



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 250

MONDAY 11 MAY 2020

(The Questions and Answers Paper published every Tuesday of each week will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous sitting and any new questions. On subsequent days, new questions are printed, as are questions to which answers were received the previous day. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 235 (Including Question Nos 1226 to 1249)	11 May 2020
Q & A No. 236 (Including Question Nos 1250 to 1251)	12 May 2020
Q & A No. 237 (Including Question Nos 1252 to 1260)	13 May 2020
Q & A No. 238 (Including Question Nos 1261 to 1267)	14 May 2020
Q & A No. 239 (Including Question Nos 1268 to 1280)	15 May 2020
Q & A No. 240 (Including Question Nos 1281 to 1297)	18 May 2020
Q & A No. 241 (Including Question Nos 1298 to 1311)	19 May 2020
Q & A No. 242 (Including Question Nos 1312 to 1312)	20 May 2020
Q & A No. 243 (Including Question Nos 1313 to 1320)	21 May 2020
Q & A No. 244 (Including Question Nos 1321 to 1365)	22 May 2020
Q & A No. 245 (Including Question Nos 1366 to 1373)	25 May 2020
Q & A No. 246 (Including Question Nos 1374 to 1381)	26 May 2020
Q & A No. 247 (Including Question Nos 1382 to 1386)	27 May 2020
Q & A No. 248 (Including Question Nos 1387 to 1391)	28 May 2020
Q & A No. 249 (Including Question Nos 1392 to 1394)	29 May 2020
Q & A No. 250 (Including Question Nos 1395 to 1399)	01 June 2020

20 APRIL 2020

(Paper No. 235)

*1226 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ON ANIMAL CARE—Ms Hurst asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) In light of the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020, are members of the public allowed to travel to a location that is not their residence to care for their animals - for example, to feed, exercise and generally care for a horse that is agisted on another property?
- (2) Are members of the public allowed to transport animals to another location in order to feed, exercise and/or care for that animal?

Answer—

1. and 2.

Under the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020, a person must not, without reasonable excuse, leave their place of residence. Reasonable excuses include exercising and obtaining food or other services for the personal needs of the household (including for pets) and for vulnerable persons. More information about the Public Health Order is publicly available at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>.

*1227 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CLOSURE OF WOMBEYAN CAVES ROAD—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of Wombeyan Caves Road and the circumstances that have led to its closure?
- (2) Has the Minister received any representations about the Wombeyan Caves Road from Wingecarribee Shire Council?
- (3) Has the Minister received any representations from local residents about the Wombeyan Caves Road this year?
- (4) Is the Government providing any assistance to the Wingecarribee Council to repair and reopen the Wombeyan Caves Road?
 - (a) If so, how much?
 - (b) From which programmes?
- (5) Has the Minister visited the Wombeyan Caves Road to discuss the situation with local residents?
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, are there any plans to?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Transport for NSW is working with Wingecarribee Shire Council to assist them make a claim for damaged assets under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, including on Wombeyan Caves Road, but have yet to receive a formal submission from the Council for assessment. Funding to repair the road to its pre-disaster condition is available under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Funding for the program is provided to councils by the Office of Emergency Management via Transport for NSW. The NSW Government also provides funding assistance to Wingecarribee Shire Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council who are both responsible for the maintenance of Wombeyan Caves Road via Regional Road Block Grant and REPAIR programs.
- (5) No.

*1228 JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY—CLOSURE OF WOMBEYAN CAVES ROAD—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) Is the Minister aware of Wombeyan Caves Road and the circumstances that have led to its closure?
- (2) What is the Minister doing to ensure Wombeyan Caves tourism is not unduly effected by the road closure?
- (3) How will the department support local tourism operators at Wombeyan Caves whilst the road is closed?
- (4) Given the tourist route to Wombeyan Caves is closed will the department make a financial contribution to fix the road?
- (5) Has the Minister received any correspondence about Wombeyan Caves Road this year?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised the closure of Wombeyan Caves Road was due to widespread damage caused by fire and flood in the region.
- (2) The cumulative effects of drought, bushfires and the COVID-19 virus on all tourism-related businesses have been significant, particularly with the current Government restrictions and Public Health Orders requiring people to stay home. Once the restrictions ease and National Parks reopen, visitors can access the caves via the sealed Goulburn-Taralga-Oberon Road route.
- (3) See answer to Question b. The NSW and Commonwealth Governments have released an extensive range of support for businesses and communities across NSW. Tourism operators are encouraged to contact Service NSW to discuss their circumstances and eligibility for the financial support programs available.
- (4) Roads construction and maintenance is the responsibility of Transport for NSW. This Question should be referred to the appropriate Minister.
- (5) I am advised no correspondence has been received.

*1229 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) By what percentage has the funding to medical research increased each year over the last five years?

Answer—

- (1) Information about funding for medical research can be found on the Office for Health and Medical Research website.

*1230 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH IN 2019—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office of Medical Research website there are no key achievements listed for 2019. Why is that?
- (2) Were there any achievements in 2019?
 - (a) If so, what were they?

Answer—

1. and 2.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1196.

*1231 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When you click on the Medical Research Support Program Application Guidelines and Program Details download on the Office of Medical research website it advises that applications close on Wednesday 17 February 2016. Why is this out of date?
 - (a) How long has it been like this for? b) When will it be fixed?
- (2) The website advises that 'Applications for the next round of the Medical Research Support Program will take place in 2020.' Are applications currently open?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) When will they open?
 - (c) When will applications close?
- (3) Are the successful applicants publicly listed?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, where and what is the website url?
- (4) By year since inception, how many applicants have applied for previous grants under the Medical Research Support Program including their project names, the amount applied they applied for and how many were successful?
 - (a) Who assesses the grants?
 - (b) What are the budgets for grants?
 - (c) What are the criteria?
 - (d) Are these projects evaluated?
 - (e) Is it published?
 - (i) i) If so, where?
- (5) How much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Research Support Program?

Answer—

1. to 5.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1197.

*1232 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW HEALTH AND MEDICAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of the Health and Medical Research Sponsorship Program closed in July 2019. Have the successful applicants been notified?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, how much was allocated in the last round of funding?
 - (c) How many successful applicants were there?
 - (d) How many total applications were submitted?
- (2) When was the Health and Medical Research Sponsorship program created?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated since the program's creation?

Answer—

1. to 3.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1198.

*1233 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—EARLY-MID YEAR FELLOWSHIPS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of

Early-Mid Carer Fellowships closed in January 2018. Have the successful applicants been notified?

- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, how much was allocated in the last round of funding?
- (2) When was this program created?
 - (3) How much funding has been allocated since the program's creation?
 - (4) What Government policies exist and are in place to encourage early and mid-career scientists to develop skills in priority areas?
 - (a) What are the websites or URLs for these policies?

Answer—

1. to 4.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1199.

*1234 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL DEVICE COMMERCIALISATION TRAINING PROGRAM—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How long have applicants been unable to download the required application form for the Medical Device Commercialisation training program?
 - (a) What is the specific timeframe for this to be fixed?
- (2) Are applications still open for the Medical Device Commercialisation Training Program?
 - (a) How many applications have been received in the current round?
 - (b) When do applications close?
 - (c) If applications have closed, have all applicants been notified of the outcome of their application?
 - (d) If applications have closed, how many applications were successful?
 - (e) If applications have closed, have successful applicants been publicly announced?
- (3) What was the total amount of funding allocated for this funding round?
- (4) Who assesses the applications?
- (5) What are the criteria?
- (6) Are these projects evaluated?
- (7) Is it published?
 - (a) If so, where?
- (8) By financial year since inception, how much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Device Commercialisation Program?
 - (a) Will there be future rounds?
 - (b) When will the next round open and close?
 - (c) How much funding is allocated to future rounds?

Answer—

1. to 9.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1200.

*1235 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—NSW HEALTH PHD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) The Office for Health and Medical Research website shows that applications for the last round of the NSW Health PhD Partnership Program closed in November 2019. Have the successful applicants been notified?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If not, when will they be notified?
 - (c) How much funding was allocated in the last round of funding?
- (2) In the application guidelines it says that applications will be assessed an independent selection panel:
 - (a) Who are the people sitting on the independent selection panel?
 - (b) Where is each panel member employed?
- (3) How much funding has been allocated since the program's inception?
- (4) By year since inception, how many applicants have applied for previous grants under the NSW Health PhD Partnership Program including their project names, the amount they applied for and how many were successful?
 - (a) Who assesses the grants?
 - (b) What are the individual budget amounts for each grant?
 - (c) What are the criteria?
 - (d) Are these projects evaluated?
 - (i) Is it published
 - (ii) If so, where?
- (5) How much funding has been granted to date for the NSW Health PhD Partnership Program?

Answer—

1. to 5.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1201.

*1236 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CAPACITY PROGRAM—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office for Health Medical Research website applications for the last round of funding for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program closed in late 2019. What date did this program close?
 - (a) Have the successful applicants been notified?
 - (i) If not, why not?
 - (ii) If so, when will they be announced?
- (2) How many applicants applied for these grants?
 - (a) What is the number of applicants disaggregated by year since inception, project name and amount applied for and which ones were successful?
- (3) Who assesses the grants?
- (4) What are the criteria?
- (5) Are these projects evaluated?
 - (a) Is this information published?
 - (b) If so, where?
- (6) How much funding has been granted to date for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program?
 - (a) What is the amount of funding disaggregated by financial year since inception?
- (7) Why are there no links or information provided on the Office for Health and Medical Research website providing an application form or details on the process?
- (8) Is the program currently open and accepting applications?
 - (a) If so, when will it close?

Answer—

1. to 8.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1202.

*1237 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MEDICAL DEVICES FUND—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How many applications have been received in the current round for the Medical Devices Fund?
 - (a) Who assesses the applications?
 - (b) When will applicants be notified of the outcome of their application?
- (2) How much funding has been granted to date for the Medical Devices Fund?
 - (a) What is the amount disaggregated by financial year since inception?

Answer—

1. and 2.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1203.

*1238 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—BIOSPECIMEN COLLECTION GRANTS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) On the Office for Health and Medical Research website applications for the last round of funding for the Biospecimen Collection Grants closed in December 2018. Have these grants been announced?
- (2) Are the successful applicants listed on the website?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) How many applicants applied for these grants?
 - (a) What is the number of applicants disaggregated by year since inception, and by project name, the amount applied for, and which ones were successful?
- (4) Who assesses these grants?
- (5) What are the criteria?
- (6) Are these projects evaluated?
 - (a) Is this information published?
 - (b) If so, where?
- (7) How much funding has been granted to date on Biospecimen Collection Grants?
- (8) Why are there no links or information provided on the Office for Health and Medical Research website providing an application form or the process?
- (9) Is the program currently open and accepting applications?

Answer—

1. to 9.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1204.

*1239 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CLINICAL TRIALS NSW—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) When was the current ClinicalTrialsNSW Strategy developed?

- (a) How long did the consultation phase take to develop this Strategy?
- (b) Which organisations were consulted?
- (c) How was the consultation conducted?
- (2) Who works in ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (3) How many staff are working in ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (4) What is the Budget for ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (5) What internal plans have driven the development of ClinicalTrialsNSW?
- (6) When did the Office for Health and Medical Research join the CT:IQ Steering Committee?
- (7) How often does the CT:IQ Steering Committee meet?
- (8) How many people represent the Office of Health and Medical Research on the Steering Committee?
 - (a) Who are they?
 - (b) What is the Office of Health and Medical Research's role on the Committee?
- (9) How many other organisations are represented on the Committee?
- (10) People on your websites are often directed to contact the Clinical Trial Support Unit team on MOH-OHMR@health.nsw.gov.au for more information. Who answers this email?

Answer—

1. to 10.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1205.

*1240 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ORGANISATION CONFERENCE—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) Is the Minister attending the Biotechnology Innovation Organisation Convention in San Diego, California in June 2020?
- (2) On 20 February 2020, the Office for Health and Medical Research sent out an email inviting applications from individuals to join the New South Wales delegation and apply for funding to attend the convention. How much funding has been allocated for this convention?
 - (a) Where is this funded from?
 - (b) Is there a limit as to how many people can attend?
 - (c) When did applications open?
 - (d) Who attended the previous BIO Convention in Philadelphia?
 - (e) What was the cost of supporting the delegate?
- (3) Has the closing date been extended for applications?
- (4) Last year funding was done through www.business.nsw.gov.au however this year you are choosing to do the process through Eventbrite.
 - (a) What is the rationale for this change?
- (5) Why is the deadline two months earlier this year for registrations than last year?
 - (a) Why does the website show the closing date as 20 March 2020 and the email that was sent out by the Office of Health and Medical Research (OHMR) communications on 20 February 2020 advises the closing date is Friday 13th March 2020. Which one is correct?
 - (i) Will application still be accepted after Friday 13th March 2020?
- (6) How many applicants received financial support to attend the convention in 2019?

Answer—

1. to 6.

I refer the Member to the response to LC 1206.

*1241 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FIREARMS REGISTRY—Mr Borsak asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) In response to representations I made to the Minister on behalf of Mr Bill Phelan in June 2019, the Minister stated in a letter dated 30 July 2019 "it is anticipated Mr Phelan's matter will be finalised shortly". As of today, Mr Phelan has still not been contacted by the Firearms Registry. What is the reason for the delay in finalising this matter."

Answer—

I am advised Mr Phelan's matter was finalised in August 2019, when the Firearms Registry revoked Mr Phelan's licence and sent a formal Notice of Revocation. I understand Mr Phelan's lawyer subsequently requested the Firearms Registry undertake an internal review of its decision. This review is expected to be finalised shortly.

*1242 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Ms Jackson asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) What is the total number of schools in New South Wales that currently have a second set of school zone flashing lights?
 (2) How many schools across New South Wales currently do not have a second set of school zone flashing lights?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Government has ensured that every school in NSW has at least one set of school zone flashing lights, and continues to install flashing lights where new schools are constructed at locations without an existing set.

In total, there are now more than 6,000 school zone flashing lights signs in place across NSW to warn motorists when they enter a 40km/h school zone.

*1243 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Ms Jackson asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many schools have applied for a crossing guard since the Government confirmed it would hire an additional 300 crossing guards in the 2019 State Budget?
 (2) How many applications have been made and rejected since the 2019 State Budget?
 (3) Were applications for these additional crossing guards made separately to the usual process or as part of the usual application process?
 (4) If the former is correct, how many schools applied for crossing guards in response to the commitment but were rejected?
 (5) As of today, what is the total number of crossing guards employed in New South Wales?
 (6) As of today, what is the total number of schools across New South Wales where crossing guards are deployed?
 (7) As of today, how many New South Wales schools currently do not have a crossing guard?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Government is investing \$18.5 million to provide an additional 300 school crossing supervisors at schools across NSW. 81 applications have been received so far.
 (2) 81 received. 22 rejected.

- (3) The application process is no different.
- (4) n/a
- (5) 1153 school crossing supervisors are currently employed across NSW.
- (6) Over 700
- (7) Only schools that meet the eligibility criteria are eligible for a school crossing supervisor. Information on the eligibility criteria is available on the Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

*1244 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—CYCLEWAYS IN NEW SOUTH WALES—Ms Jackson asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many kilometres of separated cycleways currently exist in New South Wales?
- (2) How many kilometres of shared paths currently exist in New South Wales?

Answer—

I am advised:

There does not exist a comprehensive data set covering the aggregate length of all separated and shared cycleways that exist across NSW as a significant proportion of cycleways exist on local roads which are maintained by the relevant local council not Transport for NSW. As at August 2019, there were over 3,900 kilometers of known shared and separated cycleways in NSW. This does not represent anywhere near the entire length of all cycleways.

The NSW Government recognises that more people than ever before are walking or cycling to work or for leisure and fitness. Thanks to the strong economic management of the NSW Government, nearly \$600 million will be invested into walking and cycling infrastructure over the next four years to support the growth in walking and cycling. This will bring the NSW Government's total investment to around \$1 billion, the largest commitment in the State's history.

The NSW Government is committed to continuing to encourage people to walk and cycle as part of their everyday commute. We recognise that not only does it help relieve pressure on our roads and public transport system, but walking and cycling are healthy, active ways to travel. By continuing to invest in the construction of new separated paths and infrastructure, we help keep people safe while encouraging more people to take up these modes of travel.

The NSW Government is focused on cycling projects in line with Future Transport 2056 strategy. The strategy identifies the government's 40-year vision for transport planning to meet the demands of the predicted population growth in NSW. The strategy prioritises the delivery of connected cycling networks within 10 kilometers of metropolitan city centres by 2026, and within five kilometres of strategic centres by 2036. This vision supports the Greater Sydney Commission's objective of achieving a 30-minute city, where people live within 30 minutes of their workplace or services via active or public transport.

*1245 JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY—AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON DESTINATION NSW—Mr Veitch asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney—

- (1) According to the Auditor General's report on Destination NSW, major events in regional New South Wales received less than five per cent of the nearly \$360 million of funding available in the five years between 2014 and 2019.
 - (a) Why did this occur?
 - (b) Why has funding for spectator sport quadrupled?
 - (c) Why did eight major events receive \$8 million despite not being able to meet KPI's?

(d) Why did \$65 million get cut from Destination NSW?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) In the five years to 2018-19, Destination NSW invested over \$88 million in regional major events. This represents 24.7 per cent of all investment in major events throughout the State for that period. In addition, in the same period, Destination NSW provided almost \$6 million to events under the Regional Event Fund. Destination NSW also widely promotes regional major events as part of its marketing campaigns and features them prominently on its consumer website, visitnsw.com, and through social media activities.
- (b) Funding for spectator sport quadrupled between 2017-18 and 2018-19 only, following investment in major sporting events under the 10 World Cups in 10 Years initiative announced by the Premier in July 2018. Securing these high profile international events will provide economic, tourism, community and global media benefits for NSW. Large-scale major events attract hundreds of thousands of interstate and international visitors to NSW, filling hotels and restaurants and supporting local businesses. Two of the seven World Cups secured to date will be held in regional NSW:
 - (i) The 2021 World Athletics Cross Country Championships in Bathurst
 - (ii) The 2022 UCI Road World Championships in Wollongong.
- (c) The decision to allocate \$8 million over three years to two recurring events only was based on the Government's strategic objective to support and strengthen Sydney's positioning as an internationally recognised creative industries hub. The NSW Government takes a strategic approach to event investment, with Destination NSW assessing the strategic and tourism impact of an event, in addition to the economic benefits generated. Key performance indicators only represent one aspect of the assessment. Destination NSW has processes for assessing event applications and evaluating its support for major events. The NSW Audit Office, in its Final Report about Destination NSW's support for major events, concluded that such processes are mostly effective and noted that its reporting was consistent with that of equivalent organisations in other Australian jurisdictions.
- (d) The \$65 million variation between Destination NSW's 2017-18 and 2019-20 operating budgets mainly relates to:
 - (i) the conclusion of the 2015 election commitment funding of \$127.6 million over four years in 2018-19 to secure more big ticket events for NSW and deliver tourism promotions to attract more visitors to State
 - (ii) additional one-off items in 2017-18 which did not re-occur in 2019-20, such as the Newcastle civil works program.

*1246 COUNTER TERRORISM AND CORRECTIONS—COVID19 - MINISTERIAL PAROLE DECISIONS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections—

- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Corrections Commissioner under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, 2.5 Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 No 93, what parole orders have been made from 14 April 2020 to 21 April 2020?
- (2) For which inmates were these orders made?
- (3) What reasons were there for the orders?
- (4) How is parole supervision being administered?
- (5) For what crime was each paroled inmate originally convicted?
 - (a) How long was their sentence?

Answer—

(1) Nil

*1247 ATTORNEY GENERAL—COVID19 - MINISTERIAL DECISIONS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—

- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Minister under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, Division 5 Regulation-making power for exceptional circumstances, which regulations have been made by the Minister between 14 April 2020 and 21 April 2020?
- For what purpose were these regulations made?
 - What are the relevant details for each regulation?

Answer—

I refer the Member to my answer to LC Question on Notice 1181, which relates to the period up until 21 April 2020.

I am advised:

No regulations have been made to date, including between 14 April 2020 and 21 April 2020, under s 366 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1986. All regulations are published in the Government Gazette, available at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

*1248 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—COVID19 - MINISTERIAL DECISIONS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Minister under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, 2.8 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203, what Ministerial orders have been made between 14 April 2020 and 21 April 2020?
- For what purpose was each order made?
 - What are the relevant details for each order?

Answer—

I am advised:

No Ministerial orders were made under Section 10.17 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 between 14 April 2020 and 4 May 2020. Details of the Orders that have been made, along with supporting information, are available on the Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-andLegislation/COVID19-response.

Apart from the six Ministerial Orders issued to date, there are other mechanisms in the planning system that can aid in the response and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The planning system is one of the key levers to aid in the State's economic recovery. Ensuring the planning system is continuing to function, process applications, create a pipeline of projects and facilitate job creation.

On 3 April 2020, the NSW Government announced a multi-faceted reform and fasttracking program called the Planning System Acceleration Program. This program will:

- Create opportunities for more than 30,000 construction jobs in the next six months;
- Fast-track assessments of State significant developments, rezonings and development applications, with more decisions to be made by the Minister if required;
- Support councils and planning panels to fast-track local and regionally significant DAs;
- Introduce a 'one stop shop' for industry to progress projects that may be 'stuck in the system';
- Clear the current backlog of cases stuck in the Land & Environment Court with additional Acting Commissioners; and

- Invest \$70 million to co-fund vital new community infrastructure in North West Sydney including roads, drainage and public parks to unlock plans for the construction of thousands of new houses.

On 15 April 2020, the NSW Government also outlined its plan to reform developer contributions and levies to unlock new housing supply, deliver vital community infrastructure and boost investment in NSW. A series of immediate changes were announced including measures to require councils to publish how much they have collected in developer levies and where they have been spent, new guidelines related to the State's Special Infrastructure Contributions, options to simplify and shorten the process for reviewing s7.11 local contributions plans, and proposed changes to s.7.12 levies and voluntary planning agreements.

The Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat has also been appointed to undertake a review of current contributions and provide recommendations to the NSW Government by the end of the year. Reform of the contributions system will provide certainty to all players in the planning system.

On 28 April 2020, the NSW Government announced the first tranche of fast-tracked or accelerated planning projects. These projects have the potential to:

- Create almost 9,500 new jobs during construction or once complete;
- Inject \$7.54 billion into the State's economy;
- Deliver more than 325,000 square metres of new public open space, parks and environmental conservation lands; and
- Allow more than 4,400 new homes to be built, including more than 1,000 social and affordable homes.

Decisions on accelerated projects will be made within four weeks of announcement.

The NSW Government also released its criteria for projects that can be fast-tracked. To be considered for an accelerated assessment, the development application or rezoning must already be in the system, deliver a public benefit, demonstrate an ability to create jobs during construction and once complete, be able to commence construction within six months or allow a development application to be lodged within six months.

The criteria has been formulated by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in consultation with government agencies and key industry groups. A probity adviser will oversee and report on the process to ensure it is transparent and robust. You can view the criteria and first tranche of accelerated assessment projects at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/fast-tracked-assessments.

On 30 April 2020, the NSW Government announced changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 to set out the minimum requirements for all planning panels holding public hearings and meetings using telephone and video conferencing. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the Independent Planning Commission, Sydney District and Regional Planning Panels and local planning panels will all benefit from the new process of electronic hearings.

In the 2018/19 Financial Year, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment approved 335 projects worth more than \$18 billion, planning panels approved 360 projects worth more than \$13.6 billion and the Independent Planning Commission determined 43 projects worth more than \$1.47 billion to the State's economy. The changes are vital to clarify the legal requirements for public hearings and meetings during the pandemic and ensure planning bodies can continue to operate without delay to help generate as much economic benefits and create as many jobs as possible during this period.

*1249 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—CAPTAIN JAMES COOK
COMMEMORATION—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) With extensive online learning underway, will the NSW Education Department send out a commemorative Captain James Cook information or history essay to every school student on 29 April 2020, honouring the achievements of the explorer who helped to make modern Australia possible?
- (2) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Department of Education's approach in marking this important anniversary reflects the principles developed by the Reflections 1770 Reference Group, convened by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The Department has prepared extensive curriculum resources that mark this anniversary and support learning beyond it. They will be available online and are designed for learning in a digital environment. Syllabus outcomes in Human Society in its Environment, English, History, PDHPE, Mathematics, and Science and Technology are addressed. School librarians will be supported to create a whole school focus on the anniversary.. In addition, three articles about the arrival at Kamay Botany Bay were published in The School Magazine during Term 1.

An essay competition through The School Magazine will be available to students to mark the reopening of the Australian Museum, in August 2020.

21 APRIL 2020

(Paper No. 236)

*1250 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—PROVISIONAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICES ISSUED TO PRIVATE CERTIFIERS—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) Please provide the number of provisional improvement notices issued to private certifiers for:
 - (a) 2015?
 - (b) 2016?
 - (c) 2017?
 - (d) 2018?
 - (e) 2019?

Answer—

Provisional improvement notices are issued by Health and Safety Representatives, not SafeWork NSW staff. There is no obligation to report the issue of these notices to the Regulator. Neither SafeWork NSW Inspectors nor NSW Fair Trading officers, including Fair Trading's Building Professionals Board, issue provisional improvement notices.

*1251 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—SMART METERS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) Regarding the installation of Smart Electricity Meters in New South Wales, if existing old meters are still functional and working properly, can electricity companies force an upgrade onto consumers, or do they still possess the right to opt out of Smart Meter installation?
- (2) Does the term "end of life" for old meters appear in the legislation?
 - (a) How is it defined?
- (3) Are energy companies still required to inform residents of New South Wales in writing that they have a right to opt out of installation?
- (4) How many days' notice does an energy company have to give to indicate that they plan to change an

old meter to a smart meter?

- (5) Are there any penalties for energy companies who have not complied with questions 3 and 4 above?
- (6) Is the government aware of any energy retailers that have organised to rollout smart meters?
 - (a) If so, who are they?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, if a customer's existing meter is still functional and the electricity retailer initiates a meter replacement, National Energy Retail Rules require the retailer to provide the customer the choice to opt out of the new smart meter installation.
- (2) The term 'end of life' is not used or defined in national energy laws or NSW energy legislation. Under the National Energy Retail Rules, retailers can initiate a meter replacement in a scenario defined as a 'maintenance replacement', meaning that meter testing has indicated the meter no longer operates in accordance with 'good electricity industry practice'. The National Electricity Rules define this as the meter's ability to meet various regulatory and safety requirements. An inability to meet these requirements would require the meter to be replaced.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The National Energy Retail Rules require the electricity retailer to provide the customer two written notices; the first written notice between 25 and 60 business days before the proposed meter installation date, and the second written notice at least 10 business days after the first notice but no later than 15 business days before the installation date.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The roll-out of smart meters in NSW is industry-led.

22 APRIL 2020

(Paper No. 237)

*1256 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—DUNGOWAN AND WYANGALA DAMS—Mr Primrose asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) In relation to the Dungowan Dam, will any additional water that flows into the dam that is above the requirements for town water supply security be made available for environmental flows?
- (2) Upon completion of the Wyangala Dam upgrade, will any of the additional water be made available for environmental flows?

Answer—

- (1) An upgrade of the Dungowan Dam will require a review of the Namoi Water Sharing Plan.
- (2) An upgrade of the Wyangala Dam will require a review of the Lachlan Water Sharing Plan.

*1259 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—PROVISIONAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICES ISSUED TO PRIVATE CERTIFIERS—Mr Shoebridge asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many provisional improvement notices (PINs) were issued to private certifiers for not erecting and/or maintaining a sign at a development site, as required by clause 227A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Regulation in each of the follow years:
 - (a) 2014-15?
 - (b) 2015-16?
 - (c) 2016-17?
 - (d) 2017-18?
 - (e) 2018-19?
- (2) What was the total revenue of the PINs issued for non-compliance in each of those financial years?

- (3) Has the Building Professional Board developed a program for auditing signs on development sites?
- (4) How many PINs in total were issued to private certifiers by the regulator or regulators in each of the follow years
- 2014-15?
 - 2015-16?
 - 2016-17?
 - 2017-18?
 - 2018-19?

Answer—

1. to 2. Provisional improvement notices are issued by Health and Safety Representatives, not SafeWork NSW staff. There is no obligation to report the issue of these notices to the Regulator. Neither SafeWork NSW Inspectors nor NSW Fair Trading officers, including Fair Trading's Building Professionals Board, issue provisional improvement notices.

3. No.

4. As per answer 1-2, neither SafeWork NSW Inspectors nor NSW Fair Trading officers, including Fair Trading's Building Professionals Board, issue provisional improvement notices.

27 APRIL 2020

(Paper No. 240)

*1284 POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES—OPENING OF SHOOTING RANGE—Mr Borsak asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Who issued the invitation to Mrs Vebe Simmons to attend the John Morony corrections complex on 18 September 2018 for the opening of the shooting range?

Answer—

I am advised:

The (then) Assistant Commissioner, Security & Intelligence, Corrective Services NSW issued the invitation to Mrs Simmons on behalf of the Commissioner of Corrective Services. Ms Simmons was invited as her husband, who the range was named after posthumously, gave his life in the line of duty.

On 23 June 2020, the Minister provided the following additional answer:

The (then) Assistant Commissioner, Security & Intelligence, Corrective Services NSW issued the invitation to Mrs Simmons on behalf of the Commissioner of Corrective Services. Mrs Simmons was invited as the range was named posthumously after her husband, who passed away after a long illness.

11 MAY 2020

(Paper No. 250)

1395 PREMIER—STATE LIBRARY PAYMENTS TO CONTRIBUTORS OF THE DIARY FILES—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Premier—

- (1) In 2020 has the State Library of NSW paid any contributors to its 'The Diary Files'?
- If so, who has been paid?
 - How much were they paid?

- 1396 COUNTER TERRORISM AND CORRECTIONS—COVID-19 MINISTERIAL PAROLE DECISIONS—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections—
- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Corrections Commissioner under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, 2.5 Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 No 93, what parole orders have been made from 4 May 2020 to 11 May 2020?
 - (2) For which inmates were these orders made?
 - (3) What reasons were there for the orders?
 - (4) How is parole supervision being administered?
 - (5) For what crime was each paroled inmate originally convicted?
 - (a) How long was their sentence?
- 1397 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—COVID-19 MINISTERIAL DECISIONS—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—
- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Minister under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, 2.8 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203, what Ministerial orders have been made between 4 May 2020 and 11 May 2020?
 - (a) For what purpose was each order made?
 - (b) What are the relevant details for each order?
- 1398 ATTORNEY GENERAL—COVID-19 MINISTERIAL DECISIONS—Mr Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Attorney General, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence—
- (1) Under the extraordinary powers granted to the Minister under the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020, Division 5 Regulation-making power for exceptional circumstances, which regulations have been made by the Minister between 28 April 2020 and 4 May 2020?
 - (a) For what purpose were these regulations made?
 - (b) What are the relevant details for each regulation?
- 1399 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—BIO CONVENTION—Ms Moriarty to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—
- (1) For each year from 2011 to 2019, can the Minister provide the number of delegates sponsored by the Government to attend the BIO International Convention including the following:
 - (a) The cost of this sponsorship?
 - (b) How many were government employees?
 - (c) How many were government contractors?
 - (d) How many were government officials such as Ministers or Members of Parliament?
 - (e) How many were Ministerial staff?
 - (2) For each year from 2011 to 2019, was a Government hosted breakfast or other networking event for delegates and their guests to promote NSW Health market opportunities held?
 - (a) If so, for all events can the Minister indicate:
 - (i) The number of New South Wales delegates attending each function?
 - (ii) The number of guests attending each function?
 - (iii) The number of total people attending each function?
 - (iv) The cost of hosting each function?
 - (3) For each year from 2011 to 2019, did the Government make any financial or in kind contribution to the Australian Pavilion, including staffing?
 - (a) If so, what was the value of the contribution, disaggregated by financial, in kind and staffing

- contributions?
- (i) How many visitors were estimated to have attended the pavilion?
 - (ii) Was there any tracking of visitors who attended the pavilion to indicate a return on investment?
 - (iii) Was there any evaluation undertaken regarding the success of any government support for the Australian Pavilion?
 - (iv) If so, what were the results of any such evaluation?
- (4) Has New South Wales ever hosted its own Pavilion?
- (a) If so, what was the value of the contribution, disaggregated by financial, in kind and staffing contributions?
 - (i) How many visitors were estimated to have attended the pavilion?
 - (ii) Was there any tracking of visitors who attended the pavilion to indicate a return on investment?
 - (iii) Was there any evaluation undertaken regarding the success of any Government support for the Australian Pavilion?
 - (iv) If so, what were the results of any such evaluation?
- (5) For each year from 2011 to 2019, how much did the Government spend on marketing collateral distributed at the event?
- (a) How much marketing collateral was produced using funds from the Office of Health and Medical Research?
 - (b) How much marketing collateral was produced using funds from NSW Health?
 - (c) How much marketing collateral was produced using funds from the other Government agencies?
 - (d) What was the cost of producing marketing collateral to the Office of Health and Medical Research?
 - (e) What was the cost of producing marketing collateral to NSW Health?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments