



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2011-12

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**No. 64**

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2012

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

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 59 (Including Question Nos 1370 to 1388)	27 December 2011
Q & A No. 60 (Including Question Nos 1389 to 1430)	28 December 2011
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 1431 to 1452)	29 December 2011
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 1453 to 1477)	30 December 2011
Q & A No. 63 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 64 (Questions—Nil)	-

**22 NOVEMBER 2011**

(Paper No. 59)

\*1372 PENNANT STREET BRIDGE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Has the Government handed over to Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) the \$1 million contribution to the planning of the Pennant Street Bridge for the Glendale Interchange, as committed by them during the election campaign prior to March 2011?
- (2) If so, on what date was the money provided to LMCC?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The NSW Government will honour its \$15 million commitment towards the Pennant Street Bridge.

As a part of this commitment, \$1 million has been budgeted in 2011-12 for the project.

\*1373 GLENDALE INTERCHANGE—STAGE ONE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Has the Government handed over to Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) the \$15 million contribution to the Stage One building of the Pennant Street Bridge for the Glendale Interchange, as committed by them during the election campaign prior to March 2011?
- (2) If so, on what date was the money provided to LMCC?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The NSW Government will honour its \$15 million commitment towards the Pennant Street Bridge.

As a part of this commitment, \$1 million has been budgeted in 2011-12 for the project.

\*1374 PAYMENTS FOR VICTIMS COMPENSATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many applications for urgent payments have been made for victims compensation in the periods:
  - (a) 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010;
  - (b) 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;
  - (c) 1 July 2011 to date?
- (2) How many such applications have been granted in the above periods?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) 380.  
(b) 522.  
(c) 200.
- (2) (a) 194.  
(b) 289.  
(c) 99.

\*1375 CHAMBER MAGISTRATES AT LOCAL COURT REGISTRIES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the current job description for chamber magistrates at Local Court registries?
- (2) (a) Has this changed at any time in the last three years?
  - (b) If so, what were the changes?
  - (c) If so, when?
- (3) Do such officers now routinely refuse to assist unrepresented litigants fill in court related documents?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) There are no Chamber Magistrate positions at Local Courts.
- (2) In 2009, the Department developed a new model for client assistance that promotes the LawAccess service as the primary point of referral for all enquiries. Dedicated Chamber Registrar positions were phased out at 10 locations and these staff were redeployed to other vacant Registrar and Deputy Registrar roles. At the remaining five locations, (the Downing Centre, Dubbo, Newcastle, Parramatta and Wollongong Local Courts) a dedicated Chamber Registrar Service is still provided by the Deputy Registrar, Legal. Elsewhere, Local Court Registrars and Deputy Registrars provide this service.
- (3) Local Court staff and the chamber service can assist unrepresented litigants to prepare a variety of court documents. However, they are not able to assist people seeking advice or assistance with more complex applications or documents.

\*1376 COMPLAINTS TO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How long does it currently take for a complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Board to be assigned to a conciliator?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Anti-Discrimination Board (ADB) does not record data on the time taken to assign complaints. However, the ADB does record data on annual completion rates and performance against performance targets.

In the 2010-2011 financial year, the average time taken to finalise complaints was 6.4 months and 88 per cent of files were finalised within 12 months of the date of receipt, exceeding the ADB's performance target of 85 per cent.

\*1377 DISTRICT COURT JUDGES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many current District Court judges were at one time Crown prosecutors or employed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 1 December 2011 a total of 17 District Court Judges were either former Crown Prosecutors or former employees of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

\*1378 FULL-TIME CUSTODY PRISONERS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many full-time custody prisoners were in the NSW correctional system as at:

- (a) 1 July 2011;
- (b) 1 August 2011;
- (c) 1 September 2011;
- (d) 1 October 2011;
- (e) 1 November 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

Corrective Services NSW collates this data on Sundays. The following numbers of inmates were in full-time custody on the dates indicated:

- (a) On 3 July 2011: 10,010
- (b) On 7 August 2011: 9,964
- (c) On 4 September 2011: 9,944
- (d) On 2 October 2011: 9,900
- (e) On 6 November 2011: 9,791.

\*1379 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES AT NSW BUSINESSLINK—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many voluntary redundancies are being offered or have been offered at NSW Businesslink:
  - (a) since 27 May 2011;

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(b) since 27 March 2011?

- (2) How many contractors with NSW Businesslink have had contracts terminated or not renewed since 27 March 2011?
- (3) How many voluntary redundancies are proposed to be offered at NSW Businesslink?

Answer—

- (1) (a) Since 27 May 2011 - 2  
(b) Since 27 March 2011 - 2
- (2) One hundred and forty-three contractors have left the organisation since 27 March 2011.
- (3) Forty management positions will be offered voluntary redundancies. Operational improvements may result in further redundancies.

\*1380 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES—TRAINING FOR MAGISTRATES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How much training in issues concerning domestic violence is provided to magistrates?
- (2) Does a similar amount of training apply to each magistrate?
- (3) When was such training most recently provided?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Education is provided to magistrates in a number of forums. Issues surrounding domestic violence are regularly addressed at these forums.

Prior to appointment as a magistrate 'pre bench' education is conducted. A week long orientation program is conducted each year for magistrates appointed within the previous 12 months.

Two days of judicial education seminars are held in metropolitan and regional areas each year and a three day annual magistrate's conference is also held.

The Judicial Commission of NSW regularly publishes case summaries and articles dealing with domestic violence in the Judicial Officers' Bulletin, on the Judicial Information Research System and in its bench books. These are available to all NSW judicial officers.

A comprehensive Sexual Assault Handbook is available to magistrates and contains checklists, papers and commentary to assist judicial officers in dealing with sexual assault cases. The Judicial Commission's Ngara Yura program has also addressed issues such as domestic violence.

The Local Court always attempts to take a holistic approach to education. Education on broader legal issues such as sentencing and evidence would always include the necessary elements specific to domestic violence offences and/or applications.

- (2) Yes, education seminars are provided to all magistrates.
- (3) Recent metropolitan seminars included components on domestic violence and were held in the week commencing 14 November 2011. These seminars will be duplicated for regional magistrates in the first half of 2012.

\*1381 SPECIFIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIST—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

Has consideration been given to having a specific domestic violence list in Local Courts?

Answer—

I am advised:

A separate Domestic/Personal Violence List is established at most Local Courts. On the day(s) allocated for such matters the court is supported by the presence of the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer from the NSW Police Force. At most courts Domestic Violence Support Groups are also available for support. The Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program (WDVCAP) administered through Legal Aid NSW is currently available at 108 Local Courts.

There are also two courts at Campbelltown and Wagga Wagga that have specialised domestic violence procedures as part of the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model.

\*1382 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM - ASSESSMENT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is the current time taken to assess a victims compensation claim pursuant to the Victims Support and Rehabilitation Act?

Answer—

I am advised:

It currently takes 25 months between lodgement and determination of a claim by a Compensation Assessor.

\*1383 VICTIMS COMPENSATION CLAIM - COMPLETION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What is or was the average time for completion of a victims compensation claim as at;

- (a) 1 July 2009;
- (b) 1 July 2010;
- (c) 1 July 2011?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) 18 months.
- (b) 20 months.
- (c) 25 months.

\*1386 WOLLONGONG CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What funds were allocated to each of the regional conservatoriums across NSW in the recent budget?
- (2) Has the Minister been briefed on the University of Wollongong's proposal in relation to the Conservatorium of Music in Wollongong?
- (3) Does the Minister agree with the proposal?

Answer—

- (1) The principal funder of regional conservatoriums is the Department of Education and Communities which provides recurrent funding to all 17 regional conservatoriums.

Regional conservatoriums receive supplementary funding under the arts budget.

\$718,276 has been allocated through the 2012 Arts Funding Program for arts projects by regional conservatoriums and \$1,472,968 has been transferred to the Department of Education and Communities for the operations of regional conservatoriums. The Minister for Education is responsible for the core funding of the regional conservatoriums, through the Department of Education and Communities.

Details of funding allocated through the 2012 Arts Funding Program to individual conservatoriums is available on the Arts NSW web site.

- (2) No
- (3) Nevertheless, Arts NSW maintains a strong relationship with individual conservatoria and with the Conservatorium of Music in Wollongong. I look forward to a future briefing on Wollongong's proposal.

\*1387 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What will the Minister for Sport and Recreation now do in relation to establishing a permanent home for football in the Illawarra now that the Lysaght Oval site has been purchased by another sporting organisation?
- (2) (a) In relation to the current inquiry underway on Lysaght Oval, can the Minister outline how much it will cost?
- (b) Will the findings be made public?

Answer—

Please refer to the answer to question 1421 - Premier - Inquiry into Lysaght Oval.

\*1388 PURCHASE OF LAND AT MADDENS PLAINS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Will the Minister meet with Wollongong City Council representatives regarding the purchase of land at Maddens Plains currently up for sale?
- (2) Is this land an important environmental asset for the Illawarra and Southern Sydney?

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(3) Has the Minister sought advice from the Department about the purchase of this land?

Answer—

- (1) I will meet with the Wollongong City Council if appropriate.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

**23 NOVEMBER 2011**

(Paper No. 60)

\*1389 STAMP DUTY CONCESSION—Mr Richard Amery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) During the financial year ending 30 June 2011, how many persons received a stamp duty concession for buying their first home in the following postcode areas:
  - (a) 2770;
  - (b) 2761;
  - (c) 2766?
- (2) What was the total value of these concessions

Answer—

The following table provides the total number and value of stamp duty concessions provided to first home buyers in the 2010-11 financial year for the requested postcodes.

Postcode	Number of concessions	Total value
2770	275	\$2,502,033
2761	138	\$1,608,266
2766	77	\$792,020

\*1390 ESCAPE RATE FROM NEW SOUTH WALES PRISONS—Mr Richard Amery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) What is the escape rate from the state's prisons at 31 October 2011?
- (2) How does this performance compare with the same period last year?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Corrective Services NSW collates its offender population data on Sundays. At 30 October 2011, there had been 6 escapes from full-time custody in the 2011-12 financial year, representing an escape rate of 0.18 escapes per 100 inmates per year.
- (2) At 31 October 2010, there had been 7 escapes from full-time custody in the 2010/11 financial year, representing an escape rate of 0.20 escapes per 100 inmates per year.

\*1391 PUBLIC HOUSING—HUNTER VALLEY—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

For public housing in the Hunter Valley:

- (1) How many new houses will be built or purchased in 2011-12?
- (2) How many of these will be in the Cessnock of electorate?
- (3) What size, rooming, disability conditions, multi-story or other qualities will they have?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) For the 2011-12 financial year, 157 dwellings, including 1 dwelling in the electorate of Cessnock, are scheduled for completion.

The dwellings will be a mix of low rise units, townhouses, villas and cottages.

10% of all new public housing will be adaptable. That is, the dwelling will be easily converted at minimum cost to be suitable for people with special needs.

\*1392 PUBLIC HOUSING MAINTENANCE BUDGET—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

For public housing across NSW:

- (1) Has the budget for maintenance been reduced?
- (2) If so, by how much?
- (3) If so, has it been reduced equally across all areas of the state?
- (4) If so, in real dollar terms, what is the new budget for housing maintenance in the Hunter now, and what was it previously?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) The recurrent budget for repairs and maintenance for 2011-12 has not been reduced.

\*1398 WOMEN'S REFUGES IN THE WALLSEND ELECTORATE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard to women's refuges:

- (1) What facilities are available in the Wallsend electorate and what is their occupancy rate?
- (2) If no such facilities are available in the Wallsend electorate, what would be the nearest facilities available and what is their occupancy rate?

Answer—

- (1) Through the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) program, FACS funds eight specialist women's refuges in the Hunter Region, one of which is specifically for Aboriginal women. In addition there are four youth refuges that women under 25 years can access, and two general services that provide crisis accommodation for both men and women.
- (2) Women in the Wallsend Electorate can access any of the funded services provided in the Hunter Region, including those in Maitland, Singleton, and Newcastle LGAs.

Current data on occupancy rates is not kept by FACS.

\*1399 MAINTENANCE WORKS—DOBELL BUILDING—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Noting the answer to Written Question 0757 regarding the Housing NSW building known as Dobell at 33 John Street, Waterloo:

- (1) What is the actual amount that the 2011-12 budget has allocated to undertake building repairs?
- (2) What repairs are being carried out?
- (3) What is the timeline of work in calendar month/s and year/s?
- (4) What other upgrade works are planned for the Dobell Building?

Answer—

- (1) to (4) In 2011-12, \$700,000 has been allocated to complete the replacement of the roof membrane and balcony membranes on a number of units. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of the 2011-12 financial year. Routine maintenance will continue to be undertaken.

\*1403 TRAFFIC AND ROAD CONDITIONS—Mr Nick Lalich asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What is the Government doing to improve the traffic and road conditions for drivers on Henry Lawson Drive between the Hume Highway, at the Meccano Set, through to the M5 intersection?

Answer—

I am advised:

RMS and Transport for NSW are currently preparing a corridor strategy of Henry Lawson Drive and Woodville Road to determine necessary future actions to manage or enhance capacity. The strategy will take the form of a review of current and forecast transport demand, and review of comparative performance in the areas of road safety, traffic efficiency and asset condition. It will develop appropriate responses to address the issues raised and should be completed mid 2012.

\*1409 PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCE—CAMDEN GAS PROJECT (PEL 2)—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to the Petroleum Exploration Licence now held by AGL Upstream Investments Pty Limited (AGL) for the Camden Gas Project (PEL 2):

- (1) What groundwater monitoring has AGL conducted as part of its exploration under its Petroleum Exploration Licence for the Camden Gas Project (PEL 2)?



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- (2) Is such monitoring required as part of the PEL 2 conditions?
- (3) If no such monitoring has been conducted, is this a breach of the licence?
- (4) Does AGL need to obtain Bore Licences under the Water Act 1912 (NSW) before engaging in any borehole drilling in the PEL 2 area?
- (5) Has AGL done so?
- (6) If not, does this constitute a breach of:
  - (a) the Water Act 1912 (NSW);
  - (b) the Water Management Act (2000);
  - (c) its PEL 2 conditions?
- (7) Is AGL entitled to apply for renewal of the whole land area of its PEL 2?
- (8) If any breaches have occurred, will the Minister take these into account when determining AGL's PEL 2 renewal?
- (9) Did AGL receive approval to drill three water monitoring bores at Denham Court within the area of the proposed Camden Gas Project Stage 3 project (within the PEL 2 area)?
  - (a) Who approved these and when?
  - (b) What purpose do these water monitoring bores serve?

Answer—

- (1) Questions relating to company activities should be directed to the company in question.
- (2) to (3) There is no requirement to undertake groundwater monitoring as part of the conditions of PEL 2. Any requirements would be under a water licence issued by the Office under the Water Management Act 2000.
- (4) to (6) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Primary Industries.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) This question should be directed to the Minister for Primary Industries.

\*1410 PETROLEUM PRODUCTION LEASES—CAMDEN GAS PROJECT STAGE 2—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

In relation to Petroleum Production Leases now held by AGL Upstream Investments Pty Limited (AGL) for the Camden Gas Project Stage 2 (PPL 1, 2, 4 & 5):

- (1) Has AGL taken a measurement of groundwater in order to monitor changes to water quality and quantity that could be attributed to its coal seam gas extraction activities before drilling coal seam gas production wells at any point in Stage 2 of the Camden Gas Project?
- (2) If AGL has not taken such measurements prior to drilling its coal seam gas wells, does this represent a breach of its Petroleum Production Leases?
- (3) If such breaches have occurred, what penalties apply?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) Questions relating to company activities should be directed to the company in question.
- (3) Coal seam methane production activities are subject to planning approvals. Questions regarding planning approvals should be referred to the Minister for Planning.

\*1413 HOUSING NSW GUTTERS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

With respect to the need for regular cleaning of gutters on Housing NSW buildings in order to prevent blockages and water ingress:

- (1) How many blocked gutters or problems caused by blocked gutters in the inner city were reported to Housing NSW over the past year?
- (2) What system of programmed works does Housing NSW use to ensure that gutters are regularly cleaned and repaired in order to prevent problems?
- (3) What is the expected timeframe for gutters on buildings to be cleaned?
- (4) What preventive measures such as leaf guards are used for Housing NSW properties to prevent leaves collecting in and blocking gutters?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to prevent ongoing problems with blocked gutters?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Twelve work orders have been raised related to cleaning of gutters in the inner city areas since 1 January 2011.

For single storey cottages on a single block, tenants are responsible for lawns and grounds, including the cleaning of gutters. For all other properties, excluding high rise, roof gutters are regularly inspected and cleaned of all materials on a quarterly basis. High rise have a low chance of leaf litter accumulation in gutters and are dealt with as issues are identified.

Leaf guards are installed in high tree concentration locations where there is an identified risk of gutter blockages. Preventive measures are in place through regular inspections and as identified by contractors, staff or clients.

- \*1414 HOUSING NSW MAINTENANCE IN THE INNER CITY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

Noting that:

- Housing NSW properties in inner Sydney are some of the oldest and highest density housing in NSW;
  - there was a significant backlog of maintenance and repairs in NSW public housing; and
  - additional Commonwealth funding was provided in 2009:
- (1) What impact did the accelerated maintenance program have on the backlog of inner city maintenance and repairs?
  - (2) What is the estimated backlog of maintenance and repairs in the inner city now, including programmed repairs?
  - (3) Will the Government provide additional funding to address the remaining maintenance backlog in inner Sydney public housing?
  - (4) What major maintenance and repair projects will be carried out in 2011-12 in:
    - (i) Woolloomooloo;
    - (ii) Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks;
    - (iii) Darlinghurst;
    - (iv) Surry Hills;
    - (v) Kings Cross;
    - (vi) Chippendale;
    - (vii) Ultimo;
    - (viii) Pyrmont; and
    - (ix) Paddington and Woollahra;
  - (5) When will these projects begin and when does the Government expect them to be complete?
  - (6) How are tenants informed about programmed works in their building or precinct?
  - (7) What plans does the Government have to ensure prompt repairs and scheduled maintenance for inner city public housing?

Answer—

- (1) to (7) Funding allocation and maintenance and repairs priorities are undertaken across the NSW public housing portfolio according to need. Major maintenance has been scheduled for public housing in a number of areas in inner Sydney and is programmed for completion in 2011-12 financial year.

Tenants are formally notified by the Department of Finance and Services by letter several weeks before the work is to commence, after which the contractors arrange a suitable start date with the tenant. Tenants are advised they should only deal with contractors who have name badges with photo identification. Where works are likely to significantly disrupt an entire complex additional communication with tenants is undertaken.

Work is undertaken according to scheduled maintenance programs. The Housing Contact Centre operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in order to respond to requests for repairs and maintenance.

- \*1415 HANDYMAN SERVICE PROGRAM—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) How many specific jobs have been allocated to the "Handyman Service" program for public housing properties in the Keira electorate?
- (2) What is the department doing to promote this service to local seniors living in public housing?

Answer—

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- (1) In 2011, over 30 multi-task jobs have been completed in the Keira electorate.  
(2) The handyperson program is promoted through Housing NSW local offices.
- \*1416 WORK ORDERS FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—
- (1) In the last six months, for what specific locations in the Keira electorate has Housing NSW issued work orders to have graffiti removed?  
(2) For each of these orders when was the complaint made and when was the graffiti removed?
- Answer—
- (1) In the last 12 months, work orders have been raised to remove graffiti in Woonona, Mangerton, Wollongong, Bellambi and Bulli.  
(2) Once a report of graffiti is received, it is inspected and a work order is raised to have graffiti that is obscene, personal or racial in nature removed usually within 48 hours. Other graffiti is usually removed within 20 working days.
- \*1417 FUNDING TO REDUCE GRAFFITI—Mr Ryan Park asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- (1) What funds were allocated to Wollongong City Council in the last financial year to help reduce graffiti?  
(2) What funds have been allocated this financial year?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) A total of \$78,295 was allocated under the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Grant Program.  
(2) The Department of Attorney General and Justice is currently considering funding allocations for 2011-2012.
- \*1419 FUNDS TO WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—
- What funds were allocated to Wollongong City Council over the last five financial years?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- The Department has allocated \$109,955 in Crime Prevention Grants and \$78,295 as part of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Graffiti Program.
- \*1420 INTERSECTION OF PRINCES HIGHWAY AND MT OUSLEY ROAD—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—
- (1) Is the Minister and his agency aware of the congestion at the intersection of the Princess Highway and Mount Ousley Road in the electorate of Keira?  
(2) Will the Minister and his agency undertake an investigation into the suitability of roundabout traffic lights being constructed at this intersection to improve traffic flow like those on the Highway at Albion Park?  
(3) If yes, when this will take place?
- Answer—
- I am advised:
- (1) RMS continually monitors traffic flow at the intersection of the Princes Highway and Mount Ousley Road. During peak periods there is some queuing of traffic on Mount Ousley Road.  
(2) RMS has recently completed some preliminary modelling to assess the benefits of adding signals to this roundabout. Signal metering is the installation of traffic lights at a roundabout which would allow the roundabout to operate as normal during off-peak traffic periods and operate using traffic lights to balance the flow of traffic during peak periods.  
(3) The NSW Government inherited a \$5.2 billion budget blackhole from the former State Labor Government, which means delivering any projects outside the current capital program and our election commitments is extremely difficult. This intersection will be considered for funding compared with other Statewide priorities.

\*1421 INQUIRY INTO LYSAGHT OVAL—Mr Ryan Park asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What are the specific terms of reference for the inquiry into Lysaght Oval?
- (2) When will this inquiry be completed?
- (3) How much will the inquiry cost?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Internal Audit Bureau (IAB) was engaged by the Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet to conduct the Inquiry on his behalf.

The Inquiry included a review of the arrangements involving the NSW Government, Wollongong City Council and other parties to the project, including the most recent grant of \$2.5 million by the NSW Government on 28 February 2011 announced by the then Premier to support Football South Coast (FSC) to:

- secure a transfer of the football stadium located at Figtree (formerly known as Lysaghts Recreation Centre) from the ownership and control of Wollongong Sport and Recreation Centre Pty Ltd to FSC; and
  - complete the construction of the facility to a minimum standard to allow FSC affiliated teams to participate in their respective state and local leagues (as per the original intent of the project).
- (2) The report by the IAB has been completed and is being considered by the Director General. It will be released at an appropriate time.
  - (3) The total cost of the Inquiry was \$78,456.

\*1425 FREE TRAIN TRAVEL TO WESTERN PLAINS ZOO—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) How much funding has been allocated in the 2011-12 financial year to provide free train travel to the Western Plains Zoo Dubbo, and zoo entry, and an allowance worth \$50 for Penrith students?
- (2) Which schools will be eligible for the program?
- (3) How many students in total are potentially eligible for the program?
- (4) Has the Government advised eligible schools that they can apply for the program?
- (5) What are the expected start dates and completion dates for the program?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Funding for this program is not allocated by suburb.
- (2) Public schools in the Western Sydney and Western South Sydney regions are eligible for the program.
- (3) An estimated 3,300 Year 8 students and their teachers will be eligible for the program.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The program commenced in October 2011 and will run until December 2012.

\*1430 ASSESSMENT LEASE APPLICATION 19—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) Why has Assessment Lease Application 19 not been dealt with given that the application was made in 1999?
- (2) If the application has failed to comply with Government guidelines, why has it not been declined?
- (3) Can the Minister clarify whether different arrangements exist for "non-miners" compared to "mining families" providing employment opportunities in their community?

Answer—

- (1) Due to the unique nature of Assessment Lease Application 19, NSW Trade & Investment's assessment process has involved consideration of a number of complex issues raised by both the landholder and the applicant, which has delayed the process.
- (2) The application is still under consideration.
- (3) The Mining Act 1992 provides that the first application lodged over a particular area must be dealt with before any subsequent applications may be assessed, irrespective of who lodges the application.

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\*1432 SCHOOLRISK—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the SchoolRisk; School Pedestrian Risk Model:

- (1) (a) Has every school in NSW been assessed under the SchoolRisk model?
- (b) If not why not?
- (2) Which schools have been assessed and which school have not been assessed?
- (3) Of those schools that have been assessed, what is the ranking of each of the school that has undergone the SchoolRisk assessment?
- (4) Of those schools that have not been assessed, when will a SchoolRisk assessment be undertaken?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The School Pedestrian Risk Model was developed by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) in 2008 and has since been used to prioritise school zones for the installation of flashing lights.

While all school zones are considered for flashing lights, Roads and Maritime Services' Regions use their knowledge of local and regional roads and traffic to select those school zones that they consider best meet the criteria. Those school zones are then assessed using the School Pedestrian Risk Model and ranked according to the results of the risk assessment.

(3) and (4) The Government has committed \$13 million over four years to install flashing lights at an additional 540 school zones.

For each progressive round of the roll-out, Roads and Maritime Services' Regions will identify school zones to be assessed using the School Pedestrian Risk Model. These schools will be ranked in order of their risk score to select the school zones for the installation of flashing lights.

The risk scores and hence the rankings change over time. The risk scores of school zones are dynamic and are affected by changes in the environment such as school closures, changes in school access points, changes to normal speed limits and vehicle and pedestrian numbers.

Some school zones not yet assessed using the School Pedestrian Risk Model will be assessed using the model and ranked for consideration in future roll-out rounds.

\*1433 IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY: SCHOOL ZONES REPORT—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the 2010 Audit Office report Improving Road Safety: School Zones:

- (1) Have all the recommendations been fully implemented?
- (2) If all the recommendations have not been fully implemented, why not?
- (3) If all the recommendations have not been fully implemented which recommendations have been fully implemented and which recommendations are outstanding?
- (4) Of the recommendations that are outstanding, when will these recommendations be fully implemented?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (4) The Government is strongly committed to improving safety for children across the road network and especially during school travel times.

There have been positive actions resulting from the Audit Office's Performance Audit Report, Improving Road Safety: School Zones.

All six recommendations have been actioned. Of the agreed individual actions for each recommendation, the majority are fully completed. The remaining actions are either ongoing or are part of a progressively staged program, and are on track.

\*1434 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the one hundred roads that are having their speed limits reviewed as part of the audit of

speed zones:

- (1) What is the criteria/guideline being used to conduct the review?
- (2) Who will be making the recommendation to alter a speed limit once it has been reviewed?
- (3) Who will be making the final decision on whether to accept or not to accept the recommendation to alter a speed limit?

Answer—

I am advised that this information is all contained in the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines 2011, which are available online at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

- \*1435 DEPUTY STATE CORONER RECOMMENDATIONS – FUEL TANKER CRASH—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the recommendations made by the Deputy State Coroner concerning the 2009 fuel tanker crash north of Batemans Bay:

- (1) Does the Government accept the recommendations?
- (2) What action will the Government take in response to the recommendations?
- (3) When will these actions be implemented?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government is closely examining the recommendations of the Coroner and will investigate what should be done to improve road safety regarding the carriage of dangerous goods.

Transport for NSW will also consult with the Office of Environment and Heritage, which has administrative responsibility for the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008.

In addition, once finalised, the new National Heavy Vehicle Law will impose national uniformity across the heavy vehicle industry. Therefore, consultation with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator may be required in relation to the Coroner's recommendations.

The actions and the timing of those actions will be determined following the further investigation.

Roads and Maritime Services will review the signage and speed limits for heavy vehicles on the Princes Highway between Termeil and Batemans Bay, having regard to the circumstances of the collision. The review is expected to commence early in 2012.

The feasibility of making advisory speed limits mandatory for heavy vehicles will be considered by Transport for NSW in 2012.

- \*1436 SCHOOL ALERT (FLASHING LIGHTS) SYSTEM—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the school alert (flashing lights) system:

- (1) Which schools have had and will have flashing lights implemented in the 2011-2012 financial year?
- (2) What is the timetable for the implementation of flashing lights for each of the schools?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) In the 2011-2012 financial year to date, flashing lights have been installed in 57 school zones covering the following 82 schools:

1. Anna Bay Public School
2. Armidale City Public School
3. Ashtonfield Public School
4. Athelstane Public School
5. Banks Public School
6. Barnier Public School
7. Berowra Christian Community School
8. Berowra Public School
9. Blaxcell Street Public School
10. Blaxland East Public School
11. Bob Hughes Christian School
12. Bronte Public School
13. Calrossy Anglican School

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14. Carinya School
15. Carlton South Public School
16. Caroline Chisholm College
17. Casula Public School
18. Connells Point Public School
19. Darcy Rd Primary School
20. Delroy High School
21. Dubbo West Public School
22. Dubbo Infants School
23. East Hills Boys Technology High School
24. East Hills Girls Technology High School
25. East Hills Public School
26. Enfield Public School
27. Faulconbridge Public School
28. Glenroi Heights Public School
29. Glenmore Park High School
30. Glenmore Park Public School
31. Glenwood High School
32. Granville Public School
33. Georges River College
34. Governor Philip King Public School
35. Gunnedah Public School
36. Hastings Public School
37. Hunter Valley Grammar School
38. Jamisontown Public School
39. Kelso Public School
40. Kingswood High School
41. Kingswood South Public School
42. Kurrajong Public School
43. Lady of Lebanon College
44. Marsden Park Public School
45. Mary Immaculate Parish Primary School, Eagle Vale
46. Mary Immaculate Primary School, Quakers Hill
47. Melrose Park Public School
48. Metella Rd Primary School
49. Millfield Public School
50. Minerva Special School
51. Mortdale Public School
52. Mount Annan High School
53. Mount Annan Public School
54. Mount Hunter Public School
55. Oatley Public School
56. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College
57. Raymond Terrace Public School
58. Regents Park Christian Community School
59. Richmond Public School
60. Rockdale Public School
61. Samuel Terry Public School
62. Springwood Public School
63. St Andrews Public School
64. St Christopher's Primary School, Panania
65. St Mary's College, Gunnedah
66. St Matthew's Primary School, Windsor
67. St Monica's Catholic Primary School
68. St Patrick's College, Sutherland
69. St Patrick's Primary School, Sutherland
70. St Patrick's Primary School, Parramatta
71. St Peter Chanel Primary School
72. St Pius Primary School
73. St Xavier's Primary School, Gunnedah

- 74. Stockton Public School
- 75. Sutherland Public School
- 76. Tamworth Public School
- 77. The Junction Public School
- 78. Thirlmere Primary School
- 79. Trinity Catholic College
- 80. William Stimson Public School
- 81. Windsor Public School
- 82. Woodberry Public School

In the remainder of the 2011-2012 financial year, it is planned to install flashing lights in a further 78 school zones. The selection of these 78 further zones is currently being finalised.

(2) The flashing lights already installed in the financial year to date were completed by 30 November 2011. Further school zone flashing lights planned for installation in the 2011-2012 financial year will be installed by the end of June 2012.

\*1437 OFFENSIVE ODOUR—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

What is the Government doing to address the recent rotten odour lingering in the Argenton, Teralba and Edgeworth areas?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

Officers from Lake Macquarie City Council and NSW Fisheries are overseeing the removal of dead fish from a shallow wetland at Teralba which caused the odour.

\*1439 YOUTH CONFERENCING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

In view of the latest figures on crime rates involving juveniles in the Hunter, what percentage of juveniles who are required to take part in youth conferencing have been caught re-offending?

Answer—

I am advised:

In February 2011, the Bureau of Crimes Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) released a research report titled 'Why is the NSW juvenile reconviction rate higher than expected?'

The report found that for juveniles who participated in a Youth Justice Conference in 2006/2007, 56 per cent were reconvicted within 24 months. The report is available on the BOCSAR website.

In addition, details of juvenile re-offending within a 12 month period are published in the Annual Report of the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

\*1445 NOISY VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to the Office of Environment and Heritage enforcement of vehicles that breach noise controls:

- (1) How many operations has this office taken part in for 2010 and 2011 in:
  - (a) Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks;
  - (b) George Street and the CBD;
  - (c) Woolloomooloo;
  - (d) Potts Point and Kings Cross;
  - (e) Darlinghurst and Surry Hills?
- (2) How many infringements have been issued and what fines imposed on noisy vehicles in:
  - (a) Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks;
  - (b) George Street and the CBD;
  - (c) Woolloomooloo;
  - (d) Potts Point and Kings Cross;
  - (e) Darlinghurst and Surry Hills?
- (3) How many officers does the Office of Environment and Heritage have for noisy vehicles for NSW, how many for the inner city, and what changes have been made to these resources over the past three years?
- (4) What plans does the Government have to increase resources for these operations and increase



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enforcement?

(5) What other action will the Government take to address ongoing concerns?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officers attended four operations in 2010, and five operations in 2011, targeting noisy vehicles that were planned by police officers from the Kings Cross Local Area Command.

During those operations, police officers intercepted noisy vehicles travelling in the Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay, Woolloomooloo, The Rocks and George St areas. All vehicles intercepted were noise tested and inspected by EPA officers.

(2) As a result of the operations outlined in answer one, the EPA issued 59 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) in 2010 for noise related offences totalling \$16,500, and 101 PINs in 2011 for noise related offences totalling \$26,600.

In addition, whenever a vehicle is inspected and found to be excessively noisy, a Defective Vehicle Notice is issued requiring the vehicle owner to rectify the vehicle's noise levels, or face suspension of the vehicle's registration. NSW Police can also issue PINs for defective noise equipment.

(3) The EPA has two dedicated Motor Vehicle Compliance Officers who regularly attend joint operations with NSW Police, including operations in the inner Sydney area.

In the past three years, the EPA has not made any changes to the resources dedicated to the enforcement of environmental legislation relating to motor vehicle noise and air emissions.

(4) The NSW Government has recently announced an increase in resources for the EPA. These officers will be authorised to enforce all environmental legislation.

(5) The EPA will continue to actively encourage members of the community to report noisy vehicles to the EPA's Environment Line. EPA officers will continue to work closely with NSW Police on motor vehicle operations. The EPA will continue to provide the necessary information and training to NSW Police, and will continue to support them in identifying and reporting noisy vehicles.

The EPA will work with NSW Police to review operations aimed at reducing the impact of noisy vehicles on the community in order to increase the effectiveness of these operations.

To encourage increased reports of noisy vehicle offences in inner Sydney, the EPA will continue to work with officers from the City of Sydney Council who have been specifically trained by the EPA to identify and report noisy vehicles. In addition, the EPA will continue to encourage training of additional City of Sydney Council rangers to help increase the number of noisy vehicles reported in the inner Sydney area.

\*1446 RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

With respect to the latest research for the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (Monograph 38: "Drink or Drunk") that reviewed evidence about Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA), and noting that the RSA program was to be reviewed in 2009:

(1) What assessment has the Government made of this report, its assessment of measures to prevent alcohol-related harms and recommendations for reform?

(2) What action has the Government taken to:

- (a) support standardised national RSA training;
- (b) include patron management skills in RSA training;
- (c) provide separate high level manager training for supervisors;
- (d) assess risk levels and require appropriate prevention plans for licensed premises;
- (e) reward licensed premises for action to reduce alcohol-related harms?

(3) What further plans does the Government have to implement strategies that increase the effectiveness of RSA?

Answer—

I am advised that a review of the RSA training program was undertaken in 2009 by the former Government. The review identified the need for the program to be overhauled so that it continued to meet the needs of Government and industry in providing appropriate skills and knowledge to ensure liquor was served lawfully and responsibly on licensed premises.

Through the review, support was expressed for a tiered training approach – with a foundation course undertaken by serving staff, with further training for managers, licensees and security providing additional skills and knowledge.

I am advised that the review also identified the need to work towards a training scheme that is accepted in other Australian jurisdictions, particularly at the foundation course level, and complies with the national unit of competency.

I am advised that the former Government did not progress a further review of RSA training based on these outcomes.

Since the 2011 State election, the NSW Liberals and Nationals Government has focused on implementing its alcohol policy election initiatives. The implementation and outcomes of these initiatives will inform a proposed review of RSA training in 2012. This review will also consider relevant research, such as that referred to by the Member for Sydney.

\*1450 SYDNEY CRICKET AND SPORTS GROUND TRUST LAND—REMOVAL OF TREES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

With regard to a number of mature trees that were removed from Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust land along Driver Avenue in November:

- (1) How many trees were removed?
- (2) What was the age of each tree?
- (3) What was the species of each tree?
- (4) Why were the trees removed?
- (5) Who approved their removal?
- (6) What community consultation was conducted before the trees were removed?
- (7) What arborist reports were commissioned before the trees were removed?
- (8) What heritage reports were conducted before the trees were removed?
- (9) When were these reports made publicly available?
- (10) Where were they are publicly available?
- (11) What action will the Government take in response to local community outrage to protect parkland trees in the future?

Answer—

The Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust has confirmed six trees originally planted in 1987 were removed from the forecourt adjacent to the offices of Cricket NSW and the new Rugby League Central due to safety concerns. The Trust advised that the trees were not included in the redevelopment but they were becoming a safety risk for patrons with the roots uplifting the pavement, creating safety hazards and impacting on spectator and pedestrian movement in and around the precinct.

New trees have already been planted to suit the urban environment.

In relation to the approval process, I have been advised by the Trust that the land on which the trees were sited is known as 'designated land' described in Schedule 2A of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Act 1978, and as a consequence, the planting and removal of trees is a matter for decision by the Trust and does not require approval by the City of Sydney.

\*1451 DATE RECORDED ON AMENDED JOB NUMBERS—Mr Greg Piper asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to Department of Housing properties/social housing:

Where a contractor reports completion of maintenance work but a tenant advises otherwise, is the amended job number backdated to the date of the original request or the date of the revision?

Answer—

The amended job number is not backdated to the date of the revision. The amended job and related information is registered separately as a 'Recall' order and references the original work order.

The original job or work order remains as a stand alone item with its own historical data.

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\*1464 INCREASE IN M5 TOLL—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What advice has the Minister received from his department concerning the impact of the increase of the M5 toll on small businesses, particular those in the construction and skilled trade industries which rely on road transport?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Project Deed for the M5 South-West Motorway specifies that tolls can only be increased up to, but by no more than, Consumer Price Index adjustments.

Therefore, the cost of the tolls remains constant in comparison to the cost of living.

Roads and Maritime Services has received no advice of adverse impacts from the public or business community.

\*1466 STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Given that not all councils in NSW have implemented a ban on smoking on beaches, children's playgrounds and sporting fields, will the Government introduce a statewide ban on smoking on our beaches, sporting fields and children's playgrounds?

Answer—

I refer the Member to the Hansard record of comments by my colleague, the Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health, in a petition debate on smoke free areas on 24 November 2011.

\*1467 BACKLOG OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING PROPERTIES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) What is the estimated backlog of maintenance and repairs for public housing properties in the electorate of Keira?
- (2) What major maintenance and repair projects will be carried out in 2011-12 on public housing properties in the electorate of Keira?
- (3) For each of these projects can the Minister outline the specific addresses for the properties, the timeline for the commencement and estimated finish date and the estimated costs of each project?

Answer—

- (1) Based on the maintenance and repair records kept by the department, it is not possible to make estimations of the backlog in a specific electorate.
- (2) More than 270 properties throughout the electorate of Keira are programmed for maintenance in 2011-12 at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million.
- (3) Start and completion dates are subject to consultation between the Department of Finance and Services, contractor and tenant.