



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 71

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 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. 23 (Including Question Nos 0300 to 0355)	30 June 2023
Q & A No. 56 (Including Question Nos 0963 to 0969)	16 August 2023
Q & A No. 57 (Including Question Nos 0970 to 0973)	17 August 2023
Q & A No. 58 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 59 (Including Question Nos 0974 to 0979)	21 August 2023
Q & A No. 60 (Including Question Nos 0980 to 0984)	22 August 2023
Q & A No. 61 (Including Question Nos 0985 to 0989)	23 August 2023
Q & A No. 62 (Including Question Nos 0990 to 0990)	24 August 2023
Q & A No. 63 (Including Question Nos 0991 to 0998)	25 August 2023
Q & A No. 64 (Including Question Nos 0999 to 1004)	28 August 2023
Q & A No. 65 (Including Question Nos 1005 to 1021)	29 August 2023
Q & A No. 66 (Including Question Nos 1022 to 1030)	30 August 2023
Q & A No. 67 (Including Question Nos 1031 to 1031)	31 August 2023
Q & A No. 68 (Including Question Nos 1032 to 1036)	1 September 2023
Q & A No. 69 (Including Question Nos 1037 to 1096)	4 September 2023
Q & A No. 70 (Including Question Nos 1097 to 1100)	5 September 2023
Q & A No. 71 (Including Question Nos 1101 to 1102)	6 September 2023

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(Paper No. 56)

* 0963 EMERGENCY SERVICES—FIRE AND RESCUE NSW - ABBREVIATED BRANDING—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 representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, has Fire and Rescue NSW changed its abbreviated branding from FRNSW to F+RNSW?
 - (a) If so, how much has this cost, including:
 - (i) Consultancy fee?
 - (ii) Uniform changes?
 - (iii) Other changes consequent or ancillary to the change in the branding?
- (2) How much was charged and paid per day in the consultancy in (1)(a)(i) above?
- (3) Has the acting Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner purchased new hats for her staff?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) How many?
 - (ii) At what cost?
 - (iii) For what purpose?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) No.
- (2) N/A.
- (3) The Deputy Commissioner Strategic Capability approved the purchase of four sample hats for testing purposes.

* 0964 TREASURER—DEBT RETIREMENT—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, does TCorp issue bonds?
- (2) What impact would a reduction of gross debt have on the value of TCorp-issued bonds?
- (3) How would holders of TCorp-issued bonds benefit from a change in the value of those bonds?
- (4) Mr Christopher Joye proposed in his submission to the Debt Retirement Fund inquiry that besides using all the funds in the Debt Retirement Fund for “*aggressive debt reduction*”, “*There is more than \$10 billion in other special TCorp investment funds that*” Treasury “*could also use to help cauterise the state’s fiscal crisis*” - can the Minister advise which other special investment funds TCorp manages?
- (5) Is the Government considering using monies from the *NSW Infrastructure Future Fund*, the *Social and Affordable Housing Fund* or any other “*special TCorp investment funds*” for “*aggressive debt reduction*”?
- (6) Standard & Poor's on 27 March 2023 referred to a potential risk to its AA+ credit rating for New South Wales from “*higher overall spending on public sector wages*” which could call into question “*the quality of the state's financial management*”, can the Minister advise, what steps is the Government taking to avoid this risk to our credit rating?
- (7) In the NSW Treasury’s submission to the Debt Retirement Fund inquiry, it identifies three metrics to consider for further contributions to the Debt Retirement Fund - Net Lending/Borrowing, Budget

Result or Net Cash Operating Balance, can the Minister advise which of these three metrics does the Government plan to adopt?

- (8) Is there a registry of bond-holders for all TCorp-issued bonds?
 - (a) If so, where can this registry be found?
- (9) Does Coolabah Capital Investments own or invest in TCorp-issued bonds?
- (10) Has Treasury been directed or requested to prepare any briefing notes or memos Treasury that includes references to changes to the *NSW Generations Fund Act 2018* or any other legislation that would affect the Debt Retirement Fund?
- (11) Is any work underway within Treasury that would involve changes to the *NSW Generations Fund Act 2018* or any other legislation that would affect the Debt Retirement Fund?
- (12) Please provide a list of all payments into the Debt Retirement Fund and out of the Debt Retirement Fund by date?
 - (a) Please specify the nature of each payment?
- (13) Who can authorise a payment into the Debt Retirement Fund?
 - (a) Under what circumstances?
- (14) When did NSW Treasury ask EY Port Jackson Partners to advise on a possible framework to guide when additional contributions should be made to the NSW Generations Fund?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Other things held equal, a material reduction in the State's gross debt would result in a contraction in margin (and hence the outright yield) of TCorp's bonds. This would result in a small increase in the value of those bonds. The amount of spread contraction (and hence price increase) would depend on the amount of the reduction in gross debt.
- (3) Holders of TCorp bonds receive a capital gain from a price increase in the bonds and a capital loss from price decreases.
- (4) TCorp manages substantially all of the State's investment funds. These funds were established under legislation with specific purposes. The most notable funds include the Treasury Managed Fund (which invests funds for the purpose of paying State insurance claims), the NSW Infrastructure Future Fund (which invests funds for the purpose of making contributions to eligible infrastructure projects), the Long Service Corporation (LSC) funds and smaller funds such as the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) and the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund (SHLF).
- (5) There is no current intention for the moneys in NIFF or SAHF to be used for aggressive debt reduction.
- (6) In line with Credit Rating Agencies' methodology, the Government will continue to manage the State's finances with a prudent fiscal policy framework supported by strong fiscal planning. As part of this approach, the Government's Comprehensive Expenditure Review is considering priorities as part of the 2023-24 Budget process. The 2023-24 Budget will be handed down on Tuesday, 19 September 2023. Further information on S&P's credit rating criteria for regional and local governments can be found at <https://disclosure.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/ratings-criteria>
- (7) The Government will consider the contributions framework as part of the outcome of the Standing Committee for State Development inquiry into the Debt Retirement Fund, and the 2023-24 Budget process.
- (8) The register of TCorp's bond holders is confidential, so TCorp is unable to identify the identity of bond holders.
- (9) Refer to question 8.

- (10) Treasury has not been directed or requested by the current Government to prepare any briefing notes or memos that reference changes to the NGF Act or any other legislation that would affect the DRF.
- (11) No work is currently underway within Treasury to amend the NGF Act, nor the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2012 referenced in section 8 of the NGF Act.
- (12) Cash payments in/out of the NGF are available from audited and published NGF annual reports.
- (13) Section 9 of NSW Generations Funds Act 2018 provides the authority for certain funds (e.g. distributions and sale proceeds of equity interests, DRF investment returns) to be paid into the DRF. Payments to the DRF can also be authorised through appropriations by Parliament, advances by the Treasurer, or directions by the Treasurer if the Treasurer is satisfied that the payment is a windfall tax revenue in excess of Budget forecasts. The Treasurer may also direct funds that Parliament has appropriated to him/her for the general purposes of Government (and not for the purposes of individual Government Sector Finance Act agencies).
- (14) NSW Treasury engaged EY Port Jackson Partners to advise on this matter in October 2022.

* 0965 YOUTH JUSTICE—AVERAGE COST PER DAY - CUSTODY IN YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRE—The Hon. Aileen MacDonald 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) Would the Minister please advise the average cost per day for a young person detained in a Youth Justice Centre?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise the average cost per day for a young person to be supervised in the community via Youth Justice?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) In 2021/22, the average cost per day for a young person detained in a Youth Justice Centre in NSW was \$2,748.96.
- (2) In 2021/22, the average cost per day for a young person to be supervised in the community via Youth Justice in NSW was \$293.15.

* 0966 FINANCE—SCHOOL ZONE FINES—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many fines have been issued in school zones within the following Police Area Commands::
 - (a) North Shore?
 - (i) Please break down by financial year from 2017 - 2018 to 2021 – 2022?
 - (b) Northern Beaches?
 - (i) Please break down by financial year from 2017 - 2018 to 2021 – 2022?
 - (c) Ku-ring-gai?
 - (i) Please break down by financial year from 2017 - 2018 to 2021 – 2022?

Answer—

- (1) (a-c-i) Data on the number of school zone fines issued by Police Local Area Commands can be found on the Revenue NSW website under the Police issued speeding offences category and can be accessed here:

<https://www.revenue.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/resources-library/statistics>

* 0967 TRANSPORT—SYDNEY METRO—The Hon. Chris Rath 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) Can the Minister advise, has the Rail Tram and Bus Union lobbied you or your office to cancel the Sydenham to Bankstown Metro rail conversion?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of the Rail Tram and Bus Union's position in relation the Sydenham to Bankstown rail conversion?
- (3) Has the Minister or the Minister's office considered converting Sydney Metro West to heavy rail?
- (4) Does the Minister have a plan to consult with key business and community stakeholders in Western Sydney before making any changes to Sydney Metro West and Southwest?

Answer—

As the Member would be aware, the NSW Government launched an independent review into Sydney Metro to enable a fully integrated, safe, accessible, and reliable public transport system, not just a Sydney Metro.

The terms of reference are publicly available on the Sydney Metro website and direct the review to meet with a broad range of stakeholders.

Given the scope of the review, the views of the Rail Tram and Bus Union are critical to informing the future of the whole public transport system. As Minister, I will always value the input of our workforce and the insights they provide in delivering a safe and reliable service for passengers.

It is entirely appropriate that trade unions, along with industry and community contribute their views to inform a robust report for the NSW Government to consider. As Minister I will continue to meet with a broad range of stakeholders to inform my thinking and I have encouraged the review team to do the same.

* 0968 PREMIER—CARLA FROM BANKSTOWN—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Minister for Energy, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Premier—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, has the Premier declared the two 'Carla gronk hoodies' on the Ministerial Register of Gifts, valued together at \$150, that Carla from Bankstown reports as being given by her to the Premier and his wife?

Answer—

I am advised that Ministers are required to disclose certain gifts with a market value over \$500 under Part 4 of the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code). These disclosures are kept on the Ministerial Register of Gifts. Such gifts must either be surrendered to the State or the difference between \$500 and their value paid to the State.

* 0969 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—REZONING R3 & R4—The Hon. Chris Rath 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) Can the Minister please advise, how many lots have been rezoned to R4 since 1 October 2019 in:
 - (a) Burwood Council Local Government Area?
 - (b) Inner West Council Local Government Area?
 - (c) City of Parramatta Council Local Government Area?
 - (d) Strathfield Council Local Government Area?
 - (e) City of Canada Bay Council Local Government Area?
- (2) Can the Minister please advise, how many lots have been rezoned to R3 since 1 October 2019 in:
 - (a) Burwood Council Local Government Area?
 - (b) Inner West Council Local Government Area?

- (c) City of Parramatta Council Local Government Area?
- (d) Strathfield Council Local Government Area?
- (e) City of Canada Bay Council Local Government Area?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1)(a) 0
- (b) 0
- (c) 43
- (d) 0
- (e) 108
- (2)(a) 20
- (b) 0
- (c) 19
- (d) 0
- (e) 178

16 AUGUST 2023

(Paper No. 71)

1101 HEALTH—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUG 'ICE'—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham 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) With regard to the Government's response to Recommendation 12 of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice', can the Minister advise if the NSW Chief Health Officer and NSW Police Commissioner have provided advice to the Government on whether the roll out of specialist drug assessment and treatment services and supports is sufficiently advanced to allow commencement of a pre-court diversion scheme?
 - (a) Has the roll out of specialist drug assessment and treatment services and supports sufficiently advanced in order to allow the commencement of a pre-court diversion scheme?

1102 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DRUG 'ICE'—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham 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, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) With regard to the Government's response to Recommendation 12 of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice', can the Minister advise if the NSW Police Commissioner has provided advice to the Government on whether the roll out of specialist drug assessment and treatment services and supports is sufficiently advanced to allow commencement of a pre-court diversion scheme?
 - (a) If yes, when was the advice provided?
 - (b) Has the roll out of specialist drug assessment and treatment services and supports in the police system been established sufficiently in order to allow the commencement of a pre-court diversion scheme?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales