



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 619

THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 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.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 604 (Including Question Nos 7676 to 7682)	4 November 2021
Q & A No. 605 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 606 (Including Question Nos 7683 to 7684)	8 November 2021
Q & A No. 607 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 608 (Including Question Nos 7685 to 7685)	10 November 2021
Q & A No. 609 (Including Question Nos 7686 to 7686)	11 November 2021
Q & A No. 610 (Including Question Nos 7687 to 7687)	12 November 2021
Q & A No. 611 (Including Question Nos 7688 to 7705)	15 November 2021
Q & A No. 612 (Including Question Nos 7706 to 7712)	16 November 2021
Q & A No. 613 (Including Question Nos 7713 to 7721)	17 November 2021
Q & A No. 614 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 615 (Including Question Nos 7722 to 7724)	19 November 2021
Q & A No. 616 (Including Question Nos 7725 to 7727)	22 November 2021
Q & A No. 617 (Including Question Nos 7728 to 7730)	23 November 2021
Q & A No. 618 (Including Question Nos 7731 to 7738)	24 November 2021
Q & A No. 619 (Including Question Nos 7739 to 7740)	25 November 2021

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(Paper No. 604)

- * 7677 WATER, PROPERTY AND HOUSING—MACQUARIE WATER SECURITY SCHEME—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing—
- (1) The Map of Water projects in New South Wales includes the Macquarie Water Security Scheme (Macquarie River Re-reg Storage):
 - (a) Does the Macquarie Water Security Scheme contain any additional infrastructure elements than the Macquarie River re-regulating storage project?
 - (b) Does the Macquarie Water Security Scheme include any pipelines?
 - (2) Has Water Infrastructure NSW secured funding for first phase of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Macquarie River Re-Regulating Storage Project or the Macquarie Water Security Scheme (the project)?
 - (a) What is the dollar figure of the funding for the first phase of the EIS for the project?
 - (b) What is the source of the funding for the first phase of the EIS for the project?
 - (c) What is the balance of the funding required to complete the EIS for the project?
 - (3) What was the Tributary Utilisation Rate for the Macquarie Regulated Water Source for the following water years:
 - (a) 2020/2021?
 - (b) 2019/2020?
 - (c) 2018/2019?
 - (d) 2017/2018?
 - (e) 2016/2017?
 - (f) 2015/2016?
 - (g) 2014/2015?
 - (h) 2013/2014?
 - (i) 2012/2013?
 - (j) 2011/2012?
 - (4) Has the Final Business Case for the Macquarie River Re-Regulating Storage Project or the Macquarie Water Security Scheme been completed?
 - (5) Does the case for change in the business case for Macquarie Water Security Scheme include a concise yet rigorous assessment of the impacts of increasing the reliability of water for general security water customers in the Macquarie regulated water source upstream of the project, on the following:
 - (a) The availability and quality of water for basic landholder rights, including First Nations right to access water downstream?
 - (b) The condition and the resilience of the Ramsar listed Macquarie Marshes?
 - (c) The volume of water available for connectivity events between the Macquarie and the Barwon Rivers?
 - (6) Does the Cost Benefit Analysis of the Macquarie Water Security Scheme include a concise yet rigorous assessment of the economic, social and environmental cost the project would have on:
 - (a) The irrigation industry in the unregulated Lower Macquarie water source?
 - (b) The recreational fishing industry?

- (c) Loss of tourism and social amenity in the community of Warren?
 - (d) The grazing industry adjacent to the Macquarie Marshes?
 - (e) The increase in cost of water charges to compensate the annual repairs and maintenance budget of the project?
- (7) Do any of the Cost Benefit Analysis scenarios included in the Final Business Case for the Macquarie Water Security Scheme incorporate the capture of water from all sources?
- (8) Does the Financial Analysis in the Final Business Case of the Macquarie Water Security Scheme include the estimated annual cost of repairs and maintenance of the project?
- (a) What is the estimated annual cost of repairs and maintenance of the project?
- (9) Have the issues quoted below and raised by Dr Jim Bentley Chief Executive Officer – Water (Deputy Secretary), in his correspondence to Water NSW in February 2020 (*BN 20/98 Macquarie mid system re-regulating storage and Lachlan Lake Rowlands to Carcoar business case project plans (Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund)*) been fully addressed?
- “The draft project plans and associated documents /do not currently demonstrate value for money and an efficient, effective and prudent use of public funds.”
- “Both Treasury and Infrastructure NSW committee members were not satisfied with the budget and/or governance arrangements for the project.”

Answer—

- (1) WINSW will assess a full range of alternate and complementary options as well as undertake additional critical environmental and technical studies to develop the FBC in accordance with the NSW Government Business Case Guidelines.
- (2) Yes
- (a) \$927,000.
 - (b) Snowy Hydro Legacy Funds and the NSW consolidated fund.
 - (c) NSW is in discussions with the National Water Grid Authority.
- (3) Please refer to the answer provided in response to LC 1837.
- (4) WINSW is now preparing the FBC for the Macquarie Water Security Scheme. The FBC will be completed in 2022.
- (5) A comprehensive assessment of the costs, benefits, and environmental and financial impacts will be included in the FBC.
- (6) A comprehensive assessment of the costs and benefits will be included in the FBC.
- (7) A comprehensive assessment of the costs and benefits will be included in the FBC.
- (8) A comprehensive assessment of costs and financial impacts will be included in the FBC.
- (9) WaterNSW was engaged by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) to prepare the FBC for Macquarie mid system re-regulating storage project, supported through funding from the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. As of 1 September 2021, responsibility for this project was transferred from WaterNSW to WINSW, in addition to the other major water infrastructure projects previously being led by WaterNSW.

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7739 JOBS, INVESTMENT, TOURISM AND WESTERN SYDNEY—WESTERN SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—The Hon. Peter Primrose 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 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, and Minister for Industry and Trade—

- (1) Is it the case that Western Sydney International Airport is proposed to have an initial capability of processing 220,000 tonnes of cargo/ freight annually?
 - (a) If not, what is the estimated capability?
- (2) What is the estimated number of truck movements that will be required annually to move this volume of cargo/ freight?
- (3) In the absence of a freight rail line to the airport, which roads in Western Sydney are planned to have to carry the bulk of this additional cargo/ freight?
 - (a) What dates will any new roads be opened?

7740 TRANSPORT AND ROADS—WESTERN SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, and Minister for Transport and Roads—

- (1) Is it the case that Western Sydney International Airport is proposed to have an initial capability of processing 220,000 tonnes of cargo/ freight annually?
 - (a) If not, what is the estimated capability?
- (2) What is the estimated number of truck movements that will be required annually to move this volume of cargo/ freight?
- (3) In the absence of a freight rail line to the airport, which roads in Western Sydney are planned to have to carry the bulk of this additional cargo/ freight?
 - (a) What dates will any new roads be opened?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament