

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 35

TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023

(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. 20 (Including Question Nos 0149 to 0175)	27 June 2023
Q & A No. 21 (Including Question Nos 0176 to 0178)	28 June 2023
Q & A No. 22 (Including Question Nos 0187 to 0299)	29 June 2023
Q & A No. 23 (Including Question Nos 0300 to 0355)	30 June 2023
Q & A No. 24 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 25 (Including Question Nos 0356 to 0399)	4 July 2023
Q & A No. 26 (Including Question Nos 0400 to 0471)	5 July 2023
Q & A No. 27 (Including Question Nos 0472 to 0580)	6 July 2023
Q & A No. 28 (Including Question Nos 0581 to 0583)	7 July 2023
Q & A No. 29 (Including Question Nos 0584 to 0618)	10 July 2023
Q & A No. 30 (Including Question Nos 0619 to 0623)	11 July 2023
Q & A No. 31 (Including Question Nos 0624 to 0625)	12 July 2023
Q & A No. 32 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 33 (Including Question Nos 0626 to 0652)	14 July 2023
Q & A No. 34 (Including Question Nos 0653 to 0670)	17 July 2023
Q & A No. 35 (Including Question Nos 0671 to 0671)	18 July 2023

5 JUNE 2023

(Paper No. 20)

- * 0149 PREMIER—CAUCUS LIAISON SERVICES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
 - (1) Which Labor Members of Parliament have been allocated Caucus Liaison Officer services from:
 - (a) Cherie Burton?
 - (b) Paul Mills?

Answer-

The staff referred to are employed to assist the Premier in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 and they communicate with Government Members of Parliament.

- * 0150 INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY GRANTS—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—
 - (1) Can the Minister please advise with regard to the Minimal Viable Product Ventures:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications on hold for grants under this program?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received, but not yet finalised?
 - (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants, whose applications had been received but not yet finalised?
 - (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
 - (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their ventures to another State which offers better support to Minimal Viable Product?
 - (ii) Applicant ventures failing, due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?
 - (2) Regarding the NSW Future Industries Investment Program:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants under this program on hold?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet finalised?
 - (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants, whose applications had been received but not yet finalised?
 - (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
 - (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their ventures to another State offering better support to Future Industries?
 - (ii) Applicant ventures failing, due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?
 - (3) Regarding the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) Program:

- (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants under this program on hold?
- (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet finalised?
- (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants whose applications had been received but not yet finalised?
- (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
- (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applications relocating their research to another State offering better support to NCRIS?
 - (ii) Applicants research programs failing due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job crearion in NSW?
- (4) Regarding the Small Business Innocation and Research (SBIR) Program:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants under this program on hold?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants whose applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
 - (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their research to another State offering better support to small business innovation and research?
 - (ii) Applicant ventures failing, due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?
- (5) Regarding the NSW Biosciences Fund:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants from this Fund on hold?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants whose applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
 - (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their biosciences research to another State offering better support?
 - (ii) Applicant ventures failing, due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?
- (6) Regarding the Infrstructure Build Out Program:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants from this Program on hold?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet determined?

- (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants whose applications had been received but not yet determined?
- (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
- (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their ventures to another State offering better support?
 - (ii) Applicant research programs failing, due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?
- (7) What other grants programs for which the Minister is responsible have been placed on hold and for each of these programs:
 - (a) When was the decision made to place applications for grants from these programs on hold?
 - (b) At the time of this decision, how many applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (c) When, and how, was the decision to place applications on hold communicated to applicants whose applications had been received but not yet determined?
 - (d) When will a decision be made on whether applications placed on hold will be processed or cancelled?
 - (e) In placing applications on hold, what consideration was given to the likely impact on:
 - (i) Applicants relocating their research or business to another State offering better support?
 - (ii) Applicant research or businesses failing due to a delay in receiving a decision on their grant application?
 - (iii) Job creation in New South Wales?

I am advised by the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building and Minister for Corrections that:

(1) NSW Treasury is currently coordinating a Comprehensive Expenditure Review to assist the NSW Government in delivering its priorities and managing budget pressures.

As part of this public-sector wide process, all grant programs outlined in this question on notice will remain on hold until the government makes decisions as part the 2023-24 budget process.

Applicants were updated of the status of their grant applications via emails or phone calls from Investment NSW staff and an application portal from Monday 23 May 2023.

- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)
- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- (2)
- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.

- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)
- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- (3)
- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)
- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- (4)
- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)
- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- (5)
- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)
- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- (6)
- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.
- (e)

- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.

(7)

- (a) As 1 a) above.
- (b) As 1 a) above.
- (c) As 1 a) above.
- (d) As 1 a) above.

(e)

- (i) As 1 a) above.
- (ii) As 1 a) above.
- (iii) As 1 a) above.
- * 0151 ENVIRONMENT—WHALE ENTANGLEMENT AT PORT KEMBLA—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
 - (1) Can the Minister please advise what investigations are taking place to determine the source of the "series of lines and floats" that led to the entanglement of a whale at Port Kembla on 3 June 2023?
 - (2) If an investigation has been completed:
 - (a) What was the whale entangled in?
 - (b) What was the source of the material that caused the entanglement?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Following the successful disentanglement of this animal on 3 June 2023 the rope and floats that entangled the animal were collected and analysed. It was identified that the floats carried an identifying alphanumeric sequence.

(2)

- (a) The whale was entangled in approximately 50 metres of blue rope and eight polystyrene floats.
- (b) Based on the arrangement of ropes and polystyrene floats it is suspected that the source of the entanglement is Ocean Trap and Line material which is a very common fishing gear arrangement.
- * 0152 REGIONAL TRANSPORT AND ROADS—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?

- (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
- (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised:

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0153 CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?

- (a) If so, what were they?
- (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
- (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised:

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0154 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?

- (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised:

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0155 TRANSPORT—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Transport—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
 - (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised:

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

I am advised the pause does not apply to:

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0156 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
 - (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

Answer-

I am advised:

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0157 DEPUTY PREMIER—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
 - (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney that the pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary. I am advised the pause does not apply to:

- to property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.

- * 0158 BETTER REGULATION AND FAIR TRADING—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
 - (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney that the pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary. I am advised the pause does not apply to:

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued;
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent;
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes; and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0159 HEALTH—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?

- (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
- (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
- (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

I am advised by the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast that the pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as necessary.

- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0160 WATER—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?

- (a) If so, what were they?
- (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
- (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?
 - (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
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 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

The pause on the sale of NSW Government land or property is a temporary measure. It will remain in place as long as is necessary.

- to property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0161 SKILLS, TAFE AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast representing the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, and Minister for the Hunter—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency?

- (a) If so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
- (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales?
 - (a) If so, what are they?
- (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

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- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0162 WOMEN—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast representing the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
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 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

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- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued.
- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent.
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies.
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes.
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0163 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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 - (a) If so, what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

Answer—

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 property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued

- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0164 ATTORNEY GENERAL—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Treasurer representing the Attorney General—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- property disposals where contracts were already exchanged between the vendor and purchaser prior to the directive being issued
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- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
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- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.

- * 0165 SMALL BUSINESS—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
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- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0166 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?

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- * 0167 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Local Government—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- where a sale process has been run and negotiations to complete the sale are in progress with a preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0168 PREMIER—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0169 CLIMATE CHANGE—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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 preferred proponent
- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0170 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY— The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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Answer-

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- where the land transfer is occurring between NSW Government agencies,
- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0171 FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- * 0172 DEPUTY PREMIER—CAUCUS LIAISON SERVICES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—
 - (1) Can the Minister please advise which Labor Members of Parliament have been allocated Caucus Liaison Officer services from James Callow?

I am advised by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning and Minister for Western Sydney that the staff member referred to is employed to assist the Deputy Premier in accordance with the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 and he communicates with Government Members of Parliament.

- * 0173 CORRECTIONS—USE OF TABLETS IN PRISONS—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—
 - (1) With respect to tablet computers in New South Wales prisons:
 - (a) What is their use?
 - (b) Do all inmates in all correctional centres have access to tablet computers?
 - (i) If no, who does have access and who does not?
 - (c) How many hours per week do inmates have access to educational material on the tablet computers?
 - (d) What are the educational materials provided?
 - (e) Is there any reporting on the use of tablet computers?
 - (i) If yes, what reporting is carried out and where is it stored?
 - (f) Have there been any complaints made about the use of tablets?
 - (i) If yes, how many?
 - (2) With respect to the use of tablet computers for video and audio calling:
 - (a) Are tablet computers able to be used for video and audio calling?
 - (i) If yes, what is the standard rate applied for inmates to use the device for such purposes?
 - (ii) If yes, is the call made via wifi or via a telecommunications network?
 - (b) If it is made via a telecommunications network, who is the provider for this service?
 - (c) If there is a telecommunications provider, how much profit does the provider generate through provision of this service?
 - (d) Who is responsible for the service, maintenance and replacement of these tablets?
 - (3) With respect to the antivirus and security services installed on the tablet computers:
 - (a) What antivirus and security services are installed?
 - (b) Who is the provider of these services?
 - (c) What is the annual cost of these services?
 - (d) Who pays for these services?

Answer—

I am advised by Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building and Minister for Corrections that:

(1)

(a) Providing access for prisoners to digital technologies is intended to enhance rehabilitation outcomes, to normalise use of technology, to allow connection to culture and community, to promote autonomy and to improve digital literacy.

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) has introduced two different tablet solutions. Video visits are free of charge to prisoners and their families. These tablets are used exclusively for video conferencing and this activity occurs under supervision.

The Offender Tablets are for in-cell use and have a greater range of functionality that includes:

- communication with approved family, friends and legal practitioners using the Offender Telephone System (OTS);
- access to Library Services and other informational materials;
- self-service kiosk enquiries that increase inmates' visibility of their own personal information including account balances, program schedules and court appearances;
- paid entertainment content such as movies, music, ebooks and games. Free games are also provided; and
- a new Learning Management System will be trialed at two correctional centres from August 2023. The system will provide a platform for delivering interactive educational and behaviour change content to inmates.
- (b) Tablets for virtual visits are available to prisoners across NSW and are used in tandem with fixed video conferencing facilities.

Approximately 8,000 inmates currently have access to Offender In-cell Tablets across 26 correctional centres.

(i) CSNSW is continuing the state-wide roll outof offender tablets. By end of 2023 there will be over 10,000 offender tablets at majority of NSW correctional centres.

Two correctional centres employ alternative technologies (IPTV) that are installed in accommodation units that have similar functionality to the tablets with one device available to each prisoner.

The privately operated Clarence Correctional Centre has their own tablet solution with each prisoner assigned a tablet.

- (c) Offender Tablet access varies across correctional centres. On average inmates have access to Offender Tablets for 16 hours per day from 3pm to 7am, with telephone calls via the OTS available until 10pm.
- (d) Offender Tablets allow inmates to access a range of free static educational material relating to employment, programs, activities, health, behaviour, communication, and finances. Some educational material is also accessible via white-listed websites. From later this year, inmates will also be able to use their tablets to access a new Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS is a sophisticated central platform for inmates to view training material, engage with interactive learning, undertake tertiary education, complete behaviour change activities and access pre-release information to support reintegration.
- (e) CSNSW has several ways of reporting details of offender tablet use. Monthly reports on Offender Tablet usage are produced. This reporting covers phone usage, application statistics, top 10 website clicks; tablet usage by site and entertainment packages purchased by each centre. This information is reviewed at monthly project assurance meetings and stored securely by CSNSW.
- (f) Yes.
 - (i) CSNSW has received seven formal complaints and provided comprehensive responses to complainants.

(2)

- (a) Audio Call services are available on Offender In-cell Tablets via the Offender Telephone System (OTS). These are separate to Video Visit Tablets provided to inmates by video conferencing services, which are used for court, legal and family and social visits via video. The in-cell tablets are not used for video-conferencing at this time.
 - Video Visit Tablets are provided to inmates free of charge for the purposes of court, legal and family and social visits via video.

CSNSW also covers the cost of all legal and three personal local calls per week for unsentenced inmates, and one personal local call per week for sentenced inmates, as well as all legal phone calls for sentenced inmates facing further charges

The OTS offers more than 30 numbers inmates can call for free through the Common Auto Dial Line (CADL), including government, legal, health, Aboriginal, housing, and disability services.

The cost of calls from Offender Tablets depends on the type of call - personal and legal calls, from an inmates approved contact list, can be made to local or national fixed 'land' lines, mobile or international. The cost to a prisoner of a 10-minute call to a mobile phone number is \$2.60.

- (ii) The Offender Tablets operate on a secure Wireless, or WiFi Network dedicated to Offender Telephone and Tablet use. The Video Visit Tablets operate using 4G mobile services
- (b) The Offender Tablet network is owned by the Department of Communities and Justice and managed by Ericom, via the Telstra OTS contract. Data network links to site are provided by Telstra.

The Video Visit Tablets operate using 4G mobile services which are provided by Telstra.

- (c) This is a matter for the telecommunications provider.
- (d) Under the existing contract with Telstra all infrastructure devices are covered by a maintenance agreement. Faulty or damaged tablets are returned to Ericom for repair or replacement. Costs for replacement tablets are covered by each Correctional Centre whilst tablets replaced under warranty are at no cost.

(3)

- (a) The tablets are built specifically for correctional environments and each tablet is encased in an anti-tamper case. The software used in the tablets is a custom version of a mature mobile operating system where potential features that can be used by inmates to circumvent security protocols have been irreversibly removed.
- (b) ViaPath.
- (c) The Offender Tablets incur a Monthly Service Maintenance Charge of \$2.00 per Offender Tablet
- (d) The Monthly Service Maintenance Charge for Offender Tablets is recovered from inmate calls to mobiles, at a rate of \$0.01 per minute.
- * 0174 AGRICULTURE—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all government property, can the Minister please advise how long the pause is in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
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- where the property cannot be used for residential purposes and
- where the property is meeting the Government's housing election commitment.
- * 0175 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—ELECTORATE ALLOWANCES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy—
 - (1) As at 25 March 2023, can the Minister please advise which electorate allowances were available to Legislative Assembly MPs and to what value?
 - (2) Have the electorate allowances listed in response to question (1) changed under the new Government?
 - (a) If so, how?
 - (3) Is the Minister considering further changes to the arrangements in question (1) above?

Answer—

The Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989 (the Act) provides that the Parliamentary Remuneration (1) Tribunal (the Tribunal) may make a determination that Members of Parliament are entitled to additional entitlements, including an electoral allowance. The current determination of the Tribunal that effect and from July 2022 available online took on 1 is https://www.remtribunals.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary/current-prt-determinations.

- (2) No.
- (3) The determination of an electoral allowance is a matter for the Tribunal under the Act.

7 JUNE 2023

(Paper No. 22)

- * 0196 AGRICULTURE—FREEZE ON THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—
 - (1) Regarding the directive to pause the sale of all Government property, how long is the pause in place for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (2) What are the circumstances in which the pause does not apply for each department and agency that the Minister has responsibility for?
 - (3) Did the Minister or the departments and agencies that they have responsibility for request additional exemptions?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (4) Have there been any amendments to exemptions to this pause from the original directive for the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (5) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for had to make any compensation payments as a result of this pause?
 - (a) If so, what were they?
 - (6) Are the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for in any current negotiations for the sale of land or property held by the department or agency, if so, what are the parcels of land or property that are in negotiation?
 - (7) Have the department and agencies the Minister is responsible for sold any land or property held by the department or agency since the Minister for Lands and Property issued the directive to freeze land sales, if so what are they?
 - (8) When was the last sale of a parcel of land or property for each department and agency that the Minister is responsible for?

Answer—

Refer to question 174.

27 JUNE 2023

(Paper No. 35)

- 0671 DEPUTY PREMIER—CAUCUS LIAISON OFFICERS—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—
 - (1) Can the Minister advise whether the 'caucus liaison officer(s)' in their employment:
 - (a) Liaise with crossbench members?
 - (b) Liaise with opposition members?
 - (c) Are a member of a Trade Union?
 - (d) Are a member of the Labor Party?
 - (e) Have previously been in the employment of the NSW Labor Party?
 - (f) Have previously been in the employment of a Trade Union or related organisation?

David Blunt AM Clerk of the Parliaments

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales