



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 99

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 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. 77 (Including Question Nos 1146 to 1147)	14 September 2023
Q & A No. 83 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 84 (Including Question Nos 1185 to 1186)	25 September 2023
Q & A No. 85 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 86 (Including Question Nos 1187 to 1190)	27 September 2023
Q & A No. 87 (Including Question Nos 1191 to 1191)	28 September 2023
Q & A No. 88 (Including Question Nos 1192 to 1192)	29 September 2023
Q & A No. 89 (Including Question Nos 1193 to 1197)	3 October 2023
Q & A No. 90 (Including Question Nos 1198 to 1200)	4 October 2023
Q & A No. 91 (Including Question Nos 1201 to 1205)	5 October 2023
Q & A No. 92 (Including Question Nos 1206 to 1214)	6 October 2023
Q & A No. 93 (Including Question Nos 1215 to 1215)	9 October 2023
Q & A No. 94 (Including Question Nos 1216 to 1224)	10 October 2023
Q & A No. 95 (Including Question Nos 1225 to 1247)	11 October 2023
Q & A No. 96 (Including Question Nos 1248 to 1250)	12 October 2023
Q & A No. 97 (Including Question Nos 1251 to 1252)	13 October 2023
Q & A No. 98 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 99 (Including Question Nos 1253 to 1258)	17 October 2023

4 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Paper No. 84)

* 1185 TRANSPORT—TRAINLINK COACHES AND TRAINS ACCESSIBILITY—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, how many TrainLink trains are fully accessible to date?
- (2) How many TrainLink coaches are fully accessible to date?
- (3) What are the specific accessibility requirements for TrainLink trains?
 - (a) What are the specific accessibility requirements for TrainLink coaches?
- (4) Can the Minister advise if there are plans to roll out an accessibility program to upgrade or replace inaccessible Trainlink trains?
 - (a) Are there plans to roll out an accessibility program to upgrade or replace inaccessible TrainLink coaches?

Answer—

- (1) All NSW TrainLink electric and diesel intercity trains are fully accessible. The XPT and Xplorer trains are accessible via a ramp for passengers with limited mobility.
- (2) All NSW TrainLink coaches are installed with wheelchair lifts to assist passengers with limited mobility.
- (3) NSW TrainLink regional trains have limited accessibility. NSW TrainLink staff are available to assist passengers at the time of booking to identify whether their accessibility needs can be accommodated. The NSW Government Regional Rail project is replacing the current XPT, XPLOER and Endeavour fleet with 29 safer, comfortable and more accessible trains.
 - (a) All NSW TrainLink timetabled full-size coaches and minibuses are fitted with wheelchair lifts to provide enhanced accessibility for passengers.
- (4) Transport for NSW is replacing the ageing NSW regional rail fleet of XPT, XPLOER and Endeavour trains. The new trains will provide improved safety, accessibility, facilities and reliability for passengers who travel from many NSW regional centres to Sydney, as well as Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The new regional fleet is being designed to be accessible and inclusive for all passengers and compliant with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT).

The new trains will have modern and accessible features such as single-deck carriages, wider doors than the current fleet, charging points for mobile devices, real-time, internal and external visual displays and announcements, priority/accessible seats, accessible toilets and spaces for passengers using mobility aids.

Transport for NSW is also delivering the Mariyung Fleet which has been designed to comply with the DSAPT and has involved consultation with various stakeholders throughout the design process, including the Accessible Transport Advisory Committee.

The Mariyung Fleet is the most accessible and inclusive double deck train fleet in NSW, with accessible toilets, wheelchair access and priority seating, and dedicated accessible spaces located close to doors, windows and amenities. V-Set trains were designed before the DSAPT came into effect in 2002.

- (a) NSW TrainLink is considering accessibility as part of future commercial negotiations with coach operators. All NSW TrainLink coaches are installed with wheelchair lifts to assist customers with limited mobility.

* 1186 CORRECTIONS—INCARCERATED PRISONERS—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham 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 whether currently incarcerated prisoners are allowed to study remotely at University?
 - (a) If yes, are there restrictions on which prisoners can study and what courses they can study?
 - (i) If yes, what are the restrictions?
 - (b) Do rules differ:
 - (i) between prisons?
 - (ii) according to criminal offence?
- (2) Can the Minister please advise whether currently incarcerated prisoners are allowed to study remotely at TAFE?
 - (a) If yes, are there restrictions on which prisoners can study and what courses they can study?
 - (i) If yes, what are the restrictions?
 - (b) Do rules differ:
 - (i) between prisons?
 - (ii) according to criminal offence?
- (3) Do all prisoners in New South Wales have access to library books?
 - (a) If no, which prisoners do not have access?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a) Inmates must be sentenced. Applications from inmates are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Universities and other tertiary institutions often use online assessments, online peer discussion forums and internet-based research. These online requirements pose security challenges that mean that all requests to participate in university studies cannot be facilitated by correctional centres.
 - (b)
 - (i) The range of education programs available at correctional centres is impacted by the role and function of a centre and available staff resources.
 - (ii) In order to reduce the risk of recidivism, Corrective Services prioritises offenders who have the highest risk of reoffending and identified need for education programs. An inmate's earliest possible release date will also impact on the prioritisation, timing, and placement in an education program.
- (2) Yes.
 - (a) Inmates must be sentenced. Applications from inmates are assessed on a case by case basis. The majority of vocational programs are delivered face to face by TAFE and other providers, given the practical nature of the courses delivered, together with paper based training and assessment materials.
 - (b)
 - (i) CSNSW has a broad range of vocational programs, traineeships, apprenticeships, literacy and numeracy and digital literacy programs. There are some centres where the full range of education and training services are not offered or are limited, due to the role and function of the centre and nature of the vocational courses.

- (ii) In order to reduce the risk of recidivism, Corrective Services prioritises offenders who have the highest risk of reoffending and identified need for education programs. An inmate's earliest possible release date will also impact on the prioritisation, timing, and placement in an education program.
- (3) Libraries are located in all correctional centres with inmates afforded regular access to materials.

25 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Paper No. 99)

1253 WATER—DAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Sue Higginson 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—

Can the Minister please advise, in relation to the major flooding in February and March of 2022:

- (1) How many homes were flooded in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (2) How many homes were flooded in the Byron Shire?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (3) How many homes were flooded in the Tweed Shire?
 - a. Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (4) What are the current criteria under the Resilient Homes Program for a house:
 - (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (5) Will the criteria change in future funding tranches for the Resilient Homes Program?
 - (a) If yes, what data will be used to inform the change?
- (6) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Lismore City Council area requested a house:
 - (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (7) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire requested a house:
 - (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (8) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Tweed Shire requested a house:
 - (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (9) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Lismore City Council area have been approved for a house:
 - (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?

- (10) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire have been approved for a house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (11) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Tweed Shire people have been approved for a house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (12) What is the average estimated cost per house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (13) What is the average actual cost per house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (14) How many flood-impacted houses in the Lismore City Council area were:
- (a) uninsured
 - (b) rentals?
 - (c) primary homes?
- (15) How many flood-impacted houses in the Byron Shire were:
- (a) uninsured
 - (b) rentals?
 - (c) primary homes?
- (16) How many flood-impacted houses in the Tweed Shire were:
- (a) uninsured
 - (b) rentals?
 - (c) primary homes?
- (17) What is the initial and ongoing cost per modular home for the temporary housing program for flood-affected areas in New South Wales?
- (18) What were the flood levels recorded for the two flood events of 2022 in:
- (a) Lismore City Council Area?
 - (b) Byron Shire?
 - (c) Tweed Shore?
- (1) How many homes were flooded in the Lismore City Council area to the level of:
- (a) 1 millimetre to 99 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
 - (b) 100 millimetre to 199 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
 - (c) 200 millimetre to 299 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
 - (d) 300 millimetre to 399 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?

- (e) 400 millimetre to 499 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (20) How many homes were flooded in the Byron Shire to the level of:
- (a) 1 millimetre to 99 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (b) 100 millimetre to 199 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (c) 200 millimetre to 299 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (d) 300 millimetre to 399 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (e) 400 millimetre to 499 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
21. How many homes were flooded in the Byron Shire to the level of:
- (a) 1 millimetre to 99 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (b) 100 millimetre to 199 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (c) 200 millimetre to 299 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (d) 300 millimetre to 399 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (e) 400 millimetre to 499 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (22) How many of these flooded premises by suburb are subject to applications for assistance to better withstand future flooding under the Resilient Homes Program?
- (a) How many would have been approved in the Lismore City Council area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
- (b) How many would have been approved in the Byron Shire by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
- (c) How many would have been approved in the Tweed Shire area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?

1254 EMERGENCY SERVICES—DAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Roads, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism representing the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

Can the Minister please advise, in relation to the major flooding in February and March of 2022:

- (1) How many homes were flooded in the Lismore City Council area?
- (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (2) How many homes were flooded in the Byron Shire?
- (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (3) How many homes were flooded in the Tweed Shire?
- (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
- (4) What are the current criteria under the Resilient Homes Program for a house:
- (a) buyback?
- (b) raising?
- (c) retrofit?
- (5) Will the criteria change in future funding tranches for the Resilient Homes Program?
- (a) If yes, what data will be used to inform the change?
- (6) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Lismore City Council area requested a house:

- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (7) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire requested a house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (8) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Tweed Shire requested a house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
 - (c) retrofit?
- (9) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Lismore City Council area have been approved for a house:
- (a) buyback?
 - (b) raising?
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- (10) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire have been approved for a house:
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- (11) How many flood-impacted homeowners in the Tweed Shire people have been approved for a house:
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- (14) How many flood-impacted houses in the Lismore City Council area were:
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- (19) How many homes were flooded in the Lismore City Council area to the level of:
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 - (d) 300 millimetre to 399 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
 - (e) 400 millimetre to 499 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (20) How many homes were flooded in the Byron Shire to the level of:
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 - (e) 400 millimetre to 499 millimetre depth above their approved and or actual floor levels?
- (22) How many of these flooded premises by suburb are subject to applications for assistance to better withstand future flooding under the Resilient Homes Program?
- (a) How many would have been approved in the Lismore City Council area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
 - (b) How many would have been approved in the Byron Shire by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
 - (c) How many would have been approved in the Tweed Shire area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?

1255 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—DAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Sue Higginson to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

Can the Minister please advise, in relation to the major flooding in February and March of 2022:

- (1) How many homes were flooded in the Lismore City Council area?
 - (a) Specifically, how many homes were flooded in each suburb in the area?
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- (a) How many would have been approved in the Lismore City Council area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
 - (b) How many would have been approved in the Byron Shire by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?
 - (c) How many would have been approved in the Tweed Shire area by suburb, if the eligibility criterion was changed from having to be below 100 millimetres, above the 2020 published 1-in-20-year flood level, to what flooded in 2022?

1256 FINANCE—COMPREHENSIVE EXPENDITURE REVIEW—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Natural Resources—

Can the Minister please advise:

- (1) Noting that according to Budget paper No.1 for the Budget 2023-24, "the Comprehensive Expenditure Review has identified \$13 billion in budget improvement and reprioritisation measures over the five years to 2026-27", what contribution in the budget improvement is being attributed to each of these "measures implemented" following the expenditure review?:
- (a) reducing labour hire expenditure?
 - (b) reducing spending on consultants?
 - (c) cutting spending on advertising?
 - (d) reducing travel costs across government?
 - (e) reducing legal expenses?
 - (f) reducing the number of senior executives across the public sector?
 - (g) freezing levels of pay for Members of Parliament and public sector senior executives?
 - (h) agency operational, procurement and corporate efficiencies?
 - (i) reprioritisation of unallocated funds from each of these grant programs:
 - (i) Restart?
 - (ii) Regional Growth Funds?
 - (iii) Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund?
 - (iv) WestInvest?
 - (v) Future Economy Fund?
 - (vi) Coal Innovation Fund?
 - (vii) other grant programs (please breakdown by program)?
- (2) Noting that according to Budget paper No.1 for the Budget 2023-24, \$13 billion is "being directed to priority investments to support rebuilding essential services and the provision of further cost-of-living relief", how much of the \$13 billion is being directed to pay for:

- (a) the 4.5 per cent pay rise for 400,000 public servants, totalling \$2.5 billion?
- (b) the \$1.9 billion additional boost to teacher pay?
- (c) salary packaging for health workers?
- (d) the \$3502 pay rise for health workers?
- (e) cost-of-living measures (please breakdown by measure)?

1257 LANDS AND PROPERTY—MACQUARIE STREET EAST PRECINCT MASTER PLAN—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Can the please Minister advise, does the Government plan to budget for the implementation of the Macquarie Street East Precinct Master Plan?
- (2) What exact dollar figure does the Government plan to provision for the implementation of the Master Plan in each of the following financial years:
 - (a) 2023 - 2024?
 - (b) 2024 - 2025?
 - (c) 2025 - 2026?
 - (d) 2026 - 2027?

1258 CLIMATE CHANGE—GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND TAX CONCESSIONS FOR HYDROGEN ENERGY PURPOSES—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister please advise, over the past four years, what grants has the Government paid to organisation and/or companies for hydrogen energy purposes (including research)?
 - (a) In each case, which organisation and/or companies have received funding and how much?
- (2) Over the past four years, what tax concessions has the Government paid to organisations and/or companies for hydrogen energy purposes (including research)?
 - (a) In each case, which organisation and/or companies have received funding and how much?

David Blunt AM
Clerk of the Parliaments