Government Act 1993 in light of the decline of the US sub-prime mortgage market?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

A review of councils' investments is currently being undertaken. A Steering Committee – comprising representatives from the Department of Local Government, NSW Treasury and the Department of Premier and Cabinet – is overseeing the review.

*0882 SPIT-MILITARY ROAD CORRIDOR—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) When is the Government's working group due to report back with its recommendations on improving traffic flow on the Spit-Military road corridor?
(2) Where has the Government allocated the funds that were to be spent on widening the Spit Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Working Group is scheduled to report by the end of the year. The allocation of funding in the roads portfolio is detailed in the budget papers.

*0883 INVOICE PROCESSING—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Has the government made any changes to reduce the cost of processing invoices?

Answer—

I am advised:

Many agencies have implemented integrated enterprise resource planning applications and have programs for systems upgrade in accordance with the NSW Government's People First Program, which will enable agencies to continue to streamline accounts payable and procurement practices.

The Government Smartbuy eProcurement application, hosted by the Department of Commerce, is available across agencies to optimise volume discounts from State Contracts and to rationalise and improve purchasing processes.

*0884 CONTRACTOR NOTIFICATION—Mr Mike Baird asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Is it standard process for the Department of Commerce to notify any current contractor when it puts work out to tender?
- (2) Is priority given to NSW companies in any tender process?

Answer—

I am advised information about the tendering process is available on the NSW Department of Commerce website, found at www.commerce.nsw.gov.au

*0885 GRAHAMSTOWN DAM—STAGE 3—Mr Craig Baumann asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

With respect to Hunter Water Integrated Water Management Plan 2003 which indicated that Grahamstown Dam Stage 3 augmentation would cost \$20M:

In the "Why Tillegra Now" paper of August 2007, has this augmentation blown out to \$410M; 36% greater than the Government's projected cost to build a new dam at Tillegra?

Answer—

Hunter Water has advised this is not the case. The "Why Tillegra Now" paper refers to the ultimate upgrade of the existing Grahamstown Dam, while the Integrated Water Resource Plan refers to an interim Stage 3 upgrade.

*0886 RAILCORP POLICY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

What are RailCorp's policies in relation to concessions offered to former employees and where can this information relating to related policies be found?

Answer—

I am advised:

Former employees can contact the RailCorp Passes and Concessions Division on 1300 302 130 or (02) 9379 4441, for information on concession entitlements.

*0887 RAILCORP POLICY—Ms Gladys Berejiklian asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

In relation to RailCorp's policies regarding the payment of rail fares at ticket booths:

- (1) What are RailCorp's policies regarding the payment of rail fares at ticket booths with coins?
- (2) Are there limits on the number of coins that may be used when purchasing tickets at a booth?
- (3) If there is any such policy regarding payment by coins, where can this information be accessed?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to CityRail fares and ticketing can be found on the CityRail website at www.cityrail.info

*0888 INTERSECTION FUNDING—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

Will funding be provided for the intersection of Jigamy Farm and the Princes Highway south of Pambula?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is in discussions with the Jigamy Aboriginal Cultural Centre regarding access to the Centre from the Princes Highway.

The RTA is currently assessing the Centre's proposal for Highway access.

*0889 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

What is the waiting list figures in each of the respective DADHC regions for supported accommodation in:

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- (a) 2006-2007;
- (b) 2005-2006;
- (c) 2004-2005;
- (d) 2003-2004;
- (e) 2002-2003?

Answer—

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) has service registers which detail requests for supported accommodation on a regional basis. DADHC maintains regionally based service request registers to ensure that individuals with higher relative need are given priority for placement. This approach better suits the changing circumstances of people with a disability and the desire of these people and their families to be located in a region where they grew up or have community/social connections.

Individuals requesting permanent accommodation are assessed and a client profile developed. When a vacancy occurs, a profile is created of the group home. Client profiles are then compared to vacancy profiles. When there is a match, the individual is short-listed and considered for the vacancy by the Regional Placement Committee. Each Regional Placement Committee makes decisions according to prioritisation criteria, such as risk of homelessness.

The client profiles of individuals who are not short-listed for vacancies and those who are short-listed but not placed, are retained and reviewed against future vacancy profiles. In this way, access to accommodation support is based on the best match to available vacancies of individuals prioritised by each Regional Placement Committee as having the most need.

The table below presents the number of individuals on the service request register for each Region as at 30 June 2007 for 2007, 2006 and 2005. Data is not available for 2004 and 2003.

Year	Hunter	Met North	Met South	Northern	Southern	Western	Total
2007	260	480	155	475	88	138	1596
2006	200	350	115	299	65	310	1339
2005	183	165	199	279	23	127	976

The Department is developing a sector-wide policy on the placement, movement and exit of individuals from supported accommodation services to provide a consistent approach across the State. This Policy will build upon the significant progress by regions to date, in working with the non-government sector to manage vacancies.

The policy will be consistent with the stated aims of Stronger Together to develop fairer and clearer eligibility guidelines and priority of access guidelines. This will include clear parameters for handling requests for accommodation and managing client information on the service request register.

*0890 INSTITUTIONALISED CARE—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) What is the Government's position in relation to devolution and what plans are there to close institutionalised care in NSW?
- (2) What is the Minister's position in relation to the Royal Rehabilitation proposal at Ryde for a 16 bed facility?

Answer—

(1) Stronger Together, the 10-year plan for disability services, maintains the NSW Government's commitment to the closure of Large Residential Centres over time, and notes that some properties may be redeveloped to provide support for people with complex needs.

The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) currently supports nearly 1,200 people in 10 Large Residential Centres, with a further 520 people accommodated in 23 non-government operated Large Residential Centres across NSW. Stronger Together includes a number of initiatives, supported by significant capital investment, to provide more appropriate care for residents living in Large Residential Centres including:

- Two specially designed 10-bed houses for adults with complex health care needs and a 10-bed respite facility for people with complex health care needs (five beds specifically for children). These will be built on the Grosvenor Centre site in Summer Hill;
- The development of village style accommodation, specialising in aged care for 100 older people with an intellectual disability on the Central Coast. Together with 20 beds in group home style

accommodation in the community, this new accommodation will replace the facility at Peat Island; and

- The redevelopment of the Lachlan Centre, North Ryde, into village style accommodation to provide specialist services for people with challenging behaviours.

Over the next two years, planning for the redevelopment of other sites will be undertaken.

(2) I am aware of the proposed redevelopment of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney services.

The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney has now committed to providing on site accommodation to all current residents who wish to remain.

I am confident the issues of concern to the families and residents of Weemala that fall within the responsibility of my portfolio and the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, are being addressed.

It is important to note that many of the Weemala residents have lived together for years and have strong relationships with each other.

The NSW Government has been very mindful of similar concerns in our own redevelopment projects in disability supported accommodation, working closely with residents and their families to provide the most appropriate outcomes for individual clients.

I have encouraged the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney to do the same.

Both the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care and NSW Health are continuing to work closely with Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney to engage families in the assessment of residents' support needs and long term care options, in order to ensure a consistent and coordinated response in providing residents and families with a positive outcome.

A senior staff member from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care has been made available to assist the Weemala residents and families throughout this process.

*0891 CENTRE-BASED RESPITE FACILITY—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

Is there a centre-based respite facility in the Eurobodalla that will benefit families who are currently travelling more than 2 hours to access services in Nowra and Queanbeyan?

Answer—

I am pleased to advise that the Nardy House respite facility at Quaama is expected to be available for service before the end of 2007, following staff recruitment and training. This facility is approximately one hour's drive for people living in the Eurobodalla area and will provide a closer alternative for families and carers of people with complex support needs.

For people with lower support needs, there are two other facilities also located in the Bega Valley. They are:

1. Merimbula Holiday House is a property owned by Respite Care Bega Valley. There is a booking system and the facility is currently utilised throughout the year. Although families using this facility often choose to stay at the home with their family and continue to provide direct care support, others require the assistance of paid carers that can also be made available by accessing flexible respite funding allocated to approved Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) providers.
2. Clark Bay Cottages is a commercial enterprise that is used by services funded by DADHC for short stays, with a combination of paid carers and families seeking a break. The cottages cater comprehensively for high physical support needs and the recreational interests of users, in a holiday environment. Respite services funded by DADHC are also able to book this facility to provide out-of-home respite and holidays for people with a disability and their families.

Over recent years, respite service development in the Far South Coast areas, including Eurobodalla, has prioritised the flexible respite model, in response to the needs expressed at community and service provider consultations.

Between 2004/2005 and 2006/2007, respite funding in this area increased by 72.8% to the current level of \$1,346,688.

Flexible respite funding allows for both out-of-home and in-home respite services. This increased availability of service has assisted increasing numbers of families in their caring responsibilities.

Demand for centre-based respite service is now being evaluated and action is underway to plan the most effective response.

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As part of current regional service planning, a respite service review is underway for the far South Coast area. This review will:

- Map the regional respite services;
- Identify service capacity to implement a co-operative respite service system that meets the needs of the target group;
- Audit the capacity of existing organisations to successfully implement sustainable processes that will support a co-operative respite function;
- Analyse different respite models;
- Map existing intake and referral processes; and
- Inform stakeholders about local implications, opportunities and barriers.

The information from this review will provide the essential basis for the effective allocation of future funding to meet respite service gaps in both type and location, with a particular emphasis on accessibility for families.

*0892 DADHC COMPLAINTS—Mr Andrew Constance asked the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—

- (1) How many DADHC staff was investigated in 2006-2007 following complaints made by DADHC clients?
- (2) What were the complaints for?
- (3) What inroads have been made following the internal review into complaints?

Answer—

- (1) In the period 2006/2007, the Department received five complaints from clients of the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC), which were the subject of formal investigation by DADHC.
- (2) Two complaints related to alleged failures by staff to adequately supervise clients, one complaint related to alleged verbal and/or emotional abuse, one related to alleged theft and one related to alleged client mistreatment relating to inappropriate physical contact.

The Department sustained those allegations relating to verbal/emotional abuse and neglect of supervision. The staff involved were the subject of remedial action.

- (3) Following the internal review, DADHC has undertaken a number of actions which directly address the recommendations and findings. These actions include, but are not limited to:
 - Spending \$1 million to provide Inclusive Communication and Behaviour Support (ICABS) training to 995 staff in 2006/2007. ICABS assists staff to develop effective communication strategies for people with complex communication needs, including clients who have challenging behaviour. Further funding for ICABS is being made available in 2007/08.
 - The establishment of the Office of the Senior Practitioner to oversee the delivery and quality of behaviour intervention services delivered.
 - Reducing the reliance on casual employees by making more than 700 offers of employment. This has been supplemented with the trial and implementation of new recruitment practices for staff in accommodation and respite services, to enhance the expertise of candidates and the filling of vacant positions. 284 applicants have been recommended for appointment as a result of this new model since November 2006.
 - Improved control over the type and qualification of agency staff working in accommodation and respite services, through DADHC establishing contracts with seven preferred suppliers of agency staff for residential support workers and nursing staff.
 - Improvements to Occupational Health and Safety strategies for accommodation and respite services, including the introduction of procedures for the reporting of workplace incidents, training of managers in occupational health and safety awareness and risk management, and a targeted manual handling strategy for high risk sites.

*0893 STRICKLAND HOUSE REVENUE—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

In relation to Strickland House at Vaucluse and the Minister's response to Question No 0467:

- (1) What is the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the 168 days the property was hired?

- (2) What was the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the total revenue of \$177,784.65, including a breakdown of revenue by type of event (eg. weddings, charity functions, filming)?
- (3) What was the financial year breakdown (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) of the total expenses of \$892,770?

Answer—

I am advised that financial management for 'Strickland House' does not fall within my portfolio areas.

- *0894 WHITE CITY TENNIS COMPLEX—Mr Peter Debnam asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

What action has the Minister taken to protect from developers the heritage value of the White City tennis complex in Paddington?

Answer—

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Hon Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo and Minister for the Arts, and as such should be directed to him.

- *0895 CLEAN ENERGY ROUNDTABLE—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—

Given that only corporate executives, representatives, experts and union officials from the coal mining and coal-fired energy industries are invited to participate in the Government's "Clean Energy Roundtable", does the Minister consider it appropriate to either:

- (a) rename the group the Clean Coal Roundtable; or
- (b) leave the name "Clean Energy Roundtable" and invite representatives or experts from the renewable energy industry to participate?

Answer—

- (1) No. The full title of the meeting in question is the Clean Coal/Energy Roundtable.
- (2) No. Given that the focus of the meeting was clean coal technologies, participants were drawn from areas that were able to discuss particular matters listed for that meeting. Given the informal nature of meetings, a more formal membership as suggested is not appropriate.

- *0896 GREATER WESTERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Mrs Dawn Fardell asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) When will Dubbo have Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) medical staff qualified to carry out TB testing?
- (2) Will GWAHS refund cost of travelling for nursing students required to have TB testing carried out in Penrith or Tamworth due to lack of staff in Dubbo?
- (3) Will GWAHS refund travelling costs for nursing students required to attend Penrith or Tamworth three days later to receive their test results?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) to (3) Recently, Greater Western Area Health Service has had difficulty in recruiting to a nurse TB coordinator position which monitors and reviews staff accreditation in relation to TB testing.

To address the issues associated with the recruitment of a TB Coordinator, the Area Health Service has made changes to the TB coordinator role, and is confident that new attempts at recruitment will be successful in the near future. Strategies are in place to ensure appropriate assessment and treatment of any patient with confirmed or suspected tuberculosis in the current absence of the TB Coordinator role.

Occupational screening and vaccination of students is the responsibility of each student prior to commencing their practical placements. Community members are encouraged to consult with their GP for TB screening where this service is not available from their Area Health Service. There are currently no mechanisms for the Area Health Service to reimburse travel costs for TB screening.

- *0897 EASY ACCESS PROGRAM—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

Concerning the Easy Access work currently underway at Bowral Railway Station:

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- (1) What is the criteria for determining what qualifies a railway station for the Easy Access Program?
- (2) Given that Bowral Railway Station has even access from both its platforms to the street, why was it ahead of Picton Railway Station, that has over 50 steps from its platform to the street?
- (3) Given that \$4.2 million is being spent to upgrade Bowral Railway Station, will the train service now improve to justify this outlay?
- (4) Has the Minister visited Picton Railway Station?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) If a development application is lodged before the end of 2007 for the Easy Access Program at Picton Railway Station, will the work commence and be completed before the middle of 2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (6) Providing equitable access to public transport services is a key Government objective and stations are being progressively upgraded to meet the travelling needs of people with disabilities, parents with strollers and the elderly.

RailCorp is upgrading rail stations across the CityRail network to ensure easier access. Priority for upgrading is based on a number of factors, including station patronage, access to educational and medical centres, parking, bus services, shopping, tourism and whether the station is a rail interchange.

Both stations have been selected for upgrade based on the selection criteria.

As I announced in March 2007, Picton is one of 11 stations to be upgraded over the next four years. Picton Station Easy Access upgrade is currently in concept phase.

*0898 BOWRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Pru Goward asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) When will a decision be made about whether or not Bowral Primary School will be relocated to the site owned by the Education Department in Retford Road, Bowral?
- (2) When will the school community be told how or even if this relocation will progress?
- (3) Why has the Education Department failed to communicate with the school community since the second consultation with the families of the school about their preferred option?
- (4) Why has this process taken so long?

Answer—

- (1) I have received a preliminary submission prepared by the Department of Education and Training on the potential relocation of Bowral Public School. The submission has been returned to the Department for further information.
- (2) The school community will be advised of the outcome as soon as practicable.
- (3) The School Education Director, Goulburn/Highlands has communicated with the school community in Terms 2 and 3 this year.
- (4) This is a complicated transaction with significant factors to consider. The Department has been working to ensure the best outcome for the school and community.

*0899 BOWRAL POLICE STATION—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many patrol cars are attached to the Bowral Police Station?
- (2) How many full-time equivalent police officers are attached to Bowral Police Station?
- (3) How many total policing hours are attached to Bowral Police Station?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) 5.
- (2) 34.63 as at 1 October 2007.
- (3) Bowral is a 24 hour police station.

*0900 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL SHOOTING FACILITY—Ms Pru Goward asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Sport and Recreation—

Concerning the proposed southern Highlands regional shooting facility in Hill Top:

- (1) Given further extension proposals to the Hill Top Rifle Range in its metamorphosis to the Southern Highlands regional shooting facility have recently been revealed and the Minister's department is on record as saying that information flyers will be sent out to Hill Top residents, will the Minister confirm that all residents in Hill Top will receive the flyer, not just those within a confined circumference to the range?
- (2) Will the proposed Southern Highlands regional shooting facility operate seven days a week and include day and night availability?
- (3) Given that the car park for the Southern Highlands regional shooting facility will have provision for 180 car spaces, have the number of vehicle movements during the proposed operational hours been projected?
- (4) If so, what are those movements:
 - (a) during business hours, Monday to Friday;
 - (b) during business hours, Saturday and Sunday;
 - (c) after 5pm on all 7 days?
- (5) Has the department assessed the impact of the increased traffic on the road and residents of Hill Top?
- (6) How will rangers police conduct at the facility?
- (7) (a) Will the current clubhouse be replaced or extended?
 - (b) If so, when?
 - (c) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Approximately 900 'flyers' were sent on two occasions to residences of Hill Top relating to proposals to develop the existing Hill Top site. This group comprises the approximately 2,500 residents who live in the Hill Top post code area.
- (2) Each of the individual ranges will be subject to particular conditions of operation depending on noise levels. Hours of operation will be determined by the Department of Planning.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) (a) to (c) The estimated peak traffic generation on most days of the year would be below 50 vehicles per day and would be subject to operating days and times as approved by the Minister for Planning.
- (5) Yes. Roads and Traffic Authority guidelines will be followed.
- (6) Each range will be licensed by the NSW Police Firearms Registry and subject to inspection by their range officers.
- (7) (a) No.
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) The current club house is suitable to continue serving the needs of shooters using the existing 800 metre rifle range. The new range facilities will be built some distance to the west of this site and will have a similar basic club house facility constructed.

*0901 CONSERVATION AREA—NARRABEEN LAKES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—

When will the conservation area around Narrabeen Lakes be approved as promised by the former Minister for the Environment Bob Debus?

Answer—

I am advised by my colleague, the Minister for Lands that:

All of the Crown land at Belrose, Cromer and Oxford Falls that was assessed in 2005 is now part of the Oxford Falls Regional Crown Reserve. The Department of Lands in collaboration with Warringah Council and the Department of Environment and Climate Change will shortly commence a Strategic Plan of Management for this Reserve that is due for completion in 2008.

Land previously identified as being suitable for environmental protection will be allocated for that purpose. It is expected that the draft plan will also identify other land within the Reserve that should be allocated for environmental protection. The draft plan will also establish the most appropriate management regime for these lands.

As is usual practice, the plan of management process will involve public consultation before any decision is made to adopt the Plan. The process includes an opportunity for any member of the public to make a submission in respect of the draft plan.

Where appropriate, it is also proposed that the outcomes of the adopted plan be incorporated in the

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Warringah Local Environmental Plan.

*0902 SCHOOL HALL—WHEELER HEIGHTS PUBLIC 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 the promised school hall at Wheeler Heights Public School be completed (ie constructed) by March 2011 (if not earlier)?

Answer—

Under the Building Better Schools program, the NSW Labor Government will invest more than \$2 billion over the term of the current government to improve the learning environment for students and teachers across NSW.

This program will focus on a number of specific initiatives including the construction of 27 new primary school halls and 17 secondary school gymnasiums across the state.

A project to construct a hall at Wheeler Heights Public School has been included in the Government's Building Better Schools Program. The hall will be built within the current term of Government.

*0903 MEAL COSTS—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the average cost of provision of (i) a lunch meal and (ii) a dinner meal at Manly Hospital in:

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

Answer—

I am advised:

(i) The average cost of provision of a lunch meal at Manly Hospital was:

- (a) 2000 \$7.80
- (b) 2003 \$7.89
- (c) 2007 \$8.06

(ii) The average cost of provision of a dinner meal at Manly Hospital was:

- (a) 2000 \$7.80
- (b) 2003 \$7.89
- (c) 2007 \$8.06

*0904 DIALYSIS BEDS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

On what date will the proposed four dialysis beds be functional at Mona Vale Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

A six (6) chair Renal Dialysis Satellite Unit is scheduled for commissioning at Mona Vale Hospital before the end of March 2008.

*0905 MIXED GENDER WARDS—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What written guidelines are there for placement of patients in mixed gender wards in:

- (a) NSW hospitals generally;
- (b) Mona Vale Hospital;
- (c) Manly Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (a) NSW Health does not have a specific policy concerning mixed gender wards in public hospitals. The accommodation of hospital patients is determined at hospital level, based on the clinical needs of patients.

- (b) and (c) I am advised by Northern Sydney Central Coast Health that in November 2000 Northern Beaches Health Service developed and implemented a formal Management Policy entitled "Genderless Rooms Policy" at Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals.

Under the policy, wherever possible, rooms with more than one bed are used to accommodate patients of the same gender. However, to facilitate bed management during times of extreme demand for beds, patients may be allocated to rooms where the patients are of a different gender.

The policy includes specific requirements, including informing all patients involved prior to moving to a mixed gender room, and making alternate arrangements for patients who have strong objections. As soon as an alternative bed is available, the patient is to be relocated as a matter of priority.

*0906 LAUNDRY COSTS—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the cost of laundry at Manly Hospital in:

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

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (a) \$501,118.70.
- (b) \$520,108.30.
- (c) \$276,548.91 (6 months January 2007 to June 2007).

*0907 COMPLAINTS—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health—

What was the total number of complaints at Manly 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—

Northern Sydney Central Coast Health has advised:

- (a) 97.
- (b) 101.
- (c) 86.
- (d) 76.
- (e) 85.
- (f) 81.
- (g) 79.
- (h) 36 (January to June 2007).

*0908 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

What volume of sewage overflows entered the environment of the Northern Beaches in each of:

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

Answer—

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Dry weather overflows are caused by blockages in small sewer pipes, mostly attributed to tree roots, and from mechanical or electrical failure of sewage pumping stations. Work is now complete on reducing overflows from all of Sydney Water's 655 sewage pumping stations. Sewer cleaning and lining work continues, and dry weather overflow volumes in the Northern Beaches (from Manly to Palm Beach) were less than 1 megalitre in each year.

Most overflows in the Northern Beaches were wet weather overflows, which occur when stormwater enters private sewers and Sydney Water's sewers and their capacity is exceeded. The volumes shown here by financial year were calculated using models and reflect the number of storms and their intensity in each period. In particular, the 2006/07 result occurred due to an increase in the number of rain events and duration of storms compared to previous years, including an exceptionally wet June that was more than four times the normal average for that month.

- (a) 107 megalitres in 2000/2001
- (b) 29 megalitres in 2002/2003
- (c) 87 megalitres in 2004/2005
- (d) 185 megalitres in 2006/2007

Sydney Water is spending approximately \$150 million between 2006/07 and 2009/10 to reduce wet weather overflows in the Cronulla, Georges River, Lane Cove River, Sydney Harbour and Northern Beaches sewerage catchments. Planning to reduce overflows in the Northern Beaches is well underway.

*0909 ROADS EXPENDITURE—WAKEHURST—Mr Brad Hazzard asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What has been the total expenditure on roads in Wakehurst in each of:
 - (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
 - (c) 2007?

(2) What projects were over the amount of \$10,000?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information on roads projects across NSW, including the electorate of Wakehurst is publicly provided in Budget papers and regularly updated in community newsletters on the Roads and Traffic Authority website at www.rta.nsw.gov.au

*0910 KOOTINGAL AND DISTRICT PRESCHOOL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Minister for Community Services—

- (1) As the Kootingal and District Preschool has been asked to vacate its premises at the back of the Kootingal War Memorial Hall, what action has the Department of Community Services taken to assist the preschool committee to identify and secure alternate accommodation?
- (2) How much recurrent funding does the Kootingal and District Preschool receive from the Department of Community Services?

Answer—

- (1) The preschool has advised that it is remaining in its current location.
- (2) \$68,898 for 2007/2008, plus \$4,916 through the \$17.6 million funding round of the NSW Preschool Investment and Reform Plan.

*0911 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES INTEREST RATE SUBSIDY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson 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—

Why did Mr Glover of the Department of Primary Industries reject both the Interest Rate Subsidy applications by Mr John and Mrs Margaret Molineux of Nangus despite them being recommended for approval by the Rural Assistance Authority assessor?

Answer—

Applications for Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidies (ECIRS) are administered and determined by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority. Staff of the Department of Primary Industries are not involved in the assessment process.

A second application has been lodged due to deteriorating seasonal conditions and financial pressure. This application is currently being assessed within the Authority's Appeal Process, and a final decision will be advised to Mr and Mrs Molineux very shortly.

*0912 PRESCHOOL IN GRENFELL—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is the Department of Education investigating the opening of a Department of Education Preschool located at the Grenfell Public School?
- (2) If so, has the Department conducted any study to investigate whether the community of Grenfell is able to support two preschools?
- (3) How much funding would be provided by the Department of Education to establish this preschool?
- (4) What are the criteria for the establishment of NSW Government preschools in a particular area?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Education and Training is not investigating the possibility of opening a preschool at Grenfell Public School.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Department expanded its provision of preschools by 21 in 2005, bringing the total number of Departmental preschools to 100. At the time of the expansion phase a Working Party was set up to plan the initiative and recommended that new preschools be established in areas of greatest need across the state, where there was limited availability of access to existing preschool services. As an outcome of this work the 21 new Departmental preschools were established in the areas of greatest need.

The Department's preschools provide priority of access to children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to access other children's services.

*0913 YOUNG PEOPLE IN NSW HOSPITALS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

In the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 to date:

- (1) How many young people under the age of 18 years are admitted into adult or general wards in NSW hospitals?
- (2) How many young people under the age of 16 years are admitted into adult or general wards in NSW hospitals?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) I am advised that the detailed level of data requested is not available centrally to the Department of Health.

*0914 CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many special children's hospitals are there in NSW?
- (2) What is the name and location of each?
- (3) What is the bed number of each?

Answer—

I am advised that there are three special children's hospital in NSW:

Children's Hospitals	Average number of beds for June 2007 *
Children's Hospital at Westmead Hawkesbury Road, Westmead	272
Sydney Children's Hospital High Street, Randwick	141
John Hunter Children's Hospital Lookout Road, New Lambton (part of John Hunter Hospital)	108

* Source: Sustainable Access Plan bed reporting system

*0915 HOSPITALS IN NSW—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) How many hospitals are there in NSW?
- (2) Apart from special children's hospitals, how many of the NSW hospitals have a children's ward?
- (3) What is the total number of children's hospital beds (excluding those in specific children's hospitals)?

Answer—

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- (1) I refer the Honourable Member to the NSW Department of Health Annual Report.
(2) and (3) I am advised that the NSW Health Sustainable Access Plan bed reporting system recorded 57 facilities, excluding the 3 special children's hospitals, reporting 'Paediatric Bed Type' data for the month of June 2007.

The total number of children's hospital beds, excluding the three special children's hospitals, was 634 for June 2007.

*0916 PRIVATE BUS COMPANIES—ADVERTISEMENTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Are private bus companies who have NSW State Government contracts prohibited from carrying advertisements by Members of Parliament?
(2) If so, what are the reasons?
(3) Are private bus companies who have NSW State Government contracts prohibited from carrying advertisements by NSW State Government Departments?
(4) Is so, what are the reasons?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) All advertising must comply with all applicable laws, codes of ethics and codes of advertising for the advertising industry prepared or adopted by the Advertising Standards Bureau of Australia, Office of Film and Literature Classification, Australian Association of National Advertising and Outdoor Advertising Association of Australia.

Under the Metropolitan Bus System Contracts, any advertising placed by the operator on contracted buses must not depict political, religious or other similar subject matter.

*0917 SURPLUS LAND REZONING—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—

- (1) Has the Minister received an application for rezoning of surplus land at Caringbah High School?
(2) If so, what is the nature of the rezoning of this application?

Answer—

- (1) No.
(2) N/A

*0918 OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Malcolm Kerr asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

What evidence is available that older drivers present a higher crash risk than any other age group on the roads?

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 closed last Friday with more than 16,000 submissions received. The RTA will now assess public submissions and will report to the Government in due course.

*0919 INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR CONCERNS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Under whose jurisdiction do Conservatoria of Music fall?
- (2) (a) Are Conservatoria of Music in NSW included under the NSW Child Protection Act?
(b) If not, why not?
- (3) What is the correct process for a private school reporting an alleged incident of inappropriate behaviour by an outside contractor or service provider and to whom should their concerns be reported?
- (4) What process is in place to protect a teacher who is accused of misconduct by a student who may have:
 - (a) an established behaviour pattern;
 - (b) made complaints previously and found to be false;
 - (c) made inappropriate approaches or actions towards a teacher or person in authority?
- (5) If it is found the allegation cannot be sustained, what recourse does the accused teacher have to regain employment or clear their name?
- (6) (a) When investigating complaints against a teacher or individual, is the accused interviewed by the investigator?
(b) If not, why not?
- (7) Is it procedure for the teacher or person in authority not to be interviewed?
- (8) (a) In reply to the official investigation report, are witnesses who are named by the teacher or person in authority in their defence, interviewed?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

Matters relating to alleged teacher misconduct fall within the administrative responsibility of the Minister for Education and Training.

*0920 RAIL MAINTENANCE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Is only 30% of rail maintenance carried out by the Government?
- (2) Who carries out the other 70% of the maintenance?

Answer—

I am advised that 64% of rolling stock maintenance is carried out by MainTrain and 36% handled in house.

*0921 AGED DRIVERS—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) How many drivers in the 75 to 85 year old age bracket have been caught road raging other drivers?
- (2) How many drivers in the above age group have been booked doing 140 km/h in a 70 km/h zone?
- (3) How many drivers in this age group have been booked doing between 140-180 and up to 230 km/h on the freeway between Sydney and Newcastle?

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.

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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 closed last Friday with more than 16,000 submissions received. The RTA will now assess public submissions and will report to the Government in due course.

The term 'road rage' does not necessarily relate directly to driving offences. The RTA does not record convictions for assault or similar offences that may have resulted from a traffic incident.

*0922 ROADSIDE GARBAGE—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Who is responsible for the harvesting of roadside garbage up to 4 metres from the roadside?
- (2) How much is paid by the RTA to other organisations to harvest roadside garbage?
- (3) Has the RTA investigated any form of mechanical garbage harvester for use on major arterial roadsides?
- (4) How many contractors are employed by the RTA to harvest roadside garbage?
- (5) How much garbage has accumulated per kilometre of roadside eg Hume Highway at Tarcutta, Goulburn, Yass, Jugiong etc?
- (6) (a) Has the RTA monitored the garbage load accumulating on roadsides?
(b) If not, why?
- (7) Has the RTA monitored their expenditure with contractors and cancelled any contracts because of non-performance?

Answer—

I am advised:

In South West Region RTA Road Services and Local Councils harvest roadside garbage, depending on the road. No sub-contractors are used in South West Region.

Rubbish is collected in accordance with an RTA Quality Assurance Specification and the requirements of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001, Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and associated regulations. Mechanical garbage collection will be trialled to assess its suitability for working along the Region's undulating road environment.

*0923 ASSESSMENT OF HOSPITAL FACILITIES—Mr Daryl Maguire asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As part of a facility review of public hospitals, are physical assessments of facilities carried out?
- (2) If not, why are physical reviews not carried out when assessing infrastructure needs?
- (3) Are theoretical assessments carried out, and by whom?
- (4) If theoretical assessments are carried out, what are the qualifications of the persons nominated to do the assessments?
- (5) What documents are used to guide a physical assessment?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) N/A.
- (3) to (5) Physical assessments of condition, functionality and compliance are conducted at site building and department level.

Facility assessments are conducted by experienced building assessors and health services planning consultants. The assessors have skills across a range of disciplines including project management, engineering, building assessment and health services planning.

Standard data collection assessment criteria have been developed to provide consistent, objective measurement criteria for the review of AHS assets.

*0924 CAR PARKING REVENUE—Mr Wayne Merton asked the Minister for Health—

How much revenue has been raised from car parking at Westmead Hospital for the following financial years:

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

Answer—

I am advised that the answer to your question is as follows:

- (a) 2000-2001 \$1,581,831
- (b) 2001-2002 \$1,617,912
- (c) 2002-2003 \$1,698,896
- (d) 2003-2004 \$1,700,944
- (e) 2004-2005 \$1,682,553
- (f) 2005-2006 \$1,862,997
- (g) 2006-2007 \$1,997,327

NB: All Area Health Services retain all revenues earned.

*0925 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

- (1) Following reporting, what is the target response time for the removal of graffiti for:
 - (a) STA;
 - (b) City Rail?
- (2) How does the actual performance compare with relevant targets for both of these organisations?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) Every effort is made by State Transit to ensure a clean and thoroughly maintained bus fleet. In addition to daily cleaning, State Transit buses undergo periodic cleaning every four to six weeks. This is an intense cleaning regime, which includes amongst other things, the removal of graffiti.

Any State Transit vehicle which contains graffiti that poses a safety concern or is offensive is immediately taken out of service and the graffiti is removed as soon as practicable before returning the bus to service.

Since the inception of security cameras on buses and the employment of security staff at depots, State Transit advises that the level of graffiti abuse on buses has declined.

State Transit further advises that all instances of graffiti are treated as security incidents and are recorded on a database administered by its Safety and Environment unit.

As an innovative measure, State Transit has fitted protective film onto the back windows of its bus fleet to minimise etching and enable easy removal of etching.

In addition, State Transit undertakes a number of graffiti preventative measures, which include:

- A ban on eating, drinking and smoking on buses (clean buses have been found to deter graffiti incidents);
- New buses fitted with anti-graffiti cloth seating and larger glass windows;
- Radio Communications System upgraded; and
- Operation Bus Stop – a joint initiative between the Police and State Transit whereby uniformed Police regularly board buses and check for anti-social behaviour.

In relation to rail, RailCorp has committed significant resources to combat graffiti vandalism on CityRail trains and stations.

CityRail Trains undergo a comprehensive schedule of cleaning including the daily cleaning of approximately 1,500 train carriages after hours when they are stabled.

Apart from intensive daily cleaning, rovers keep the trains clean whilst in service during the day.

Side washes are also undertaken every 7-10 days, where carriages go through a wash plant. Major cleans

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take place every 30 days to every carriage.

CityRail stations are also cleaned daily across the network. In addition, heavy cleans are completed at most stations as requested by Station Managers. Approximately, \$2 million annually is spent on this program.

Offensive graffiti (such as racist material) is always removed or covered as soon as possible. In addition, CityRail's graffiti removal program for the Metropolitan network runs continuously over a 3-4 week cycle.

The RailCorp graffiti abatement program continues to aim to reduce, remove and prevent incidences of graffiti on RailCorp property.

The new cleaning products which meet environmental standards – allow for the immediate remediation of the graffiti in the majority of instances. Intelligence suggests the rapid removal of graffiti provides a deterrent to graffiti vandals.

Better reporting and new cleaning methods mean the published website statistics now reflect a much greater number of tags being removed. RailCorp has taken a number of other actions to help deter incidences of graffiti and vandalism.

RailCorp has:

- Worked with police to establish the Police Rail Vandalism Task Force to target vandalism and graffiti vandals on the rail network;
- Introduced regionalised Transit Officer Task Forces, which focus specifically on vandalism and trespass;
- Engaged in intelligence-based deployment of its Transit Officers. This ensures that RailCorp's security personnel are deployed where and when they are needed, including to known graffiti hot spots;
- Rolled out CCTV cameras across the CityRail railway network. CCTV cameras both enhance passenger security and protect railway property; and
- Introduced a program of security dog patrols into stabling yards and maintenance centres.

RailCorp continues to work cooperatively with the NSW Police Force in the detection, apprehension and prosecution of graffiti vandals.

*0926 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

What financial assistance does the NSW Government offer to local councils to help with prompt graffiti removal?

Answer—

I provide the following details in response to your question:

The NSW Government recognises that graffiti is a financial and social problem with complex causes and is committed to its reduction.

In May 2006 the NSW Attorney General announced a comprehensive strategy for reducing the incidence of graffiti vandalism. An interagency Anti Graffiti Action Team was formed with members from 14 organisations, including a number of government utilities such as Energy Australia and State Transit, and led by the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department.

The Honourable Member may wish to contact the Attorney General if he would like further information, as the Attorney General's Department is the lead agency for the implementation of the Government's response to graffiti vandalism.

*0928 ATTRITION/DISPOSAL RATE OF RENTAL PROPERTIES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

- (1) What has been the total number and the attrition/disposal rate of rented housing commission accommodation dwellings sold off in NSW over the past 10 years?
- (2) What has been the total number and the attrition/disposal rate in the Ku-ring-gai and Warringah Council areas over the past 10 years?
- (3) What has been the total revenue from sale amounts?
- (4) Where have sale proceeds gone?
- (5) How much new public housing stock, if any, has been created over the past 10 years in the:
 - (a) Ku-ring-gai Council area;

(b) Warringah Council area?

Answer—

- (1) Information concerning property disposal is available in Housing NSW's Annual Reports.
- (2) 48.
- (3) Information concerning revenue from sales is available in Housing NSW's Annual Reports.
- (4) All proceeds from the sale of properties are reinvested into building or upgrading social housing stock.
- (5) (a) 1.
(b) 247.

*0929 CYCLEWAYS FUNDING—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Davidson electorate?
- (2) How much money has been spent on cycleways in the Davidson electorate in 2006-2007?
- (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Davidson electorate in 2007-2008?

Answer—

I am advised:

Both Local Government Areas represented in Davidson have Bike Plans. The implementation of those plans is a matter for each Council respectively. Each Council has an annual opportunity to submit candidate cycleway projects to the RTA for funding consideration. No projects have been submitted by either Council for the years 2006-2008.

*0930 APEC CONFERENCE—PROCESS OF REVIEW—Mr Jonathan O'Dea asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Regarding the recent APEC Conference, what process of review will be followed to gain maximum benefits in terms of learning for future major events in Sydney?
- (2) How will the broader community be consulted in the above process, and to what extent will outcomes be made public?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

- (1) and (2) The APEC 2007 NSW Police Security Command is in the process of obtaining After Action Reports from each project area within the Command. These reports will assist in future planning for similar events.

*0931 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

As the Minister for Roads has advised that the RTA website has information regarding the upgrade of the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway, and given that the website does not contain the specific information:

Will environmental damage occur to the East Banora Valley ecological community if the hydrology is altered during or after the construction of the preferred option for the upgrade?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA is presently undertaking a hydrology/hydraulic assessment as part of an environmental assessment of the preferred option for the Banora Point upgrade.

The assessment will be made available to the public for comment as part of the environmental assessment display for the preferred option.

*0932 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 independent review of Community Option C for the upgrade of the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway, which has reduced the additional estimated cost of the option from \$120 million to \$59 million:

- (1) Has the Federal Minister for Roads been informed of the errors in the original cost comparisons

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between the RTA's preferred option and Community Option C?

- (2) Does the independent consultant assessment document state "We note advice via the RTA that, Parsons Brinkerhoff has not prepared a 'stand alone' cost estimate for the 'deep tunnel' option in a format similar to that for the July 2006 preferred concept"?

Answer—

I am advised:

The RTA has informed the Department of Transport and Regional Services of the preferred option and its cost estimate.

- *0933 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 Minister for Roads has advised that the Kirkwood Road improvements are "a local road issue and a matter for Tweed Shire Council" but that the need for the improvements arise from the Government's plans to upgrade the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway:

- (1) What action will be taken to support the community demand for the immediate construction of the Kirkwood Road interchange?
(2) Will the Minister direct the RTA to include the Kirkwood Road interchange in the planning for the Sexton Hill section of the Pacific Highway upgrade?

Answer—

I am advised:

Traffic modelling has shown that the Kirkwood Road interchange would not be required as part of or before the construction of the Banora Point upgrade.

The Kirkwood Road overbridge and extension is a local road issue and a matter for Tweed Shire Council.

- *0934 DIOXIN LIMITS IN FISH—Mr Michael Richardson 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) When did the government first learn of the change in World Health Organisation standards for dioxin limits in fish?
(2) What steps did the NSW Government take to warn people of the health risk after it became aware of the WHO standards changing?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that the World Health Organisation does not set dioxin limits in fish or other foods.
(2) The Government's actions have been guided by the FSANZ risk assessment and report and advice from the Expert Panel, which can be found on the website along with further information at <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/consumer/c-dioxins.htm>

Advice on consumption of specific species was released as it became available and is on the websites of the NSW Food Authority and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

You may be assured that the NSW Government will continue to provide information on dioxin levels to the public as soon as possible as the result of any further food safety assessments.

- *0935 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What is the face dollar value of penalty notices issued in relation to the speed camera located on Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills for the years:

- (a) 2002;
(b) 2003;
(c) 2004;
(d) 2005;
(e) 2006;
(f) January to June 2007?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The face dollar value of infringement notices issued in relation to the speed camera located on Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills for the requested years is:

- (a) \$1,289,054;
- (b) \$1,708,981;
- (c) \$1,111,159;
- (d) \$555,563;
- (e) \$549,143;
- (f) \$280,947.

*0936 SPEED CAMERA REVENUE—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—

What is the face dollar value of penalty notices issued in relation to the speed camera located on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, outside St Bernadette's Primary School, for the months:

- (a) June 2007;
- (b) July 2007;
- (c) August 2007?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The face dollar value of penalty notices issued in relation to the speed camera located on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, outside St Bernadette's Primary School, for the requested months is:

- (a) \$206,314;
- (b) \$142,173;
- (c) \$66,440.

*0938 FOOTBRIDGE—MOUNT ST BENEDICT PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

- (1) Why has the Government retained a signalized pedestrian crossing across Pennant Hills Road outside Mount St Benedict Public School when a footbridge has been built across the road?
- (2) Does the Government accept that it would be safer for students and other pedestrians to cross the bridge rather than the road?
- (3) What is the Government doing to ensure that everyone who can possibly use the bridge is doing so?

Answer—

I am advised:

Due to the road geometry at this particular location, including the land space available, ramps could not be provided to access this pedestrian bridge. In the best interests of the mobility impaired, and for parents with prams or strollers, the RTA decided that the at-grade signalised pedestrian crossing was required to ensure that the road safety of all users was catered for.

The RTA has had discussions with the School's Principal to encourage students to use the pedestrian bridge.

*0939 TRAFFIC POLICE—CASTLE HILL POLICE STATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

How many traffic police were stationed at Castle Hill Police Station in each of the following years:

- (a) 1987;
- (b) 1994;
- (c) 2001;
- (d) 2006;
- (e) 2007 to date?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that Highway Patrol officers are attached to Local Area Commands. The deployment of these officers is a responsibility for Local Area Commanders and is based on current workload and other factors to provide an efficient, flexible and needs-based policing response.

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*0940 NEW FIRE STATION—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

When will the new fire station on Old Northern Road, Castle Hill be opened?

Answer—

I am advised that the Station is scheduled to become operational in December 2007.

*0941 BIDJIGAL TRUST BOARD FUNDING—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

What funding (if any) does the Government intend to make available to the Bidjigal Trust Board to manage the Bidjigal Reserve created in 2005 from Excelsior Reserve and Darling Mills State Forest in Baulkham Hills Shire?

Answer—

Bidjigal Reserve consists of Crown land that is managed by Baulkham Hills Shire Council. Accordingly, this question should be directed to my colleague the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development and Vice President of the Executive Council.

*0942 JENOLAN CAVES—Mr Michael Richardson asked the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

How many people visited Jenolan Caves in the following years:

- (a) 2005;
 - (b) 2006;
- and in the first eight months of the following years:
- (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007?

Answer—

Please note, the following figures indicate how many people undertook cave tours and may not be the same as the number of visitors to Jenolan Caves.

- (a) 227,933
- (b) 222,486
- (c) 156,320
- (d) 147,104
- (e) 139,256

*0943 GREEN SLIP LEVIES—Mrs Jillian Skinner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—

- (1) What is the average increase on green slip levies following the introduction of the "Lifetime Care and Support" scheme?
- (2) Are there further increases proposed to green slip levies by the Motor Accidents Authority?
- (3) What is the assessment methodology for determining green slip levies?
- (4) What measures have been taken to make information available to the public on the assessment methodology used to determine green slip levies?

Answer—

- (1) The Medical Care and Injury Services levy applies to all green slip policies incepting from 1 October 2006. The average green slip premium across all vehicle classes has increased from \$312 as at 30 September 2006 to \$318 (inclusive of the levy) as at 30 June 2007.
- (2) The Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Act 2006 provides that the Lifetime Care and Support scheme is to be funded by a levy on green slips that fully funds the present and likely future liabilities of the scheme as determined by independent actuarial advice. Subject to changes in the actuarial estimates of the frequency and cost of catastrophic injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents it is anticipated that future changes to the Medical Care and Injury Services levy would primarily reflect changes in the rate of inflation.
- (3) There are two components of the Medical Care and Injury Services levy. Firstly, the levy includes an amount to cover the cost of the Lifetime Care and Support scheme. This amount is the major component of the levy and is set as a percentage of the insurer premium which varies by class of

vehicle and green slip rating zone, according to the frequency and cost of catastrophic injuries in those zones and vehicle classes. Secondly, the levy covers hospital and ambulance services and other services for people injured in motor vehicle accidents. This is not a new collection but was previously included in the insurer premium and not separately identified. This component of the levy is currently set at 10% of the insurer premium for all motorists in NSW.

- (4) Since August 2006 information outlining the changes to the green slip scheme with the introduction of Lifetime Care and Support and the new Medical Care and Injury Services levy has been provided to all motorists with green slip renewal notices.

*0944 COMMISSIONER WOODHAM—Mr Greg Smith asked the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Why is Commissioner Woodham based at premises at Campbelltown rather than at head office of the Commissioner?
- (2) What has been the cost of establishment of the Campbelltown office?
- (3) What rentals have been paid for the Campbelltown office?

Answer—

The member is referred to the answer to his previous Question No 0141 published in Questions and Answers Paper No 19 on Wednesday 26 September 2007.

*0945 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, and 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 Budget Paper No 4 of the 2007-08 State Budget at page 5-27 there is a list of projects for Department of Education and Training and a heading "Minor Miscellaneous Works" which are noted at \$23.561 million:

What are the minor miscellaneous works and what amount will be carried out in the Myall Lakes Electorate?

Answer—

This allocation is part of the 2007/08 TAFE Asset Acquisition Program and is utilised for furniture and equipment and minor building works projects in TAFE colleges across the State.

*0946 FORESTRY NSW—STRATEGIC REVIEW—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 Forestry NSW undertaking a strategic view of recreational facilities and community requirements across a region from the Central Coast to the Mid North Coast and Tablelands?
- (2) If so, when will that strategic review be completed?
- (3) If so, at what state is the review at the present time?
- (4) If so, has the Department or person or organisation undertaking the review called for submissions?
- (5) If so, when were submissions called?
- (6) If so, when do submissions close?
- (7) If not, will calls for submissions be made and when?
- (8) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Under State Plan Priority E8 Actions Forests NSW will be undertaking an assessment of facilities and community requirements in conjunction with other land management agencies. This will include, but will not be limited to, the State forests of the Central Coast, Mid North Coast and Tablelands.

A component of this review will include visitor monitoring and surveys at a range of locations across the state to determine visitor numbers and community requirements and to help establish benchmarks for sustainable visitation levels.

- (2) The review of the Central Region facilities will be conducted in 2007 and 2008.
- (3) See above.
- (4) No submissions have been called for to date.
- (5) See Q 4.
- (6) See Q 4.
- (7) Submissions will be called for as appropriate in regard to specific projects or initiatives in the Central Region.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2007

(8) See Q 7.

*0947 CORRESPONDENCE—CAPE HAWKE COMMUNITY PRIVATE HOSPITAL—Mr John Turner asked the Minister for Health—

When will the Minister reply to my letter dated 2 April 2007 (his reference M07/3977) concerning Cape Hawke Community Private Hospital?

Answer—

A reply, dated 3 October 2007, has been forwarded to the Honourable Member.

*0948 CHANGES TO IPTAAS—Mr John Williams asked the Minister for Health—

Can changes be made to the IPTAAS to allow GP and specialist staff to fill out their sections of the claim forms and allow the GP or specialist to only have to sign?

Answer—

I am advised that the capacity for another person to complete the relevant sections on behalf of the doctor or specialist is clearly stated on the redesigned IPTAAS application form which was released on 1 July 2007.

*0949 DROUGHT WORKERS—Mr John Williams 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—

Will the Minister announce the continuation of drought workers beyond December 2007?

Answer—

The Government is continually reviewing its drought assistance measures to ensure they meet the needs of farmers and rural communities. The Drought Support Workers program is currently funded until 31 December 2007 and will be reviewed later in the year.

*0950 FODDER TRANSPORT SUBSIDY—Mr John Williams 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—

Will the Minister consider increasing the fodder transport subsidy for dairy farmers to \$40,000?

Answer—

- (1) The drought transport subsidies ensure animal welfare by assisting drought-affected pasture-dependent livestock producers to provide sufficient maintenance feed and water to their stock, or to de-stock.
- (2) The fodder subsidy was capped at \$20,000 per calendar year recognising this as reasonable assistance towards drought maintenance feeding.
- (3) Dairy farmers are semi-intensive and purchase feed as part of their normal business for production purposes. The subsidy is for ensuring the maintenance needs of animals for welfare purposes, rather than their production needs.

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(Paper No. 22)

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

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

0953 DERELICT BUILDING—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

0954 SECURITY MEASURES—POWER STATIONS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

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- 0956 SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORKS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0957 LOGGING AT MOUNT RAE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 0958 MEAL COSTS—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0959 LOCAL COUNCIL TRAFFIC COMMITTEES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 0960 FOOD QUALITY—HORNSBY HOSPITAL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0961 ANAESTHETIC MACHINES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0962 REPLACEMENT OF TREES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 0963 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—COMPLAINTS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0964 FUNDRAISING BY CALL CENTRES—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 0965 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS—FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0966 MPS SUITABILITY—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0967 PURCHASE OF ACCREDITED GREEN POWER—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—
- 0968 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DECLARATION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) —
- 0969 RECYCLING OLD CARS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 0970 MAINTENANCE SPENDING—ELECTORATE OF DAVIDSON—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—
- 0971 ROADS AND TRAFFIC UPGRADES—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0972 BELROSE BUS ROUTE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 0973 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0974 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0975 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0976 JENOLAN CAVES RESERVE TRUST—COMPLAINTS RECEIVED—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 0977 SCHOOL ZONE SPEED CAMERA—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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- 0978 KURNELL DESALINATION PILOT PLANT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 0979 ADDITION TO KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK—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—
- 0980 TAXI LICENSING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 0981 TURIMETTA HEADLAND—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 0982 COUNTRYLINK RAIL SERVICES—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 0983 TESTING FOR OLDER DRIVERS—PROPOSED CHANGES—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0984 BELLINGEN DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0985 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 0986 CONTRACT NUMBER 2390—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

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(Paper No. 23)

- 0987 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteering—
- 0988 PROPOSED F6 FREEWAY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 0989 STATE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN—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—
- 0990 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 0991 PATIENT ADMISSIONS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0992 NEGLIGENCE CLAIMS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0993 CORRESPONDENCE—LAND AT HUSKISSON—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 0994 NORTH NOWRA LINK ROAD—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 0995 SECURITY FENCING—HAVENLEE SPECIAL SCHOOL—Mrs Shelley Hancock 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—
- 0996 YOUNG CRISIS ACCOMMODATION CENTRE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 0997 MEN'S SHEDS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—

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- 0998 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT YASS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health—
- 0999 HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL—FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1000 F3 SOUND BARRIERS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1001 BUDGET PAPER NO 4—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1002 CYCLEWAYS—CRONULLA ELECTORATE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1003 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1004 FOOD QUALITY—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1005 SAME SEX ADOPTION—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1006 YOUTH GANGS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1007 COMMERCIAL WATER USE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1008 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1009 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1010 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1011 CLASSES FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN—Mr Michael Richardson 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—
- 1012 BLUE-GREEN ALGAE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1013 CORRESPONDENCE—ROSS VAN—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1014 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1015 BICYCLE RIDING ON PAVEMENTS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1016 UNPAID CREDITORS—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1017 RAINWATER TANK REBATE—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1018 MANAGER—BULAHDELAH HOSPITAL—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1019 LIBRARY FUNDING—Mr John Williams to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1020 RURAL FIRE SERVICE—WATER TRANSPORTATION—Mr John Williams to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

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

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(Paper No. 24)

1022 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FIRES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

1023 SALT INTERCEPTION PLANT—WALLA WALLA—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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

1025 HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE—ALBURY—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—

1026 ALBURY BASE HOSPITAL—COMPLAINTS—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Health—

1027 POLICE RESOURCES—ALBURY ELECTORATE—Mr Greg Aplin to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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

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

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

1031 MANLY WHARF—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Regulatory Reform, Minister for Ports and Waterways—

1032 NSW LOTTERIES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

1033 CRISIS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—

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

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

1036 SYDNEY FERRIES—Mr Mike Baird to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

1037 CHATSWOOD STATION INTERCHANGE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

1038 272 AND 273 BUS ROUTES—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

1039 NAROOMA AND EDEN HEALTH SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Health—

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

1041 STROKE RECOVERY SERVICES—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Health—

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- 1042 PRINCES HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1043 PRINCES HIGHWAY RANDOM BREATH TESTS—Mr Andrew Constance to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1044 JEWISH PRIVATE SCHOOLS—Mr Peter Debnam 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—
- 1045 GREENHOUSE ABATEMENT CERTIFICATES—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1046 KURNELL DESALINATION PLANT—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1047 TERMEIL CREEK BRIDGE—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1048 MILTON HOSPITAL SERVICES—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1049 CROOKHAVEN LIGHTHOUSE—Mrs Shelley Hancock to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1050 EDUCATION OF TIBETAN CHILDREN—Mr Brad Hazzard 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—
- 1051 FISHER ROAD SCHOOL—Mr Brad Hazzard 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—
- 1052 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1053 AGENCY NURSES—MANLY HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1054 AGENCY NURSES—MONA VALE HOSPITAL—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1055 MANLY HOSPITAL LAUNDRY—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1056 MANLY HOSPITAL—FOOD EXPENDITURE—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1057 MONA VALE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1058 MONA VALE HOSPITAL—FOOD EXPENDITURE—Mr Brad Hazzard to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1059 POLICE PRESENCE AT BATHURST RACES—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1060 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1061 LIBRARY FUNDING—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1062 HAZARD REDUCTION—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- *1063 RAINWATER TANK SCHEME APPLICATIONS—Mrs Judy Hopwood asked the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

How many rainwater tank scheme applications have been made in the Hornsby electorate?

Answer—

Sydney Water has advised:

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- As at 19 October 2007, Sydney Water has received 2,182 rainwater tank rebate applications for the Hornsby Local Government Area.
- Sydney Water's data in respect of these figures is not captured on an electorate basis.
- 1064 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING HOMES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1065 UNPAID CREDITORS—SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1066 TOM UGLYS BRIDGE—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1067 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL—BUILDING WORKS—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1068 RURAL SUICIDES—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1069 NORTH WEST RAIL LINK—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1070 CORRESPONDENCE—DAMIEN PIGOTT—Mr Wayne Merton to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1071 BATTERY EGGS—Ms Clover Moore 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—
- 1072 EX-PRISONER SUICIDE—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra representing the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- 1073 TWEED SAND BYPASS PROJECT—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water representing the Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs, Minister for Regional Development—
- 1074 DISABLED PERSONS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1075 DISABLED PERSONS ACCOMMODATION—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1076 RAIL SERVICES—CARLINGFORD LINE—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1077 DISCOVERY OF HUMAN BONES—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1078 REPLY TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1079 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—LANE COVE RIVER—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1080 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—PARRAMATTA RIVER—Mr Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1081 TICK RESEARCH UNIT—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1082 MONA VALE ROAD UPGRADE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1083 PENSIONER CONCESSIONS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1084 EXPLORATION LICENCE—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—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—
- 1085 EXPLORATION LICENCE—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—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—
- 1086 EXPLORATION LICENCE—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—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—
- 1087 MINING INTENT—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—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—
- 1088 EXPLORATION LICENCE—ROSEHILL AND/OR CASTLEROCK—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—
- 1089 CORRESPONDENCE—LINDSAY ROUND—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Health—

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(Paper No. 25)

- 1090 SEPP (MAJOR PROJECTS) 2005—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1091 SOLAR TOWER PROJECT—BURONGA—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—
- 1092 ENERGY AND WATER OMBUDSMAN—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—
- 1093 DRUGS IN SCHOOLS—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1094 TRANSGRID CONTRACTS—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—
- 1095 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—
- 1096 FOXGLOVE ROAD ACCIDENT—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1097 MOONEY MOONEY PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for the Central Coast, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Finance—
- 1098 SEWER CONNECTION REBATES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1099 MAINTENANCE WORK—PUBLIC 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—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 1100 CABINET STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE PLAN PERFORMANCE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1101 "STATE OF THE STATES" REPORT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea 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—
- 1102 GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE TIMES TO CORRESPONDENCE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1103 PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1104 HARBOUR BRIDGE—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1105 FRENCHS FOREST HOSPITAL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1106 TOLL CASH-BACK SCHEME—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1107 HARBOUR TUNNEL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1108 DENTAL DELAYS—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1109 ADDITIONAL BEDS—TWEED HEADS HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1110 PUBLIC RADIATION THERAPY—TWEED ELECTORATE—Mr Geoff Provest 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)—
- 1111 RAINWATER TANK REBATE SCHEME—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1112 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1113 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—PAYMENT OF LAND RATES AND LEVIES—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 1114 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1115 CAT SCANNER—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1116 AMBULANCE CALL-OUTS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health—

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(Paper No. 26)

- 1117 PROCESSING OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1118 ETHANOL BLENDED FUELS—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1119 NORTH RHEIN-WESTPHALIA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING—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—

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- 1120 SYDNEY FERRIES PATRONAGE FIGURES—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1121 GREATER SOUTHERN AREA HEALTH SERVICE—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)—
- 1122 MURRUMBATEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOL—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—
- 1123 DOCS OUT OF HOME CARE POLICY—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1124 RELOCATION OF SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT—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—
- 1125 EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—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—
- 1126 FLASHING LIGHTS FOR SCHOOL ZONES—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1127 FAULTY SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts representing the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for the Hunter—
- 1128 FAULTY SPEED CAMERA—Mr Donald Page to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- 1129 PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SUBSIDY SCHEME—Mr Geoff Provest 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—
- 1130 QLD/NSW CROSS-BORDER AMBULANCE SERVICES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1131 DRINK-DRIVING OFFENCES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- 1132 SEWER MINING REGULATION—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1133 KANGAROO POPULATIONS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 1134 CHILD ABUSE REPORTS—Mr Michael Richardson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- 1135 CORONIAL MORTUARY—Mrs Jillian Skinner to ask the Minister for Health—
- 1136 TREE LOPPING—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—
- 1137 STATE HERITAGE REGISTER LISTING—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 1138 LICENSING OF OLDER DRIVERS—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2007

- 1139 CORRESPONDENCE—MRS BENBOW—Mr John Turner to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- 1140 NATIONAL PARKS CAMPING FEES—Mr John Turner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—

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(Paper No. 27)

- 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—
- 1153 SILVERTON WIND FARM PROPOSAL—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—
- 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—

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- 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 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—
- 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—
- 1169 CONCENTRATING SOLAR THERMAL TECHNOLOGY—Ms Clover Moore 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—
- 1170 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PROPERTIES—221-227 BOURKE STREET EAST SYDNEY—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 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—
- 1172 POLITICAL DONATIONS—Ms Clover Moore to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 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 to ask the Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Western Sydney, Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 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—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 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 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—
- 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 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—
- 1186 BILPIN OVAL—Mr Ray Williams to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- 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—

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- 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—
- 1200 MUNMORAH 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—
- 1201 E10 TASKFORCE—Mr Peter Debnam to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—
- 1202 TOTAL WEEKLY GAS USAGE—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—
- 1203 MACQUARIE-CUDEGONG 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 to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- 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—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
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- 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—
- 1222 WYNYARD RAILWAY STATION—EVACUATION DRILL—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 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—
- 1236 MONA VALE POLICE STATION—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1237 BROKEN BAY WATER POLICE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- 1238 AMBULANCE STATION SITE AT AVALON—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—

*1239 CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY PROJECTS—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) (a) Is the Catchment Management Authority organising projects in the Wootton area?
- (b) If so, who has been awarded the contract to undertake such work?
- (c) If so, how was the contractor selected to undertake such work?
- (2) (a) Were local contractors considered for the Catchment Management Authority's work?
- (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water.

26 OCTOBER 2007

(Paper No. 29)

- 1240 LAND RELEASES AND RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- 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 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—
- 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 to ask the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services—
- 1254 EPPING TO CHATSWOOD RAIL LINK—Mr Jonathan O'Dea to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2007

- 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—

6 NOVEMBER 2007

(Paper No. 30)

- 1264 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD—Mr Richard Amery to ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Has the Department of Health carried out any investigation into any complaints from people suffering ill health caused by the consumption of genetically engineered (G.E.) foods?
 - (2) Is the department aware of any such investigation being carried out in any other jurisdiction?
 - (3) Is there any evidence available to the New South Wales Department of Health that would suggest that the consumption of any genetically engineered food is harmful to human health?
 - (4) If so, what is this evidence?
- 1265 REVESBY TURNBACK FACILITY—Mr Alan Ashton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- (1) What is the expected date for the completion of the Revesby Turnback facility in the electorate of East Hills?
 - (2) When is it expected that the new train service on the dedicated Revesby to City line will begin?
- 1266 CHATSWOOD COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE—Ms Gladys Berejiklian to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- In relation to the Written Question I placed on 26 September 2007 (No 0816) regarding the Chatswood Community Mental Health Centre:
- How do the 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004 trends compare with 2003 trends based on the performance assessment criteria as determined by the then head of the Area Health Service?
- 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—
- What business case or return on investment assessment is done before expenditure for advertising campaigns is approved?
- 1268 FEED-IN TARIFFS—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 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?

1269 OWEN INQUIRY REPORT—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 Owen Inquiry report:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the report defines a "Baseload generator" as a:
"Generating plant that is normally operated to produce electricity for most hours of the year"?
- (2) Is the "Owen" definition of "baseload generator" agreed by the Government?
- (3) If not, what is the Government's definition of "baseload generator"?
- (4) If the Government agrees with the "Owen" definition of "baseload generator", what is the Government's clarification, in this context, of the words "normally" and "most"?

1270 DISCHARGING OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) What is the Health Department's policy on discharging patients from hospitals into taxis?
- (2) Does it concern the Minister that a patient who had received morphia for a kidney stone was discharged from hospital soon after and taken by taxi to his car to drive himself home?
- (3) Does the Minister agree that discharging a patient into a taxi when the patient is dressed in night wear and is without shoes or slippers is causing added distress to a patient, particularly if the patient is elderly?

1271 REFURBISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S WARD AT BOWRAL PUBLIC HOSPITAL—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Minister for Health—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm if treasury has approved funding to upgrade and refurbish the Children's Ward at Bowral Public Hospital?
- (2) When will the DA be lodged with Wingecarribee Shire Council for this project?
- (3) Does the Minister expect the DA will be approved before the end of 2007?
- (4) Has SSWAHS sought estimates for the demountables?
- (5) When will these demountables be in situ?
- (6) What is the estimated completion date for this refurbishment?

1272 REPLY TO REPRESENTATIONS—Ms Pru Goward to ask the Premier, Minister for Citizenship—

- (1) How many days or weeks, on average, does it take the Premier or his department to reply to representations, whether by post, fax or email, made to his office from members of the public?
- (2) What is the Premier's policy for designating email as 'spam' email?
- (3) Why would the Premier's Department decide to block emails sent to them from a website even though the number of emails may amount to hundreds?
- (4) If the emails sent via an internet site were congratulating the Premier rather than criticising him, would the emails still have been blocked?

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—

- (1) Will the Minister confirm reports that the Federal Chief Veterinarian advised the NSW Department of Primary Industries that horses in areas around race meetings should be vaccinated against Equine Influenza?
- (2) What actions has the Minister taken to prevent the spread of Equine Influenza following country race meetings held in Protected Areas such as the Snake Gully Cup in Gundagai?
- (3) Will the Minister confirm reports in "The Horse Magazine" that the current strain of Equine Influenza in NSW is H3N8, which is also infectious to dogs?
- (4) What action has the Minister taken to warn dog owners of the potential for transmission of this virus, which has been linked to greyhound deaths in Florida, to working farm dogs and family pets?

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2007

- 1274 BOWNING DEVIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) How many accidents have occurred at the intersection of the Burley Griffin Way and Red Hill Road (formerly Burley Griffin Way), approximately 4 km north of Bowning, since the opening of the Bowning Deviation?
 - (2) Has the RTA investigated whether the lack of signage at the intersection was a contributing factor in these accidents?
 - (3) Will you upgrade the signage at the approaches to this intersection to provide greater warning to drivers?
- 1275 LIVERPOOL DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES ASSOCIATION—Ms Katrina Hodgkinson to ask the Minister for Community Services—
- (1) Did DoCS carry out an investigation into the management practices of Liverpool District Neighbourhood Centres Association in 2005?
 - (2) (a) Was there a report produced on the investigation's findings?
(b) If so when was it finalised and what were its findings?
 - (3) Can the Minister confirm that the last correspondence by DoCS to LDNCA on the issue was 30 June 2006?
 - (4) What steps has DoCS taken since that date to ensure the Service Improvement Plan has been developed and implemented by LDNCA in accordance with the DoCS September 2005 Report?
- 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—
- Why is the Minister not considering any of the draft plans for four proposed Hornsby Shire Council Heritage Conservation Areas (as per answer to Question No 0166)?
- 1277 HORNSBY CYCLEWAYS—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- (1) What plans are there for new cycleways in the Hornsby electorate?
 - (2) How much funding has been spent on cycleways in the Hornsby electorate in 2006-07?
 - (3) How much funding is budgeted to be spent on cycleways in the Hornsby electorate in 2007-08?
- 1278 SHORELINK PATRONAGE—Mrs Judy Hopwood to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- What is the total bus patronage for Shorelink in the Hornsby electorate in (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005 and (d) 2006?
- 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) —
- (1) When was the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) established?
 - (2) What was the purpose of the HMRI?
 - (3) Where is the HMRI presently housed?
 - (4) What are the future objectives (in terms of new buildings and accommodation) for the HMRI?
- 1280 MOREE BYPASS—Mr Kevin Humphries to ask the Minister for Planning, Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Minister for the Arts—
- With respect to the announcement by the Minister of the commencement of construction of the town bypass at a recent public function hosted by the Roads and Traffic Authority in Moree, what are the reasons for the latest delay?
- 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—
- What are/were the truancy rates in South Moree for both primary and secondary aged students over the last 5 years?

- 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—
- (1) What public schools in the Cronulla electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Department of Education?
 - (2) What is this outstanding work?
 - (3) When is each work scheduled for completion?
- 1283 SUMMER POLICING—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—
- What arrangements will be implemented to ensure an adequate police presence in Cronulla during the summer months when there is traditionally a rise in the number of recorded crimes?
- 1284 TRANSFER OF SERVICES—Mr Malcolm Kerr to ask the Minister for Health—
- What medical services are being transferred from Sutherland Hospital to St George Hospital ?
- 1285 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Water Utilities—
- How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?
- 1286 2007-2008 BUDGET—ALLOCATION TO WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Daryl Maguire to ask the Minister for Housing, Minister for Tourism—
- How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?
- 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)—
- How much, listed under the heading "Various" in the latest Budget 2007-2008, was allocated to Wagga Wagga and to which project?
- 1288 AMBULANCE COSTS—Mr Adrian Piccoli to ask the Minister for Health—
- Would the Minister advise why the costs to have an ambulance at the Narrandera Rodeo this year will cost \$2,250 when in 2005 it was \$734 and in 2006 it was \$873?
- 1289 PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE—SEXTON HILL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Commerce—
- Given that the Director-General of Planning requirements for this upgrade require the RTA to assess the "business impacts on a case-by-case basis including impacts to the overall viability, profitability, productivity and sustainability of businesses":
- (1) Why has no approach been made to individual businesses or business groups to further this assessment?
 - (2) When will the economic impact assessment on business in the area be carried out and what form will this assessment may take?
- 1290 COUNTRYLINK SERVICES FROM TWEED TO CASINO—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Finance—
- In relation to figures for both the previous year and the current year-to-date for CountryLink services from Tweed to Casino:
- (1) What is the number of passengers using this service?
 - (2) What is the number of passengers using this service:
 - (a) paying the full-fare;
 - (b) paying the concession fare?
 - (3) (a) What is the total annual cost for providing this service?
 - (b) What is the total value of fare subsidies provided by the Government for this service?
- 1291 TWEED LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police, Minister for the Illawarra—

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- (1) What is the total number of operational police officers assigned to the Tweed Local Area Command?
 (2) How many police officers are confined to light duties?
 (3) What is the current year-to-date number of police officers that have taken:
 (a) short-term sick leave (i.e. less than a week);
 (b) long-term sick leave (i.e. greater than a week)?
- 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—
- (1) What public schools in the Lane Cove electorate currently have outstanding maintenance work requests with the Department of Education?
 (2) What is this outstanding work?
 (3) When is each work request scheduled for completion?
- 1293 INTER-TIDAL ZONE—Mr Rob Stokes to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- In relation to the land between the mean high water mark and the low water mark (the inter-tidal zone) at The Basin in Pittwater:
- (1) Does the land form part of Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park?
 (2) If so, what are the land title details, including the number of the lot and the number of the deposited plan?
- 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—
- How much money is the Government spending on projects to eradicate the outbreak of Caulerpa Taxifolia in Pittwater in the 2007-2008 financial year?
- 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—
- Regarding the land between the mean high water mark and low water mark (the inter-tidal zone) at the The Basin in Pittwater:
- (1) Has a lot been created on this land?
 (2) Has it been transferred to Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park?
- 1296 CT AND ULTRASOUND SCANNING—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Health—
- In relation to the availability of CT and ultrasound scanning for patients attending Kempsey District Hospital:
- (1) Does the Minister regard it acceptable that access to such scanning is currently only available via a private operator between 9 am and 5 pm, meaning that inpatients and seriously ill emergency patients have to undertake a 110 km round trip to Port Macquarie outside these hours?
 (2) When will the Minister honour your Government's promise to provide on-site 24/7 access to CT and ultrasound scanning at Kempsey District Hospital?
- 1297 KILLICK CREEK—Mr Andrew Stoner to ask the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water—
- In relation to the mouth of Killick Creek at Crescent Head on the Mid North Coast:
- (1) Is the Minister aware of problems associated with the siltation at the mouth of the creek, including impacts on the local tourism-based economy, and die-back of mangroves in Killick Creek?
 (2) Has the Minister received from Kempsey Shire Council applications for funding for dredging and retaining wall works?
 (3) If so, will the Minister make a decision on these funding applications prior to the Christmas school holiday period?
- 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—

- (1) How many people seeking casual employment with the NSW Department of Primary Industries as a result of the equine influenza outbreak in New South Wales have registered for employment with the four employment agencies registering data on job seekers?
- (2) How many people affected by the equine influenza outbreak have gained casual employment?
- (3) Have any of the programs for casual employment been able to accommodate horse dentists or those with horse dentistry skills?

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—

Why has the application of Marcus Epifanino, for placement in a special education support class at Kellyville High School or any other high school in the North West of Sydney, been refused especially given Marcus has an autistic disorder/learning disability that was diagnosed at a young age and the application included accompanying documentation such as an autism assessment report from his psychologist?