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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 699

FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2022

(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. 684 (Including Question Nos 8323 to 8325)	11 March 2022
Q & A No. 685 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 686 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 687 (Including Question Nos 8326 to 8332)	16 March 2022
Q & A No. 688 (Including Question Nos 8331 to 8372)	17 March 2022
Q & A No. 689 (Including Question Nos 8373 to 8382)	18 March 2022
Q & A No. 690 (Including Question Nos 8383 to 8385)	21 March 2022
Q & A No. 691 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 692 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 693 (Including Question Nos 8387 to 8390)	24 March 2022
Q & A No. 694 (Including Question Nos 8391 to 8394)	25 March 2022
Q & A No. 695 (Including Question Nos 8395 to 8404)	28 March 2022
Q & A No. 696 (Including Question Nos 8405 to 8408)	29 March 2022
Q & A No. 697 (Including Question Nos 8409 to 8412)	30 March 2022
Q & A No. 698 (Including Question Nos 8413 to 8416)	31 March 2022
Q & A No. 699 (Including Question Nos 8417 to 8430)	1 April 2022

18 FEBRUARY 2022

(Paper No. 684)

- * 8325 FAIR TRADING—INVESTIGATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS FOR UNDER QUOTING—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Fair Trading—
- (1) How many complaints were received in the 2021 calendar year for under quoting by Real Estate Agents in New South Wales?
 - (a) How many of those complaints were investigated?
 - (b) How many prosecutions commenced as a result?

Answer—

- (1) In 2021, NSW Fair Trading received 329 enquiries and complaints related to underquoting.
 - (a) All complaints of underquoting were referred for inspection.
 - (b) In 2021, no prosecution action was taken by Fair Trading for underquoting, however, investigations did result in five (5) corporate licensees and two (2) individual licence holders entering into enforceable undertakings to refrain from engaging in unjust conduct relating to the marketing of properties for sale under the provisions of section 38 of the Act. Further undertakings include compulsory training in property valuations and stringent supervision obligations against the licensee in charge.

11 MARCH 2022

(Paper No. 699)

- 8417 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT—The Hon. Mark Buttigieg to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—
- (1) How many employees who identify with having a disability are employed by:
 - (a) Department of Education?
 - (b) NSW Education Standards Authority?
 - (2) How many senior managers who identify with having a disability are employed by:
 - (a) Department of Education
 - (b) NSW Education Standards Authority
- 8418 ENERGY—CARBON EMISSIONS—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—
- (!) The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) together with the Australian National University (ANU) recently published research showing that one in three fossil fuel projects in Australia emits more pollution than was estimated by the company when the project was approved:
 - (a) Given these concerns, has consideration been given to an urgent review of Environmental Impact Statements for existing fossil fuel projects to ensure the Government and the public know how polluting they are?
 - (b) Has consideration been given to reviewing and fixing the Environmental Impact Process for new proposals, so we have a truer picture of the emissions of all projects?
 - (c) What measurements for emissions is the Minister relying on in order to plan this state's transition to net zero by 2050?
 - (i) How might this be impacted given the ACF/ANU research demonstrating that many projects are drastically underestimating their emissions?

8419 ENERGY—ENERGY EFFICIENCY—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) Will the Government allow local councils to set stricter standards than the new building sustainability index (BASIX) requirements, if deemed appropriate for their local communities?

8420 ENERGY—EU TAXONOMY AND GAS - KURRI KURRI—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) Regarding the European Union's (EU) sustainable finance taxonomy, which classifies a list of economic activities and environmental criteria that each must meet to earn a green label:
 - (a) Given the carbon emissions intensity of the Kurri Kurri gas power generator is double the maximum allowed under EU standards for sustainable gas investment (according to Credit Suisse), have the increased emissions as a result of this project been factored into the Government's roadmap to achieve halved emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050?
 - (b) What modelling is the Government relying on to estimate increased emissions as a result of the Kurri Kurri gas power plant?

8421 ENERGY—GLENCORE MINE—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) The trend in the National Electricity Market is for wind and solar renewables to replace ageing coal-fired generators, why isn't this being considered as an option for the Hunter region instead of another expanded coal mine?
- (2) Why is the Government allowing expansion of open-cut coal mining at a time when the market and the climate demand that they close?
- (3) What is the forecast for increased emissions as a result of the proposed expansion of the Glencore mine, the Glendell Continued Operations Project?
 - (a) Have the increased emissions as a result of this project been factored into the Government's roadmap to achieve halved emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050?
 - (b) In light of recent ACF/ANU research showing emissions are regularly underestimated in Environmental Impact statements, what modelling and estimates is the Minister relying on to plan for increased emissions as a result of the expanded Glencore mine?

8422 ENERGY—RECYCLING AND RENEWABLES—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) What is the Government doing to encourage neighbourhood batteries at substations?
- (2) What steps are being taken to adapt the grid to renewables to allow households to install large batteries and solar panels?
- (3) What systems are in place to facilitate recycling of medical waste?

8423 ENERGY—RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) Given the over-subscription of Renewable Energy Zones, how is the Government engaging local councils and community representatives to participate in the assessment and decision-making process regarding renewable projects in their region?
- (2) Will the Government support regional communities by developing planning standards that require a proportion of the value of a development to be set aside for community benefit-sharing schemes?

8424 ENERGY—SNOWY HYDRO 2.1—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) The \$3.3 billion extension cord that will transfer power generated by the new Snowy Hydro project to the New South Wales electricity grid is in danger of arriving years after the project comes online in 2025. When it is completed in early 2025, Snowy 2.0 will deliver 2,000 megawatts of

dispatchable power to Victoria and New South Wales via two giant interconnectors which have connectors that will allow its electricity to reach New South Wales and Victoria. The interconnector which will deliver power from Snowy 2.0 is scheduled to be built by 2031 at the earliest, six years after the Snowy is scheduled to come online. Snowy Hydro has attacked a planned national energy blueprint, warning a failure to push ahead with crucial investment in new electricity transmission could trigger higher power prices, blackouts and dangerous system instability:

- (a) Recent reports suggest that electricity from Snowy 2.0 could be wasted for up to a decade because critical pieces of its infrastructure may be built years after the project comes online. How is the Government seeking to address this?
- (b) When will New South Wales be able to use electricity from this project?
- (2) Snowy Hydro has said a failure to invest in electricity transmission infrastructure now could trigger higher power prices, blackouts and dangerous system instability. What modelling has been done regarding this?
 - (a) When will the necessary transmission infrastructure for Snowy 2.0 be delivered?

8425 ENERGY—WIND ENERGY—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—

- (1) What steps has the Government taken to put in place a positive regulatory framework for offshore wind?
- (2) Are there any plans to extend either the Newcastle or the Illawarra Renewable Energy Zones offshore, at least to the edge of the State limits?

8426 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—ABORIGINAL HERITAGE—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) NSW Planning has recommended the approval of Glencore's Glendell Continued Operations Project to continue mining to the north of its existing operations. This recommendation for approval has been referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for final assessment and determination:
- (2) Was the Minister for Heritage consulted on this recommended approval, given the irreversible impacts on Aboriginal and colonial heritage?
 - (a) If so, what was the Minister's response?
- (3) What is the Minister's position on the Glendell Continued Operations Project?
- (4) What actions has the Minister/Department taken in relation to the Glendell Continued Operations Project?
- (5) What actions does the Minister/Department intend to take in relation to the Glendell Continued Operations Project?
- (6) Given the Department of Planning's own report acknowledges that First Nations groups and the NSW Heritage Council consider the whole region to have high cultural significance, what is the Minister's position on the destruction of heritage as part of this project?
- (7) Given the Department of Planning's own report acknowledges that if approved the project will cause "unavoidable impacts to the Ravensworth Homestead," what steps has the Minister taken to prevent heritage destruction on the site?

8427 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—GLENLEE—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Given the historic property 'Glenlee' at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno, is now up for sale, has the Minister given consideration to advocating for Government funding to be allocated to purchase and protect this historic property?

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- (2) Given there is an Interim Heritage Order in place under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and the site has been listed by the National Trust for its early settler history and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:
- (a) What steps has the Minister taken to protect its heritage values?
 - (b) What steps has the Department taken to protect its heritage values?
- (3) What meetings has the Minister and/or Department had in relation to Glenlee?
- (4) Has the Minister and/or the Department met with Georges River Council to discuss the historic property 'Glenlee' at 80 Boronia Parade, Lugarno?
- 8428 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—THE FORMER HUSKISSON HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH SITE—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—
- (1) What is the status of the Huskisson Heritage Association application in relation to the former Huskisson Holy Trinity Anglican church site?
 - (a) When will this application be considered and responded to by the Heritage Council?
 - (2) Are the Minister and Heritage Council aware of the great local historical importance of the former Huskisson Holy Trinity Anglican church site, including that there are up to 70 unmarked Aboriginal and European graves on the site?
 - (3) What measures have been taken to prevent the destruction of Aboriginal and European heritage on this site?
 - (4) How many heritage applications have been made in relation to the former Huskisson Holy Trinity Anglican church site?
 - (a) of these, how many have been responded to?
 - (5) Has the Minister or Heritage Council or any Departmental representatives met with any community representatives or groups in relation to this site?
 - (a) If so, which individuals and groups have met?
 - (6) What works have already been completed on the site?
 - (a) of these, how many involved the destruction of heritage?
 - (7) What approvals and/or processes have allowed for work to be undertaken on the site despite community opposition and objections by the Jerrinja Land Council, the Huskisson Heritage Association and others?
 - (8) How many trees will be cut down as part of this project?
 - (a) How many trees have already been cut down?
 - (b) How many of these are identified as the marker trees for the burial of James Golding (aka King Budd Billy II, King of Jervis Bay)?
- 8429 ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE—YASMAR HOUSE AND GARDEN—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Regional Youth representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage—
- (1) What annual maintenance budget has been allocated to protect Yasmarr house and garden?
 - (2) What monitoring is being undertaken to ensure the heritage values of Yasmarr house and garden are being protected?
- 8430 TREASURER—\$5 MILLION GRANT PROVIDED TO THE ST AGNES CARE AND LIFESTYLE FACILITY—Mr David Shoebridge to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations representing the Treasurer, and Minister for Energy—
- (1) What advice was provided by Treasury officials in relation to the \$5 million grant provided to the St Agnes' Care and Lifestyle facility in Port Macquarie?

- (2) What was the rationale provided by Treasury officials for recommending the grant not be supported, in advice provided to the Government's Expenditure Review Committee?
- (3) When did Treasury become aware of this proposed grant?
- (4) When did the Minister become aware of this proposed grant?
- (5) When did Treasury provide its advice to the Expenditure Review Committee about this grant?
- (6) Was there any other correspondence made by Treasury officials in relation to this grant?
 - (a) If so, to whom?
 - (i) What was the substance of the correspondence?
- (7) After the grant was approved contrary to advice provided by Treasury, was this expenditure flagged as concerning or unusual in any way?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament