



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2019-20-21

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 595

WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 580 (Including Question Nos 7403 to 7417)	29 September 2021
Q & A No. 581 (Including Question Nos 7418 to 7425)	30 September 2021
Q & A No. 582 (Including Question Nos 7426 to 7435)	1 October 2021
Q & A No. 583 (Including Question Nos 7436 to 7443)	4 October 2021
Q & A No. 584 (Including Question Nos 7444 to 7455)	5 October 2021
Q & A No. 585 (Including Question Nos 7456 to 7459)	6 October 2021
Q & A No. 586 (Including Question Nos 7460 to 7489)	7 October 2021
Q & A No. 587 (Including Question Nos 7491 to 7519)	8 October 2021
Q & A No. 588 (Including Question Nos 7490 to 7538)	11 October 2021
Q & A No. 589 (Including Question Nos 7539 to 7560)	12 October 2021
Q & A No. 590 (Including Question Nos 7561 to 7571)	13 October 2021
Q & A No. 591 (Including Question Nos 7572 to 7600)	14 October 2021
Q & A No. 592 (Including Question Nos 7601 to 7602)	15 October 2021
Q & A No. 593 (Including Question Nos 7603 to 7621)	18 October 2021
Q & A No. 594 (Including Question Nos 7622 to 7626)	19 October 2021
Q & A No. 595 (Including Question Nos 7627 to 7634)	20 October 2021

**8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

(Paper No. 580)

- \* 7403 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE NSW POLICE FORCE—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

I refer the Minister to the answer given to question 7174 on the notice paper standing in my name. The Minister was not asked to comment on New South Wales Police Force investigations, he was asked if the Department of Health provided the New South Wales Police Force with the details of persons who had breached public health orders at a specific gathering that occurred this year on the 19th of July. I ask the Minister again:

- (1) Did the New South Wales Department of Health provide the New South Wales Police Force with the details of the people that breached public health orders by attending a gathering at a residence after a funeral at Pendle Hill on the 19th July 2021?
  - (a) If the details of the individuals who attended the unlawful gathering were not provided:
    - (i) Why were these details not provided to the New South Wales Police Force by the New South Wales Department of Health?

Answer—

NSW Health takes the privacy and confidentiality of all COVID-19 positive cases and their contacts seriously. Gaining and maintaining the trust of the community is critical to the public health response, so that people feel comfortable to come forward for COVID-19 testing and disclose information to public health staff that enables rapid contact tracing and isolation of casual and close contacts. This helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the community.

- \* 7404 PREMIER—VACCINATION FREEDOMS AND PRIVILEGES—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Premier—

On 3 September 2021 the Premier is quoted on news.com.au as giving the following statements in the media.

“NSW residents won’t be granted any more freedoms until the state hits its 70 per cent double dose target” and “But when the state does start opening up the privileges will only be for those who are vaccinated” and “I don’t want people who have chosen not to get vaccinated to whinge that they can’t do certain things. Only the vaccinated will be able to go out for a meal and do things others can’t do”.

- (1) Did the Premier make those three statements?
- (2) Is it the Premier's role to grants residents of New South Wales their “freedoms”?
- (3) Why did the Premier associate “freedoms” and “privilege”?
- (4) Is it government policy to differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated people when granting the privilege of freedom for some and not others?
- (5) Before implementing these two sets of rules will the Premier recall both houses of the New South Wales Parliament to debate the merits of this policy?
- (6) Can the Premier understand that many people might be offended by her choice of language in these quotes?
- (7) Does the Premier regret making these statements?

Answer—

The NSW Government continues to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 27 September 2021, the NSW Government announced its plan for reopening NSW. This information is publicly available.

\* 7405 BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION—RENT RELIEF DURING COVID-19—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Finance and Small Business representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation—

- (1) How many residential landlords have applied for a Residential Tenancy Support Payment for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
- (2) How many residential landlords have applied the COVID-19 land tax benefit for agreeing to reduce the rent for COVID-19 impacted tenants from 14 July 2021?
- (3) How much of the \$210 million the New South Wales Government allocated to rent relief has been spent?

Answer—

- (1) Information on the Government's residential tenancy support payments including the number of applications received, number of applications approved or declined and the total amount released can be found on the Fair Trading website.

[www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/coronavirus-covid-19/property/moratorium#tracker](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/coronavirus-covid-19/property/moratorium#tracker)

- (2) This question should be directed to the Minister for Customer Service.
- (3) Information on the Government's residential tenancy support payments including the number of applications received, number of applications approved or declined and the total amount released can be found on the Fair Trading website.

[www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/coronavirus-covid-19/property/moratorium#tracker](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/publications/coronavirus-covid-19/property/moratorium#tracker)

\* 7407 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) What is the total cost to all Councils in New South Wales since the 2017 election on the investigation of Code of Conduct complaints?
- (2) What are the total amount of complaints that have had a preliminary investigation by Code of Conduct Investigators, that did not result in proceeding to findings going before a Council meeting?
- (3) What are the total amount of matters that resulted in findings that were reported to Council meetings for determination of disciplinary outcomes?
- (4) What steps are being undertaken to ensure these complaints are not abused for political purposes?

Answer—

I am advised:

Code of conduct complaints must be managed in accordance with the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (the Procedures). The Procedures have been designed to ensure code of conduct matters are dealt with independently of the council and in a manner that is both robust and fair.

Statistics on Code of Conduct complaints are published on the Your Council website - <https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/>

\* 7408 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Regarding the use of the word Independent as part of the name of Local Government candidates, when was this referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters?
  - (a) When is a response to this anticipated?

- (2) What consideration has been given to amending clause 356G of the regulation, to ensure where a candidate has safety risks with providing their street address, a PO Box is an accepted alternative?
- (3) What changes if any are being made to the conduct of performance reviews of Local Government executives?
- (4) Has consideration been given to changing the performance review process so a General Manager cannot appoint their own representative to the Review Panel and that it consists of qualified persons capable of doing proper reviews?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The rules governing the use of the word “independent” by registered political parties are the same for both State and local government elections, under the Electoral Act 2017. As advised in the Budget Estimates hearing on 11 March 2021, further consideration may be given to this issue after the local government elections are held.
- (2) Section 356G of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 was amended in December 2019 on the advice of the NSW Electoral Commission to align the authorisation requirements that apply at local government elections with those that apply at State elections.
- (3-4) Ultimately, it is a matter for each council to determine the arrangements for undertaking performance reviews of general managers and other senior staff as required under their contracts of employment.

The NSW Government has issued Guidelines for the appointment and oversight of general managers (The Guidelines) which provide best practice guidance to councils on conducting performance reviews of their general managers.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) will be updating the Guidelines based on corruption prevention recommendation 1 made by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in its report of its investigation into allegations concerning former councillors and other public officials of the former Canterbury City Council (Operation Dasha). ICAC recommended that OLG amend the Guidelines to recommend that the performance agreements of general managers include performance indicators related to ethical culture. ICAC recommended that specific measures that could be promoted include the conduct and measurement of outcomes from staff surveys and the promotion of whistleblowing procedures.

The Guidelines advise that panel members should be trained in the performance management of general managers and that councils should consider appointing an external expert facilitator to advise and support the process.

\* 7409 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES, INDUSTRY AND TRADE—EDEN REGION WOOD SUPPLY—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade—

- (1) Noting that the Wood Supply Agreement (WSA) for sawlogs in the Eden Region sets out milestones regarding the approval and construction of a new sawmill mill at the Eden chipmill:
  - (a) Have the milestones in the WSA been met?
  - (b) What would be the consequences of not meeting the milestones?
  - (c) Has the new sawmill at the Allied Natural Wood Enterprises (ANWE) premises become operational?
  - (d) What quantity of sawlogs has been supplied to Allied Natural Wood Enterprises (ANWE) from the Eden Region in each month since January 2019?
- (2) Has any timber from any south coast State Forests been supplied to South Coast Timbers Pty Ltd at Eden in 2020 and 2021?
  - (a) If so, what are the details?
  - (b) How much and under what arrangements?

- (3) Regarding compensation arrangements for redundancy payments to staff of the former Blue Ridge Hardwoods at Eden following its loss of the Eden Sawlog Wood Supply Agreement:
- (a) How many workers received redundancy payments?
  - (b) What was the total of payments made?
  - (c) How many former Blue Ridge staff were ineligible because they were engaged by Allied Natural Wood Enterprises or Pentarch?
  - (d) How many are now employed by South Coast Timbers Pty Ltd?
- (4) Since January 2020, have log trucks travelling between New South Wales and Victoria been categorised in any ways to modify or exempt drivers from rules applying to the general public for example, are they considered essential workers?
- (a) If so, what are the details?
- (5) Have any permanent or temporary changes been made to Wood Supply Agreements since the summer 2019-2020 bushfires?
- (a) If so, what are the details?
- (6) Have any permanent or temporary changes been made to log prices for each grade of logs delivered following the summer 2019-2020 bushfires?
- (a) If so, what are the details?
- (7) Has the Forestry Corporation made provision for additional protection for species affected by the 2019-2020 bushfires, as identified by the federal Wildlife and Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel for urgent management intervention?
- (a) If so, what are the details?
- (8) What is the current delivered price for each grade of logs from:
- (a) The Southern RFA Region?
  - (b) The Eden RFA Region?
    - (i) What is the stumpage component of each delivered price?

Answer—

- (1)
  - (a) Milestones have been completed with the exception of commissioning.
  - (b) The contract is on Forestry Corporation's website.
  - (c) No.
  - (d) See table.

Month	Quantity (m3)		
	2019	2020	2021
Jan	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0
Mar	0	0	0
Apr	0	0	558.968
May		71.023	450.53

Jun	0	0	509.423
Jul	0	227.449	921.343
Aug	0	681.584	1181.204
Sep	0	400.957	
Oct	0	0	
Nov	0	0	
Dec	0	0	

- (2) Yes.
- (a) Short-term minor timber sales agreement between Forestry Corporation of NSW and South Coast Timbers for sawlogs supplied from the South Coast tablelands supply zone.
- (b) 183.023m<sup>3</sup>, short-term minor timber sales agreement.
- (3)
- (a) A total of 55 workers have received Blue Ridge Worker Support Payments.
- (b) \$8,200,000 paid to date with final \$50,000 scheduled in 2022-23.
- (c) To claim a Blue Ridge Worker Support Payment, eligible former Blue Ridge workers needed to not be in ongoing full-time work at the end of their qualifying period. The qualifying period was the period of time for which the worker received a redundancy payment.
- (d) Unknown.
- (4) Log trucks are subject to the same public health orders as all freight movements between states.
- (5) Force majeure provisions have been enacted for all coastal wood supply agreements to account for reduced supply levels following the 2019-20 bushfires.
- (6) Prices for timber were adjusted in accordance with the price review mechanisms contained within the relevant Wood Supply Agreements. Wood Supply Agreements are published on Forestry Corporation's website.
- (7) The Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (CIFOA) contains robust protection measures for the identified species. In FY20 Forestry Corporation worked with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to augment these conditions with additional site-specific operating conditions for harvesting operations in forests impacted by fire. Additional voluntary environmental safeguards were introduced for operations on the South Coast and in Eden from March. These address the same post-fire risks as the site-specific operating conditions, increase flora and fauna surveys and enhance habitat protection.
- (8)
- (a) Southern RFA region:
- High Quality Sawlogs: high quality sawlogs are not sold under delivered price arrangements. The current stumpage price is provided in the price schedule below.
  - Low Quality Sawlogs: low quality sawlogs are sold to different customers under different sale arrangements. Customers with delivered price arrangements only are provided. The FY22 year to date average delivered price is \$65.30/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Pulpwood: The FY22 year to date average delivered price is \$90.69/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Firewood: The FY22 year to date average delivered price is \$83.61/m<sup>3</sup>.

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- (b) There are no delivered price sales in the Eden RFA region. Current high quality sawlog stumpage price is provided in the price schedule below.
- (i) Products sold under delivered price agreements do not include a fixed stumpage component by product. Current prices are provided in response to 8(a).
- \* 7410 FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND DISABILITY SERVICES—SOCIAL HOUSING—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans representing the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services—
- (1) How many individuals over 65 are currently on the social housing waiting list?
- (2) How many individuals over 65 are currently on the priority social housing waiting list?
- (3) How many individuals over 65 were on the social housing waiting list in each of the following financial years:
- (a) 2019-2020?
- (b) 2018 – 2019?
- (c) 2017 – 2018?
- (d) 2016 – 2017?
- (4) How many individuals over 65 were on the priority social housing waiting list in each of the following financial years:
- (a) 2019-2020?
- (b) 2018 – 2019?
- (c) 2017 – 2018?
- (d) 2016 – 2017?
- (5) What additional information is collected in relation to individuals on the social housing waiting list?
- (a) Is data collected regarding:
- (i) Gender?
- (ii) Cultural background?
- (iii) Sexual identity?
- (6) What additional information is collected in relation to individuals on the priority social housing waiting list?
- (a) Is data collected regarding:
- (i) Gender?
- (ii) Cultural background?
- (iii) Sexual identity?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1-4) Data on the general and priority housing waiting list as at 30 June 2020, is available via the Department of Communities and Justice’s website on the expected waiting times dashboard: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/applying-assistance/expected-waiting-times>.

Data as at 30 June 2021 is expected to be released by the end of 2021.

Data on individuals over 65 on the general and priority housing waiting list is not included in routine reporting.

(5-6)

(a)



- (i) Yes
- (ii) Yes
- (iii) No

\* 7411 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—VACCINATION IN SCHOOLS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) What vaccination records are parents required to provide for the purposes of enrolling their children in New South Wales kindergartens and schools?
- (2) What happens to children who are not vaccinated in respect of their school attendance?
- (3) Given the high rate of unvaccinated children in Byron Bay:
  - (a) What are the restrictions on the enrolment of unvaccinated students?

Answer—

Under the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW), parents/carers are asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement when enrolling a child in a primary or secondary school.

A child without an Immunisation History Statement will not be prevented from enrolling. However, children without proof of immunisation may be asked by Public Health Officials to stay at home during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.

I strongly encourage all eligible students to get vaccinated for COVID-19.

\* 7412 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) Given that the Department of Primary Industries has contacts for most if not all the recreational fishing associations:
  - (a) Why did your department exclude them as a key stakeholder from the initial consultation of the Animal Welfare Reform?
- (2) Given that the Department of Primary Industries has contacts for most if not all of the commercial fishing business owners within New South Wales:
  - (a) Why did your department exclude them as a key stakeholder from the initial consultation of the Animal Welfare Reform?
- (3) Given that the Department of Primary Industries through the Game Licensing Unit has the contacts for 237 approved hunting organisations in New South Wales:
  - (a) Why did your department excluded them as a key stakeholder from the initial consultation of the Animal Welfare Reform?

Answer—

Stakeholders have not been excluded from public consultation on Animal Welfare Reform.

The reform is being driven by feedback from the people of NSW, with the process providing multiple opportunities for anyone to have their say on what the !av.is should be.

From February to June 2020, public feedback was sought on an Issues Paper on the existing animal welfare framework. Over 1,100 submission and survey responses were received from a wide range of community members and stakeholders.

On 3 August 2021, the Animal Welfare Reform- Discussion Paper was published for community feedback. The Paper outlines the proposed changes to the new !av.is, which are based on the feedback received from the community on the Issues Paper last year.

The NSW Government will use feedback from the public consultation process to refine the proposed changes before these come before the Parliament.

\* 7413 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—FISHING OFFENCES—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What is the total value of fines issued for fishing offences over the last 3 years?
- (2) What is the total value from fines that has been returned to the Recreational Fishing trusts over the last 3 years?

Answer—

- (1) \$3,117,750.00. All fines issued under the Fisheries Management Act and Marine Estate Management Act go to consolidated revenue.
- (2) \$3,300, as required under the Rock Fishing Safety Act, went directly to the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust.

\* 7414 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—INVESTMENTS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

- (1) What has been the total investment by the Department of Primary Industries over the last 3 years in lab grown/cell based meats?
- (2) What research projects into lab grown/cell based meats led by other organisations has the Department of Primary Industries partnered with in the last 3 years?
- (3) Did this partnership include financial assistance?
  - (a) If yes, what was the total amount in dollars in assistance?
  - (b) If no, what was the nature of the assistance you provided?

Answer—

- (1) None.
- (2) None.
- (3) NIA.

\* 7415 AGRICULTURE AND WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES—MULLOWAY HARVEST STRATEGY WORKING GROUP—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales—

The department advertised expressions of interest for the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group on 23 May 2021, over 3 months ago. With the following positions open: Independent Chairperson, Independent Scientist, Independent Economist, New South Wales recreational fishers (3 positions), New South Wales commercial fishers (3 positions) and Aboriginal fishing representative.

- (1) Were EOIs for all positions received?
- (2) In the case of multiple EOIs for one position, how was the successful applicant chosen?
- (3) Are there any positions yet to be filled?
- (4) Will members of this working group receive any remuneration or be able to claim expenses?
- (5) What are the anticipated frequency of meetings?
- (6) Will the minutes of these meetings be published on the Department's website?
- (7) Will this working group be disbanded once it has provided its advice to Commfish and RFNSW or will it remain active to evaluate the harvest strategies implementation?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.

- (2) A selection panel was formed to evaluate all EOIs. The panel evaluated all the EOIs against selection criteria published in the group's Terms of Reference.
- (3) No.
- (4) Remuneration has been determined in accordance with the Public Service Commission.
- (5) The meeting schedule has not yet been determined
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Members of the Mulloway Harvest Strategy Working Group are appointed until 29 August 2023 to complete the Mulloway Harvest Strategy, including during draft review, consultation and adoption.

\* 7416 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—UBER—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

It was reported recently that Uber had been issued \$200,000 in fines for more than 500 previously undeclared offences.

- (1) Why is the point-to-point commission heavily reliant on self-reporting for compliance?
- (2) Given the fines equate to less than a fine for failing to stop at a stop sign, are you confident these fines are an adequate deterrent for rogue behaviour by rideshare operators?
- (3) What further steps will the point-to-point commissioner make if Uber fails to comply with the 13 improvement notices it was issued?
- (4) What further steps are available to the point-to-point commissioner if Uber or any other operator continues to demonstrate behaviour contrary to the act?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The premise of this question is factually incorrect. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner monitors industry compliance through safety audits, on-street compliance activity and investigations. It is a requirement under legislation that service providers report serious incidents or accidents to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner.
- (2) Penalty notice amounts are set in legislation.
- (3-4) Further steps available to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner include prosecution to comply with an improvement notice and application to the District Court for an order to compel compliance with an improvement notice.

\* 7417 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—MAITLAND SCHOOLS—The Hon. John Graham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How many permanent staffing vacancies are there in New South Wales public primary and high schools throughout the Maitland electorate as at 1 September 2021?
  - (a) Which positions remain vacant?
    - (i) Which schools are they located at?
    - (ii) How long have these positions been vacant?
- (2) What is the age profile of permanent teachers working in schools in the Maitland electorate and how many are aged:
  - (a) Under 25 years?
  - (b) 26 years – 30 years?
  - (c) 31 years – 40 years?
  - (d) 41 years – 50 years?

- (e) 51 years – 60 years?
  - (f) Over the age of 61 years?
- (3) From the commencement of term 1 this year, on how many occasions have schools in the Maitland electorate been unable to fill a vacancy with a casual replacement?
- (a) When this occurs what arrangements are put in place to ensure that classes can still be conducted?
  - (b) How many occasions have resulted in two classes or more being combined?
    - (i) Is there a capped number of students allowed in a classroom?
    - (ii) Was learning conducted in a COVID safe environment?
  - (c) Have teachers been taken from other support programs within the school to replace a vacancy?
    - (i) If so, which schools has this occurred at?
    - (ii) On how many occasions?
    - (iii) Which programs have they been taken from?
    - (iv) Were the support teachers replaced?
  - (d) When teachers are removed from their support programs to fill classroom vacancies, does that mean students who are requiring intensive intervention miss out?
- (4) How many casual teachers are listed as available to teach at schools in the Maitland electorate?
- (5) What is the age profile of casual teachers working in schools in the Maitland electorate and how many are aged:
- (a) Under 25 years?
  - (b) 26 years – 30 years?
  - (c) 31 years – 40 years?
  - (d) 41 years – 50 years?
  - (e) 51 years – 60 years?
  - (f) Over the age of 61 years?
- (6) Considering the Government's 2019 election commitment to hire an additional 4,600 teachers over the next four years, how many additional teachers have been hired to date (as at 1 September 2021)?
- (a) How many additional teachers have been funded and allocated to the Maitland electorate in this four-year period (as at 1 September 2021)?
  - (b) How many new teachers have been employed within the Maitland electorate (as at 1 September 2021)?
    - (i) Of these teachers, how many are currently employed on a casual, part-time and full-time basis (as at 1 September 2021)?
- (7) Will the Maitland electorate receive any additional resources over the next two years?
- (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) There are a total of 5.7 FTE permanent teaching positions vacant across the Maitland electorate subject to recruitment action.
- (a)
    - (i) The following schools in the Maitland electorate have one or more permanent teaching vacancies subject to recruitment actions:

<u>School Name</u>	<u>Permanent Vacancy</u>
Maitland East Public School	1
Maitland High School	2
Hunter River Community School	0.7
Gillieston Public School	1
Rutherford Technology High School	1

- (ii) Of the vacant positions, two have been subject to recruitment action for between three and six months. In both cases, the recruitment activity has progressed and outcomes are expected soon. The remaining vacancies have been subject to recruitment activity for less than three months.

(2)

- |     |                           |     |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| (a) | Under 25 years:           | 2%  |
| (b) | 26 years – 30 years:      | 10% |
| (c) | 31 years – 40 years:      | 29% |
| (d) | 41 years – 50 years:      | 30% |
| (e) | 51 years – 60 years:      | 21% |
| (f) | Over the age of 61 years: | 8%  |

- (3) From the commencement of Term 1, 2021, there were 712 occasions across 22 schools in the Maitland electorate, where a day to day vacancy was unable to be filled with a casual teacher replacement.

- (a) Arrangements put in place to ensure classes are still conducted include classes being covered by the principal or executive staff, classes split across the school, teachers on release from face to face teaching remaining on class or the reallocation of some teachers delivering intervention programs.
- (b) From the commencement of Term 1, 2021, there were 132 occasions across nine schools in the Maitland electorate, resulting in two classes or more being combined.
- (i) There is no cap on the number of students allowed in a classroom.
- (ii) All activities and operations in NSW schools are being conducted in line with guidance and advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee guidelines and NSW Health, as applicable.
- (c-d) Schools keep the level of disruption for students requiring intervention to a minimum to ensure continuity of student support. From the commencement of Term 1, 2021, there were seven schools identified in the Maitland electorate where teachers were removed from support programs to fill classroom vacancies (see Table A).

Table A - List of Schools

Q3 (c) (i)	Q3 (c) (ii)	Q3 (c) (iii)	Q3 (c) (iv)
Schools where this occurred	Number of occasions	Programs	Support teacher replaced
Francis Greenway High School	6	Intervention Support or Learning and Support	No
Thornton Public School	6	Intervention Support	No
Bolwarra Public School	8	Intervention Support	No

Largs Public School	2	Learning Support	and	No
Maitland Public School	2	Learning Support	and	No
Nillo Infants School	2	Learning Support	and	No
Rutherford Public School	17	Learning Support	and	No

- (4) The Department does not centrally hold information as the locality casual teachers are willing to teach. However, data has been extracted from ClassCover to identify casual teachers willing to work in the Maitland electorate.

To connect with NSW public schools for casual teaching work, the Department is utilising ClassCover. ClassCover is the preferred casual employment recruitment tool which is being used in over 1,730 NSW public schools (nearly 80% of all NSW public schools). ClassCover connects casual teachers with their preferred schools, streamlining the casual teacher recruitment process.

Data from ClassCover shows that 3,750 casual teachers are registered on ClassCover to teach in the Maitland electorate (2,028 active and 1,722 inactive). There are 22 schools in the Maitland electorate, of which 21 are registered with ClassCover.

- (5)
- |                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Under 25 years:           | 14% |
| (b) 26 years – 30 years:      | 18% |
| (c) 31 years – 40 years:      | 31% |
| (d) 41 years – 50 years:      | 17% |
| (e) 51 years – 60 years:      | 9%  |
| (f) Over the age of 61 years: | 10% |
- (6) There has been an increase of 3,478 FTE teachers engaged by the Department between 2019 and 30 June 2021. The NSW Government is on track to meet its commitment.
- (a) 31.2 FTE additional teachers have been funded from February 2019 to 10 September 2021. Note: this is based on centrally funded teaching entitlements as per the staffing agreement.
- (b) There has been an increase of 67 FTE teachers within the Maitland electorate between 2019-2021.
- Casual: N/A – casual FTE is included in the part-time break down Full Time: 35 FTE  
Part Time: 32 FTE
- (7) Schools in the electorate will receive staffing allocations in accordance with the school's entitlement allocation.

## 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

(Paper No. 595)

7627 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—TAXI DRIVERS—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) The Minister has recently contracted Kathy Jones & Associates (KJA) to run consultation on proposed reforms on the Point-to-Point sector:
- (a) Why did the Minister instruct KJA to ignore the report produced by Portfolio Committee No. 6 which had far wider consultation with the industry than the Sue Bake Finch report?

- (b) Should such a reform not be based on all the information available?
- (c) A spokesperson from Transport for NSW in a webinar hosted on Wednesday 15 September (12.00 pm to 1.00 pm) stated that next year Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) is going to cancel all existing New South Wales Taxi Licenses. This is the first time anyone from the industry was made aware of this announcement:
- (i) When was this decided upon and by whom?
- (d) Under the Minister's proposal, existing property rights in licenses will be extinguished (cancelled):
- (i) Is this proposal being utilised to encourage taxi plate owners to accept assistance payments that fall short of the value of their plates at point when rideshare entities entered the market?
- (e) Why has TfNSW unilaterally decided to use the same criteria as the 2016 payment when that payment was for income loss, and this is for the capital value of the license?
- (f) Why are all licenses (within a category) owned by an entity not automatically included?
- (i) Do they not have the same market value as each other?
- (g) If the PSL is the mechanism that is funding the monetary arrangement, why is it to be capped?
- (h) Why will a financing structure that securitises the PSL and other P2P income streams (at a 3 per cent coupon rate) not be considered to raise the \$1.5 - \$2 billion required to buy back all licenses at fair and just value?
- (i) Has the government sought or engaged independent professional financial services to accurately determine a financial assistance dollar value to the industry?
- (i) If so, what were the terms of reference and outcome?
- (ii) If not, how did the government arrive at the indicative figure of \$250 million?
- (j) The current slated financial assistance options and process are very similar to the 2016 assistance model in which most of the funds were absorbed by tax:
- (i) What steps are the government taking to ensure this is not going to lead to a similar result?
- (k) The Webinar format provided for specific online questionnaires and industry feedback. In many instances these questions were offered with absolutely no substance to allow for accurately informed answers..... e.g. "Would you as a current license holder want to or be likely to continue in the industry after the reforms?":
- (i) Why was such a question asked when the government has not provided comprehensive modelling as to how the industry will look?
- (2) The Sue Baker-Finch "report" which has been described by industry as a rehash of reports in other jurisdictions is reportedly forming the basis of these reforms:
- (a) What qualifications and experiences in the point-to-point industry did Sue Baker-Finch present that entitled her to make representation on the future sustainability of the regulated industry?
- (b) Given that hire car drivers were paid out in full up to \$418,000 tax free previously, allowed to keep their licence plates for 2 years then hand them back to RMS, and now in 2021 many still operating with HC plates attached:
- (i) Why are they included in this process?

7628 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—COST OF REWILDING PLANS FOR SHANES PARK—Mr Justin Field to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) In regards to the Government's announcement on 26 September 2021 for the reintroduction of species as part of a new National Park at Shanes Park in Western Sydney:
  - (a) What is the anticipated capital cost for the establishment of the park?
  - (b) What is the anticipated annual operational cost for the running of the park?
  - (c) What is the anticipated annual revenue from the park?
  - (d) How many full time equivalent staff will be dedicated to the park?

7629 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—REWILDING PLANS FOR SHANES PARK—Mr Justin Field to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) In regards to the Government's announcement on 26 September 2021 for the reintroduction of species as part of a new National Park at Shanes Park in Western Sydney:
  - (a) In addition to the 12 priority species identified on the Department's website:
    - (i) What are the names of the remainder of the 30 species planned for reintroduction to the park?
  - (b) For each of the 30 species identified for reintroduction:
    - (i) What is the proposed timeline for reintroduction?
  - (c) For each of the 30 species identified for reintroduction:
    - (i) How many individuals will likely be part of the initial release?
  - (d) For each of the 30 species identified for reintroduction:
    - (i) Where will the individual animals for release into the park come from?
    - (ii) If this information isn't available for all species, please provide details for the priority species?

7630 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT—THE SUITABILITY OF SPECIES FOR REINTRODUCTION TO SHANES PARK—Mr Justin Field to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Energy and Environment—

- (1) In regards to the Government's announcement on 26 September 2021 for the reintroduction of species as part of a new National Park at Shanes Park in Western Sydney and specifically the statement on the Department's website that:

"The suitability of the mammal and bird species selected for reintroduction has been confirmed by one of Australia's leading ecologists, Dr Chris Dickman from the University of Sydney":

  - (a) How did Dr Chris Dickman provide this certification? (ie. was a report provided to the Government or a certifying letter in response to a Government request or some other form?)
  - (b) Can any analysis by Dr Chris Dickman about the suitability certification be made public?

7631 HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH—MONEY ALLOCATION—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Health and Medical Research—

- (1) How much money is allocated to the Office of Health and Medical Research?
- (2) How much money is allocated for the Medical Research Support Program (MRSP)?
- (3) What Institutes receive money?
  - (a) How much do they receive?



7632 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—ENDANGERED HOUSES FUND—The Hon. Walt Secord to ask the Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts—

- (1) How much was allocated to the Endangered Houses Fund from April 2011 to 1 October 2021?
  - (a) How many houses were funded and saved?
    - (i) Of those, how many involved works related to homes, but not specific homes?
- (2) How much was allocated to the Endangered Houses Fund in 2020-2021?
  - (a) In that year, how much was spent?
  - (b) Please list the houses funded and the individual amount?
  - (c) How much of those allocations did not involve actual houses - but items like road and bridge work?
- (3) How much was allocated to the Endangered Houses Fund in 2019-2020?
  - (a) In that year, how much was spent?
  - (b) Please list the houses funded and the individual amount?
  - (c) How much of those allocations did not involve actual houses - but items like road and bridge work?
- (4) How much was allocated to the Endangered Houses Fund in 2018-2019?
  - (a) In that year, how much was spent?
  - (b) Please list the houses funded and the individual amount?
  - (c) How much of those allocations did not involve actual houses - but items like road and bridge work?
- (5) How much was allocated to the Endangered Houses Fund in 2017-2018?
  - (a) In that year, how much was spent?
  - (b) Please list the houses funded and the individual amount?
  - (c) How much of those allocations did not involve actual houses - but items like road and bridge work?

7633 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—TEACHERS PERFORMANCE—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) How many teachers have been placed on a teacher improvement plan (TIP) and employee performance improvement plan (EPIP) within the last 5 years while restricted from duties due to a workers compensation claim?
  - (a) If any, why has the department chosen to act contrary to the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*?
- (2) How many teachers have been placed on a TIP/EPIP while conducting learning from home?
- (3) How does the department propose to conduct a performance management plan of a teacher's capabilities while learning from home that complies with procedural fairness?
- (4) How many teachers placed on a TIP/EPIP since the Tedeschi review have failed to have their submission reviewed by a panel as per the recommendations which were accepted by the Department of Education?
- (5) What is the mean, median and longest timeframe for a determination to be made on a TIP/EPIP since the Tedeschi review?

7634 EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING—HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTORATE—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning—

- (1) In 2019 Budget Estimates after you were presented with 140 page document pertaining to complaints regarding bullying and harassment within the health and safety directorate, the secretary Mark Scott explained that Price Waterhouse Coopers had done a health check who found no evidence of such claims. Under further questioning about whether Price Waterhouse Coopers was restrained from looking at such matters, the secretary at the time stated “that he was sorry people had that perception”.

Given Price Waterhouse coopers made the following statement within the report.

"Throughout the course of the consultations, there were several instances where individuals raised instances of unacceptable behaviour that they believe constituted bullying and/or harassment. Investigating these allegations was outside of the scope of the Health Check." (PWC: Health & Safety Directorate Health Check, p15, March 2019)”:

- (a) Why did the Department secretary seemingly mislead the Budget Estimates committee by suggesting that it was a misperception that bullying and harassment had been left off the scope of the health check?
- (b) Was Mark Scott directed or encouraged by the Minister's office to make such a statement?
- (c) Who within the Department made the decision to exclude bullying and harassment from the scope of the health check?
- (d) Given there has been at least one successful case regarding this matter in the workers compensation commission, of which the Minister has appealed, does the Department stand by its decision to remove bullying and harassment from the scope of the health check?
- (e) How many complaints of bullying and harassment have been received since that health check?
- (f) How many of those complaints have been investigated?
- (g) How many complaints have been received since the Executive Director of that Department took leave?

David Blunt  
Clerk of the Parliament