



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 117

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 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.

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<b>Publication of Questions</b>	<b>Answer to be lodged by</b>
Q & A No. 101 (Including Question Nos 1272 to 1276)	19 October 2023
Q & A No. 102 (Including Question Nos 1277 to 1283)	20 October 2023
Q & A No. 103 (Including Question Nos 1284 to 1326)	23 October 2023
Q & A No. 104 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 105 (Including Question Nos 1327 to 1332)	24 October 2023
Q & A No. 106 (Including Question Nos 1333 to 1338)	25 October 2023
Q & A No. 107 (Including Question Nos 1339 to 1341)	26 October 2023
Q & A No. 108 (Including Question Nos 1342 to 1342)	27 October 2023
Q & A No. 109 (Including Question Nos 1343 to 1349)	30 October 2023
Q & A No. 110 (Including Question Nos 1350 to 1353)	31 October 2023
Q & A No. 111 (Including Question Nos 1354 to 1359)	1 November 2023
Q & A No. 112 (Including Question Nos 1360 to 1367)	2 November 2023
Q & A No. 113 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 114 (Including Question Nos 1368 to 1391)	6 November 2023
Q & A No. 115 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 116 (Including Question Nos 1392 to 1392)	8 November 2023
Q & A No. 117 (Including Question Nos 1393 to 1401)	9 November 2023

**27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

(Paper No. 101)

\* 1272 YOUTH JUSTICE—YOUTH JUSTICE – 2023-24 BUDGET—The Hon. Aileen MacDonald 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—

- (1) Page 2-4 of the Budget Paper No. 3 – Infrastructure Statement, states that \$72.5 million over four years to 2026-27 for the Sustaining Capital Infrastructure Program Phase 2 will support critical infrastructure upgrades across the Department of Communities and Justice, providing investment in Audio Visual Link facilities and enhancements of courthouses, correctional facilities and youth justice facilities:
  - (a) Can the Minister please advise how much is funding is allocated year by year for each youth justice facility which will receive critical infrastructure upgrades?
    - (i) For each facility, what specifically will be upgraded?
- (2) Please advise if, apart from funding for the Sustaining Capital Infrastructure Program Phase 2, is there any other funding for maintaining and enhancing youth justice facilities?
  - (a) If so, how much funding is allocated for each facility, for each year?
    - (i) What is the specific nature of the maintenance or enhancement?
- (3) Please advise if there are any changes to funding for youth justice programs in the 2023-24 Budget?
  - (a) If so, please provide a breakdown by program by year?
    - (i) What are the specific increases or decreases in funding each year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements for individual agencies as well as for government as a whole. The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

\* 1273 GAMING AND RACING—\$100M GAMBLING SPEND IN 2023-24 BUDGET—Ms Cate Faehrmann 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 Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) In the 2023-24 NSW Budget, the Government has made a commitment to gambling reform with \$100 million to support an expanded cashless gaming trial, the delivery of harm-minimisation programs, and gaming reform, can the Minister advise is this the \$100 million paid by Star Casino as a result of the Bell Review into Star Entertainment?
  - (a) What is the breakdown of how the \$100 million is being spent year on year, including how much is being spent on the cashless gaming trial?
- (2) In reference to the \$100 million in (1), can the Minister confirm if this is being used to cover the costs and expenses of the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform and its work?
  - (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown of all expenses?
- (3) What harm minimisation programs and services and other work is being paid for by the \$100 million?
  - (a) Please provide a detailed breakdown for each program, service and other work?

(4) What programs and services and other works in the area of ‘gaming reform’ are being paid for out of the \$100 million in reference to (1)?

(a) What is the detailed breakdown of the specific programs and services being funded, year by year?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(a) The \$100 million has been allocated to:

- \$10 million additional investment in 2023-24 for the Responsible Gambling Fund, through the Office of Responsible Gambling, for the provision of GambleAware counselling and support services, awareness and education campaigns, initiatives like Reclaim the Game, and to support world-leading gambling research.
- \$6.4 million to enhance self-exclusion and introduce third-party exclusions in pubs and clubs.
- \$3.4 million for the independent expert panel, established in July this year, to run and evaluate a 12-month cashless gaming trial in pubs and clubs, with expressions of interest recently called for venues to take part.
- \$21.7 million each year, for three years from 2024-25, to fund other gambling harm minimisation initiatives and reforms, including those recommended by the Independent Panel.

(2) Yes, see response to question 1(a).

(a) In addition to running and evaluating the 12-month cashless gaming trial, the \$3.4 million allocated to the Independent Panel will cover costs associated with remunerating the Panel's Executive Committee (comprised of the Chair and two independent panel members) and the panel member with lived experience; and minor costs associated with meetings and the timely and secure provision and storage of meeting papers and other relevant documentation.

(3) See response to question 1(a).

(a) See response to question 1(a).

(4) See response to question 1(a).

(a) See response to question 1(a).

\* 1274 TREASURER—TREASURER – 2023-24 BUDGET—The Hon. Damien Tudehope to ask the Treasurer—

(1) Noting that the 2023-24 Budget projections for surpluses in 2025-26 and 2026-27 are premised on contributions to the NSW Generations Fund (NGF) resuming in 2024-25, can the Minister advise:

(a) What are the estimated contributions to the NGF for each financial year from 2024-25 to 2026-27?

(i) Please breakdown by source, including royalties, dividends and windfall taxes?

(b) What does Treasury estimate the budget outcome for financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27 to be if contributions to the NSW Generations Fund do not resume at all during the forward years?

(2) Noting that the 2023-24 Budget states that “TAHE [the Transport Asset Holding Entity] will transition from its current operating model as a statutory State-Owned Corporation to operating as a non-commercial public non-financial corporation” and that this is claimed to result in lowering “net debt by \$4.3 billion in 2026-27”:

(a) Please provide the calculations resulting in the conclusion that transitioning TAHE to the new model will lower net debt by \$4.3 billion in 2026-27?

(b) What is the most recent valuation of TAHE’s assets measured using an income approach in accordance with TPP21-09 Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value and AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement?

- (i) What is the allowance for depreciation for 2023-24 based on that valuation?
  - (c) What is the estimated valuation of TAHE's assets measured using current replacement cost?
  - (d) What would be the allowance for depreciation based on a valuation of TAHE's assets using current replacement cost?
- (3) The 2023-24 Budget includes provision of \$572.3 million for "converting 1,112 full-time equivalent nurses and midwives, positions which were funded temporarily to June 2024, to permanent" positions, can the Minister advise:
- (a) What is the estimated average annual salary for these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
  - (b) What are the additional employee related costs per full time equivalent position?
  - (c) How many years does the \$572.3 million cover the employment of these 1,112 full time equivalent positions?
  - (d) What other costs, if any, are covered by the \$572.3 million?

Answer—

The budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements including as they relate to the NGF and TAHE.

The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

1112 nursing positions were left unfunded by the former government from July 2024. The NSW Government has provided ongoing funding in the 2023-24 Budget.

\* 1276 ENERGY—GAS SUBSTITUTION ROADMAP—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister advise, did the Government make an election commitment to deliver a Gas Roadmap?
  - (a) If yes, what did that commitment include?
- (2) Is the Government planning to deliver "a Gas Roadmap that gives clarity to industry and households on gas decarbonisation"?
  - (a) If yes, will the Government release a draft for public consultation?
    - (i) If yes, when?
  - (b) When will the Gas Roadmap take effect?
  - (c) Will the Gas Roadmap contain targets to reduce the use of gas in New South Wales?
- (3) Will the former government's "Future of Gas Statement" be redundant once the Gas Roadmap is delivered?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) The Gas Roadmap will provide clarity to industry and households on gas decarbonisation, including supporting business and household electrification and energy bill reduction.
- (2) As per (1) above, the Government will deliver a Gas Roadmap in this term of government and, as part of the Roadmap's development, will consider including targets.
- (3) Questions regarding the Future of Gas Statement should be referred to the Minister for Natural Resources.

**19 OCTOBER 2023**

(Paper No. 117)

- 1393 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—HINDSIGHT ADJUSTMENT PREMIUM—The Hon. Chris Rath to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—
- (1) In relation to small businesses that receive a "hindsight adjustment premium" notice can the Minister advise, what are the top 10 suburbs in NSW where small businesses receive this notice?
    - (a) By what number for each of the 10 suburbs?
- 1394 ENERGY—ENERGY SAVINGS SCHEME—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- (1) Individuals within the Cootamundra electorate have been told by Accredited Certificate Providers (ACPs) that they are unable to service their postcode for household hot water system and lighting upgrades respectively, can the Minister advise, which ACPs service the following regions:
    - (a) Metropolitan Sydney?
    - (b) Central Coast?
    - (c) Illawarra?
    - (d) North Coast?
    - (e) Central West and Orana?
    - (f) Far West?
    - (g) Hunter?
    - (h) Riverina Murray?
    - (i) New England and North West?
    - (j) South East and Tablelands?
  - (2) On the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) website there are 51 listed Accredited Certificate Providers, will the Government be more transparent and update the IPART website to advise which regions/postcodes will be serviced by specific Accredited Certificate Providers?
- 1395 CUSTOMER SERVICE AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT—CHEQUE PAYMENTS TO SERVICE NSW—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell 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—
- (1) With respect to payments made via cheque to Service NSW Centres, can the Minister advise, how often are cheques collected?
    - (a) Who are they collected by?
    - (b) Where are they processed?
  - (2) On average, how many payments are made via cheque each month?
  - (3) Since 1 April 2023, how many cheques have been lost in transit after departing a Service NSW Centre?
  - (4) Once a cheque is lost, what is the process for notifying the individual responsible for making the payment?
    - (a) What is the associated timeframe with this notification?
- 1396 FINANCE—CHEQUE PAYMENTS TO SERVICE NSW—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—

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- (1) With respect to payments made via cheque to Service NSW Centres, can the Minister advise, how often are cheques collected?
    - (a) Who are they collected by?
    - (b) Where are they processed?
  - (2) On average, how many payments are made via cheque each month?
  - (3) Since 1 April 2023, how many cheques have been lost in transit after departing a Service NSW Centre?
  - (4) Once a cheque is lost, what is the process for notifying the individual responsible for making the payment?
    - (a) What is the associated timeframe with this notification?

1397 LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ENERGY SAVINGS SCHEME—The Hon. Sarah Mitchell 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) Individuals within the Cootamundra electorate have been told by Accredited Certificate Providers (ACPs) that they are unable to service their postcode for household hot water system and lighting upgrades respectively, can the Minister advise, which ACPs service the following regions:
  - (a) Metropolitan Sydney?
  - (b) Central Coast?
  - (c) Illawarra?
  - (d) North Coast?
  - (e) Central West and Orana?
  - (f) Far West?
  - (g) Hunter?
  - (h) Riverina Murray?
  - (i) New England and North West?
  - (j) South East and Tablelands?
- (2) On the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) website there are 51 listed Accredited Certificate Providers, will the Government be more transparent and update the IPART website to advise which regions/postcodes will be serviced by specific Accredited Certificate Providers?

1398 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—CLAIMS AGAINST NSW POLICE FORCE—Ms Sue Higginson 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) What was the total cost of civil claims commenced in any year against the NSW Police Force in the years:
  - (a) 2022-2023?
  - (b) 2021-2022?
  - (c) 2020-2021?
  - (d) 2019-2020?
  - (e) 2018-2019?
- (2) What was the total number of civil claims against the NSW Police force commenced in the years:
  - (a) 2022-2023?

- (b) 2021-2022?
  - (c) 2020-2021?
  - (d) 2019-2020?
  - (e) 2018-2019?
- (3) What is the total number of civil claims against the NSW Police Force settled or determined in the years:
- (a) 2022-2023?
  - (b) 2021-2022?
  - (c) 2020-2021?
  - (d) 2019-2020?
  - (e) 2018-2019?
- (4) How many civil claims against the NSW Police force have not yet been settled or determined that were commenced in the years:
- (a) 2022-2023?
  - (b) 2021-2022?
  - (c) 2020-2021?
  - (d) 2019-2020?
  - (e) 2018-2019?
- (5) How much is allocated in any budget for civil claims against police for the year 2023-2024?
- 1399 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—STATE RECORDS ACT OBLIGATIONS—The Hon. Chris Rath 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) Is the Minister complying with the record keeping obligations set out in the State Records Act 1998?
- 1400 TREASURER—ROYALTIES IN THE HUNTER—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Treasurer—
- (1) Last financial year, how much income did the state receive in coal royalties sourced from mining operations in each of the Singleton and Muswellbrook local government areas?
  - (2) What percentage of the state’s total coal royalty revenue was sourced from each of those mining operations in the local government areas referenced in (1)?
  - (3) What percentage of the state’s total income was sourced from coal royalties in each of the local government areas referenced in (1)?
  - (4) Last financial year, how much of the state’s expenditure was directed to the local government areas of Singleton and Muswellbrook, in both bare amount, and as a proportion of the state’s total expenditure?
- 1401 NATURAL RESOURCES—MINE REHABILITATION—The Hon. Jeremy Buckingham to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- (1) Clause 12 Schedule 8 of the *Mining Regulation 2016* (the ‘progressive rehabilitation’ reforms) came into force for large coal mines on 2 July 2022, and requires those mines to submit certain “rehabilitation outcome documents” to the department secretary for approval, which mines in the state have submitted these documents?
    - (a) For which mines have these documents been approved by the secretary?



- (2) As it is the policy of the government that the rehabilitation security bond required of each mine leaseholder covers the full projected costs of rehabilitating the mine, how confident is the Minister/Department that this policy objective is being met?
- (a) How is each mine's projected rehabilitation cost, and security bond, calculated?

David Blunt AM  
Clerk of the Parliaments