



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 207

MONDAY 9 MARCH 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. 192 (Including Question Nos 1048 to 1055)	09 March 2020
Q & A No. 193 (Including Question Nos 1056 to 1057)	10 March 2020
Q & A No. 194 (Including Question Nos 1058 to 1059)	11 March 2020
Q & A No. 195 (Including Question Nos 1060 to 1063)	12 March 2020
Q & A No. 196 (Including Question Nos 1064 to 1067)	13 March 2020
Q & A No. 197 (Including Question Nos 1068 to 1070)	16 March 2020
Q & A No. 198 (Including Question Nos 1071 to 1071)	17 March 2020
Q & A No. 199 (Including Question Nos 1072 to 1072)	18 March 2020
Q & A No. 200 (Including Question Nos 1073 to 1074)	19 March 2020
Q & A No. 201 (Including Question Nos 1075 to 1075)	20 March 2020
Q & A No. 202 (Including Question Nos 1076 to 1076)	23 March 2020
Q & A No. 203 (Including Question Nos 1077 to 1079)	24 March 2020
Q & A No. 204 (Including Question Nos 1080 to 1080)	25 March 2020
Q & A No. 205 (Including Question Nos 1081 to 1081)	26 March 2020
Q & A No. 206 (Including Question Nos 1082 to 1086)	27 March 2020
Q & A No. 207 (Including Question Nos 1087 to 1088)	30 March 2020

17 FEBRUARY 2020

(Paper No. 192)

*1048 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—MINISTER PROTOCOLS AT LOCAL MEETINGS—Mr Shoebridge asked the Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, Vice-President of the Executive Council representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What are the protocols or practices governing interactions between the Minister for Local Government and individual councils including attendance by the Minister at Local Council meetings and interactions during council meetings?
- (2) Did the Minister inform the Council of her intention to attend the Council meeting on 11 February 2020?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Did the Minister attend a meeting of Shoalhaven Council on 11 February 2020?
 - (a) If so was it in the Minister's capacity as the Minister for Local Government or some other capacity?
 - (b) If some other capacity what was that capacity?
 - (c) Was the Minister accompanied by any Ministerial or department staff?
- (4) Did the Minister provide advice or guidance to any individual councillors during the Shoalhaven Council meeting on 11 February 2020?
 - (a) If so was that in the Minister's capacity as the Minister or some other capacity?
 - (b) If as a minister what was the advice provided and to which councillors?

Answer—

Shoalhaven City Council is the sole council within my electorate of South Coast. I attended the meeting in my capacity as the Member for South Coast.

*1049 TREASURER—SYDNEY STARTUP HUB—Ms Jackson asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the current utilisation rate of the Sydney Startup Hub since it was created?
- (2) How many start-ups are currently occupying space in the Sydney StartUp Hub as of February 2020?
- (3) How much spare capacity is available at the Sydney Startup Hub as of February 2020?

Answer—

I am advised that this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney.

*1051 CUSTOMER SERVICE—CHANGES TO NSW WARATAH LOGO DESIGN—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Customer Service—

- (1) How much did the Government spend on focus groups examining alternatives to the NSW Waratah Logo design in 2019 and 2020?
- (2) How much did the Government spend on other research examining alternatives to the NSW Waratah Logo design in 2019 and 2020?
- (3) Since March 2019, how much has the Government spent on merchandise related to the creation and use of the new Rainbow Waratah logo?
- (4) Since March 2019, how much has the Government spent on logo replacement related to the creation and use of the new Rainbow Waratah logo?
- (5) Since March 2019, how much has the Government spent on other activities related to the creation and use of the new Rainbow Waratah logo?

Answer—

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) \$4,000.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) Nil.

*1052 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING PROGRAM—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) The Department of Education's website states that the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program "involves schools using an evidence-based problem solving framework". What is the evidence base showing that PBL achieves or contributes to improved academic results for students?
- (2) On average for participating schools, how many classroom hours per week are used in teaching PBL?
- (3) Which public schools using PBL since the beginning of the 2018 school year achieved higher average NAPLAN reading results that lifted them above the comparable schools measure on the My School website for 2019 NAPLAN?
- (4) Which public schools using PBL since the beginning of the 2018 school year achieved higher average NAPLAN numeracy results that lifted them above the comparable schools measure on the My School website for 2019 NAPLAN?

Answer—

- (1) Research conducted by Gage & Lewis (2015), found that schools implementing PBL have been successful in reducing inappropriate behaviour and increasing appropriate behaviour. This includes lower rates of behaviour referrals, reduced suspensions, and improvements in literacy and numeracy outcomes. Internationally, there is some evidence that PBL can enhance learning outcomes for students. Most of these studies, however, are descriptive, non-experimental studies based on a limited sample size. Two US studies - Bradshaw, Mitchell & Leaf (2010) and Horner et al. (2009) - followed a more rigorous research design and found improvements in standardised achievement test scores.
- (2) As a multi-tiered framework of support, there is no prescriptive time for teaching PBL. The time spent is dependent on school and class context, student age, ability, content and learning goals.
- (3) The Department does not currently have this data. The evaluation of PBL is underway.
- (4) The Department does not currently have this data. The evaluation of PBL is underway.

*1053 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—SCHOOL PLAN STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) In the three Strategic Directions of their School Plans (2018-20), which NSW government schools list "Achieving Academic Growth" (or words of similar intent)
- (2) Why has the school goal/strategic direction of achieving academic growth not been made compulsory in New South Wales government schools?

Answer—

- (1) As at July 2018, the indicative number of schools to reference "achieving academic growth" or words of similar intent in their school plan strategic directions, was at least 1,018 of 2,208 schools. This number is indicative due to point in time analysis and limitations associated with searching for terms in school plans. For example, a school may reference words of similar intent to "achieving academic growth", but have not been included in the search terms for analysis. Schools may have also updated their school plan since the point in time analysis in July 2018. It is for this reason that this number should be treated with caution and used to draw indicative conclusions, rather than those that are definitive.
- (2) The Department of Education's School Excellence Policy requires NSW public schools to develop their school plan in line with the School Excellence Framework across the three key domains of education: learning, teaching, and leading. Through the School Excellence Framework, all NSW public schools are committed to achieving high quality student educational outcomes. In 2020, in

line with the Premier's Priorities, all schools with students sitting NAPLAN will commit to attainment targets for the top two NAPLAN bands (Reading and Numeracy). Expected Growth targets have been made available to all schools.

*1054 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—NESA SPONSORSHIP—Mr Latham asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How much in sponsorship did the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) pay to support the "dedicated day for students in Years 9 to 12 on 29 April at the Sydney Writers Festival"?
- (2) On what basis did NESA, in promoting the event in (1) above, describe Miranda Tapsell as "an acclaimed journalist and writer"?
- (3) Did NESA sponsor the Sydney Writers Festival session by Bruce Pascoe and if so, how much did this cost?
- (4) On what basis does NESA regard the fiction author in (3) above as being a credible source for New South Wales school students studying Australian history?

Answer—

The Sydney Writers' Festival is funded by private individuals, and corporate partners and sponsors.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is a partner with the Sydney Writers' Festival (SWF) for the Festival's Student Sessions. Under the partnership agreement for the 2020 festival, NESA will pay the SWF \$73,855. Costs also include venue hire, speaker fees and accommodation, live streaming services, event staff costs, and marketing.

The Student Sessions presenters are selected from a shortlist developed by the SWF with the aim of providing a program that complements a range of NSW syllabuses and provides students with the opportunity to engage with the ideas outside the traditional classroom setting. This shortlist is solely based on the wider list of presenters that have been secured to appear at the main Sydney Writers' Festival.

Information used in promotional materials for the student sessions are developed by the SWF in collaboration with NESA.

The NESA News bulletin of 17 February 2020 had an item promoting the Student Sessions and included the following sentence:

Presented in partnership with NESA, the event features six 45 minute sessions by acclaimed writers and journalists, including:

- Miranda Tapsell
- Daniel Mendelsohn
- Anna Krien

Miranda Tapsell is an Aboriginal Australian actor and screenwriter whose writing credits include the AACTA-nominated *Top End Wedding*.

The SWF's session *Writing Australia* will feature Bruce Pascoe in conversation with journalist Daniel Browning, talking about Pascoe's contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytelling. The session's subject matter is expected to have links to NSW syllabus outcomes for History, Aboriginal Studies, and Society and Culture.

Pascoe's non-fiction book, *Dark Emu*, was the winner of the 2016 Indigenous Writer's Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and the Book of the Year in the 2016 NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

NESA syllabuses make no reference to Dark Emu or Bruce Pascoe.

NESA syllabuses provide significant opportunities to study Australian history and Aboriginal Education. NESA and the NSW Government support the education of Aboriginal children and young people, and the education of all NSW students about Aboriginal histories and cultures.

9 MARCH 2020

(Paper No. 207)

1087 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—INDOOR WOOD HEATERS—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

In relation to Health & Economic impacts of indoor wood heaters:

- (1) Have any reports been conducted by the Department of Health in relation to the health impacts of indoor wood heaters?
 - (a) If so, who commissioned these reports?
 - (b) If so, what are the detailed outcomes of these reports?
 - (c) If not, will the NSW Government consider commissioning further research into the health impacts of indoor wood heaters?
- (2) Are Local Councils across New South Wales permitted to restrict the installation of new wood heaters in urban areas to those with emissions of 0.1 g/kg and efficiency ratings of 85% in the AS4013 test?
 - (a) If so, what information is provided to Councils by the Office of Local Government (OLG) to ensure accurate advice in consideration of these matters and to ensure councils are not incurring significant and unnecessary expense pertaining to legal advice on this matter?
 - (b) If not, will the NSW Government consider providing further guidance to Councils concerning this matter?
 - (c) What specific actions will the Minister take to ensure that local councilors can be provided with advice on the health impacts of wood heaters when considering the assessment of development applications relating to the installation of wood heaters?
- (3) Has the NSW Government taken steps to ensure that new urban installation of wood heaters is consistent with ecologically sustainable development?
- (4) Has the NSW Government considered the financial pressures applied to Emergency Departments as a result of hospitalisation from exposure to indoor wood heaters?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that there is no evidence of adverse health effects from smoke discharged from the flues or chimneys of wood-burning heaters in urban areas if they have been installed in accordance with local council regulations?
 - (a) If so, what is the citation for the most recent evidence?
 - (b) If not, what are the health effects?
 - (c) If not, will additional resources be allocated the NSW Health Emergency Departments to assist in the impact of hospital admissions relating to smoke inhalation from exposure to indoor wood heaters?

1088 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—NEWCASTLE PORT COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION FUND EXPENDITURE—Mr Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) The Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation's (HCCDC) website for the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund states that \$500,000 was allocated to the Nobby's Lighthouse Redevelopment, that this project did not proceed and that unused funds from the project were rolled into a future round. What was the value of the unused funds?
 - (a) How much was expended on this project before a decision was made not to proceed?

- (2) HCCDC's website for the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund states that \$332,000 was allocated to GrainCorp for their 'Projecting Newcastle' project, that this project did not proceed and that unused funds from the project will be rolled into a future round. What was the value of the unused funds?
- (a) How much was expended on this project before the decision was made not to proceed?
- (3) What was the actual expenditure for each of the following rounds of the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund:
- (a) Round 1;
(b) Round 2;
(c) Round 3; and
(d) Round 4?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliaments