



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 814

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST 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. 799 (Including Question Nos 9349 to 9352)	26 August 2022
Q & A No. 800 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 801 (Including Question Nos 9353 to 9354)	30 August 2022
Q & A No. 802 (Including Question Nos 9355 to 9358)	31 August 2022
Q & A No. 803 (Including Question Nos 9359 to 9363)	1 September 2022
Q & A No. 804 (Including Question Nos 9364 to 9364)	2 September 2022
Q & A No. 805 (Including Question Nos 9365 to 9367)	5 September 2022
Q & A No. 806 (Including Question Nos 9368 to 9368)	6 September 2022
Q & A No. 807 (Including Question Nos 9369 to 9373)	7 September 2022
Q & A No. 808 (Including Question Nos 9374 to 9375)	8 September 2022
Q & A No. 809 (Including Question Nos 9376 to 9388)	9 September 2022
Q & A No. 810 (Including Question Nos 9389 to 9394)	12 September 2022
Q & A No. 811 (Including Question Nos 9395 to 9398)	13 September 2022
Q & A No. 812 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 813 (Including Question Nos 9399 to 9399)	15 September 2022
Q & A No. 814 (Including Question Nos 9400 to 9400)	16 September 2022

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(Paper No. 799)

* 9349 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—BALRANALD CENTRAL SCHOOL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Have Year 10 personal development, health and physical education (PDHPE) students at Balranald Central School been taught a unit of study examining dozens of gender and sexuality types, including a lesson where students were sent to opposite sides of the room depending on their level of agreement with the subject matter?
- (a) What part of the curriculum is this unit drawn from?
- (b) What action will the Minister take regarding the divisive, excessive nature of the lessons?

Answer—

I am advised that as part of a unit titled ‘How can I be the best version of me and support the identity of others?’ Balranald Central School students were asked to evaluate factors that impact the identity of individuals and groups.

Students were given a choice and an opportunity to discuss perspectives in diversity and to reflect on their personal values inclusively and respectfully. Students were given the opportunity to opt out of this activity.

The Unit is drawn from the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Kindergarten to Year 10 syllabus, Stage 5 Content strand Health, Wellbeing and Relationships.

No concerns or complaints about the activity from parents or students have been raised with the school or with the Director Educational Leadership.

* 9350 AGRICULTURE—COMMERCIAL CARP FISHERS S-37 PERMIT SYSTEM—The Hon. Mick Veitch to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) With regard to the Commercial Carp Fishers S-37 Permit system:
- (a) What are the recent changes to the permit system?
- (b) When did the new arrangements commence?
- (c) Please list the consultation provided to relevant stakeholders regarding changes to the process and the dates and locations of public consultation meetings?
- (d) Was any research undertaken to inform the new permit system?
- (i) If so, please list the research?
- (e) Why was this particular fishery omitted in the Draft NSW Sustainable Seafood Strategy 2022-25?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
- (a) Permit processing has now been centralised within the Fisheries Services Unit of DPI Fisheries and Permits for carp harvesting have been issued for a 12 month period, instead of short 3 month periods. This improves business certainty for operators and reduces red tape.
- (b) 30 June 2022
- (c) Realignment of internal administrative processes within the department is not a matter that requires external industry consultation.
- (d) The permit system as such has not changed, just realignment of the internal administrative responsibilities and centralising processing.

- (e) All NSW commercial fisheries, including the Inland Restricted Fishery are included in the NSW Sustainable Seafood Strategy 2022-25. The Commercial Fisheries Advisory Council (CommFish) has a member that represents the Inland Restricted Fishery and industry members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategy until 12 August.

* 9351 WOMEN'S SAFETY AND THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE—NSW WOMEN'S SAFETY COMMISSIONER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—The Hon. Rose Jackson to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence—

- (1) In relation to the Department of Communities and Justice's recent advertisement for applicants for the position of NSW Women's Safety Commissioner/Executive Director (ED), Women, Family and Community Safety:
- (a) What will be the role of the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner/ED, Women, Family and Community Safety?
- (b) What particular policy and/or operational areas will the position be targeting?
- (c) What will be the budget of the Commissioner?
- (d) What authority will the Commissioner have to affect change or influence policy?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Women's Safety Commissioner will oversee whole of government policy and programs on domestic, family and sexual violence, and provide expert advice on cross government reforms to improve the safety of women in NSW.

* 9352 EMERGENCY SERVICES AND RESILIENCE—COMMISSIONER AND TAX PAYER FUNDS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Minister for Flood Recovery—

- (1) Give that most senior public servants are required to package their motor vehicles through a novated lease arrangement:
- (a) Why did Fire and Rescue NSW use New South Wales taxpayer funds when purchasing the new motor vehicle for Commissioner Baxter?
- (b) What was the cost of the vehicle purchased with those taxpayer funds?
- (2) In light of the fact that Fire and Rescue NSW has a deficit in 2022 of more than \$60 million:
- (a) Why has the Commissioner insisted that it is now compulsory for all firemen and women to wear new gym shorts with the new logo?
- (b) Does the Minister consider this to be a good use of taxpayer money?
- (3) Why does the Commissioner require two executive assistants, an executive officer and a further employee as direct assistance?
- (a) How many executive assistants and executive officers do the Commissioners of Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service have?
- (4) In relation to the refurbishment of the Commissioner's offices:
- (a) What was the cost of the refurbishment of the Commissioner's Office?
- (b) Why does the refurbished Commissioner's Office require, in addition to private shower facilities, a bathtub?
- (c) Does the Minister believe this was effective use of taxpayer money after the Commissioner remodelled his office at Greenacre?
- (d) How many times has the Commissioner attended the Greenacre Head Office in the past twelve months?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Fire and Rescue NSW purchased a lease back vehicle as this was the lowest cost option. The vehicle is currently being provided to and paid for by the Commissioner in line with the NSW standard Senior Executive Lease Arrangements.
- (2) It is not compulsory for all firefighters to wear the new gym garments. The branding is consistent with FRNSW's internal recommended practice manual for Personal Protective clothing, equipment and uniform.
- (3) The Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner has one Executive Assistant directly reporting to him in addition to his Executive Leadership Team.

The Commissioners of the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service each have one Executive Assistant.

- (4) The refurbishment of the Commissioner's office was undertaken as part of a wider renovation project for the City of Sydney Fire Station. The office refurbishment cost was approximately \$20,000, making up less than 0.4 per cent of the overall project renovation cost. No bathtub or private shower facility were installed as part of this refurbishment.

There has been no remodelling of the Commissioner's office in Greenacre since it was built.

Since March 2020, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) has operated a hybrid working environment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its staff; and to ensure the availability of emergency services to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commissioner has oversight of FRNSW stations and staff across the State and is available across different modes of communication, including face to face meetings in many different locations, email, phone, video conferencing etc.

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(Paper No. 814)

9400 SPORT—FINAL COST FOR SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM—The Hon. Rod Roberts to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) In December 2019 it was revealed the budget for the Sydney Football Stadium had blown out by \$99 million from \$735 million to \$828 million:
 - (a) What is the final total cost of the rebuild of the Sydney Football Stadium?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament