



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2023-24-25

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 92

TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2025

The Questions and Answers Paper is published at the end of each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on that sitting day and any new questions. Consequently the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered. During any adjournment of two weeks or more, a Questions and Answers Paper will be published from time to time containing answers received.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 81 (Including Question Nos 3955 to 3978)	26 November 2024
Q & A No. 82 (Including Question Nos 3979 to 4000)	27 November 2024
Q & A No. 83 (Including Question Nos 3980 to 4062)	27 November 2024
Q & A No. 84 (Including Question Nos 4063 to 4099)	17 December 2024
Q & A No. 85 (Including Question Nos 4100 to 4121)	18 December 2024
Q & A No. 86 (Including Question Nos 4122 to 4157)	19 December 2024
Q & A No. 87 (Including Question Nos 4158 to 4204)	20 December 2024
Q & A No. 88 (Including Question Nos 4205 to 4235)	24 December 2024
Q & A No. 89 (Including Question Nos 4236 to 4255)	25 December 2024
Q & A No. 90 (Including Question Nos 4256 to 4280)	26 December 2024
Q & A No. 91 (Including Question Nos 4281 to 4324)	27 December 2024
Q & A No. 92 (Including Question Nos 4322 to 4322)	27 December 2024

22 OCTOBER 2024

(Paper No. 81)

- * 3955 **JOB ADVERTISEMENTS IN RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Can the Minister please advise of any support available for rural and remote communities to advertise their job opportunities?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to supporting jobs and businesses in NSW, particularly in regional NSW. We have invested in programs to attract and incentivise workers to regional NSW and funding to councils to help regional councils put on new apprentices and trainees.

There are many established avenues for regional communities to promote and connect employers and job seekers. These include federal, state, local and private sector job boards across websites, apps and social media platforms. The Regional Media Fund has also been established to improve the sustainability of regionally focused media, which provides an avenue for advertising jobs regionally.

This question is a matter for Regional NSW and should be directed to the Minister for Regional New South Wales for a response.

- * 3956 **ASSISTANCE FOR RECRUITMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESS IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS**—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

Can the Minister advise of any support or assistance for small business in rural and remote communities for recruitment marketing, particularly those who are too small to have an inhouse Human Resources function?

Answer—

I am advised

The Service NSW Business Bureau support NSW small businesses through one front door access to government information, services and support in both metro and regional NSW through the following services:

- Frontline support through Business Concierges and independent business advisors.
- Digital self-service including a Business Profile and Business Bureau Mobile App.
- Targeted communications including eDMs, social media, promotion campaigns.
- Stakeholder engagement including local councils and business associations.

Business Concierges can assist small businesses with workforce recruitment by sharing information and connecting them with relevant agencies such as TAFE NSW and localised initiatives or programs through council and business chambers to source local staff.

Since 1 January 2024, the Service NSW Business Bureau has made over 170 referrals for small businesses to TAFE NSW where they can engage in a range of supports including sourcing staff. Since the Service NSW Business Bureau's launch in October 2023, the Business Bureau has supported approximately 12,000 business customers in regional NSW.

Business Concierges assist small businesses over the phone or in person to navigate and understand regulatory requirements and promote awareness of relevant Government services and support. Local Business Concierges are available in metro and regional NSW and conduct mobile outreach to assist

businesses who are time-poor by coming to them. Business Concierges can also be available at the local Service Centre by appointment. In addition to guidance and information, Business Concierges can liaise with councils on behalf of the business and assist businesses with any applications for either regulatory requirements or financial support.

The Bureau has an extensive stakeholder engagement program with agencies and education providers including Registered Training Organisations, TAFE NSW and universities. The aim of the Bureau's engagement is to build relationships with government partners to promote the service offering for small businesses, understand the services offered by the education providers and make connections and contacts. This engagement establishes referral pathways for Business Concierges to refer small businesses to education providers and relevant programs to employ staff.

The Bureau also has local independent business advisors who can provide capability uplift for small businesses to assist with recruitment and promotion. Regional businesses can access free independent business advice tailored to their needs, events and online resources through the Service NSW Business Connect program.

Independent Business Connect advisors provide tailored advice and practical insights on essential business management topics, including human resource management, attracting and retaining staff, recruitment, onboarding and training, and staffing obligations. Rural business owners can access support from a local business advisor who knows their local economy by searching by town on the website <https://mybusiness.service.nsw.gov.au/business-connect/>

The Business Connect program includes in person and online events and webinars on topics of interest including those tailored to supporting small businesses with recruitment to find and retain the right staff. Business advisors may provide referrals to professional services such as recruitment agencies and other relevant government services such as the Fair Work Ombudsman, NSW Jobs Connect, Rural Women's Network and TAFE NSW Women in Business. Since 1 October 2023, approximately 51% of all Business Connect customers were regionally based.

* 3958 PALLIATIVE CARE UNITS IN REGIONAL NSW—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to Palliative Care Units in regional New South Wales:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many Palliative Care Unites are located across the following areas?
 - (a) Murrumbidgee Local Health District?
 - (b) Western Local Health District?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise how many people are on a waiting list for Palliative Care across New South Wales?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how is the Government providing support to expand on Palliative Care Units for regional New South Wales?

Answer—

I'm advised:

(1a - b)

The provision of palliative care services is focused on a person-centred approach to care. As part of this approach services, where possible, support patients to die in their preferred place of death.

In most cases this will be in a community setting, including people's homes, residential aged care facilities or in disability group homes.

This community-based care is provided by District teams including specialist palliative care teams, community nursing teams and Hospital in The Homes teams, and out of hospital care services.

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Community based care is also supported by primary care providers, including general practitioners, community aged care providers and disability service providers.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District has 3 designated palliative care units located at Wagga Wagga, Albury and Young. Seventeen rural hospitals in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District have designated inpatient palliative care rooms supported by GP VMOs and specialist palliative care teams.

Western NSW Local Health District has 5 designated palliative care beds at Dubbo Health Service and 2 designated palliative care beds at Orange Health Service.

Additionally, inpatient palliative care can be provided in all health service across the District. In many of these facilities, there is the provision of single rooms for this purpose, many of which have been enhanced to provide a more home-like environment.

- (2) NSW Health does not have a statewide waiting list for palliative care services. NSW local health districts and specialty health networks triage patients and provide palliative care services tailored to each person's needs and wishes.
- (3) The NSW Government is investing \$93 million for the World Class End of Life Care Program to redevelop and refurbish palliative care unit across the state, including in regional sites at Orange and Tamworth Hospitals, to support enhanced end of life care for those communities.

The NSW Government is investing \$25 million for the Palliative Care Flexible Funding Pool (2024-25 to 2027-28) to enhance local responses to end of life and palliative care service needs and priorities for patients, families and the community. Activities in the scope of the Palliative Care Flexible Funding Pool include capital works and refurbishments. All local health districts, specialty health networks and NSW Ambulance are eligible for annual funding allocations from the Palliative Care Flexible Funding Pool.

All local health districts, specialist health networks and NSW Ambulance received annualised enhancements for palliative care in September 2023.

Additionally, all local health districts have funding to recruit palliative care Aboriginal Health Workers.

- * 3959 RENTAL PROPERTY CRISIS—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to the rental property crisis:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise what action the Government is taking to support people financially who are renting, with the ever-increasing cost of rent?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what action the Government is taking to support first time renters?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading.

- * 3960 SMALL BUSINESSES RENTING A PREMISES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

With respect to the Small Business who are renting a premises:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise what actions are in place to ensure small business treated fairly when it comes to rental costs?

- (2) Will the Minister please advise what actions are being taken by the Government to support small business who are impacted by large increases in rental costs or where contracts are renewed, and the cost has increased dramatically?

Answer—

I am advised the NSW Retail Leasing Act 1994 (the RLA) promotes open and transparent negotiations between lessors and lessees, including for key terms of the lease such as rent and outgoings.

The RLA includes provisions to promote good leasing practices, including by voiding lease terms which may result in unfair rent increases. Protections include provisions voiding ratchet clauses, a framework for determining market rent and restrictions on base rent market adjustments of more than once per year.

The NSW Small Business Commission also provides practical support to assist with commercial leasing challenges both before entering into a lease and during the lease term. The NSW Small Business Commission offers a mediation service to assist parties in resolving leasing disputes quickly and cost-effectively and can discuss options if a party to a lease faces difficulties meeting their obligations.

- * 3961 LACK OF TRADES PEOPLE IN REGIONAL NSW—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

With respect to the lack of trades people especially in regional New South Wales:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many apprentices are currently employed across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what trades/qualifications are these apprentices undertaking?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what action the Government is taking to support and encourage new apprentices?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what incentives is the Government providing to employers to put on apprentices?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education.

- * 3962 LOCAL YOUTH ARTS ORGANISATIONS—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

- (1) What non infrastructure funding opportunities and/or programs are available in 2024-25 for local youth arts organisations?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government acknowledges the critical role of arts and culture in the development of children and young people. This is articulated in the NSW Government's arts, cultural and creative industries policy, Creative Communities, which recognises the importance of youth arts in developing artists and audiences.

Through the recently reformed Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP), the NSW government has formulated a set of six priority areas, including the priority of supporting the next generation of creatives and audiences. Create NSW offers a range of funding opportunities through the ACFP for which youth arts organisations are eligible to apply. This includes multi-year and project-based funding, as well as a range of professional development initiatives for early-career artists and arts workers.

Currently, a range of youth art organisations receive multi-year funding from the NSW Government through the ACFP. This includes Australian Theatre for Young People, Powerhouse Youth Arts,

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Outload Inc, Shopfront Youth Theatre, Curious Works, PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, Gondwana Choir, Sydney Youth Orchestra, Outback Theatre for young people, Tantrum Youth Arts, Fling Physical Theatre, Spaghetti Circus and Beyond Empathy.

In addition, Create NSW supports numerous arts organisations that have extensive youth-focused programs.

- * 3963 INTERSECTION OF PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SHIRLEY, AND CLANVILLE ROADS IN ROSEVILLE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to the intersection of Pacific Highway, Shirley, and Glanville roads in Roseville:

- (1) How many accidents have taken place between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024?
- (2) Is Transport for NSW monitoring this intersection?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2023, on Pacific Highway at the intersection of Shirley Road, Roseville, there was one casualty crash reported. The crash resulted in three casualties (two serious injuries and one minor/other injury). In 2024, between 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024, there have been no fatal crashes reported.

Between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2023, on Pacific Highway at the intersection of Clanville Road, Roseville, there has been no casualty crashes and casualties reported. In 2024, between 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024, there have been no fatal crashes reported.

*Note: Data for 2024 is preliminary and subject to change.

- (2) Transport for NSW is committed to providing safe and efficient roads for all road users and undertakes real time network monitoring of the road network through our 24/7 Transport Management Centre.

Traffic signal operations are also regularly reviewed with the aim of improving pedestrian amenity and safety and reducing delays to buses and other road users.

Transport for NSW undertake assessments of locations that have a significant crash history or identified safety concerns to determine any potential safety treatments that might be appropriate for implementation. Where a project is deemed suitable for potential works, an application for funding is not a guarantee that a project will proceed.

- * 3964 INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF BRIDGETTE 'BIDDY' PORTER—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Attorney General—

Will you now exercise your authority under Section 28 of the Coroners Act 2009, and direct an inquest into the death of Bridgette 'Biddy' Porter, following the request from petitioners and the 21,550 signatories to the 'Justice for Biddy Porter' ePetition, which was debated in the Legislative Assembly on 17th October 2024?

Answer—

Please refer to the answer to the question without notice on 14 November 2024 concerning 'Bridgette "Biddy" Porter':

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1323879322-147857/link/27>

* 3965 STATISTICS ON MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS ABSCONDING—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Could you please provide statistics for the past 10 years, by year, the number of occurrences forensic mental health patients have absconded from forensic mental health units statewide, whilst on day/s release?
- (2) Could you please provide statistics for the past 10 years, by year, the number of occurrences forensic mental health patients have absconded from forensic mental health unit, Bloomfield Hospital at Orange, whilst on day/s release?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Absconding while on supervised leave from forensic units is a rare event. NSW Health local health districts and specialty health networks report quarterly data on absconding events for each mental health unit. Data collection commenced in 2018 and includes absconding of patients who are on supervised leave.

Statewide, the number of events of absconding while on supervised leave from forensic units is:

- 2018: 2
- 2019: 2
- 2020: 4
- 2021: 6
- 2022: 4
- 2023: 9
- 2024 (Jan to Jun): 3

Since 2018, there has been one reported episode of absconding while on supervised leave from the forensic unit at Bloomfield Hospital. This occurred in 2023.

* 3966 WHEALY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Could you please advise if all recommendations made by the Whealy Review in 2018 have been adopted and implemented?
 - (a) If not, can you advise which recommendations have not and when they are likely to be implemented, or what impediments exist to prevent the implementation?

Answer—

I'm advised:

All 30 recommendations from the Review of the Mental Health Review Tribunal in Respect of Forensic Patients (2017), also known as 'the Whealy Review', were supported (some in full and some in principle) and have been implemented. The Whealy Review has led to several legislative amendments, and revised policies and procedures.

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* 3967 WENTWORTH POINT CONTAMINANTS—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Did Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) remove heavy metal and hydrocarbon contaminants from the Wentworth Point site prior to the sale to a developer?
 - (a) If so, what quantity was removed?
- (2) Did the ground testing results documented by any organisations, on behalf of the RMS and the developer, show a concentration of heavy metals and hydrocarbons dumped into the sediment pond at Wentworth Point?
 - (a) Can the Department of Planning verify the results of these tests?
- (3) Was dioxin tested for by any organisations on the Wentworth Point site?
 - (a) If yes, are tests available to the public?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) This matter falls under the remit of the NSW Environment Protection Authority and should be directed to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.
- (2) I refer to the response to question (1).
- (3) I refer to the response to question (1).

* 3968 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY - MELROSE PARK—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

What timeframe is the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and/or Parramatta City Council operating with regarding responding to health & safety questions from Melrose Park and surrounding communities of contaminated dust being blown from Wentworth Point?

Answer—

Contamination concerns relate predominantly to a residential development near 14 Hill Road. The City of Parramatta (Council) is responsible for regulating environmental issues on the residential development site, including stockpile management.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) referred concerns about health and safety to Council on 19 and 30 January 2023, 13 November 2023, and 22 March 2024. Council advised the EPA it is satisfied that the site is being managed appropriately. An EPA-accredited site auditor has been appointed by the developer to provide oversight of the works.

Transport for NSW has advised the EPA that any potential contamination, including dioxins, in the adjacent Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 Project Corridor will be investigated and managed in accordance with its Conditions of Approval set by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, and the advice of an EPA-accredited site auditor engaged by Transport for NSW to oversee the works.

* 3969 PRIVATE FEE ON THE AIRPORT LINE—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What value does the private fee on the airport line deliver to the taxpayer?
- (2) Will the airport line fee continue post-2030?
- (3) How much of the fee currently goes to the State Government?

- (a) How has this percentage changed for each year of the fee's lifetime?
- (4) What does the Government do with the revenue from the airport line?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to return the operation of the airport line to state ownership post 2030?

Answer—

I am advised

The concession for the private airport line was established by a Coalition Government. The future of the airport line after the concession ends in May 2030 is under consideration.

The net revenue Transport Asset Holding Entity receives is paid to Sydney Trains as a rebate. The amounts redirected to Sydney Trains fund Sydney Trains operational costs and funds returned to Sydney Trains for the financial years 2019 to 2024 were as follows:

- 2018-2019: \$64.3 million
- 2019-2020: \$40.6 million
- 2020-2021: Nil
- 2021-2022: \$8.1 million
- 2022-2023: \$45.7 million
- 2023-2024: \$63.6 million

Please note that 2020-21 was impacted by COVID-19.

* 3970 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING TARGETS—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) What types of housing does the Government use to determine a local government's progress on delivering their housing target?
- (2) Specifically, do new aged care homes count for the purposes of a housing target?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Specifically, do build-to-rent dwellings count for the purposes of a housing target?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (4) If not all types of housing count towards a housing target, what measures are taken to ensure the housing targets do not have the perverse outcome of distorting the property market?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) State and local housing targets will be monitored using residential dwelling completions data, defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This includes houses, townhouses and other semi-detached houses, and apartments. Independent living units, such as villas or apartments for seniors are also included.
- (2) No.
- (a) Aged care facilities are classified as non-residential buildings by the ABS.
- (3) Yes.
- (a) Not applicable.

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- (4) Housing targets are one of the many factors that influence housing activity. These include market demands, local and site-specific factors, and Government interventions such as planning reform and regulation to encourage housing diversity.

* 3971 AIR CONDITIONING IN NSW HEALTH FACILITIES—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many NSW Health facilities or premises currently have air conditioning?
- (2) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?
- (3) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise ammonia gas for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?

Answer—

I'm advised:

NSW Health facilities are under the care, control and management of the respective local health district or speciality health network, which are responsible for managing air conditioning systems and recording relevant data in their assets registers.

In accordance with the NSW Health Asset Management Policy ([PD2022_044](#)), all assets, including air conditioning and related contract management, are required to be maintained in line with relevant statutory and compliance requirements to ensure the safety of patients, workforce and the community.

* 3972 TAFE FACILITIES WITH AIR CONDITIONING—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—

- (1) How many NSW TAFE facilities or premises currently have air conditioning?
- (2) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?
- (3) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise ammonia gas for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?

Answer—

TAFE NSW has a Mechanical Services Design Standard. The purpose of this standard is to support the selection, design and procurement, and understanding of mechanical services in TAFE NSW sites. This Standard covers air-conditioning plant and equipment.

Whilst any new air-conditioning installations will comply with all relevant Building Codes and Australian Standards, this Design Standard covers other important elements specific to TAFE NSW, including the selection of plant, its installation, and other important factors including environment or sustainability.

* 3973 AIR CONDITIONING IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many Department of Education and/or Schools Infrastructure facilities or premises currently have air conditioning?
- (2) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?
- (3) Of those facilities and premises with air conditioning, how many units currently utilise ammonia gas for refrigeration, and what is the location of these units?

Answer—

The Department of Education works with schools on a case-by-case basis to address their heating and cooling needs. The department's maintenance program and other works, including air conditioning upgrades, are assessed in consultation with schools.

* 3975 **COMPUTERISED OPERATIONAL POLICING SYSTEM**—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS) database:

- (1) When was this database first developed?
- (2) When was the last time the system received a holistic upgrade?
- (3) What can the system do now as a result of that upgrade that it couldn't do previously?
- (4) Does NSW Police plan to replace the COPS database?
 - (a) If so, when?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 1994.
 - (2) Further capabilities were implemented in 1996 and 2017. The NSW Police Force maintains the mainframe in line with business requirements and asset lifecycle recommendations. Recent upgrades provided an expansion to the capability of the computing hardware modules which drive the mainframe system's modern user interface.
 - (3) The upgrades ensured stability while the new interfaces modernised the police officer experience on both their desktop and mobile devices.
 - (4) Yes.
 - (a) The NSW Police Force will commence pre-market engagement to initiate this process in the coming weeks.
- * 3976 **AT-PROPERTY NOISE MITIGATION**—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Regarding properties in Annandale that are affected by operational noise from City West Link and the Rozelle Interchange:

- (1) How many properties are experiencing noise that exceeds levels anticipated in the Environment Impact Statement for the Rozelle Interchange?
- (2) How many properties have been provided with additional at-property noise mitigation measures?
- (3) What further assistance will the government provide, if any, to residents who wish to further manage and/or mitigate the impacts of operational noise at and around their properties?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW has not received any results that indicate operational road noise has exceeded the levels anticipated in the Operational Noise Vibration Review for Rozelle Interchange.

Transport for NSW is aware of complaints about road noise from residents in Annandale.

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Monitoring was undertaken at properties in Annandale to assess the operational road noise from the Rozelle Interchange for two weeks in October 2024. Transport for NSW installed additional noise monitoring at complainant properties to thoroughly investigate the noise levels.

It will take several months to analyse and verify the results, which will be presented in an Operational Noise Compliance Report. If the measured noise levels exceed the design noise level by more than 2dB(A), steps will be taken to rectify this. The Report will outline if more work needs to be done to mitigate operational road traffic noise at Annandale. Generally, people do not notice increased noise unless it is more than 2dBA.

The Operational Noise Vibration Review identified 293 eligible properties for at-property operational noise treatments for the Rozelle Interchange. Not all property owners took up the offer. All offers for treatment were provided prior to operation of the road.

In addition to preparing the Report, Transport for NSW has:

- Completed repairs to the existing noise wall on City West Link.
- Liaised with nearby Transport for NSW projects under construction, including the Western Harbour Tunnel and Sydney Metro, to confirm appropriate measures and controls are in place to minimise noise from construction truck haulage.
- Transport Noise Specialists have met with Annandale residents at their properties to discuss their concerns and answer questions.

WestConnex/Transurban received complaints from the same residents in Q1 2024 about noise from the tunnel ventilation fans. Fan optimisation techniques were used to reduce fan running speeds to address the residents' concerns, which resulted in an overall noise reduction from the Rozelle Interchange tunnels. Results indicated that even when operating the fans at increased speeds, the volume was still within acceptable criteria in the Operational Noise Vibration Review.

Residents who believe they are adversely affected by road traffic noise can apply to the Noise Abatement Program. The Noise Abatement Program addresses existing traffic noise impacts from State and Federal roads in NSW.

* 3977 ROZELLE INTERCHANGE INVESTIGATIONS—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Noting the Transport Minister's response to LA QON 3355 and 3462:

- (1) What action, if any, has the Government taken to obtain information in relation to:
 - (a) Whether any employees of the WestConnex Delivery Agency were subsequently employed by the Sydney Motorway Corporation?
 - (b) Whether any current Transport for NSW employees at a managerial and/or strategic decision-making level have previously been employed by, provided consultancy services to or otherwise engaged in a similar capacity with the WestConnex Delivery Agency or the Sydney Motorway Corporation?
 - (c) Whether any former Roads and Maritime Services or Transport for NSW employees, at a managerial and/or strategic decision-making level, have subsequently been employed by, provided consultancy services to or otherwise engaged in a similar capacity with the WestConnex Delivery Agency or the Sydney Motorway Corporation?
 - (d) Whether any former NSW Ministerial staff have subsequently been employed by, provided consultancy services to, or otherwise engaged in a similar capacity with Sydney Motorway Corporation?

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- (2) Regarding the design decisions that led to the Rozelle Interchange, what action, if any, has the government taken to investigate the involvement of staff or employees from
- (a) Offices of the Premier, Deputy Premier and Government Ministers throughout the project's history?
 - (b) Roads and Maritime Service?
 - (c) Transport for NSW?
 - (d) Sydney Motorway Corporation?
 - (e) WestConnex Delivery Agency?

Answer—

I am advised

I refer to the response to LA 3355.

Transport for NSW engaged extensively with the Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Transport and the Arts on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the impact of the Rozelle Interchange. The NSW Government response is publicly available on the Parliament of NSW website:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3029#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>.

If the Member has any evidence regarding these matters, I encourage her to report them to the relevant authority.

- * 3978 WESTCONNEX TRAFFIC MODELLING AND IMPACTS—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Regarding traffic volumes on local streets and roads since WestConnex stage 3 was completed:

- (1) Has the impact on the local traffic network been monitored?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) What impacts have been recorded?
 - (ii) Have the impacts been considered against any modelling and/or predictions that were carried out in relation to the completion of WestConnex stage 3?
- (2) Has there been any reduction along Victoria Road between the Iron Cove Bridge and Anzac Bridge?
 - (a) If so, by what percentage?
- (3) When will the Operational Road Network Performance Review be completed for WestConnex stage 3?
- (4) Will the Operational Road Network Performance Review for WestConnex stage 3 be available to the public once it is completed?
 - (a) If so, where will it be published?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The 12 month post-opening road network performance review for WestConnex Stage 3 is being prepared, focusing on the wider network impacts of the Rozelle Interchange, including Victoria Road and local streets. Impacted locations will be compared to predictions outlined in the WestConnex Stage 3 Environmental Impact Statement.

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- (2) Data collected to date shows traffic volumes on Victoria Road between Iron Cove Bridge and Anzac Bridge have reduced by an average of 58% in peak hours.
- (3) The 12 month post-opening road network performance review for WestConnex Stage 3 is expected to be released mid-2025.
- (4) The Road Network Performance Review will be available at web page: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/road-network-performance-reviews>

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(Paper No. 82)

* 3979 ACCESS TO EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) How many of the 13 local government areas in Barwon have full access to emergency accommodation?
 - (a) Does this meet the standard that the Government holds for access to emergency accommodation?
- (2) Can the Minister advise if there are plans in place to ensure rural and remote communities are able to access crisis accommodation, homelessness emergency housing and youth homelessness emergency housing within their own communities considering the geographical distance for current access?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) All local government areas within Barwon have access to Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to support those who may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This includes access to crisis and transitional accommodation.

All SHS providers operate using a No Wrong Door approach to people who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. The No Wrong Door approach refers to the principle that a person will receive some support, or will be assisted to find support, whenever they access a service provider. SHS services can be searched by location and need at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/ways/services>

- (a) DCJ funded NSW homelessness providers are required to be accredited with one of four standards and accreditation programs.

Further information can be located at:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/homelessness-services/ASES-accreditation-for-providers>.

- (2) The government is committed to making NSW a place where everyone has access to safe and secure housing, and where experiences of homelessness are rare, brief and not repeated.

The NSW Government is acting on a number of fronts to address the housing and rental crisis. We are focussed on growing the supply of social and affordable housing across NSW. Our historic \$6.6 billion Building Homes for NSW program, announced as part of the 2024/25 NSW Budget, is the largest ever NSW Government investment in social housing in the state's history, is a clear testament to this.

A range of programs and initiatives are in place to prevent and reduce homelessness in NSW, focusing on Housing First approaches, crisis and transitional accommodation, assertive outreach, sustaining at risk tenancies, risk screening and supports in schools, and building new social housing.

- * 3981 ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to Mental Health:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many people have accessed mental health services in 2023 & 2024 for the following local health districts?
 - (a) Murrumbidgee Local Health District & Western NSW Local Health District
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is the average wait time for someone to seeking mental health services in 2023 and 2024 for the following health districts?
 - (a) Murrumbidgee Local Health District & Western NSW Local Health District
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how many full-time, part time and casual mental health clinicians are allocated to the following health districts?
 - (a) Murrumbidgee Local Health District & Western NSW Local Health District
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what location/s do these mental health clinicians operate from?

Answer—

- (1) In Western NSW LHD during financial years 2022-23 to 2023-24, 18,801 people accessed community mental health services and inpatient services.
 In Murrumbidgee LHD during calendar years 2023 and 2024 to 30 August, 13,880 people accessed mental health/ drug and alcohol services.
- (2) It is extremely rare for a Mental Health Service to have a waitlist. People needing acute attention can be seen within days. Specialty psychiatry services may need to be booked several weeks ahead but if the need is acute, virtual support or an inpatient admission can be provided. Rural and remote communities may have to wait for regular face to face outreach visits but virtual services are available 24/7 to these communities.
- (3) In Western NSW LHD there are 637 full time mental health positions and 43 part time mental health positions. These positions are located across the District with the main teams located in Dubbo, Bathurst and Orange and community and inpatient services provided from these regions. Murrumbidgee LHD employs 387 mental health workers, of whom 234 are full-time, 110 are part-time and 43 are casual. There are also 14 additional employees (making up 15.24 FTE) including agency and sessional staff.
- (4) Western NSW LHD:
 Community Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Teams:
 - Bathurst - Outreach to Blayney, Oberon and Oberon.
 - Mudgee - Outreach to Kandos, Rylstone, Dunedoo and Gulgong.
 - Cowra - Outreach to Grenfell and Canowindra.
 - Orange - Outreach to Molong, Yeoval, Cudal, Manildra
 - Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin - Outreach Alectown, Eugowra, Peak Hill, Trundle, Tullamore and Wirrinya.

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- Dubbo - Outreach to Coonabarabran, Coonamble, Gildgrandra, Narromine, Warren, Wellington.
- Bourke - Outreach to Brewarrina and Cobar.
- Lightning Ridge - Outreach to Walgett, Goodooga.

Virtual teams:

- Mental Health Emergency Care Team, incorporating the Statewide Mental Health Telephone Access Line -based in Orange covering the whole District including support to all emergency departments
- Virtual Community Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Services Team - based in Orange covering the whole District.

Inpatient services:

- Bloomfield Hospital - 11 units, 142 beds - Acute, Rehabilitation, Forensic, Child & Adolescent, Older People's and Involuntary Drug and Alcohol
- Dubbo Mental Health Inpatient Units - Acute 10 beds, Sub-Acute 10 beds
- Bathurst Mental Health Inpatient Unit - Sub-Acute 10 beds.

Murrumbidgee LHD:

Mental health teams are based in hubs at Deniliquin, Griffith, Temora, Tumut, Wagga Wagga and Young and provide outreach services to other communities throughout the region. All emergency departments in the District are equipped to manage consumers requiring emergency mental health services.

* 3982 GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Premier—

With respect to Government Grant Funding:

- (1) Would the Premier please advise why many funding opportunities only offer applicants 4 weeks from when the grant opens to when it closes?
- (2) Would the Premier please advise how the NSW Government is supporting community groups who need longer to obtain quotes for grants?
- (3) Would the Premier please advise how is the NSW Government supporting groups who do not have access to internet or computers to complete funding applications?

Answer—

I am advised;

The length of time for which a grant opportunity is open differs from one grant program to another and depends on the specific circumstances of each grant program.

As set out in section 6.1.8 of the Grants Administration Guide (Guide}, when developing a grant opportunity, officials should consider what support, if any, may be provided to grant applicants during the application process. This may include support with accessing, completing and submitting the grant application. The support provided will vary depending on the program. It is a mandatory requirement under the Guide that officials must capture in the grant guidelines (or, where guidelines are not required and not prepared, otherwise document} what support is made available to applicants and relevant details of that support. Officials must also document what support has been given to a grant applicant and the reasons for giving that support.

- * 3983 NATIONAL WATER GRID FUNDING—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

Expressions of Interest for the latest round of National Water Grid funding closed in June and there is no update on the status of the five-step process published on the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) web site beyond “[DCCEEW] seeks Stage 1 expressions of interest for three weeks”:

- (1) Can you advise progress on the Water Group’s evaluation of proposals?
- (2) Has a shortlist of proposals been produced as outlined in the application process published on the DCCEEW web site?
- (3) How many projects have progressed to Stage 2 formal funding application as outlined in the application process?
- (4) What is the projected or known total amount of funding sought through Stage 2 applications?
- (5) Can you advise which if any proposals have been submitted to the Australian Government, as outlined in the application process?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Proposals have been evaluated.
 - (2) Yes.
 - (3) Nine projects were shortlisted to progress to funding applications.
 - (4) The nine projects are seeking total funding of \$80.9 million from the National Water Grid.
 - (5) All nine project applications were submitted to the Australian Government in late June and early July 2024.
- * 3984 SUPPORT CLASSES—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to support classes for primary school students:

- (1) How many students are in a support class in the Northern Beaches as at:
 - (a) Term 4, 2021?
 - (b) Term 4, 2022?
 - (c) Term 4, 2023?
 - (d) Term 4, 2024?
- (2) How many students will be eligible for a support class in Term 1, 2025 in the Northern Beaches?

Answer—

The Department of Education publishes data on support classes operating in NSW public schools at <https://data.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/nsw-education-specialist-support-classes-by-school-and-support-needs-type>

- * 3985 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Premier—

- (1) When will applications open for the Community Building Partnership?

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Answer—

I am advised;

Details regarding the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program are available in the link below:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-building-partnership>

- * 3986 SEPP DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

In relation to the Transport Oriented Development SEPP for Roseville, Lindfield, Killara, and Gordon:

- (1) What is the development capacity?

Answer—

I am advised:

The planned dwelling capacity for TOD SEPP locations that have commenced are provided in the response to supplementary Question 65 for the Budget Estimates hearing held on 30 August 2024.

- * 3987 SEAT BELT DETECTION CAMERAS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

How many mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras are located in the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate) and where are these cameras located?

Answer—

I am advised

The location of mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras is not made public.

- * 3988 MOBILITY PARKING SCHEME—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

How many Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permits are currently held by residents of the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate)?

Answer—

I am advised

As at 30 September 2024, there are 6,258 active Mobility Parking Scheme permits in the Tweed LGA (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490).

The active permits include 'Individual', 'Organisation' and 'Temporary' permit class and the transaction types are: 'Issue, Renewal, Replacement and Additional'.

- * 3989 LITTERING FROM A VEHICLE—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

Regarding littering from a vehicle:

- (1) How many reports of littering from a vehicle in the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate) have been made to the Environmental Protection Authority in the following years:

- (a) Year to date?

- (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2022?
- (2) How many reports have resulted in an infringement in the following years:
- (a) Year to date?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2022?

Answer—

- (1)
- (a) 53
 - (b) 62
 - (c) 41
- (2)
- (a) 5
 - (b) 10
 - (c) 7

* 3990 50 PER CENT DISCOUNT ON LICENCE RENEWAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many residents of the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate) received the 50 per cent discount on their unrestricted driver licence renewal under the Fair Go policy in the following years:
- (a) 2024 - Until 17 February 2024 when the Fair Go for Safe Drivers Scheme concluded?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2022?
 - (d) 2021?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised
- Data for the residents of postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489 and 2490 is:
- (a) 2024 = 518
 - (b) 2023 = 3443
 - (c) 2022 = 3296
 - (d) 2021 = 3944

* 3991 COASTAL DREDGING STRATEGY—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) With the 2019-2024 Coastal Dredging Strategy reaching its conclusion at the end of this year, is a new Coastal Dredging Strategy for 2025 and beyond being developed?
- (a) If yes, when will the final Strategy be publicly released?

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Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Transport.

- * 3992 SELF FUNDED RETIREES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—
Do self-funded retirees qualify for discounts on registration and licence fees?

Answer—

I am advised

Self-funded retirees do not qualify for discounts on registration and licence fees.

The NSW Government provides eligible pensioners with vehicle registration and driver licence concessions to assist in meeting the mobility needs of low-income earners in the community.

For more information, please refer to <https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/vehicle-registration/renewing-vehicle-registration/pensioner-concessions-and-renewals>.

- * 3993 SCHOOL ADMIN REDUCTION PROGRAM—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Regarding the School Administration Reduction Program:

- (1) Which schools within the Tweed Electorate participated in the 2023-24 trial?
- (2) Which schools within the Tweed Electorate will be participating in the expanded 2025-26 program?

Answer—

12 schools from the Tweed Electorate will participate in the program across 2025-2026.

- * 3994 ACTIVE ADULTS CAMPAIGN—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

Regarding the Active Adults campaign created in 2023 and designed to highlight water safety for seniors:

- (1) What funding has the Government provided to the campaign and over what period?
- (2) What future funding has the Government committed to supporting the campaign?

Answer—

I am advised that:

In the 2023/24 financial year, the NSW Government allocated \$20,000 to support Royal Life Saving NSW's Active Ageing Campaign.

- * 3995 FLOOD AFFECTED PROPERTIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

Regarding the maintenance of flood-affected properties bought back by the NSW Reconstruction Authority:

- (1) What is the duration of the (estimated) \$13 million contract with NSW Public Works to maintain these properties?
- (2) On what date did this contract commence?
- (3) What is the scope of the security patrols included in this contract i.e. are all properties patrolled, frequency of patrols, number of security personnel undertaking these patrols?

- (4) What is the scope of lawn management included in this contract i.e. how often is lawn management undertaken at each property?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) NSW Public Works is the government agency with responsibility of maintaining the properties under the Resilient Homes Program. The duration of the engagement between the NSW Reconstruction Authority and NSW Public Works is subject to the duration of the RHP.
- (2) 7 June 2023.
- (3) Patrols are regularly undertaken with the number of security personnel who participate in patrols dependent upon a risk assessment.
- (4) An allowance of up to 12 site visits per year, with frequency based on seasonal needs to maintain the grounds in a tidy manner.

- * 3996 INFORMAL VOTES IN THE 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Regarding votes that were recorded as informal at the recent local government elections:

- (1) What action has the Government taken, if any, to evaluate:
 - (a) The number of votes that are likely to have been consciously cast as an informal vote?
 - (b) The number of votes that are likely to have been improperly cast due to voter error?
- (2) What plans does the Government have, if any, to assist with or improve the availability of information and education around voting procedures in New South Wales?

Answer—

- (1) Local government elections took place on 14 September 2024. Of the total 128 local government councils in NSW, the NSW Electoral Commission conducted the election for 126 councils for the election of councillors.

I am advised that clause 393AA of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 requires that after each ordinary election of councillors and each first election for an area after its constitution, the NSW Electoral Commissioner must provide the Minister for Local Government with a written report on the conduct of the election.

The report must be provided to the Minister for Local Government and displayed on the Commission's website within six months after the election day, unless the Minister is satisfied that special circumstances exist.

The Electoral Commissioner's report on the 2024 Local Government elections has not yet been published. Once published, it will be available on the Commission's website:

<https://elections.nsw.gov.au/about-us/reports/election-reports#localgovernmentelectionreports>.

- (2) Under section 10(2)(e) of the Electoral Act 2017 it is a function of the NSW Electoral Commission to promote public awareness of electoral matters that are in the general public interest by means of education and information programs. Information and educational materials about voting procedures in NSW are available on the Commission's website: <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/voters>

The Government has referred for inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, proposals to increase voter engagement, participation and confidence.

The Committee is expected to report on this inquiry by 30 June 2025.

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- * 3997 POWER UP FESTIVAL AT WHITE BAY POWER STATION—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

Regarding the Power Up Festival that was hosted by Placemaking NSW at the White Bay Power Station in September 2024:

- (1) What action has the Government taken, if any, to evaluate the festival's success in terms of:
 - (a) community input into and involvement in the scheduled events and exhibitions?
 - (b) local visits to the White Bay Power Station during the festival?
 - (c) feedback from event organisers, performers, contributors and visitors to the festival?
- (2) What plans does the Government have, if any, to host further Power Up Festivals or events with a similar community focus at the White Bay Power Station in future?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1a – c)

The event was extremely well received, with over 17,000 people attending. A public expression of interest process was held inviting local musicians, artists and food and beverage providers to be part of the festival. Over 280 local artists and 200 local musicians participated in the event along with local food and beverage providers.

Placemaking NSW conducted a post event survey for performers, artists and vendors that participated in the event program. It found:

- 85 per cent rated their experience with the event as excellent, with the remaining 15 per cent rating it good.
- 95 per cent advised the event met their expectations of visitation and sales revenue.
- 85 per cent rated their experience of working with Placemaking NSW as excellent, with the remaining 15 per cent rating it good.

A consumer survey showed:

- 80 per cent rated their event experience as excellent.
- 83 per cent were attracted to Power Up because of the opportunity to connect with arts and culture.

Placemaking NSW is committed to delivering a range of events, including community focussed events, as part of a broader programming mix for the White Bay Power Station. The Sydney Youth Orchestras of Turangalila-Symphonie is scheduled to perform on 15 December 2024.

- (2) As the White Bay Power Station is currently in its first year of event operations, the focus continues to be on testing and trialling a variety of events and activations to inform future plans.

- * 3998 CARRIAGEWAY KILOMETRES OF STATE ROADS—Mrs Tanya Thompson to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) How many Carriageway Kilometres of State Roads have been upgraded or sealed within the Myall Lakes Electorate?
- (2) How many intersections have been upgraded in the following postcodes:
 - (a) 2428?
 - (b) 2430?

- (c) 2312?
 - (d) 2422?
 - (e) 2423?
 - (f) 2424?
 - (g) 2426?
 - (h) 2429?
- (3) How many “Fixing Country Roads Projects” have been completed in the following postcodes:
- (a) 2428?
 - (b) 2430?
 - (c) 2312?
 - (d) 2422?
 - (e) 2423?
 - (f) 2424?
 - (g) 2426?
 - (h) 2429?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) For Financial Year 2024, a total of 7.085 carriageway kilometres have been upgraded or sealed within the Myall Lakes electorate.
- (2) For Financial Year 2024, one intersection in postcode 2430 was upgraded. These works were the Cundletown Interchange Northbound Lighting Upgrade.
- (3) Under the Fixing Country Roads Program, no projects have been completed in postcode 2428, one project has been completed in postcode 2429, and a further two projects have been completed and span across postcodes, 2429, 2430, 2312, 2422, 2423, 2424, and 2426.

* 3999 MENTAL HEALTH SECTOR IN MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE—Mrs Tanya Thompson to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to the mental health sector in the Myall Lakes Electorate:

- (1) How many people have accessed mental health services in the year 2023 in the Hunter New England Local Health District (LHD)?
- (2) What was the average wait time for an individual seeking mental health services in 2023 in the Hunter New England LHD?

Answer—

The NSW Government is committed to the delivery of high quality, safe and consumer-led mental health care.

I'm advised:

Health services are not provided, and health information is not collected, on an electorate basis.

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Hunter New England Local Health District collects and reports activity and performance data over a financial year, not calendar year. During the 2023-24 financial year, 19,620 individual clients accessed mental health services. This figure relates to individual clients, not episodes of care, and includes admissions to mental health inpatient facilities and clients seen by community mental health services.

The District provides multiple pathways for consumers to access mental health care. A figure for the average wait time to services is not available. People seeking mental health assistance, or a service, are assessed and triaged, and access to a service is based on clinical priority. This means consumers with the greatest clinical need are seen as a priority.

- * 4000 CROWN LANDS AND GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY IN MYALL LAKES—Mrs Tanya Thompson to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

Can the Minister advise the specific addresses and details for all Crown Lands for each Government owned property with the Electorate of Myall Lakes?

Answer—

I am advised:

A list of Crown land located in the Myall Lakes electorate is provided at Attachment A*

Land associated with the Aboriginal Housing Office, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation or that includes residential dwellings has been excluded for privacy reasons.

The ePlanning Spatial viewer can be used to identify Crown land:

<https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/resources/determine-if-land-is-crown-land-or-a-crown-road>

*Attachment A can be viewed on the Parliament's website at Questions and Answers Tracking.

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- * 3980 SHEPI HOMES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to the NSW Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative (SHEPI):

- (1) Would the Ministers please advise how many homes across the Cootamundra electorate have been upgraded so far under this program?
 - (a) Could these numbers please be broken down by Local Government Areas across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (2) Would the Ministers please advise how many homes are expected to receive upgrades across these Cootamundra electorate between now and June 2027?
 - (a) Could these numbers please be broken down by Local Government Areas across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (3) Would the Ministers please advise what is the NSW Government doing to support more energy efficient solutions for public and community managed homes across the Cootamundra electorate?

Answer—

- (1) To date, no homes have been upgraded under the SHEPI program across the Cootamundra electorate.

- (2) The program portfolio is still being developed by Homes NSW and the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO). AHO is planning to upgrade 75 properties across the Cootamundra electorate in AHO and Aboriginal Community Housing Provider properties.

(a)

Local Government Area	Houses planned for upgrades
Bland	4
Cootamundra-Gundagai	19
Temora	5
Cowra	33
Hilltops	14

- (3) The SHEPI program rollout is still in development, with around 23,000 household upgrades still to be delivered to public and community managed homes. All potential installation upgrades will be subject to prioritisation methodology based on a combination of criteria including weather data, property age, condition and suitability.

As part of the SHEPI program the Community Housing Energy Performance grant program was open for applications until 18 November 2024. The grant was available for eligible Community Housing Providers (CHP) to install energy performance upgrades at homes that they own and/or manage across the state.

CHPs that are successful through the grant funding application process will choose which properties they upgrade, and the type of upgrades installed. Once the successful applicants are assessed, the locations of these housing providers will be determined.

- * 4001 MONA VALE ROAD ACCIDENTS - MONA VALE AND BELROSE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to Mona Vale Road between Forest Way in Belrose and Pittwater Road in Mona Vale:

- (1) How many traffic accidents have occurred in the following years:

- (a) 2009/10?
- (b) 2010/11?
- (c) 2011/12?
- (d) 2012/13?
- (e) 2013/14?
- (f) 2014/15?
- (g) 2015/16?
- (h) 2016/17?
- (i) 2017/18?
- (j) 2018/19?
- (k) 2019/20?

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- (l) 2020/21?
 (m) 2021/22?
 (n) 2022/23?
 (o) 2023/24?
- (2) How many fatalities have occurred in the following years:
- (a) 2009/10?
 (b) 2010/11?
 (c) 2011/12?
 (d) 2012/13?
 (e) 2013/14?
 (f) 2014/15?
 (g) 2015/16?
 (h) 2016/17?
 (i) 2017/18?
 (j) 2018/19?
 (k) 2019/20?
 (l) 2020/21?
 (m) 2021/22?
 (n) 2022/23?
 (o) 2023/24?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1)

Financial Year	Traffic Accidents
2009/10	52
2010/11	50
2011/12	40
2012/13	34
2013/14	39
2014/15	25
2015/16	23
2016/17	22

2017/18	23
2018/19	22
2019/20	19
2020/21	15
2021/22	7
2022/23	21
2023/24*	14

(2)

Financial Year	Fatalities
2009/10	0
2010/11	0
2011/12	1
2012/13	0
2013/14	2
2014/15	0
2015/16	0
2016/17	0
2017/18	1
2018/19	0
2019/20	0
2020/21	1
2021/22	0
2022/23	0
2023/24*	0

Note: Crash data for the years 2019-2023 is publicly available and published on the Centre for Road Safety website and Open Data Portal.

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*The data for FY 2023-2024 is captured up to 30 June 2024. Data for 2024 is preliminary and subject to change.

- * 4002 MONA VALE ROAD ACCIDENTS - PYMBLE AND BELROSE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to Mona Vale Road between the Pacific Highway in Pymble and Forest Way in Belrose:

(1) How many traffic accidents have occurred in the following years:

- (a) 2009/10?
- (b) 2010/11?
- (c) 2011/12?
- (d) 2012/13?
- (e) 2013/14?
- (f) 2014/15?
- (g) 2015/16?
- (h) 2016/17?
- (i) 2017/18?
- (j) 2018/19?
- (k) 2019/20?
- (l) 2020/21?
- (m) 2021/22?
- (n) 2022/23?
- (o) 2023/24?

(2) How many fatalities have occurred in the following years:

- (a) 2009/10?
- (b) 2010/11?
- (c) 2011/12?
- (d) 2012/13?
- (e) 2013/14?
- (f) 2014/15?
- (g) 2015/16?
- (h) 2016/17?
- (i) 2017/18?
- (j) 2018/19?
- (k) 2019/20?
- (l) 2020/21?
- (m) 2021/22?
- (n) 2022/23?

(o) 2023/24?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1)

Financial Year	Traffic Accidents
2009/10	65
2010/11	66
2011/12	76
2012/13	53
2013/14	63
2014/15	47
2015/16	48
2016/17	38
2017/18	30
2018/19	28
2019/20	27
2020/21	33
2021/22	25
2022/23	25
2023/24*	23

(2)

Financial Year	Fatalities
2009/10	
2010/11	
2011/12	1
2012/13	

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2013/14	1
2014/15	
2015/16	2
2016/17	1
2017/18	2
2018/19	
2019/20	1
2020/21	
2021/22	
2022/23	
2023/24*	1

Note: Crash data for the years 2019-2023 is publicly available and published on the Centre for Road Safety website and Open Data Portal

*The data for FY 2023-2024 is captured up to 30 June 2024. Data for 2024 is preliminary and subject to change.

- * 4003 MONA VALE ROAD WEST UPGRADE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to the Mona Vale Road West upgrade:

- (1) When will funding be made available in the New South Wales Budget to upgrade the road to two lanes each way between Ingleside to Terrey Hills?
- (2) How much will the total upgrade cost to complete?

Answer—

I am advised

The Mona Vale Road West upgrade was deferred in 2023, following the outcomes of the Infrastructure NSW Strategic Infrastructure Review.

To enable timely delivery of the Mona Vale Road West upgrade, the 2024-25 NSW Budget allocated \$5.5 million to continue finalising the Project's detailed design. Once detailed design is complete, the NSW Government will be able to make a formal investment decision determining the Project's final scope and cost.

Transport for NSW will continue to keep the community informed of the Project's progress.

- * 4004 DAVIDSON HIGH SCHOOL UPGRADES—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to Davidson High:

- (1) Are there any past, current, or planned upgrades specifically for the school hall since April 2023?

Answer—

Yes. Details of improvements at Davidson High School, including upgrades to the school hall, are available on the Department of Education's School Infrastructure NSW website, including an October 2024 community update.

- * 4005 FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT PLANS—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

The Water Management Act 2000 requires the Minister for the Environment to give concurrence on water management plans under the Act:

- (1) What information do you receive from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group to inform your decision on concurrence?
- (2) How many water management plans has the Minister given concurrence to?

Answer—

- (1) The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Water Group provides advice on how a plan meets the principles of the Water Management Act 2000. In the case of a plan amendment, DCCEEW Water Group provides information to demonstrate compliance with section 45(1) of the Water Management Act 2000 and the circumstances under which a plan may be amended.
- (2) Water sharing and floodplain management plans are "Minister's plans" made under section 50 of the Water Management Act 2000.

Since June 2023, I have given my concurrence to remake 11 water sharing plans, amend six floodplain management plans, and amend 52 water sharing plans.

"Remake" generally refers to a plan that is approaching its statutory expiry date and is being remade ahead of its expiry. Remade plans will often have substantive changes to rules and are subject to a period of public exhibition.

"Amend" generally refers to a plan that is being changed during its statutory lifespan. These changes may include simple administrative and inconsequential changes, such as updating rule drafting and correcting typographical errors, and substantive changes, such as introducing new rules.

The 11 remade water sharing plans were:

- Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Sources 2023*.
- Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated River Water Sources 2023*.
- Water Sharing Plan for the Tweed River Area Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023*.
- Water Sharing Plan for the Richmond River Area Unregulated, Regulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023*.
- Water Sharing Plan for the Castlereagh Unregulated River Water Sources 2024.
- Water Sharing Plan for the Bega River Area Regulated, Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2024.
- Water Sharing Plan for the North Western Unregulated and Fractured Rock Water Sources 2024.

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- Water Sharing Plan for the Murray Unregulated River Water Sources 2024.
 - Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Border Rivers Unregulated River Water Sources 2024.
 - Water Sharing Plan for the Intersecting Streams Unregulated River Water Sources 2024.
 - Water Sharing Plan for the Lower Murray-Darling Unregulated River Water Source 2024.
- *these plans were subsequently amended.

The six amended floodplain management plans were:

- Floodplain Management Plan for the Barwon-Darling Valley Floodplain 2017.
- Floodplain Management Plan for the Border Rivers Valley Floodplain 2020.
- Floodplain Management Plan for the Gwydir Valley Floodplain 2016.
- Floodplain Management Plan for the Lower Namoi Valley Floodplain 2020.
- Floodplain Management Plan for the Macquarie Valley Floodplain 2021.
- Floodplain Management Plan for the Upper Namoi Valley Floodplain 2019.

Of the 52 amended water sharing plans, eight plans were substantially changed. The changes were to include new rules to regulate floodplain harvesting and to implement the Basin Plan 2000.

The remaining 44 were amended to address administrative issues, minor typographical errors, and to clarify plan rules by updating how the rules are written.

* 4006 IMPACT OF DRAFT NATIONAL WATER AGREEMENT—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) Will the Government undertake a regulatory impact statement to fully understand the regulatory and legislative implications of the draft National Water Agreement before committing?
- (2) Will the Government undertake a financial impact statement analysis to fully understand the budgetary implications of operationalising the draft National Water Agreement should NSW commit?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1 - 2) Before entering a new intergovernmental agreement such as the National Water Agreement (NWA), the NSW Government considers impacts on and opportunities for regional and rural communities, regulatory impact and financial impact through the government decision-making process. Further consultation on the NWA will inform the NSW Government's impact assessment.

* 4007 NSW FLOOD PRONE LAND POLICY—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

Regarding the Government Flood risk management manual and the Flood Prone Land Policy:

- (1) What consideration was given to this policy in developing the Reconnecting River Country Program and Flood Plain Management Plans?
- (2) What consultation was undertaken with affected councils with primary responsibility of appropriate controls under this Policy?

- (3) Does section 733 of the Local Government Act give local councils an exemption to any liability under these programs?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Government has worked in partnership with councils to understand and manage flood risk to communities across the state under the NSW Flood Prone Land Policy (the policy) since 1984. The NSW Flood Risk Development Manual 2023 (the manual) and the policy relate to planning and development controls. The [Flood risk management guideline AG01](#) (version 1.01 April 2024) provides an overview of the current administrative arrangements that support the delivery of the policy, consistent with the manual.

The southern floodplain management plans are the third generation of floodplain management plans developed by the NSW Government to manage water on the inland floodplains of NSW. They have been developed in accordance with the policy since 1984 and they complement the work of local councils to manage flood risk in their communities.

Floodplain management plans are prepared under the Water Management Act 2000 and establish a framework for the assessment and determination of applications for flood work approvals. Flood works are structures that alter the flow of water to/from a river or alter the movement of floodwater during a flood. Examples of flood works are levees, earthworks used to protect houses or infrastructure, and roads.

Floodplain management plans use historical flood events to identify high risk floodways (pathways of fast-flowing floodwater) and limit the types and size of flood works constructed in floodways to minimise the risk to life and property from the effects of flooding. Floodplain management plans do not deal with flood mitigation or flood response.

The flow options considered by Reconnecting River Country Program (the program) are well below the flows considered in the Flood Prone Land Policy. As such the program has not considered the Flood Prone Land Policy in its development.

- (2) The NSW Government introduced the merit-based policy in 1984 as it moved away from stringent uniform planning controls that had created significant limitations in the ability to manage the full range of flood risk. Primary responsibility for flood risk management for local communities was devolved to local councils in their local government areas. The policy was supported by the Floodplain development manual (1986) and was updated in 2001 and 2005.

The new NSW Flood Risk Management Manual, which includes the policy statement, was on public exhibition between 7 February 2022 to 18 March 2022. Local councils, flood risk management industry representatives and the wider community were invited to make submissions on updates to the Floodplain Development Manual (2005). A webinar was held on 3 March 2022 to provide an overview of the proposed updates to the manual.

The update and supporting guidance consider lessons learnt in managing floods and the impacts of floods since the release of the 2005 manual. These include the outcomes of NSW (2022) and interstate flood inquiries and the impacts of rare floods in areas of NSW in 2007, 2015, 2021 and 2022 and the results of major flooding in other states. It also considers more recent work on managing natural hazards across government, including relevant national and international frameworks, strategies, and best practice guidance.

The manual was gazetted under section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993 on 30 June 2023.

- (3) Generally, section 733 provides an exemption from liability for councils in respect of certain matters related to flood prone land. However, whether section 733 provides an exemption from liability will always turn on the particular facts of any given case.

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- * 4008 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

What is the cost of community consultation for the following programs:

- (1) Reconnecting River Country Program?
- (2) Landholder Negotiation Scheme?
- (3) Murrumbidgee Floodplain Management Plan?
- (4) Billabong Creek Floodplain Management Plan?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1 - 2) Estimated costs for the Reconnecting River Country Program (including the draft Landholder Negotiation Scheme): \$315,000 funded by the Australian Government.
- (3) Estimated cost: \$31,144.
- (4) Estimated cost: \$16,782.

- * 4009 CONSTRAINTS TERMS—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

The Murray Darling Basin Authority's definition of 'constraints' does not align with the definition used by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water:

- (1) Will the Government define the term constraint within the Water Management Act 2000 to ensure consistency?

Answer—

I am advised:

Constraints projects are being delivered by NSW under the Australian Government's Basin Plan 2012. As these projects are not a requirement under NSW legislation, there is no need to define the term in the Water Management Act 2000.

- * 4010 WATER AND AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing 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 advise what processes will be in place to ensure the Agriculture Commissioner, once appointed, understands Water Security and how that relates to food security for agricultural matters?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Hon Tara Moriarty, MLC, in her capacity as Minister for Agriculture.

I am highly engaged with the Minister for Agriculture and have the utmost confidence in her ability to understand the issues of water security. We acknowledge broad challenges such as these require cross-

government collaboration, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Minister on various issues affecting the community.

- * 4011 WATER QUALITY—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

The Basin Plan 2012 at Schedule 10, outlines 9 key causes of water quality degradation:

- (1) Will the Minister be considering Carp and other pests as a key cause of water quality degradation?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Water Quality Management Plans, which form a part of the Water Resource Plans under the Basin Plan, list the presence of invasive carp as a cause of water quality degradation, due to their contribution to elevated levels of suspended sediment.

- * 4012 CONCORD HOSPITAL WAIT TIMES—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) What was the average emergency wait time at Concord Hospital Emergency Department in:

- (a) 2022?
- (b) 2023?
- (c) 2024?

- (2) How many nurses were required to work double shifts or extended hours at Concord Hospital in:

- (a) January 2024?
- (b) February 2024?
- (c) March 2024?
- (d) April 2024?
- (e) May 2024?
- (f) June 2024?
- (g) July 2024?
- (h) August 2024?
- (i) September 2024?

- (3) How many patients received treatment at the Concord Cancer Centre in:

- (a) 2022?
- (b) 2023?
- (c) 2024?

- (4) How many patients received kidney/dialysis treatment at Concord Hospital in:

- (a) 2022?
- (b) 2023?
- (c) 2024?

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Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Information about emergency department wait times is reported as the median wait time, not the average wait time and is publicly available on the Bureau of Health Information website. Patients are triaged on arrival to the emergency department and are seen based on their clinical priority.
- (2) Nurses across NSW Health are employed under the terms and conditions provided by the Public Health System Nurses' and Midwives' (State) Award 2023, as varied from time to time. The Award provides that employees may be required to perform reasonable overtime.
- (3) The following number of patients received treatment at the Concord Cancer Centre:
 - (a) 2022: 2,000
 - (b) 2023: 2,061
 - (c) 2024 (Jan-Sept): 1,540.
- (4) The following number of patients received kidney/dialysis treatment (including haemodialysis, hemofiltration and peritoneal dialysis) at Concord Hospital:
 - (a) 2022: 260
 - (b) 2023: 270
 - (c) 2024 (Jan-Sept): 241.

* 4013 RHODES PRIMARY SCHOOL—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) For the benefit of constituents of the Drummoyne electorate, could you please provide an update on the Rhodes East primary school?

Answer—

The Department of Education is planning for a new primary school at Rhodes East. Architects and other technical experts have been engaged to develop masterplan options. Updates will be shared with the community as they become available.

* 4014 FRAUDS AND SCAMS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How many NSW Police reports have been made regarding financial fraud or scams in:
 - (a) 2022?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2024?
- (2) What does NSW Police estimate the monetary cost was to New South Wales residents who were victims of fraud and/or scams in:
 - (a) 2022?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2024?
- (3) How many NSW Police officers were in the Financial Crime Squad in:
 - (a) 2022?
 - (b) 2023?

- (c) 2024?
- (4) How many NSW Police officers were in the Cybercrime Squad in:
- (a) 2022?
- (b) 2023?
- (c) 2024?

Answer—

I am advised:

Please refer to responses provided for Question on Notice 3810.

- * 4015 NO LEFT TURN AT VICTORIA AND LYONS ROADS, DRUMMOYNE—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—
- (1) How many submissions were received during Transport for NSW's community consultation process for the proposed No Left Turn at Victoria and Lyons Roads, Drummoyne?
- (2) What is the number and percentage of positive submissions received?
- (3) What is the number and percentage of negative submissions received?
- (4) When will a decision be made by Transport for NSW?

Answer—

I am advised

The community consultation concluded in early September 2024. Transport for NSW is currently finalising the results and will continue to work with City of Canada Bay on next steps.

Transport for NSW will offer briefings to the local State and Federal MPs on the report findings and next steps.

- * 4016 GAP FILLERS AT TRAIN STATIONS IN THE DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—
- (1) Does the Government have any plans to install platform gap fillers at the following stations:
- (a) North Strathfield?
- (b) Concord West?
- (c) Rhodes?
- (d) Strathfield?
- (2) Has the Government observed a decline in platform-related safety incidents as a result of the installation of platform gap fillers?
- (3) How much funding in the 2024-25 State budget is allocated to the Platform Gap Filler Program?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Platform gap filler has been installed on selected platforms at the following stations: Circular Quay, Town Hall, Wynyard, Chatswood, Bondi Junction, Redfern, Wolli Creek, Martin Place and Central. Over the next 12 months it is proposed to install platform gap filler on selected platforms at Central and Redfern. There are plans to install platform gap fillers at platform 3, Strathfield Station, in

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February 2026, as it has a higher incidence of falls. All of the approximately 500 platforms on the Sydney Trains network have different designs and conditions. Each platform, track, train type and operating conditions must be assessed for the suitability for fitment of gap fillers. Sydney Trains will examine these areas and review in the next round of priorities for the Platform Gap Filler program.

(2 - 3) I refer to the response to LA 3438.

* 4017 PARRAMATTA RIVER FERRY SERVICE—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will additional ferry services be added during the Christmas school holidays and on weekends in summer?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW will be operating a revised F3 summer timetable from Friday 27 December 2024 until Sunday 19 January 2025. This will reallocate trips from the traditional weekday AM and PM commuter peak periods, to provide a 15-minute headway between Circular Quay and Sydney Olympic Park. This is between approximately 11:30am to 2:00pm towards Circular Quay and between 2:30pm to 6:00pm towards Sydney Olympic Park.

* 4018 FERRY SERVICE REVIEW—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) In the 2023/24 Budget, funding was allocated for a Drummoyne ferry service review. Has the review been finalised?
- (a) If so, will the report be made available to the public?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW has reviewed opportunities for improving ferry services along the Parramatta River.

In 2024, F3 ferry service improvements have resulted in 96 additional services per week operating between Sydney Olympic Park and Circular Quay. This service improvement for F3 services provides Drummoyne passengers with additional services seven days a week.

Information is publicly available on the Transport for NSW website:

<https://transportnsw.info/news/2024/extra-services-for-f3-parramatta-river-ferry-route>

* 4019 FISHING ON WHARVES—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What additional resources have been allocated to monitoring, regulating and cleaning ferry wharves on the Parramatta River this summer given the issues experienced by commuters due to fishing on wharves last summer?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW have implemented the following:

- (1) Security and Enforcement: Transport for NSW, in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and the NSW Police Marine Area Command, engages Police to provide security at wharves to manage anti-social behaviour, and associated mess. The number of scheduled patrols increase during summer to manage issues arising from increased usage at wharves.

- (2) Wharf Cleaning: Transport for NSW has increased cleaning services for all commuter wharves to 7 days a week to maintain cleanliness and safety. The cleaning roster was further amended to commence cleaning services earlier in the day at high use wharves including Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick and Drummoyne Wharf.
- (3) Wharf Maintenance Team Inspections: The Wharf Maintenance Team will continue to undertake weekly wharf inspections to monitor and address cleaning, safety and security issues.
- (4) AI Technology Trial: Since 1 August 2024, Transport for NSW has engaged in a 6-month trial of live analytics using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick and Drummoyne Wharves are included in the trial. The data supports real time alerts to be provided to assist NSW Police in managing wharf patrols and addressing issues in real-time.
- (5) Fishing Education Program: A Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) Recreational Fishing Education Officer with Fishcare Volunteers have been engaged to undertaking regular wharf visits to provide face to face advisory services to fishers to promote on the responsible use of these facilities. These activities will continue over the summer period.

* 4020 GYNAECOLOGY AT CONCORD HOSPITAL—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Are gynaecological services including scans, ultrasounds and access to specialist doctors available at Concord Hospital for patients presenting to the Emergency Department?
- (2) Has there been a change to the way presentations to the Emergency department with gynaecological matters are being treated?

Answer—

I'm advised:

I refer the Member to the response to LC 2589.

* 4021 ABORIGINAL LAND CLAIMS—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask 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—

Can you provide a detailed update on the status and plans for the processing of 38,000 undetermined Aboriginal land claims that were reported by the Audit Office of New South Wales in 2022?

Answer—

The Minister for Lands and Property is responsible for determining land claims by Aboriginal Land Councils under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

The Auditor General's Report identified 10 key recommendations to address the outstanding number of ALCs awaiting determination.

The NSW Government has been working in partnership with the Registrar of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act towards tangible coordinated actions in response to the Report and its recommendations.

* 4022 ROADS ACT 1993 PART 9 DIVISION 7 REVIEW—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Regarding offences for damage or disruption to major roads or major public facilities:

- (1) Has the review on whether the policy objectives of the Division remain valid and whether the terms of the Division remain appropriate for securing those objectives been finalised?

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- (2) Why hasn't a report on the outcome of the review been tabled in each House of Parliament as required by Section 144H (3) of the Act?
- (3) When will a report on the review be tabled in each House of Parliament?
- (4) Will the submissions to the review be publicly available?
 - (a) If so, where will they be published?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1 - 3) Transport for NSW has reviewed the provisions of Part 9, Division 7 of the Roads Act as required by section 144H of the Act.

The Government is currently considering the recommendations of the statutory review report and it will be tabled as soon as possible, noting that a review of police resourcing of continuous public assemblies recently announced by the Premier is also currently in progress.

- (4) I refer to the response to LA 3335.

* 4023 NITROUS OXIDE—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) When will the outcomes of the consultation into Nitrous Oxide Reform be publicly available?
- (2) What programs are run by NSW Health to educate the community about the risks of using nitrous oxide and how to mitigate those risks?
- (3) Who are these programs targeted towards?
- (4) How are these programs delivered and how often?
- (5) What consideration is being given to expanding education about the risks of taking nitrous oxide?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Outcomes of the consultation were presented publicly at the Volatile Substance Use Roundtable on 29 July 2024. More than 1,300 submissions were received, showing strong community support. NSW Health is refining the proposal to reflect stakeholder feedback.

NSW Health delivers a range of prevention, education and early intervention activities aiming to reduce alcohol and other drug related harms, including from nitrous oxide. The target group for nitrous oxide and other inhalants is young people aged 16 to 24.

The NSW Your Room website includes tools and information, such as a newly updated Nitrous Oxide factsheet in five community languages. Drug Info at Your Library also distributes evidence-based information in more than 360 local libraries.

Life Education NSW is funded to deliver preventive drug and health education to school children across the state. Students are supported with strategies and skills to avoid unhealthy lifestyles.

NSW Health is also working with the Department of Education to update the Principles for Drug Education in Schools, which provides advice to schools on delivering drug education. This will include advice for schools about the use of nitrous oxide and other volatile substances.

- * 4024 STUDENT ATTENDANCE—Mr Tim James to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to student attendance in schools:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on student attendance rates for schools located within the Willoughby electorate over the past two years?
 - (a) How do these rates compare to the state average during the same period?

Answer—

Information in relation to student attendance is available publicly on the Department of Education's website at: <https://data.nsw.gov.au/data/dataset/nsw-education-student-attendance-rate-by-school>.

- * 4025 TREE VANDALISM—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

In relation to tree vandalism in Willoughby:

- (1) Could the Minister provide details on the number of tree vandalism complaints received in the Willoughby electorate over the past two years?
 - (a) What actions have been taken in response to these complaints, including penalties or prosecutions?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a local council matter and should be directed to Willoughby City Council.

- * 4026 YOUTH CRIME RATES IN WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to youth crime rates in Willoughby:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on youth crime rates in the Willoughby electorate over the past two years?
 - (a) How many of these incidents have resulted in convictions?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force does not provide crime 'rate' data. Questions about crime rates fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney General. Crime rate data is also available on the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research website.

- * 4027 HOUSING APPROVALS IN WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

In relation to housing approvals in Willoughby:

- (1) Could the Minister outline the number of housing approvals granted within the Willoughby electorate over the past two years?
 - (a) Could the Minister provide a breakdown of residential types and any associated delays in the approval process?

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Answer—

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure does not hold data by electoral boundaries. The planning system organises planning around local government areas (LGA). Local development approval activity for all LGAs can be viewed on the Council League table on the Department's website at:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/faster-assessments-program/council-league-table>

* 4028 PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN NORTHBRIDGE—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to public transport in Northbridge:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on the wait times and service frequency for bus route 194 serving the North bridge and Willoughby areas over the past 2 years?
 - (a) What measures are being implemented to reduce wait times and improve service reliability on this route?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Route 194 operates 7 days a week and is a half hourly service. Transport for NSW is working with the Operator to improve service reliability on all routes in the network.

Route 194 On Time Running	
October 2022	97.70%
November 2022	97.90%
December 2022	97.20%
January 2023	98.10%
February 2023	96.20%
March 2023	97.40%
April 2023	98.50%
May 2023	97.60%
June 2023	97.60%
July 2023	97.60%
August 2023	95.90%
September 2023	96.30%
October 2023	96.30%
November 2023	95.30%

December 2023	95.50%
January 2024	97.60%
February 2024	93.10%
March 2024	95.00%
April 2024	96.40%
May 2024	94.60%
June 2024	95.90%
July 2024	97.40%
August 2024	95.00%
September 2024	95.40%

* 4029 PARKING FACILITIES NEAR TRANSPORT HUBS—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to parking facilities near public transport hubs in Willoughby:

- (1) What plans are in place to improve or expand parking facilities near Chatswood Station to accommodate the increased demand from commuters?
 - (a) Has the Government considered additional parking structures or alternate transport solutions to reduce the parking burden?

Answer—

I am advised

The Government is making our public transport network more accessible by combining the Transport Access Program and Commuter Carpark program under the Safe, Accessible Transport program. The Government has injected an additional \$300 million into the new fund to improve accessibility. Future rounds of the program will consider commuter carparks at stations across NSW.

At Chatswood Station, there is an existing extensive bus network that ensures regular and convenient access to Chatswood Station from the surrounding areas, this includes existing frequent bus routes 160X and 120, and regular bus routes. In August 2024, Transport for NSW introduced changes to bus services to support the launch of Sydney Metro from Chatswood to Sydenham, to improve connectivity to Sydney Metro services and support integration into the broader public transport network, primarily in Sydney's North West and North Shore. The changes aimed to enhance the network, support residential growth and reduce public transport service duplication.

These changes included the introduction of the new 516 service from Top Ryde to Chatswood.

* 4030 ARTARMON STATION—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to Artarmon Station on the North Shore Line:

- (1) Is Artarmon Station the only station on the North Shore Line that does not have lift access for both sides of the railway line?

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- (a) If so, what plans are in place to address the lack of lift access and improve accessibility at Artarmon Station?

Answer—

I am advised

(1) No.

- (a) Accessibility upgrades at Artarmon Station were completed in 2015 as part of the Transport Access Program. The station upgrade included:

- Two lifts and a new pedestrian bridge to improve access to the station from Hampden Road.
- New emergency stairs from the pedestrian bridge to Hampden Road.
- A new accessible parking space on Hampden Road.
- Signage, streetscape work and utility upgrades.

Options for improving accessibility from Wilkes Avenue, the eastern entrance to the station, were constrained by steep gradients, existing utility services, vegetation, and the lack of a suitable location in the existing underpass structure to support placement of a lift.

The station access with a lift from the west side is used more due to the bus services, drop offs and the higher density housing compared with the east side.

- * 4031 SERVICE NSW WAIT TIMES—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

In relation to Service NSW services in Chatswood:

- (1) Could the Minister provide the average wait time at the Service NSW Chatswood Centre per month over the past 2 years
- (a) How does this compare to the average wait time across all Service NSW centres in the state?

Answer—

I am advised average wait times are as follows:

Month/Year	Chatswood Service Centre	All Service NSW centres
October 2022	10m 02s	9m 32s
November 2022	8m 32s	9m 02s
December 2022	7m 18s	9m43s
January 2023	11m 50s	11m 06s
February 2023	13m 47s	11m 13s
March 2023	14m 05s	10m 33s
April 2023	11m 01s	10m 56s
May 2023	11m 41s	10m 07s

June 2023	12m 25s	11m 23s
July 2023	10m 48s	11m 30s
August 2023	8m 48s	9m 51s
September 2023	8m 26s	10m 13s
October 2023	9m 48s	10m 25s
November 2023	9m 02s	10m 10s
December 2023	10m 36s	9m 51s
January 2024	12m 01s	10m 21s
February 2024	12m 17s	10m 38s
March 2024	9m 47s	10m 53s
April 2024	12m 08s	10m 21s
May 2024	9m 04s	9m 28s
June 2024	8m 56s	9m 28s
July 2024	8m 30s	10m 00s
August 2024	7m 55s	9m 17s
September 2024	9m 21s	9m 50s

* 4032 CONSUMER PROTECTION IN WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to consumer protection in Willoughby:

- (1) How many complaints regarding unfair business practices or consumer fraud have been lodged by residents in the Willoughby electorate over the past two years?
 - (a) Of these complaints, how many have resulted in formal investigations or enforcement actions by NSW Fair Trading?

Answer—

I am advised information on complaints to NSW Fair Trading is contained in the Department of Customer Service annual report. Data is not reported by electorate.

* 4033 MUSWELLBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL SUPPORT - REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Did Muswellbrook Shire Council support the utilisation of the regional road network including Wybong and Bengalla Rds in lieu of replacing Denman Bridge?

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Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW and EnergyCo have engaged extensively with Muswellbrook Shire Council in the plans to reclassify Bengalla and Wybong Roads as State roads.

Transport for NSW understands that in September 2020, Muswellbrook Shire Council passed a resolution to nominate Wybong and Bengalla Roads to be reclassified as State roads in the road re-classification handover process announced by the former Coalition Government in 2020.

- * 4034 TIMEFRAME FOR REPLACING DENMAN BRIDGE—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

What was the assessed estimated time required to replace Denman Bridge?

Answer—

I am advised

There are no plans to replace the Denman Bridge.

- * 4035 MACHINE LEARNING CAMERAS—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

What findings have been received from the machine learning cameras along Bengalla Rd so far?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW installed machine learning traffic counting and classifying cameras along Bengalla Road in June 2024. Transport for NSW is currently in the early stages of data collection to refine image classification algorithms due to local combination types and is unable to share the complete data set or findings at this time.

- * 4036 STATE ROAD MODIFICATIONS FOR OSOM COMPONENT TRANSPORT—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Which intersections along the State road network from the Port of Newcastle to the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone has Energy Co identified as needing modification for the transportation of Oversize and/or overmass (OSOM) components?

Answer—

I am advised

The NSW Government is upgrading the State Road network to enable the movement of oversize and/or overmass loads from the Port of Newcastle to Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

Transport for NSW and EnergyCo have identified locations on the network, from the Port of Newcastle to the Central West Orana REZ, which need to be modified to facilitate the transportation of oversize and/or overmass components.

The project includes upgrades to 19 locations along a 320-kilometre route between the Port of Newcastle and Elong Elong, and a section of the Castlereagh Highway towards Gulgong. Work will include road widening, relocating road infrastructure (such as road signs and utility poles), constructing new turn lanes and extending drainage and culverts.

The construction contract is expected to be awarded in 2024 and work is expected to start in 2025.

The intersections identified for modification are:

- Newcastle Council LGA:
 - Quayside Close/Selwyn Street.
 - Selwyn Street/George Street/ Industrial Drive.
 - Industrial Drive/Pacific Highway.
- Cessnock City Council LGA:
 - John Renshaw Drive onto Hunter Expressway eastbound exit ramp.
- Singleton Shire Council LGA:
 - New England Highway/Mitchell Line of Road (Golden Highway)
 - Golden Highway (Mitchell Line of Road)/Putty Road intersection.
 - Jerry Plains Road/Putty Road.
 - Golden Highway/Lonsdale Street.
 - Pringle Street/Golden Highway.
- Muswellbrook Shire Council LGA:
 - Jerrys Plains Road (Golden Highway)/Denman Road.
 - Denman Road/Bengalla Road.
 - Wybong Road/Golden Highway.
- Upper Hunter Shire Council LGA:
 - Golden Highway/Vinegaroy Road.
- Warrumbungle Shire Council LGA:
 - Golden Highway/Black Stump Way.
 - Golden Highway/Castlereagh Highway.
 - Golden Highway/Bolaro Street.
 - Golden Highway/Spring Ridge Road.
- Mid-Western Regional Council LGA:
 - Castlereagh Highway/Barneys Reef Road.
- Dubbo Regional Council LGA:
 - Golden Highway/Saxa Road.

* 4037 CORRIDOR DETERMINATION - MUSWELLBROOK BYPASS COMPLETION—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Is the completion of the Muswellbrook Bypass included in the discussions between Transport for NSW and Energy Co in determining the corridor between Newcastle Port and New England Renewable Energy Zone?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW and EnergyCo are examining the current road network for the planning for the corridor route between the Port of Newcastle and New England Renewable Energy Zone.

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The proposed Muswellbrook Bypass is in the early phases of planning. The NSW Government is working closely with Muswellbrook Council through the planning process, and Renewable Energy Zones are being considered as part of the planning process.

- * 4038 OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR WINDFARM COMPONENTS—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

When is the Operational Strategy for the movements of Wind Farm components, specifically OSOM, to the Central West Orana REZ expected to be complete?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW and the Energy Corporation of NSW are working together to scope and deliver upgrades necessary for transporting over size and over mass components along identified sections of the State road network, including from the Port of Newcastle to the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.

The operational strategy examines the function of the Port of Newcastle to the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone corridor, and the challenges during delivery of the upgrades, as well as the operation of the road network once complete. The strategy will be used to build a pipeline of initiatives that sit across the planning, co-ordination and operation of Renewable Energy Zone over size and over mass movements on the road network. The strategy is being developed and information will start to be distributed, when available in 2025. Energy Corporation of NSW and Transport for NSW will then engage with stakeholders about the strategy.

- * 4039 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE JUST TERMS ACT—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

What are the proposed changes to the Just Terms Act that will assist with replacement value for landholders?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) is conducting a review of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 and associated whole of Government approach to acquisitions.

The review is in response to the findings of the joint NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into acquisition of land in relation to major transport projects.

Following face-to-face and online community consultation in early 2024, the Department evaluated feedback from over 170 submissions received in response to a discussion paper that was published in March 2024 <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/a-review-of-land-acquisition-in-nsw-discussion-paper.pdf>

The Department is currently developing draft recommendations for the Government's consideration.

- * 4040 MUSWELLBROOK BYPASS—Mr Dave Layzell to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—
Regarding the Muswellbrook Bypass:

- (1) Is the deed signed with the Commonwealth Government?
- (2) When is the anticipated start date for this project?

Answer—

I am advised

The proposed Muswellbrook Bypass is in the early phases of planning. The Australian Government's Infrastructure Investment Program Strategic Review confirmed planning funding of \$26.9 million. Construction funding has been reserved for the future.

* 4041 COMMUNITY HOUSING IN NSW—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) In relation to Community Housing in New South Wales:
- (a) How many Community Housing dwellings currently exist in New South Wales?
 - (i) Of these, how many are currently occupied?
 - (ii) How many are currently untenanted?
 - (iii) Of those that are currently untenanted, why are they untenanted?
 - (b) What percentage of the total social housing stock in NSW is comprised of:
 - (i) Properties owned by a registered Community Housing Provider?
 - (ii) Properties owned by Homes NSW but managed by a registered Community Housing Provider?
 - (c) What, if any, evaluation has been undertaken of Community Housing Providers and their impact on increasing the supply and/or quality of social housing dwellings and ensuring value for taxpayer money?
 - (d) Please provide a list of all registered Community Housing Providers that currently operate in New South Wales and the total number of dwellings each of them manage?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) As at 30 June 2023, there were 49,275 community housing dwellings. This information is available at:

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/dcj.statistics/viz/Social_Housing_Residential_Dwellings_17032188360200/Dashboard?publish=yes

- (i) The most recent occupancy report from Community Housing Providers (CHPs) indicated that 98.1 % of CHP properties were occupied.
 - (ii) 1.9% were reported as untenanted at the time of the report.
 - (iii) Reports on occupancy are point in time. Properties may be untenanted at a point in time due to a number of reasons, including time taken to identify a new tenant after a property becomes vacant, and/or when repairs are needed. Some properties may be flagged for re-development.
- (b) (i) 6% of the total social housing stock in NSW are owned by CHPs.
- (ii) 19.9% of properties owned by Homes NSW are managed by registered CHP¹.
- (c) CHPs are registered under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH). The Registrar of Community Housing monitors CHP performance to ensure

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community housing is viable and that it meets the needs of tenants as well as the requirements of governments and investors.

Homes NSW also conducts annual performance reviews with CHPs against its Performance and Compliance Framework.

Over the last decade, CHPs have invested \$2.32 billion to deliver more than 6,670 new homes across NSW². Additionally, CHPs have over 2,300 new homes in the pipeline for delivery by 2028. This figure excludes new social and affordable homes, which may be funded through the Housing Australia Future Fund, which remain the subject of contract negotiations with Housing Australia.

CHPs have continued to balance growth opportunities with excellent tenant outcomes. In 2023, 81 % of surveyed community housing tenants reported they were very satisfied or satisfied with their home and provider.

Benchmarking services established by the Community Housing Industry Association NSW are enabling CHPs to compare their performance with similar organisations across 100 financial, performance and satisfaction metrics, helping the industry to continuously improve and innovate in the provision of high-quality homes and services.

¹ Data provided by FACSIAR as data behind the Social Housing Residential Dwellings database

² Data provided by CHIA NSW from an as yet unpublished report about the community housing sector.

- (d) Information about CHPs/Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHPs) registered under the NRSCH, including their primary jurisdiction, tier of registration and properties managed, is available at: nrsch.my.salesforce-sites.com/providersearch/

Information about CHPs/ACHPs registered under the NSW Local Scheme is available at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-01/nsw-local-scheme-register-of-community-housing-providers.pdf>

- * 4042 SOCIAL HOUSING BY NSW LGA—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) For each Local Government Area across NSW please outline the following, broken down into public housing, Aboriginal housing, or housing managed by registered Community Housing Providers:
- The total number of social housing dwellings?
 - The total population residing within social housing?
 - The median age of the population who are the main tenant in social housing?
 - The average household size within social housing?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The tables below show data from 30 June 2024 for public housing only. 2024 data relating to Community Housing is not available until 6 December 2024. A table showing data from June 2023 showing properties managed by Community Housing Providers by LGA is at (a) Table 2.

*The table at Attachment A can be viewed on the Parliament's website at Questions and Answers Tracking.

* 4043 FUNDING SOURCES FOR INCREASED SOCIAL HOUSING INVESTMENT—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) In relation to each of the 65 Homes NSW projects that were under contract as of 31 May 2024 and which will be owned and managed by Homes NSW:
 - (a) How much funding was allocated through state housing funding stream(/s), and can you please name the specific stream(/s)?
 - (b) How much funding was allocated through federal housing funding stream(/s), and can you please name the specific stream(/s)?
- (2) Separately, for each NSW State Government housing funding stream, please outline how much funding over the past five financial years has been allocated to each of the following in each Local Government Area in New South Wales:
 - (a) Local Government?
 - (b) Community Housing Providers?
 - (c) Landcom?
 - (d) Private Developers?
 - (e) Another entity (please specify)?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a)
 - \$262.3 million through state funding streams including:
 - \$147.7 million -Homes NSW funding
 - \$93.2 million -Stimulus funding
 - \$2.5 million -Department of Communities and Justice refuges funding
 - \$18.9 million -Flood response.
 - (b) \$113.1 million -through the Federal Government's Social Housing Accelerator program.
- (2) (a, c - e) No funding has been provided.
 - (b) Under the Community Housing Innovation Fund (CHIF) suite of programs, \$308.4 million has been provided to community housing providers to deliver social housing since 2021. The breakdown by programs is:
 - Together Home Transition Program: \$72.6 million
 - Community Housing Innovation Fund: \$163.2 million
 - Youth Transitional Housing: \$12.6 million
 - Additionally, a component of the Commonwealth's Social Housing Accelerator Payment was also provided: \$60 million.
- These investments are spread across more than 41 local government areas (LGAs) in regional and metropolitan locations NSW.

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- * 4044 PAEDIATRIC SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

In relation to paediatric services in the Northern Tablelands:

- (1) What is your Government doing to address the critical lack of paediatricians across the Northern Tablelands?
- (2) How can children who have ADHD or complex disorders get the medical and behavioural support that they need?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Hunter New England Local Health District continues to focus on recruitment of staff specialists to its regional facilities. Outreach and visiting paediatrician services are available, providing face-to-face and telehealth appointments for children across the Northern Tablelands. The District recently appointed 3 new paediatricians at Tamworth Hospital, which will improve access to paediatric services for families in the Northern Tablelands region.

Hunter New England Local Health District has established a new ADHD clinic which supports children in the Northern Tablelands. This clinic builds on the successful ADHD shared-care model, which ensures ongoing management between a paediatrician and the patient's regular general practitioner.

- * 4045 DETERIORATION OF ROADS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

In relation to the deterioration of roads in the Moree Plains Shire:

- (1) What is your Government doing to address numerous washouts and black soil in Garah, Berrigal and Bellata?
- (2) How can you support the urgent repair of these roads, and ensure the safety of locals, particularly during busy harvest time?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is supporting Moree Plains Shire Council with the repairs and reconstruction of flood-damaged roads and infrastructure following severe weather and flooding events since early 2021, including the floods that impacted Western NSW in late 2022.

Moree Plains Shire has received a total of \$11,831,301 under the Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund for urgent road and pothole repairs.

- * 4046 WAITING PERIODS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to the waiting period for social housing in Armidale and Moree:

- (1) Is there currently a 2-5 year wait to secure public housing in these areas?
 - (a) If yes, why?
- (2) What are you doing to urgently address this problem?

Answer—

- (1) Armidale and Moree are in the New England Department of Communities and Justice district. As of September 2024, the median wait times to be housed in the New England district were 2.1 months for priority applicants and 20.7 months for general applicants.

This information is available at <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/families-and-communities-statistics/social-housing-waiting-list-data.html>

- (a) The current cost-of-living pressures and housing crisis are impacting many people across NSW, including Armidale and Moree. Conditions in the private rental market are increasing homelessness and applications for social housing.
- (2) The NSW Government is addressing the urgent need for more social housing through an historic and transformative investment in building new homes. The \$6.6 billion Building Homes for NSW program, announced as part of the 2024/25 NSW Budget, is the largest ever NSW Government investment in social housing in the state's history.

The Building Homes for NSW package includes:

- \$5.1 billion for new supply program for social housing to deliver 8,400 new social homes over four years and replacing 2,200 dwellings that no longer meets need.
- \$810 million expenditure over the next four years, including upgrading 30,000 properties, as well as general maintenance and repairs of our
- portfolio to support the maintenance reform and Homes NSW's new
- Maintenance Hub, established on 1 July 2024.
- \$527.6 million over four years for homelessness services, including reforming crisis accommodation, supporting specialist homelessness services to deliver critical services to clients, and creating a new Homelessness Innovation Fund to deliver innovative responses to the current housing crisis.
- \$202.6 million to fund a critical maintenance program for Aboriginal Housing to repair and upgrade homes, as part of genuine action to Close the Gap.

NSW is also working with the Commonwealth to maximise the opportunity to grow social and affordable housing in NSW through the Housing Australia Future Fund, the National Housing Accord and the Social Housing Accelerator Payment.

Since April 2023 to date, Homes NSW has delivered 12 new social homes in Armidale, including four homes for crisis accommodation. In addition, four projects delivering nine new social homes in Armidale are being planned and are expected to all be completed by February 2026.

- * 4047 NEW ENGLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

In relation to projects under the New England Renewable Energy Zone:

- (1) Are projects in opportune locations?
- (2) Do the locations of some projects have a high social and environmental impact?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The decision regarding the location of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) were made by the previous Minister for Energy and Environment. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's role is to assess proposed projects within REZs. Questions regarding merits of REZ locations should be directed to the Minister for the Environment.

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- (2) The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure conducts a comprehensive and rigorous assessment of all state significant developments in line with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

This assessment process includes detailed and careful consideration of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of all projects.

The Department's thorough evaluation process makes sure each proposal is considered on its individual merits and is aligned with clear NSW Government requirements, policies and guidelines, including those applying to wind and solar farms.

The Government considers that the projects approved to date in the New England REZ would benefit NSW and the local community, are in the public interest, and would not result in any significant impacts on the local community or environment.

- * 4048 GRAFFITI AT FOREST WAY AND WARRINGAH ROAD—Mr Michael Regan to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

- (1) What is the status and goals of the dedicated Transport for NSW working group, including representatives from ConnectSydney, to address Graffiti on the Northern Beaches, including at Warringah Road and Forest Way?
- (2) How many times has this working group met since August 2024?
- (3) What options are being considered to resolve the long term graffiti issue at the Forest Way and Warringah Road intersection?
- (4) What is the decision making process to decide which option will be implemented to resolve the long term graffiti issue at the Forest Way and Warringah Road intersection?
- (5) When will a long term solution to the graffiti issue at Forest Way and Warringah Road be decided and delivered?
- (6) Will local MPs be consulted as part of this process?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Graffiti is an ongoing issue at this location. While Transport for NSW takes measures to prevent and remove graffiti where feasible, it recognises that graffiti is a broader social problem. Transport for NSW met with Northern Beaches Council and NSW Police on 14 November 2024 to discuss graffiti on Transport assets and possible prevention measures.

In addition, Transport for NSW is participating in research, designed to update its understanding of how graffiti perpetrators operate, their motivations and methods, and to identify the range of interventions that work to prevent graffiti impacting our transport network and infrastructure. This multi-jurisdictional project is being undertaken by Swinburne University of Technology. This research is being delivered in partnership with iMOVE CRC, supported by the Cooperative Research Centres program, an Australian Government initiative.

Transport has now engaged ConnectSydney to undertake an optioneering study to determine suitable asset improvement measures to further deter vandalism at this site. The recently installed anti-climb barrier restricts vandals from gaining access, however, it is believed they are now gaining access via another route, as a result further asset improvements will be required to prevent entry.

- (2) Transport for NSW representatives met with ConnectSydney on 7 August 2024 to discuss this matter and is in regular communication about progressing options. Transport for NSW also met with Northern Beaches Council and NSW Police on 14 November 2024 to discuss opportunities being considered and share knowledge about graffiti prevention.

(3) Options being considered by the ConnectSydney and Transport for NSW working group include: replacing the acrylic anti-throw panels with mesh screens; pattern/embossing on acrylic; secured planter boxes with vines and climbers on fixed trellis; or a permanent barrier along the full length of the ledge to prevent access to the acrylic panels.

(4 – 6) Transport for NSW is working to ensure a feasible improvement solution can be arranged for this site. The final decision will be made by Transport for NSW following the optioneering and cost/benefit analysis. The timeframe for decision-making and procurement of delivery works is expected to be the end of Financial Year 2024-25 and is dependent on funding availability. Transport for NSW will notify stakeholders and the community once optioneering has been completed.

* 4049 SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT AND RECREATION ATHLETICS TRACK—Mr Michael Regan to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

(1) What is the current status of efforts by the Office of Sport to fix or relocate the currently closed synthetic athletics track at the Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation in Narrabeen?

(2) Has the Office of Sport engaged the design and engineering consultants to prepare a concept design that would reinstate the track and make it more resilient to flooding in the future, as per the answer given in question time on the 17th September 2024?

(a) If yes, when is this concept design expected to be complete?

(b) If not, why not?

(3) What is the latest communication to impacted stakeholders?

(4) What are the next steps and indicative timeframes to achieve a long term solution to this problem?

Answer—

I am advised that:

(1) The Office of Sport engaged a specialist sports infrastructure consultant to assist with investigations into the options to repair the track and make it more resilient to flooding in the future. These investigations are now complete, and the options are being considered.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) A face-to-face stakeholder information session was held on Tuesday 26 November to update impacted stakeholders. Prior to that a stakeholder information session was last held on 13 August. The Office of Sport also provides regular operational communications directly to track users each week. The Office of Sport website communications are updated with stakeholder updates, including the temporary grass track schedules, and booking times.

(4) The Office of Sport is preparing information for the NSW Government to consider. Once an option for the long-term solution is approved by the NSW Government the detailed timeframe will be known.

* 4050 ARTWORK ON WESTCONNEX EXHAUST STACKS—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Regarding the artwork surrounding the WestConnex exhaust ventilation stacks at the Rozelle Parklands:

(1) What approval process was undertaken and who was the consent authority?

(2) What was the cost of installing them and who met this cost?

(3) What is the annual maintenance cost and who meets this cost?

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- (4) What would it cost to remove them and who would be required to meet this cost?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The WestConnex M4-M5 Link project received planning approval in April 2018. The ventilation facility was exhibited as part of the Rozelle Interchange Urban Design and Landscape and was approved by the former Minister for Planning and Public Spaces in May 2021.
- (2) The ventilation facility was delivered by the head contractor, John Holland CPB Contractors Joint Venture, and forms part of the total cost of the WestConnex M4-M5 Link project, which is a lump sum contract.
- (3) As the ventilation facility forms a part of the operational motorway, relevant maintenance and costs are managed by the operator of the WestConnex motorway, Transurban.
- (4) Transport for NSW has not costed the potential removal of the sculptural facade or considered the planning implications of this.

- * 4051 HOMELESSNESS—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to homelessness:

- (1) Is your Government committed to honouring the vanguard agreement?
- (2) What steps is your Government taking to halve street-sleeping by 2025?
- (3) Why has your Government cut the Together Home Initiative?
- (4) Does your Government still undertake street counts of homeless people twice a year?
- (5) Is your Government committed to the Supported Transition Engagement Program?
- (6) How many assertive outreach teams currently operate across NSW?
 - (a) How does this compare to the last three years?
- (7) How many funded services participated in assertive outreach and how many Community Services Centres participate?
- (8) What policy changes have you made to the administration of Temporary Accommodation since becoming Minister?
- (9) What specific initiatives have you instigated during your time as Minister to support homeless youth and how will these programs be evaluated?
- (10) Of the new homelessness initiatives you have commenced since your time in the Ministry, what percentage of people have maintained a tenancy once placed into permanent accommodation?

Answer—

- (1 - 2) The Vanguard agreement and Premier's Priority to halve street-sleeping by 2025 were initiatives of the previous government. The historic \$6.6 Billion investment into the Building Homes for NSW is a testament to the current government's commitment to making homelessness in NSW rare, brief and not repeated so people have a safe home and supported to keep it. The new NSW Homelessness Strategy will be released in 2025, a draft was published in November 2024.
- (3) There are no new tranches planned for the Together Home Program. Clients currently in the program will continue to receive housing and support for the duration of their assistance. The

Homelessness NSW Strategy and historic, new homelessness funding will provide a whole system changes to ending homelessness.

- (4) The NSW Government has never conducted street counts twice a year. The City of Sydney previously ran street counts twice a year, in summer and winter respectively. The NSW Government undertakes one annual statewide street count which usually occurs in February.

Information on the NSW Street Count is publicly available at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/nsw-response-to-homelessness/understanding-homelessness-through-data/street-count>

- (5) The NSW Government has funded Neami Limited to deliver the Supported Transition and Engagement Program (STEP) – Package A and Package B through to 30 June 2026. Future funding will be considered as part of the recommissioning process.
- (6) There are five funded assertive outreach teams across NSW in inner-Sydney, Newcastle, Tweed Shire, Eurobodalla, and Byron Shire local government areas. In other areas across NSW, Homes NSW, and Community Housing Providers staff partner with local services to engage and support people sleeping rough.
- (a) Since 2017, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has funded assertive outreach in Sydney in partnership with homelessness services, local government, and NSW Health. In 2019, DCJ expanded the assertive outreach pilot to Tweed Shire and Newcastle, followed by further expansion to Eurobodalla in 2022 and Byron Shire in 2024.
- (7) Assertive outreach is delivered by a range of stakeholders both funded and unfunded through partnerships across the state. In our funded assertive outreach sites, there are a total of 10 contracts. Under these, DCJ funds one service provider in Sydney, two service providers and the local health district in Tweed, one service provider and the local health district in Newcastle, one service provider in Eurobodalla, and two service providers and the primary health network in Byron.
- (8) The following policy changes have been made since March 2023, with regards to administering temporary accommodation:
- 1 July 2023:
 - A 12-month freeze was implemented on the requirement for clients to complete a ‘rental diary’.
 - The initial period of the provision of temporary accommodation was increased from two days to seven days.
 - The asset eligibility requirement of \$1,000 was increased to \$5,000, with this requirement removed altogether for those fleeing domestic or family violence.
 - The need to make a financial contribution toward temporary accommodation was removed for clients escaping domestic and family violence.
 - The 28-day per year cap for clients was removed.
 - October 2023:
 - Homes NSW implemented annual inspections of temporary accommodation providers properties utilised by both Homes NSW, as well as participating community housing providers (CHPs). These inspections focus on the condition, amenity, and accessibility of properties, as well as the suitability for specific client cohorts (i.e., single women or women and children).
 - July 2024:
 - The initial period of the provision of temporary accommodation was decreased, from seven days to five days.

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- To assist customers attain more permanent forms of housing a requirement was implemented for clients to attend their local Homes NSW office within three days of initial temporary accommodation being provided, and within two days of any extension of temporary accommodation:
 - This engagement with the local Homes NSW office is to include the completion of a case plan, with a clear exit strategy from temporary accommodation identified.
 - Within two weeks of the initial presentation to the local Homes NSW office, an Application for Housing Assistance or a Change of Circumstance form (if appropriate), must be lodged by the client.
- September 2024:
 - Although it has been a Homes NSW policy requirement for some time that clients contribute financially toward their temporary accommodation costs, in September 2024 a new method for calculating these contributions was introduced and the policy consistently implemented.
 - Under this change, temporary accommodation contributions are now calculated to an amount equal to 25% of a client's weekly assessable income and 15% of any Family Tax Benefits, divided by 7 (to obtain a daily rate). This is then multiplied by the number of days temporary accommodation provided.
 - Commonwealth Rental Assistance is not assessed for contributions.
 - People experiencing domestic and family violence continue to be exempt from making contributions.
 - The payment of contributions will help clients by providing them with a payment history that can be used to demonstrate their capacity and willingness to pay rent, on future rental applications.
 - The selection of 25% and 15%, as the proportion of weekly assessable income and family tax benefits respectively, was to align the calculation of temporary accommodation contributions to current social housing policy settings.
 - In cases of hardship, individual circumstances can be considered, and the contribution may be adjusted.
- (9) In August 2024, through a competitive tender process, \$11.3 million was allocated to three projects located in Woy Woy, Port Macquarie, and Wollongong. The projects are expected to deliver a total of 30 new dwellings, including 40 bedrooms to support young clients aged between 16 and 24.

In June 2024, a mental health initiative was trialled under the Universal Screening and Supports Pilot in Albury to support young people identified 'at risk' of mental ill health. A final report of the pilot will be available in January 2025. The results from the pilot will be used to identify the local need and inform the future model and resourcing of the project.
- (10) The outcomes from any new initiatives are still being realised.

* 4052 ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST PORTFOLIO SERVICE—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to your portfolio for the Illawarra and South Coast:

- (1) Can you provide the address of all New South Wales State Government Office buildings where public servants are situated to support your portfolio as Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast?
- (2) How many FTE staff are employed to support your role as Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast from the public service?
- (3) What is the budget each year for the last two years for the Ministry of the Illawarra and South Coast?

- (4) What new initiatives, not started by the former government, have you commenced since becoming the Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1 - 2) Premier's Department staff assist in delivering both Ministerial and NSW Government regional priorities in the Illawarra and South Coast. These staff are located at a number of office locations, including the Government Office building at 84 Crown Street, Wollongong.
- (3) Minister's office budgets are drawn from the Premier's Department annual financial allocation to cover employee related expenses and other operating expenses. Further information relating to Minister' Office Budgets is available in the Ministers Office handbook.
- (4) It's a privilege to be the Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast, and whilst not an exhaustive list in any way, by working closely with communities and local MPs we have secured vital investments after more than a decade of neglect by the former Liberal and National Government.

Improving healthcare access

- Secured \$21.3 million to support the Waminda Birth Centre and Community Hub, the first Aboriginal owned and midwifery-led free standing birth centre in Australia.
- Improvements to wait times in public hospitals in the region, including a 10.8% improvement in the percentage of patients transferred from ambulances to the ED within 30 minutes at Wollongong Hospital, compared with the same quarter the previous year.
- Expanded hours for the urgent care centre at Bulli Hospital to 7 days a week.
- Opened an urgent care centre in Dapto in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, which has seen over 5,000 patients since opening in December 2023 and prior to transitioning to a Commonwealth service in July 2024.
- Combined, these new and expanded health facilities have treated thousands of patients that could have ended up in emergency departments, easing pressure on our busy public hospitals and reducing wait times for those with less urgent conditions.
- \$70 million to expand emergency department short stay units to improve patient flow to reduce ED wait times by nearly 80,000 hours, with six ED Short Stay Unit treatment spaces to be added at Wollongong Hospital.

Delivering on key infrastructure and planning milestones

- Secured \$10 million for Illawarra Rail Resilience plan to determine options to upgrade and rebuild infrastructure along the South Coast Rail Line.
- \$390 million investment to build a new Mount Ousley Interchange in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.
- Construction underway for a new network of mountain bike trails across the Illawarra and opening the Narooma and Eden Mountain Bike Trails.
- Train station upgrades at Dapto, Bellambi and Unanderra, improving accessibility and upgraded amenities for commuters.
- Work continuing for the Shoalhaven Hospital redevelopment and New Shell harbour Hospital and Integrated Services project and on track to deliver the new Eurobodalla Hospital and plan for the new Batemans Bay Community Health Service.
- Additional investment of \$60 million towards Shell harbour Hospital and \$70 million towards Eurobodalla Hospital in the 2024 NSW Budget.

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- Building Key Worker Accommodation as part of the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital.
- Secured \$22 million to enhance Wollongong Hospital and \$7.5 million to upgrade Milton Ulladulla Hospital.
- Opened Australia's first commercial hydrogen refuelling station at Port Kembla and a hydrogen powered bus operating in Wollongong.
- Commenced work into \$20 million feasibility study for Bulli Bypass.
- Planning for additional south-facing entry and exit ramps on the M1 Princes Motorway at Dapto continues, with \$1 million allocated in this year's budget.
- Secured \$164 million for construction of Jervis Bay Road Intersection (joint federal funding).
- Secured \$4.2 million for Tripoli Way Albion Park extension project in this year's budget.
- Commencement of planning for the Wollongong Health Precinct.
- Completed construction of a new ambulance station at Fairy Meadow.
- Approved a \$182 million upgrade of berths at Port Kembla Harbour to support steel production.
- Secured a site in Bomaderry for a \$35 million Landcom Build to Rent project.
- Transformed Bega's former TAFE site into a new 97 dwelling diverse housing project with 30 per cent of the homes to include much needed social and affordable housing.

Securing our education future

- \$300 million to upgrade schools, including Vincentia, Moruya, Bomaderry and Dapto high schools, Milton and Nowra East public schools.
- Planning underway for a new high school at Flinders and a new primary school at West Dapto, with funding for a new preschool and primary school at Calderwood.
- Announced ten new public preschools in the Illawarra and the South Coast.
- Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, through NSW TAFE, to explore "super TAFE" on the surplus Bluescope land.
- Our share of record investment in public school maintenance.

Investing in support services

- Secured \$2 million to create the first trauma recovery centre in the region to provide specialist care for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and subsequently opened the centre in September 2024.
- Increased funding for Women's Health Centre's in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.
- Launched Midwifery Group Practice in the Eurobodalla at Moruya Hospital.
- Launched a new Midwifery Group Practice in the Shoalhaven region, as well as the expansion of Wollongong MGP.
- Rolled out the Aged Care Outreach Service (ACOS) which saw 1,871 residents over the past year, with 80 per cent able to be cared for in their home and not needing transfer to hospital.
- Opened aged care transitional beds at Figtree Private Hospital in partnership with Commonwealth Government, providing an alternative for older patients who will benefit from additional therapy services whilst waiting in a residential style setting following discharge from hospital.

- Opened the new Safe Haven service to support Bega Valley residents experiencing mental health distress.
- Secured the "Gong Shuttle" as a fare-free service for a further three years to June 2027 after new funding agreements were signed by Transport for NSW and funding partners Wollongong City Council and the University of Wollongong

Supporting our frontline workers

- Permanently funded 1,112 fulltime equivalent nursing and midwifery positions across NSW temporarily funded by the former Government, including positions in ISLHD and SNSWLHD.
- Record pay increase for local paramedics, seeing an average wage increase of 25 per cent over four years, delivering professional recognition to retain our highly skilled workforce.
- Investing \$700,000 in the successful Youth Employment Strategy programs in the Illawarra and Eurobodalla, supporting businesses and tackling youth unemployment.
- 826 teachers and 620 school support staff who were temporary now made permanent across the Illawarra and South Coast.

- * 4053 STAFFING THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to staffing in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD):

- (1) How many FTE staff are there in the ISLHD as at the time of asking this question?
- (2) How many FTE staff have there been in the district each year for the last four years?
- (3) In relation to (2), can you break these positions down by groups such as nurses, doctors, midwives and staff specialists each year for the last four years?
- (4) How many administrative staff are employed by the district this year and each year for the last four years?
- (5) What is the retention rate of nurses, doctors and staff specialists this year and each year for the last four years?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Services in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District are staffed according to operational need.

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in the District has increased by 5.7% from October 2020 to October 2024.

The largest increases have been in the number of nursing staff and the number of allied health staff.

The retention rate for nurses and staff specialists has averaged over 90% and the retention rate for doctors has averaged over 80% over the past 5 years.

- * 4054 INTERCITY FLEET FOR SOUTH COAST—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Transport—

Noting Question 2593 and your answer on 18 April 2024 in relation to the New Intercity Fleet (NIF):

- (1) When will the South Coast line be seeing its first NIF carriages on the line?
- (2) Why is the South Coast line the last line to receive the NIF?
- (3) How many NIF trains are currently stationed at Waterfall?

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- (4) How many additional seats and services will be added to the South Coast line as part of timetable changes?
- (5) When will the Endeavour Class trains be replaced with new hybrid trains?
- (6) Will the replacement of Endeavour class trains result in additional seats and services?
- (7) Will the replacement hybrid trains result in a direct service from Bomaderry to Sydney without the need to change trains?
- (8) Is the Minister and her department considering a new express service from Kiama to Sydney and Sydney to Kiama with limited stops at only major stations?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Mariyung fleet is on track to enter passenger service on the Central Coast & Newcastle Line by the end of 2024 after receiving safety accreditation from the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR). The timing of operations on the Blue Mountains and South Coast lines are subject to the modification of the trains and extension of accreditation to those sectors by the safety regulator.

- (2) The Mariyung fleet is planned to enter service on the Central Coast & Newcastle Line first, followed by the Blue Mountains Line and the South Coast Line.

Due to the infrastructure upgrades that will be required to support the new technology trains, it was determined that the South Coast would follow after the Blue Mountains to allow for these works to be completed in line with train sets being modified.

- (3) Four 10-car Mariyung sets are currently stabled at Waterfall.
- (4) The Rail Service Improvement Program, formerly known as More Trains, More Services, enables a safer, more equitable, and integrated transport network where people can move safely, reliably, and efficiently across NSW.

Service improvements enabled by the program will be implemented progressively and include the timetable adjustments delivered on 20 October 2024, to integrate Sydney Metro City & Southwest with Sydney's train network. The program will enable more services on the South Coast Line, with details to be finalised as the future rail timetable changes are further developed.

- (5) The first two trains have now arrived at Mindyarra Maintenance Centre and production of the balance of the fleet continues. The trains are currently in various stages of production, with assurance and testing work also underway.

A timeline for their entry into service will be confirmed once they have progressed through testing and the relevant verifications on the NSW and Australian rail networks.

The new Regional Rail fleet will operate with an Australian first: bi-mode technology, which enables the train to run using either diesel engines or electric power from the overhead wire when operating on the electrified train network.

- (6) Currently one Endeavour train operates between Kiama and Bomaderry. It will be replaced with one new Regional Rail Project Intercity train. The Regional Rail Project is a like-for-like fleet replacement program, meaning that additional trains for additional services are not being procured. In addition, infrastructure and track capacity upgrades would need to occur on the far South Coast Line in order to operate additional services, should train fleet be available.
- (7) At present, with freight requirements and single line track between Bomaderry, Kiama and Wollongong it is not possible to provide direct (through) services without significant track infrastructure investment. Additionally, a direct service to Sydney would require significant numbers of additional new regional fleet.

- (8) At present, with freight requirements and single line track between Kiama and Wollongong, it is not possible to provide additional or faster services between Kiama and Sydney without significant track infrastructure investment. The Illawarra Rail Resilience project will investigate the feasibility to be able to increase rail services for stations south of Wollongong.

* 4055 ILLEGAL TOBACCO—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many officers in your department investigate illegal tobacco in New South Wales?
- (2) How does this compare with enforcement officers in South Australia?
- (3) Where are these officers located?
 - (a) How many are located in metropolitan New South Wales and how many are located in regional New South Wales?
- (4) How many arrests have been instigated as a result of investigations by your department this year and for the last two years?
- (5) How many prosecutions have occurred as a result of investigations by your department?
 - (a) Of these, how many have resulted in convictions?
- (6) Are current penalties for selling, distributing and supplying illegal tobacco working as intended?
- (7) Are you aware of any health official, investigating illegal tobacco, resigning for any reason associated with undue or inappropriate pressure from anyone associated with illegal tobacco?
 - (a) If yes, what action has your department taken?
- (8) How does your departments efforts to investigate and prosecute illegal tobacco compare with other jurisdictions such as South Australia in terms of the numbers of investigations, prosecutions and convictions based on publicly available data from the South Australian Government?
- (9) Why weren't recent changes to vaping laws drafted to mirror restrictions around illegal tobacco?
- (10) Will you consider moving the enforcement function for illegal tobacco laws to the Department of Fair Trading, like South Australia?
 - (a) If not why not?
- (11) Is your department best placed to enforce illegal tobacco laws?
 - (a) If yes, why?
- (12) Will you work with the cross bench to strengthen illegal tobacco laws in New South Wales?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Across NSW there are dedicated authorised tobacco inspectors in the Ministry of Health who work in both metropolitan and regional NSW. On 24 October 2024, the NSW Government announced that additional enforcement officers will be recruited over the coming months to strengthen compliance efforts across the state. The Public Health (Tobacco) Act does not confer health officers with the power to arrest offenders. NSW Health is not aware of any NSW Health Inspectors who have resigned for this reason.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, NSW Health successfully prosecuted dozens of cases for non-compliance with tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws. During this period we commenced a number of additional prosecutions and alongside this have issued hundreds of on the spot the fines.

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NSW has strong tobacco retailing laws, including for selling non-compliant tobacco products. However, to further strengthen tobacco laws in NSW, the government has recently introduced the Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment Bill (No 2) 2024 into Parliament.

Since 1 July 2024, the Australian Government has banned the manufacture and supply of vaping products outside a therapeutic pathway. The ban applies in all jurisdictions. The recently introduced Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to mirror the federal ban in NSW legislation to assist NSW officers to enforce the ban.

NSW Health is responsible for regulating matters relating to public health and will continue to collaborate with other relevant agencies in relation to enforcement.

The legislative provisions across jurisdictions vary. NSW Health does not hold data on enforcement officers in other jurisdictions, and is not in a position to provide comparisons on investigations and prosecutions in other states.

* 4056 HAZARD REDUCTIONS (CONTINUED)—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

With reference to Question 3576 and your answer on 19 September 2024:

- (1) In relation to (Question 3578 [1]), can you list related names and papers?
- (2) In relation to (Question 3578 [2]), what role does FLARE Lab (University of Melbourne) play in identifying and determining burn locations?
- (3) In relation to (Question 3578 [2]), what role does the BFMC play in identifying and determining burn locations?
- (4) In relation to (Question 3578 [3]), was the calculation of 129,711 properties determined by FLARE Lab using Phoenix?
- (5) In relation to (Question 3578 [3]), what was the shortfall of properties and hectares?
- (6) In relation to (Question 3578 [4]), did research by the CSIRO's 'Project Vesta' show that bushfire risk is primarily driven by understorey height and cover rather than by the weight of fuels?
 - (a) If so, can you list any changes to policies and protocols that recognise the hazard reduction value of long-unburnt forests with naturally open understoreys?
- (7) In relation to (Question 3578 [4]), did research by the University of Wollongong find that prescribed burning leverage is negative (that is, prescribed burning increases bushfire likelihood) in the South East Corner, South East Coastal Plain and New South Wales South Western Slopes Bioregions?
 - (a) If so, has prescribed burning been discontinued in these bioregions, and if not, can you list the journal articles that justified this decision?
- (8) In relation to (Question 3578 [4]), did research by the University of Wollongong find that crown fire in the Sydney basin, Blue Mountains and Illawarra is most likely in areas that have been burned within the previous 5-15 years, and any form of canopy damage is unlikely by 30 years?
 - (a) If so, can you list any changes to policies and protocols that recognise the hazard reduction value of long-unburnt forest in these regions, and if no such policies or protocols have been developed, can you list the journal articles that justified this decision?
- (9) In relation to (Question 3578 [4]), did analysis of New South Wales mapped fire records by the University of Wollongong find that bushfire likelihood was lowest in all long-unburnt forests and woodlands of the Australian Alps?
 - (a) If so, can you list any changes to policies and protocols that recognise the hazard reduction value of long-unburnt forest in these forest types, and if no such policies or protocols have been developed, can you list the journal articles that justified this decision?

- (10) In relation to (Question 3578 [6]):
- (a) Was the south-west Australian prescribed burning program cited as evidence for the efficacy of prescribed burning in many bushfire inquiries informing New South Wales policy?
 - (b) Was the only peer-reviewed analysis used to support the program found to falsely attribute bushfire reductions to prescribed burns that occurred after those bushfires had occurred?
 - (c) Did peer-reviewed analysis of Western Australian mapped fire records find that prescribed burning in fact increased bushfire likelihood in those forests?
 - (d) Was the Departmental rejection of that research found to depend upon a mathematical fallacy?
 - (e) Has the Government responded to these findings, and if so what was the response?
 - (f) If they were rejected, what journal papers have been used to justify that rejection?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) CSIRO publications are made available at <https://publications.csiro.au/publications/>.
- (2) Each Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) uses a range of sources to inform the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) including local knowledge and environmental requirements.
- (3) Please refer to (2).
- (4) Please refer to (2).
- (5) Hazard reduction completion is provided in the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) annual report.
- (6) The reanalysis of Vesta data that led to the development of the Vesta II model demonstrated that the drivers of fire behaviour were complex and changed with environmental conditions. Under certain conditions, fuel load and understorey height and cover play an important role in fire behaviour. Under more extreme conditions, weather factors are more important determinants.
 - (a) The RFS works with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to develop the methodology for considering environmental values within BFRMPs. BFCC Policy 01/23 Bush Fire Risk Management supports the principle of ecologically sustainable development as described in Section 6 (2) of the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991.
- (7) The University of Wollongong has produced extensive research papers on bushfire behaviour and management which the RFS has regard to.
- (8) Please refer to (7).
- (9) Please refer to (7).
- (10) As noted in the answer to Question 3576(1), a body of scientific evidence as well as the experience of fire services supports the hazard reduction programs of government agencies. These are not reliant on one particular program or paper. Part of this body of evidence is available at: <https://publications.csiro.au/publications/>

* 4057 RESIDENTIAL CARAVAN PARKS—Mr Gareth Ward to ask 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—

With respect to Residential Caravan Parks in New South Wales:

- (1) Does the Government have any intention to reform the Residential Parks legislation and Manufactured Estate legislation in New South Wales?

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- (2) Is the Minister aware of the Queensland Government's recent legislative reforms concerning residential parks and manufactured estates of June 2024 and is the Minister considering similar reforms?
- (3) Would the Government consider a voluntary buy-back scheme for buyers and 'forced' buy-back scheme for Residential Park owner operators?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (4) Would the Government consider introducing a buy-back scheme for New South Wales?
- (5) Is the current legislation and regulations of the Residential and manufactured estate sector in New South Wales sufficient in servicing the sector?
- (6) With respect to capital replacement cost provisions, are these provisions fit-for-purpose and is the Minister considering any amendments?
- (7) Is the Government considering a rent ceiling for residential caravan parks?
- (8) Is the Government considering changes that would allow greater opportunities for residents to apply to New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal with respect to complaints concerning the operations of residential caravan parks including complaints concerning maintenance and other park issues?
- (9) What reforms is the Government considering to minimise disputation in residential caravan parks?
- (10) Have you met with representatives of residential park owners and tenants and if so, when?
- (11) Are you considering making changes to the law that would require park owners to produce a 'park comparison document' and 'maintenance and capital replacement plan' for homeowners to access which will force competitive downward pressure on site rents between park owners.
- (12) How do you as Minister consult on issues and possible reforms with the residential parks sector?

Answer—

The Government passed the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Amendment Act 2024 in June 2024 to improve the regulatory framework for residential land lease communities. The legislation implemented 21 of the 48 recommendations of the 2021 Statutory Review of the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013.

Please refer to my Second Reading Speech published in the 14 May 2024 Hansard and Second Reading Debate Reply Speech published in the 5 June 2024 Hansard for more details on consultation and the reforms implemented by the legislation.

The Government is continuing work to implement the remaining recommendations of the Statutory Review. Details on the review can be found at <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/residential-land-lease-communities>

My diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>

- * 4058 HELIPADS AND HOSPITALS—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

In relation to buildings hospitals and helipads:

- (1) What was the budget for:
 - (a) The new rooftop helipad servicing the Randwick Hospitals Campus?
 - (b) The helipad at the Tweed Valley Hospital?

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- (c) The helipad at the Goulburn Hospital Redevelopment?
 - (d) The new rooftop helipad at the Shoalhaven Hospital?
 - (e) The new rooftop helipad on Nepean Hospital's 14-storey tower?
- (2) Is it best practice to install helipads during stage one of new builds?
 - (3) Can you outline the assessment and decision-making process in determining there would not be a helipad in stage one of the new Shellharbour build?
 - (4) Did NSW Helicopter Retrieval Services and expert clinicians recommend a helipad?
 - (a) Can you provide details on their assessment and consideration of recent data and other clinical and situational factors considered?
 - (5) In relation to (3) and (4), was air traffic and proximity to an airport a factor in not building a helipad at stage one?
 - (6) Did other tenders for the new build include a helipad in stage one?
 - (7) Can you outline how the new hospital is being designed to enable construction of a future rooftop helipad?
 - (8) What would the cost of this helipad be?
 - (9) Have flight paths been designed and planned for the new Shellharbour Hospital?
 - (10) Will you intervene and amend plans to ensure a helipad is delivered during stage one of the new Shellharbour Hospital?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Total cost for an individual elements delivered as part of a project cannot be isolated.

- (1) [NSW Health Guideline GL2020_014](#) Hospital Helicopter Landing Sites in NSW provides guidance and factors for health services to consider when assessing the need for a helicopter landing site, including when hospitals are first built or redeveloped.
- (3 - 4) Provisions have been made for the design to be 'future proofed' to enable the construction of an appropriately located rooftop helipad in the future. In the interim, provision has been made for an at-grade (on ground) disaster emergency landing area, located directly adjacent to and south of the new hospital.

The project team has consulted with relevant stakeholders, including NSW Ambulance, to develop appropriate alternate plans for the transfer of patients.

[NSW Health Guideline GL2020_014](#) outlines factors to consider when assessing if a hospital should have a hospital-based helicopter landing site.

- (6) Specific information regarding individual tender submissions cannot be disclosed as it is commercial in confidence.
- (7 - 10) Provisions have been made for the design to be 'future proofed' to enable the construction of an appropriately located rooftop helipad in the future.

The future construction cost of a rooftop helicopter landing site depends on a number of factors, such as the planning process, design and specifications.

* 4059 CONSULTATION, IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPENDITURE—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With reference to Question 2712 and your answer of 25 April 2024:

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- (1) Can you inform the House of the progress made since asking the Department of Education to work to improve its processes for consultation with local communities?
- (2) Can you list the third parties and or external facilitators used by the department for consultations?
- (4) In total, how many community consultations for educational offerings has the department undertaken and how many have been completed?
- (5) Noting the Eastern Suburbs Consultation Report by SEC Newgate, can you list any studies or consultations that have been undertaken for the Shoalhaven and the Illawarra?

Answer—

The Department of Education has developed a comprehensive consultation processes to engage with communities, with improvements made on a regular basis. Consultation has been undertaken on projects in the South Coast and Shoalhaven area as part of planning for school infrastructure works. This is in addition to the regular consultation that schools have with their individual school communities, including through local P&C associations.

* 4060 CAMDEN HEAD PILOT STATION—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Can the Minister explain why the Camden Head Pilot Station located on Crown Land which was Gazetted in 1890 does not have State Heritage Significance status?
- (2) Are there plans to elevate the Camden Head Pilot Station to State Heritage Significance status?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Camden Head Pilot Station is a Crown reserve for the purpose of Community and Heritage Purposes, which was gazetted on 11 June 1999. The Pilot Station is listed as an item of local heritage significance under the Port Macquarie Hastings Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011.
- (2) There are currently no plans in place to elevate the existing listing to State Heritage Significance status. However, future management options are being considered to protect the environmental and cultural values of the site.
 - (a) The heritage significance of the Pilot Station is partially protected by its reserve purpose and also by its heritage listing under the LEP, which requires any proposed development at the site to comply with the Heritage Conservation provisions of the LEP (section 5.10).

* 4061 CAMDEN HAVEN BREAKWALL REPAIRS—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Will the Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) undertake the reconstruction work to replace the rocks adjacent to the Camden Haven Breakwall which were damaged during the March 2021 floods?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised

Post-flood repairs were undertaken in 2021. The edge protection fencing that was installed in 2023 has been repeatedly vandalised. Additional signage has been installed highlighting the exposed edge and the

missing fence panels. Transport for NSW is currently undertaking design and procurement for a different style of fence that will permit access to the wall for recreational fishers as well as provide edge protection.

* 4062 MAMMOGRAM SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Is travel to access a mammogram service eligible for IPTAAS if all other eligibility criteria are met?
- (2) Have the criteria changed that would impact eligibility to access a mammogram service?
 - (a) If so, when did the eligibility criteria change?

Answer—

I'm advised:

A patient is not eligible for IPTAAS if they are travelling for health screening.

A patient may be eligible for IPTAAS if they are required to travel for further diagnostic testing by an eligible medical practitioner, even if the testing is performed at a health screening location.

The eligibility criteria for health screening in IPTAAS has not changed.

BreastScreen NSW offers free breast imaging as a screening service, but this is not an eligible service under IPTAAS. Women can screen at clinics or in mobile breast screening vans that travel throughout the state.

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* 4063 DENGUE FEVER—Mrs Tina Ayyad to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can the Minister advise:

- (1) Whether NSW Health record and publish identified cases of dengue fever?
- (2) A summary of dengue fever case numbers since 1 July 2024 in:
 - (a) South-East Sydney Local Health District?
 - (b) South-West Sydney Local Health District?
- (3) Whether NSW Health have any preventative health measures to help prevent the prevalence of mosquito-borne viruses?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Dengue fever notifications, including by local health district, are published on the NSW Health website (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/pages/data.aspx>).

The type of mosquito that transmits dengue virus is not present in NSW. Travel-acquired cases of dengue fever since 1 July 2024 remain steady in both South Eastern Sydney and South Western Sydney local health districts.

NSW Health provides several measures in relation to prevention of mosquito-borne viruses, including:

- Webpages:
 - NSW Health - Mosquitoes are a health hazard
 - NSW Health - Bite prevention

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- NSW Health - Mosquito reduction
 - NSW Health - Mosquito-borne disease resources
 - Travel advice NSW Health factsheet: Staying healthy when travelling overseas
 - NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring program
 - Free vaccines for Japanese encephalitis virus for people with certain occupational risks or based on where they live/work
 - Training to local councils for mosquito control and management.
- * 4064 COONABARABRAN TEACHERS - RENTAL SUBSIDIES—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- (1) Are rental subsidies available to teachers who reside in the remote town of Coonabarabran?
- (a) If not, why?
- (b) Will the Minister consider allocating funding in the future?

Answer—

Eligibility for incentives is determined by the transfer points allocated to a school. Information regarding benefits and incentives can be found on the Department of Education's webpage Choose Rural: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teach-nsw/find-teaching-jobs/choose-rural>. Work is underway to review the department's rural and remote incentives to improve their equity, transparency and responsiveness.

- * 4065 ESSENTIAL ENERGY - SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—
- (1) Can the Minister advise whether Essential Energy is required to postpone scheduled maintenance if the outside temperature is set to rise e.g. above 38 degrees?
- (a) If not, can the Minister investigate implementing a regulation for extremely high temperatures?

Answer—

- (1) Essential Energy is not required to postpone scheduled maintenance under any defined temperature conditions.
- (a) When planned power outages coincide with days of extreme weather, Essential Energy's regional teams assess the planned work on a case-by-case basis to determine if it should proceed. This approach ensures works continue whenever local teams consider this appropriate, based on all known factors including customer impact, the type of work scheduled, weather forecasts including total fire ban days, and relevant health, safety and environmental procedures and policies.
- * 4066 MANDATORY STAMP DUTY PAYMENT GST—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Attorney General representing the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—
- (1) Is GST charged on mandatory Stamp duty payments following a GST inclusive purchase?
- (a) If so, why?
- (b) Does this mean the purchaser has paid tax on the same item twice?

Answer—

I am advised that GST is not charged on stamp duty payments.

* 4067 REGIONAL JOB CREATION FUND—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many jobs were created across the Cootamundra electorate from the allocation of this funding program?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise if alternative initiatives are provided by the Government to support growth and job creations throughout regional New South Wales?
 - (a) If so, what are these initiatives?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how is the Government ensuring sustainable employment and a strong regional economy?

Answer—

- (1) Successful project details, including the expected job outcomes, are published and available at [Regional Job Creation Fund | NSW Government](#).
- (2) The NSW Government has committed an initial investment of \$400 million to the Regional Development Trust (the Trust) to deliver sustainable and strategic investment with a focus on priorities that make a real difference to regional communities. Further information on the Trust is available at [Regional Development Trust Fund | NSW Government](#).
- (3) The NSW Government is taking a multifaceted approach to ensure sustainable employment and a strong regional economy.

* 4068 SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING REZONING PATHWAY—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

With respect to Social and Affordable Housing Rezoning Pathway:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise what Council-owned land has been identified across the Cootamundra electorate under this program?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise how many homes are expected to be delivered across these areas and of these homes how many have been identified as affordable housing?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to support suitable housing opportunities across the Cootamundra electorate?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is not aware of any land across the Cootamundra electorate that has been identified for rezoning under this program since it began in May 2024.
- (2) I refer to the response to question (1).
- (3) Future housing supply in the Cootamundra electorate is guided by the Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041 and local housing strategies prepared by councils. The Department is working with the councils to progress rezoning proposals to enable additional housing opportunities. All active planning proposals can be found at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr.

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* 4069 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH/MEDICAL SERVICES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health / medical services:

- (1) Would the Minister please provide a list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health / medical services for the following Local Health Districts:
 - (a) Murrumbidgee Local Health District?
 - (b) Western Local Health District?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care workers are employed in these Local Health Districts?
 - (a) How many are full-time / part-time / casual?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care worker positions are currently vacant across these Local Health Districts?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what systems are in place to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who do not have a health care worker where they live?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Western NSW Local Health District

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations:

- Bourke Aboriginal Health Service Limited
- Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
- Condobolin Aboriginal Health Service Ltd
- Close The Gap (CTG) Aboriginal Services: Encompasses 3 locations:
 - Coonamble Aboriginal Health Service
 - Dubbo Aboriginal Medical Service
 - Gilgandra Local Aboriginal Medical Service
- Maaruma-Li Aboriginal Medical Service (early stages of development)
- Orange Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated
- Peak Hill Aboriginal Medical Service Incorporated
- Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Limited
- Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health
- Forbes: Yoorana-Gunya Family Healing Centre.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District

Aboriginal staff, work as part of broader multidisciplinary teams (clinical and non-clinical) across services to ensure services are culturally safe and meet the needs of consumers. This workforce includes Aboriginal Health Workers, The District partners with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to deliver services, including:

- Riverina Medical and Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed)

- Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service (GAMS)
 - Hay Aboriginal Medical Service
 - Lake Cargelligo Health Post (GAMS outreach)
 - Viney Morgan Aboriginal Medical Service
 - Brungle Health Post (RivMed outreach).
- (2) Western NSW and Murrumbidgee Local Health Districts employs more than 80 Aboriginal Health Workers/ Aboriginal Health Practitioners
- (3) Vacancies in Western NSW and Murrumbidgee Local Health Districts varies from 13 to 23 FTE. This figure does not take into account any positions that are backfilled or that active recruitment is being undertaken.
- (4) The Districts provide support for Aboriginal consumers in all communities. To support Aboriginal communities who may not have direct access to Aboriginal healthcare workers, several key systems and initiatives are in place.

* 4070 DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTRES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to Drug and Alcohol Treatment centres across Regional New South Wales:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many Drug and Alcohol Treatment centres there are throughout regional New South Wales?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise of these centres how many specifically support Women and Children?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to support those who don't have access to a Drug and Alcohol Treatment centre?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) NSW Health delivers a range of alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention, early intervention, treatment, and continuing care programs to reduce AOD related harm. These are provided by local health districts, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) and nongovernment organisations (NGOs) and are available across NSW.

Your Services Hub (<https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/service-hub>) is an online statewide directory of alcohol and other drugs support, health and welfare services available.

- (2) Specialist AOD services are available for young people, women and families. This includes youth services, Whole Family Teams, Substance Use in Pregnancy and Parenting Services (SU PPS) and the women's clinical care network, which is comprised of NGOs that provide treatment and support to women, including pregnant women and women with children.
- (3) As an outcome of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug Ice, new AOD services have been funded across NSW to increase access for priority populations, particularly people in regional and rural areas. Information about the health response to the Ice Inquiry is on the NSW Health website (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Pages/sci-health-response.aspx>)

* 4071 INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS REGIONAL NSW—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

With respect to infrastructure across Regional New South Wales:

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- (1) Would the Treasurer please outline what are the current infrastructure priorities across regional New South Wales?
- (2) Would the Treasurer please advise what is the current status of these infrastructure priorities and when will they be completed?
- (3) Would the Treasurer please advise how is the Government working with communities in rural and regional areas to ensure they have fit for purpose infrastructure not only for now but into the future?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 2024-25 Budget focuses on supporting the economic development and wellbeing of regional communities through new hospitals and preschools, bringing more frontline workers to the regions and increasing housing supply.

This information is publicly available in the 2024-25 Budget Paper Our Plan for Regional NSW, which also includes further regional NSW highlights and details of projects by local government area.

Information on project delivery timeframes is available on the Infrastructure NSW website and on the Infrastructure Pipeline portal.

- * 4072 COUNCIL WASTE LEVIES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to Council Waste levies:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how much money is the Government withholding from the nine councils across the Cootamundra electorate in relation to the waste levy?
 - (a) Bland Shire?
 - (b) Coolamon Shire?
 - (c) Cootamundra-Gundagai Region?
 - (d) Cowra Shire?
 - (e) Hilltops Region?
 - (f) Junee Shire?
 - (g) Narrandera Shire?
 - (h) Temora Shire?
 - (i) Weddin Shire?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise if this money is being withheld then why?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what systems are in place to help support councils to manage waste more sustainably?

Answer—

- (1) The waste levy is a charge on landfilling paid by certain licensed waste facilities for every tonne of waste received at the facility. The levy applies in the regulated area of NSW. The nine councils referenced in the question are part of the non-levied area and, as such, are not subject to the levy.
- (2) No money is being withheld from the councils referenced in the question.
- (3) The NSW Government provides a broad range of funding and support to help councils manage waste more sustainably. The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 includes a \$356

million funding commitment over five years from July 2022 to continue key waste and resource recovery activities and support councils to deliver waste services, tackle illegal dumping and develop regional waste strategies.

- * 4073 GRENFELL PRE-SCHOOL AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRE—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With respect to Grenfell Pre-School and Early Learning Centre:

- (1) Is the Centre's Starlight room still closed?
- (2) How many families are affected by this closure during the harvest season the busiest time of the year?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what steps are being taken to ensure that these families have childcare for the remainder of the term?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what steps are being taken so Grenfell Pre-School is able to take enrolments for 2025?

Answer—

I am advised that the approved provider of this service has demonstrated to the regulator that the service has sufficient indoor space to accommodate 70 children, including preschool aged children. It is expected that the service will continue to take enrolments for 2025.

- * 4074 CASE MANAGEMENT FOR INMATES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask 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—

With respect to Case Management for inmates:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how is Case Management for inmates carried out at Junee Correctional Centre?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise how will Case Management for inmates be carried out at Junee Correctional Centre after March 2025?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Case management is carried out in line with the standards set in the Junee Correctional Centre Management Agreement.
- (2) After March 2025, case management will comply with the Corrective Services Custodial Operations Policy & Procedures, accessible at <https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/correctional-centres/custodial-operations-policy-and-procedures--copp-.html#12.2>.

- * 4075 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With respect to Agricultural research stations across the electorate of Cootamundra and the state:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise if up to 75 % has been cut from the budget for 2023/24 for Agricultural Research Stations such as Boorowa, Cowra, Orange, and Narrandera?
 - (a) Why have these cuts been made?

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- (2) Would the Minister please advise how these funding cuts as well as staffing cuts will not affect the vital work done by these research stations across the state?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how many jobs will be lost due to the cut into Agricultural Research Stations funding?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise if the budgetary cuts to these stations will not diminish the state government's ability to respond to a Biosecurity outbreak such as Avian Flu or Fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD)?
- (5) Would the Minister please advise what the Government is doing to ensure Agricultural Scientists are not discouraged from entering this vitally important scientific field for our agriculture sector?

Answer—

No cuts were made to the operational and labour expense (LEC) budget for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development research stations at Cowra, Orange and Narrandera in the 2023/24 financial year.

Additional funding was announced by the Premier and Minister for Agriculture in August, for the Orange Agricultural Institute and Narrandera Fisheries Centre, as part of \$60million in critical infrastructure upgrades.

Increasing our biosecurity and emergency response capability is a priority for the NSW Government. Boorowa is a Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) research station.

* 4076 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEMOUNTABLES—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) In relation to demountables at New South Wales public schools, how many are there at the following public schools in 2024:
 - (a) St Ives High School?
 - (b) St Ives Public School?
 - (c) Lindfield Public School?
 - (d) Killara High School?
 - (e) Beaumont Road Public School?
 - (f) Cromehurst School?
 - (g) Sir Eric Woodward Memorial School?
- (2) Does the Department of Education have plans for additional demountables at the schools in question 1 in 2025?
- (3) If yes to question 2, what schools and how many additional demountables?
- (4) Does the Department of Education have plans for removing demountables at the schools in question 1 in 2025?
- (5) If yes to question 4, what schools and how many demountables will be removed?

Answer—

Information about demountables is publicly available on the School Infrastructure NSW website.

* 4077 PAYROLL TAX - RAISE TAX-FREE THRESHOLD—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

Will the Government consider raising the tax-free threshold of payroll tax from 1 July 2025?

Answer—

Future budget measures will be outlined in future budget papers.

- * 4078 AGENCY HIRE RECRUITMENT CONTRACTORS—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

In relation to whole-of-government spending on agency hire recruitment contractors in the general government sector (minus service delivery workers):

- (1) Has there been an overall reduction in spending since 2022-23?
- (2) If yes to question 2, what was the reduction in spending in 2023-24?
- (3) If yes to question 2, what is the forecast reduction in spending for 2024-25?

Answer—

I am advised this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance.

- * 4079 GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR CONSULTANTS—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

In relation to consultants in the New South Wales general government sector:

- (1) Are you on track in relation to this election commitment?
- (2) If no to question 1, why not?

Answer—

I am advised this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Finance.

- * 4080 SCHOOLING RESOURCE STANDARD FUNDING 2025—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to New South Wales reaching 75% of Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) funding for the 2025 school year:

- (1) Are you on track in relation to this election commitment?
- (2) If no to question 1, why not?

Answer—

The NSW Government is lifting its contribution to schools' funding by 2.35 per cent to take NSW from 72.65 per cent to 75 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS). This is two years earlier than was planned under the Liberals and Nationals.

The Commonwealth has only offered to increase its funding share from 20 per cent to 22.5 per cent. NSW will continue to advocate to the Federal Government for an additional 2.5 per cent to ensure it completes the task it set itself a decade ago in achieving full and fair funding for schools through the Gonski funding model. The Federal Government has deeper pockets and has significantly reduced NSW's share of GST revenue. It is time for the Federal Government to step up and up their offer.

- * 4081 COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

In relation to the election commitment, "Community Commitments":

- (1) Can you provide an update?

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Answer—

I am advised this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Multiculturalism.

* 4082 COP29—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Is there a New South Wales delegation and/or New South Wales public servants attending COP29?
- (2) If yes to question 1:
 - (a) How many public servants?
 - (b) What is the total budget to attend?

Answer—

- (1) No

* 4083 SYDNEY METRO - EXPENDITURE CAP—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

In relation to the final business cases to extend the Sydney Metro, do you have a cap on the expenditure for:

- (1) Western Sydney Airport Line from St Mary's to Tallawong via Marsden Park and Schofields?
 - (a) If yes, what is the cap?
- (2) Western Sydney Airport Line from Bradfield to Macarthur via Oran Park and Narellan?
 - (a) If yes, what is the cap?

Answer—

I am advised this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

* 4084 RECRUITMENT - ORANGE HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) What number of full-time equivalent nursing staff vacancies exist in each Theatres and Emergency Department of the Orange Health Service?
- (2) What steps are being undertaken to recruit nursing staff in Orange Health Service's Theatres and Emergency Department to 100% employment capacity, and eliminate nursing staff fatigue?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Orange Health Service has a full-time equivalent profile of 48.42 nurses for the Emergency Department and 53.08 nurses for Operating Theatres. NSW Health does not centrally hold vacancy figures - where vacancies occur, patient needs are met through a mix of casual engagement and contingent labour until a position is recruited to.
- (2) Recruitment is occurring to provide employment capacity. Orange Health Service has a significant casual nursing workforce pool to call upon and overtime is monitored to manage fatigue.

- * 4085 SAFE STAFFING LEVELS ORANGE HEALTH SERVICE—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can you please advise when the Emergency Department at the Orange Health Service can expect 1:3 nurse-to-patient ratios will be implemented and maintained, to provide safe staffing levels and improve delivery of patient safety and care?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Safe Staffing Levels reform is set to boost the number of frontline healthcare workers in NSW public hospitals and is one of the most significant reforms to the way we staff our hospitals in decades.

Safe Staffing Levels commenced rollout in Level 5 and 6 emergency departments in March 2024.

Safe Staffing Levels will be progressively rolled out across other hospitals and departments in a staged approach.

The rollout is planned to occur until June 2027.

The Western NSW Local Health District was formally advised on 18 November 2024 to commence implementation of Safe Staffing Levels in the Orange Health Service Emergency Department and recruitment is now underway.

- * 4086 MOBILE PHONE BAN - LEARNING HOURS—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

(1) Have you quantified the number of learning hours saved as a result of the mobile phone ban in schools?

(a) If so, what methodology has been used?

Answer—

A recent survey by the Department of Education's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation of almost 1,000 public school principals found almost universal support for the ban, at 95 per cent, and most say removing the unnecessary distraction has improved students' focus and reduced social isolation.

The department's survey further found:

- 81 per cent of principals say students' learning has improved since mobile phones were banned
- 87 per cent of principals say students are less distracted in the classroom since mobile phones were banned
- 86 per cent of principals say socialisation amongst students has improved since the mobile phone ban.

It is unfortunate that the NSW Liberals and Nationals continue to oppose the ban on mobile phones in all NSW public schools.

- * 4087 RYDE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT - 2028 COMPLETION—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

When did your Department determine that the main entry, demolition of former buildings and landscaping components of the Ryde Hospital redevelopment would be scheduled for completion in 2028?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The new Acute Services Building, which is the main feature of the \$526.8 million Ryde Hospital Redevelopment, is scheduled for completion in late 2027.

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On completion of the new Acute Services Building, hospital services will transition from the current buildings into the new facility. Following transfer of these services, demolition of the old hospital buildings, except for heritage buildings (Denistone House and The Stables), will then start. The demolition works will allow for the main entrance, the remaining parking and landscaping works to be carried out.

Planning for the Ryde Hospital Redevelopment began in 2021, with an initial indicative timeline to guide that process. Following the appointment of the main works contractor in January 2024, the project's construction programme was finalised based on their staging and construction methodology.

The staging of construction and demolition works ensures that Ryde Hospital continues to provide uninterrupted health care to the community while delivering this significant health infrastructure project safely and efficiently.

- * 4088 MACQUARIE PARK HIGH SCHOOL - OPENING DATE—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

What is the projected opening date for the new Macquarie Park High School?

Answer—

Updates regarding school infrastructure projects will continue be shared on the department's website as they become available.

- * 4089 OLD MEADOWBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL SITE—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Does the appointment of a construction contractor for the demolition of the Old Meadowbank Public School site mean that a commencement date is known by your Department?
 - (a) If so, what is this date?
 - (b) When does the Department expect demolition to conclude?

Answer—

Updates regarding construction timelines for Department of Education projects will continue be shared on the department's website as they become available.

- * 4090 WEST RYDE MULTISPORT FACILITY—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Does the release of a tender for the construction of the West Ryde Multisport Facility mean that commencement date is known by your Department?
 - (a) If so, what is this date?
 - (b) When does your Department expect construction to conclude?

Answer—

Updates on the project will continue to be shared publicly on the department's website.

- * 4091 METROPOLITAN CARSHARE SPACES—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) How many private car spaces does your Department estimate are saved for every carshare space approved in metropolitan Sydney?
- (2) What is the methodology used for quantifying this figure?

Answer—

I am advised

Car sharing helps to reduce the demand for private motor vehicles, and therefore required car parking, and may also help to shift travel behaviour from private cars to active and public transport modes.

Studies analysing the impact of car sharing vehicles on private motor vehicle ownership are typically based on data from car sharing operators, car sharing scheme member surveys, and from local councils in which car sharing vehicles are located. Car share operators usually provide councils with local membership numbers and data on the use of shared cars parked on-street.

The number of cars replaced by a car share vehicle will differ based on the urban context, and effects may further emerge over time as residents and businesses make decisions on whether to buy, sell or replace vehicles.

* 4092 ORANGE HOSPITAL - ISSUED DIRECTIVE—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

What prompted Orange Hospital's executive to issue a directive that limited patient access to termination of pregnancy services?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Western NSW Local Health District policy was developed to align with the NSW Health Framework for Termination of Pregnancy in New South Wales (PD2021_018). Under the Framework, if termination services are not provided by a NSW Health facility, referral pathways must be in place to ensure women have timely access to care.

The Western NSW Local Health District Executive assessed matters at Orange Hospital, and the level of abortion services which has historically been provided at the facility is restored and available to the community.

* 4093 TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SERVICES - RESTRICTED ACCESS—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

(1) At any point in time in the last two years, have any hospitals or Local Health Districts in New South Wales restricted access to termination of pregnancy services, for any reason?

(a) If so, where and when?

(b) If so, what was the cited reason?

Answer—

I'm advised:

This information is not held centrally by the Ministry of Health.

The NSW Health Policy Directive Framework for Termination of Pregnancy in New South Wales ([PD2021_018](#)) supports termination of pregnancy services to align with the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019. The policy directive states that if termination of pregnancy is not provided within the local health district, then local referral pathways must be developed to support the woman, so she has timely access to care.

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* 4094 TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SERVICES - CONSEQUENCES OF SERVICE REFUSAL—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Does any New South Wales policy, regulation or legislative instrument provide for consequences if a person refused termination of pregnancy services is not transferred to or provided information on how to contact a provider that offers the service?
 - (a) If so, what are these consequences and under which policy, regulation or legislative instrument do they originate?
 - (b) If not, how does the Government ensure access to termination of pregnancy services is unobstructed?
- (2) Beyond an individual registered health practitioner's conscientious objection, under what other circumstances could a termination of pregnancy service be legally refused in New South Wales?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The NSW Health Policy Directive Framework for Termination of Pregnancy in New South Wales ([PD2021_018](#)) provides a framework to support termination of pregnancy services to align with the Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 and provide clarity and safety for registered health practitioners providing terminations of pregnancy. This includes the requirements for registered health practitioners who have conscientious objections.

The Policy Directive states that 'if termination of pregnancy is not provided within the local health district, statutory health corporation hospital or approved health facility, then local referral pathways must be developed to support the woman, so she has timely access to termination services.'

* 4095 PROTECTIONS FOR VETERINARIANS WHO ASSIST NSW POLICE—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Can NSW Police request help from individuals and organisations such as veterinary services to assist with urgent matters?
- (2) What protections are in place to protect those veterinarians who agree to provide services, ensuring they are not held financially responsible for requests made of them?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Police Force may request urgent veterinary services when an animal is injured or ill and requires urgent treatment. For police-owned canines and equines, contractual and standing arrangements with veterinary services are in place.
- (2) There is no obligation on an individual or organisation approached by police to provide veterinary services. If the animal is accepted for treatment, the onus is on the owner of the animal to pay for any costs. The only exception is if the animal was injured through the actions of a NSW Police Force officer, animal or vehicle.

Section 24J of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (the Act) gives inspectors (including police officers) the power to provide animals that are in distress necessary veterinary treatment. Reasonable expenses incurred for treatment can be recovered from the owner of the animal as a debt in a court of competent jurisdiction by the inspector or any other person acting on behalf of the NSW Police Force.

Section 30A of the Act allows for a court to make a costs order against a person charged with an animal cruelty offence to pay for reasonable care and maintenance costs, including veterinary

treatment, where treatment and care is required as a consequence of the offence. The NSW Police Force is listed in section 30A(9)(b) as an organisation that can be specified in a costs order.

In circumstances where the NSW Police Force Rural Crime Prevention Team engages with the RSPCA in an animal cruelty investigation, the RSPCA has their own veterinarians or may engage the Local Land Services District Veterinarian. There are no associated costs for treatment/inspection of animals by Local Land Services District Veterinarians. Outside of animal cruelty investigations, it is likely that associated costs for services would be sought from the owner of the animal, in line with the Act.

- * 4096 ADDITIONAL SUPPORT CLASSES—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With the announcement of additional support classes in mainstream schools this year, what efforts are being made to provide these schools with adequate support, including school counsellors and specialised teaching staff?

Answer—

The department is committed to ensuring that all NSW public schools are staffed with quality teachers, including school counsellors and specialised teaching staff, principals and school administrative and support staff.

Every support class has a teacher and a school learning support officer (SLSO), and each student in these classes has a personalised learning and support plan.

The Minns Labor Government has committed to increase the school counselling service by 250 full-time equivalent positions. This will increase the total number in schools to over 1,500 across the state, providing more support to schools and students.

- * 4097 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT PROPOSED ROUSE HILL HOSPITAL—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can the Minister provide an update on the inclusion of Mental Health Services within the proposed Rouse Hill Hospital?

Answer—

I'm advised:

In September 2023, the NSW Government committed an additional \$400 million to the Rouse Hill Hospital project, for a total investment of \$700 million.

The scope of the services to be delivered at the new Rouse Hill Hospital is subject to ongoing planning but is expected to include mental health services embedded within the models of care.

Rouse Hill Hospital will work as part of Western Sydney Local Health District's network of services to facilitate appropriate mental health care on a case-by-case basis. This may require referrals and or transfers to alternative locations and/or services for ongoing treatment.

Mental health inpatient units are currently based at Westmead, Cumberland and Blacktown hospitals. In addition, the NSW Government has committed \$540 million for a new Integrated Mental Health Complex at Westmead Hospital, which will deliver new therapeutic environments that support safe, dignified, trauma-informed recovery-focused care. Mental health teams are based in community services at Parramatta, Merrylands, Auburn, Granville, The Hills and Blacktown.

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- * 4098 REVIEW OF DIVISION 7 OF THE ROADS ACT—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Noting the Minister's response to LA QONs 1496, 3071 and 3335:

- (1) What progress has been made in reviewing Division 7 of the Roads Act?
- (2) When will the outcome of the review be made public?
- (3) What plans does the Government have, if any, to repeal the changes to the Roads Act that were introduced with the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2022?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Transport for NSW has reviewed the provisions of Part 9, Division 7 of the Roads Act 1993, as required by section 144H of the Act.
- (2) The report of the statutory review was tabled in the Legislative Council on 14 November 2024.
- (3) The Government has no plans to repeal the changes to the Roads Act 1993 that were introduced with the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2022.

- * 4099 REVIEW OF PART 4AF OF THE CRIMES ACT—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Attorney General—

Noting the Attorney-General's response to LA QONs 1495, 3070 and 3334:

- (1) What progress has been made in reviewing Part 4AF of the Crimes Act?
- (2) When will the outcome of the review be made public?
- (3) What plans does the Government have, if any, to repeal the changes to the Crimes Act that were introduced with the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2022?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Department of Communities and Justice has completed the statutory review of Part 4AF of the Crimes Act 1900. The review commenced in April 2024. The report was tabled on 27 November 2024. The NSW Government does not have plans to repeal the amendments made by the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Act 2022.

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- * 4100 HEATHCOTE ROAD—Mrs Tina Ayyad to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Can the Minister provide:

- (1) An updated timeline with key construction milestones and expected completion date for the Heathcote Road upgrade between Infantry Parade and The Avenue?
- (2) An update on any interim measures to improve safety at the Heathcote Road/ Pleasure Point Road intersection?
- (3) An update on the planning process to upgrade "key sections" of Heathcote Road between The Avenue and Princes Highway?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Transport for NSW has made significant progress on the Heathcote Road Upgrade between Infantry Parade and The Avenue, and has progressively completed several sections, including the new bridge over the TB Airport & South Line which opened in October 2024, and the eastbound bridge over Williams Creek which is expected to open in December 2024.

The Heathcote Road Upgrade between Infantry Parade and The Avenue will open to traffic in 2025.

- (2) Several steps have been taken to further improve safety at the Heathcote Road / Pleasure Point Road intersection, including:
- setting up temporary traffic signals to reduce disruption during busy times on Heathcote Road
 - installing Variable Message Signs in both directions to inform drivers of any changes in traffic conditions
 - informing the community ahead of any traffic changes.
- (3) Transport for NSW will provide further information on future sections of Heathcote Road as this critical work progresses.

- * 4101 NSW CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL DECISIONS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Attorney General—

Minister, in how many administrative reviews undertaken since 1 January 2014 by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, under the provisions of section 75 of the Firearms Act 1996, was a decision and reasons for the decision, made within 2 months?

Answer—

I am advised:

Since 1 January 2014, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal has published reserved decisions in 247 cases within a two-month timeframe.

- * 4102 FATALITY STATISTICS IN BARWON—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Can the Minister advise of fatality statistics within the Barwon electorate, given that current reporting of the Western Region covers a large geographical area?

Answer—

I am advised

For the reporting years 2019 to 2023, there were 65 people killed and 401 were seriously injured in crashes within the Barwon electorate.

- * 4103 REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN AUTHORISED CAMPAIGNS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Minister, how many requests has Local Land Services received from primary producers requesting participation in an ‘Authorised Campaign’ for controlling of large pest animals, since January 2023?
- (2) How many letters has Local Land Services submitted to the NSW Firearms Registry since January 2023 affirming that a primary producer is a participant in an ‘Authorised Campaign’?

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Answer—

- (1) I am advised that Local Land Services received 42 requests from primary producers requesting participation in an 'Authorised Campaign' for controlling of large pest animals, since January 2023
- (2) Local Land Services submitted 40 letters to the NSW Firearms Registry since January 2023 affirming that a primary producer is a participant in an 'Authorised Campaign'.

- * 4104 WEED ACTION PROGRAM—Mr Philip Donato to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Can you please advise when stakeholders can expect the public release of the revised Weed Action Program guidelines and funding?

Answer—

Applications for the [Weed Action Program 2024-25](https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/weeds-action-program-%E2%80%93-regional-sub-program-2024-2025-for-local-control-authorities) are now open: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/weeds-action-program-%E2%80%93-regional-sub-program-2024-2025-for-local-control-authorities>

Due to the Christmas period, the application period will remain open until 19 February 2025.

- * 4105 TRANSPORT ASSET HOLDING ENTITY'S ASSETS IN WOOLLOOMOOLOO—Mr Alex Greenwich to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Can the Minister provide a detailed update on the status and plans for the Transport Asset Holding Entity's assets in Woolloomooloo, including the police station, Tom Uren Place, and Walla Mulla and Bourke Street Parks?

Answer—

I am advised

The Transport Asset Holding Entity and City of Sydney are in discussions regarding potential capital works at Tom Uren Place under a proposed Development Deed. Subject to the finalisation of the Development Deed, City of Sydney will undertake community consultation, which will provide key input into the design of the potential capital works.

The Police Station at Tom Uren Place is subject to an ongoing lease granted by the Transport Asset Holding Entity to NSW Police.

The Transport Asset Holding Entity has granted an ongoing lease to City of Sydney for Walla Mulla and Bourke Street parks. Pursuant to the lease agreement, City of Sydney is responsible for all management and maintenance requirements of these parks.

- * 4106 WESTCONNEX ST PETERS INTERCHANGE CONTAMINATION - CONSULTANTS—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) With respect to monitoring reports and data provided by consultants to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) regarding the WestConnex St Peters Interchange for the period 1 January 2020 to present day, regarding compliance with Environmental Protection License (EPL) 4627:
 - (a) What oversight, review, and/or analysis of those reports and data has been undertaken by TfNSW staff?
 - (b) What communication has occurred between TfNSW and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regarding the adequacy of that data?

- (c) What was the cost to TfNSW in consultants' fees for the monitoring and report for each of the financial years between June 2020 and June 2024?
- (d) Why didn't TfNSW publish any annual monitoring reports for the period 2020 to 2022?
 - (i) Was monitoring conducted during this period?
- (2) In reviewing the reports and data for compliance with EPL4627 regarding the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site:
 - (a) Did TfNSW identify any monitoring data that was not satisfactory between the reporting years of 2020 and 2024?
 - (b) If yes, what issues were identified regarding the unsatisfactory data and what actions were taken as a result?

Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Roads.

* 4107 WESTCONNEX ST PETERS INTERCHANGE CONTAMINATION - CONTRACTORS—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) With respect to the contractors providing data and reports to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on compliance with EPL4627 regarding the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site, what contractors did TfNSW engage with prior to 2020, and who are the contractors that TfNSW has engaged since 2020?
- (2) With respect to WSP or one of its subsidiaries being appointed as the consultant for the monitoring of compliance with EPL4627 at the WestConnex St Peters Interchange site:
 - (a) When was WSP or one of its subsidiaries appointed as the consultant?
 - (b) What was the period and cost of the consultation contract?
 - (c) What consideration was given to potential conflicts of interests between WSP and any of its subsidiaries in the monitoring of compliance with EPL4627?
 - (d) What actions, if any, were taken to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest between WSP and any of its subsidiaries in the monitoring of compliance with EPL4627?
- (3) With respect to reports and data provided by consultants to TfNSW for the period 1 January 2020 to the present regarding compliance with EPL4627:
 - (a) What evidence exists of review and analysis of those reports and data by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)?
 - (b) In reviewing the reports and data, did EPA identify that any of the monitoring data between 2020 and 2024 were not satisfactory?
 - (c) What issues, if any, were identified with unsatisfactory data and what action was taken as a result?
 - (d) What communication occurred between TfNSW and EPA regarding the adequacy of that data?

Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Roads.

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* 4108 WESTCONNEX ST PETERS INTERCHANGE CONTAMINATION - ENVIRONMENT—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) With respect to reports and data provided by consultants to TfNSW for the period 1 January 2020 to the present regarding compliance with EPL4627:
 - (a) What evidence exists of review and analysis of those reports and data by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)?
 - (b) In reviewing the reports and data, did EPA identify that any of the monitoring data between 2020 and 2024 were not satisfactory?
 - (c) What issues, if any, were identified with unsatisfactory data and what action was taken as a result?
 - (d) What communication occurred between TfNSW and EPA regarding the adequacy of that data?

Answer—

- (1)
 - (a) The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) holds documents such as reports about the review and analysis of reports and data.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (c) The EPA identified minor errors with the provided data, including transcription errors and duplication of results. The EPA addressed these issues by requesting clarification and correction of data. The EPA also issued two advisory letters and one formal warning.
 - (d) The EPA, Transport for NSW and the EPA-accredited Site Auditor meet monthly regarding the site and exchange correspondence as necessary. Any data issues identified, and actions taken, may be raised at these meetings.

* 4109 HAWKESBURY HOSPITAL—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With Hawkesbury Hospital being taken over by the Government, are there any plans to update/upgrade the Hospital's facilities, specifically the bathrooms in the birthing suites to better accommodate water birthing?

Answer—

I'm advised:

As part of the transition of Hawkesbury District Hospital to NSW Health, a review of the facility was undertaken. Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District will continue to work with the Ministry of Health on asset requirements for the hospital.

* 4110 ON-DEMAND BUSES - BOX HILL AND TALLAWONG—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Transport—

Can the Minister provide an update on the request for on-demand buses between Box Hill and the Sydney Metro station at Tallawong?

Answer—

I am advised

Since August 2024 Transport for NSW has been progressively delivering improved bus connections from the Box Hill area to both Sydney Metro and Sydney Train Stations.

On the 4 August 2024 service improvements were introduced for many areas in Sydney's North and North West delivering enhanced weekday and weekend service frequency and span of hours. This included:

- Route 740 being extended to the new housing development in Gables with increased frequencies across the week with services operating every 30 minutes seven days
- Route 746 extended hours of operation
- Route 643 extended to provide greater service coverage in the new housing area in Gables.

In 2025 Transport for NSW will deliver further improvements to bus services in the area providing more connections to transport hubs.

- * 4111 NEW AMBULANCE STATION - SOUTH WINDSOR—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

Can the Minister provide an update on the development of the New Ambulance Station at South Windsor?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister for Health.

- * 4112 FIRST LAP VOUCHERS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

(1) How many First Lap vouchers have been issued to residents of the Tweed Electorate in the following years:

- (a) Year-to-date?
- (b) 2023-24?

Answer—

(1)

- (a) In the year-to-date (01 Jan 2024 - 30 June 2024), a total of 256 vouchers were created, with 236 redeemed.
- (b) In 2023/24 (01 July 2023 - 30 June 2024), a total of 994 vouchers were created, with 765 redeemed.

- * 4113 PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS (NOISE CONTROL) REGULATION—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

Regarding the review of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017:

- (1) Has the draft revised regulation been publicly exhibited?
 - (a) If yes, when?
 - (b) If no, when does the Environmental Protection Authority expect to put the draft revised regulation on public exhibition?

Answer—

(1) No.

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- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) The NSW Environment Protection Authority is expecting to publicly exhibit a draft revised regulation during 2025.

* 4114 NSW BUSINESS BUREAU—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

Regarding the NSW Business Bureau:

- (1) How many requests for assistance from Tweed Electorate small businesses (or businesses in postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate) have been received by Bureau in its first year?
- (2) How many hours of free, tailored business advice have been provided to small businesses in the Tweed Electorate (or businesses in postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate)?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Service NSW Business Bureau has supported 163 customers in relation to 341 queries arising from phone calls and in person outreach within the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489 and 2490) since October 2023.
- (2) The Bureau's Business Connect advisory program has provided 233 hours of free, tailored business advice to small businesses within the Tweed Electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489 and 2490) since October 2023.

In addition to business advice, the Business Connect advisory program has provided 23 hours of workshops and events, and there are online resources available.

* 4115 RETAIL TOBACCO INSPECTIONS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Since 1 July 2024, how many retail tobacco inspections have been carried out by NSW Health within the Tweed Electorate (or within the Northern NSW Local Health District if data is not available by Electorate)?

Answer—

I am advised:

NSW Health takes non-compliance with tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws seriously and has a strong compliance and enforcement program. NSW Health inspectors proactively visit retailers to monitor compliance and take enforcement action when breaches related to tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws are identified.

NSW Health does not collect tobacco compliance and monitoring information by electorate.

There have been 16 retail inspections conducted in the Northern NSW Local Health District from 1 July to 30 November 2024.

* 4116 PLANNED HOME BIRTH RATES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many mothers have birthed through Planned Home Birth with Byron Midwifery Group Practice in the following years:
 - (a) Year to date?
 - (b) 2023?

- (c) 2022?
- (d) 2021?
- (e) 2020?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Data specific to the Byron Midwifery Group Practice is not publicly available.

Data on women who birthed through planned homebirth within Northern New South Wales Local Health District is published in the NSW Mothers and Babies Report (www.health.nsw.gov.au/hsnsw/Pages/mothers-and-babies-reports.aspx). Note that data for 2023 and 2024 is not yet available.

- * 4117 BABIES BORN SINCE OPENING OF TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—
- (1) Since 14 May 2024 (when Tweed Valley Hospital opened to patients) how many babies have been born at:
 - (a) Tweed Valley Hospital?
 - (b) Murwillumbah Hospital?
 - (c) Byron Bay Hospital?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Birth data is available on the Bureau for Health Information website. The data portal for Maternity Care is at <https://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au/data-portal>.

- * 4118 PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAM—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—
- Which schools in Northern New South Wales have been visited by the Primary School Mobile Dental Program in 2024?

Answer—

I'm advised:

As part of the Primary School Mobile Dental Program in the Northern NSW Local Health District, the program has visited 10 schools so far, with 2 schools left to visit in 2024.

- * 4119 FIRE ANT COMPLIANCE SITE INSPECTIONS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

How many fire ant compliance site inspections have been undertaken in each month this year?

Answer—

Month	Surveillance	Compliance Inspections
Jan	194	0
Feb	250	150

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Mar	157	1
Apr	133	18
May	66	6
Jun	42	6
Jul	35	10
Aug	66	24
Sep	24	5
Oct	74	4
Nov	42	72
Total	1083	296

- * 4120 FIRE ANT TEAM ACCESS TO PROPERTIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

How many property owners in the Tweed have allowed fire ant teams access to their property to allow surveillance and treatment on that property since fire ants were discovered at South Murwillumbah in November 2023?

Answer—

Of the 3,755 premises identified by the National Fire Ant Eradication Program in their Murwillumbah Response Plan, 3,589 have allowed access to their properties for treatment and surveillance since November 2023.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has revisited the compliance approach to the remainder of the properties and will work with those remaining to gain consent for the next treatment round.

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 authorised officers must seek written permission to access residential premises and parts of premises used for residential purposes, such as backyards.

- * 4121 USE OF KIRKBRIDE—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Regarding arrangements allowing the use of the historic Kirkbride precinct for the production of film and television content, and other creative industries:

- (1) Which specific wards and buildings within the precinct are being used for these purposes?
- (2) What licenses, if any, have been provided to allow the occupation and use of the site for these purposes?
- (3) What fees have been paid, or are or will be required to be paid, in return for any licenses to occupy and use the site for these purposes?
- (4) Specifically where and how will any license fees collected from these arrangements be reinvested within the site?

Answer—

I'm advised:

While the NSW Ministry of Health is working through remediation works to meet current occupation compliance standards, only parts of the Kirkbride Precinct are available for short term occupation by production companies for the purposes of filming.

All production offices must enter into occupancy agreements prior to accessing approved parts of the Kirkbride Precinct. The fees payable are in line with market rates and are invested back into the site for repairs, maintenance and restoration.

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(Paper No. 86)

- * 4122 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE BRIDGE—Mrs Tina Ayyad to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

Can the Minister advise:

- (1) On how many occasions did the Cambridge Avenue bridge over the Georges River flood in:
 - (a) 2020?
 - (b) 2021?
 - (c) 2022?
 - (d) 2023?
 - (e) 2024?
 - (f) 2025?
- (2) If Transport for NSW have investigated the feasibility of upgrading the bridge to prevent frequent flooding?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The number of closures for the following years:
 - (a) 2020: 2
 - (b) 2021: 2
 - (c) 2022: 5
 - (d) 2023: 0
 - (e) 2024: 3
 - (f) 2025: No data is available.
- (2) Transport for NSW is planning an upgrade for Cambridge Avenue in Glenfield, including constructing a new bridge over the Georges River to address flooding issues. The bridge will be designed to withstand up to a 1-in-100-year flood event, significantly enhancing flood resilience for the crossing.

This upgrade is part of a broader project to improve transport connectivity in the area, aiming to facilitate better access between Moorebank and the M31 Hume Motorway.

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* 4123 LOCAL SPORT DEFIBRILATOR GRANT PROGRAM—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Are any of the following postcodes in the Davidson electorate eligible to apply for the Government's Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program:
- (a) 2069?
 - (b) 2070?
 - (c) 2071?
 - (d) 2072?
 - (e) 2073?
 - (f) 2074?
 - (g) 2075?
 - (h) 2085?
 - (i) 2086?

Answer—

I am advised that none of the postcodes listed in the question were eligible postcodes in the 2024-25 round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program.

The 2024-25 round of the Program has now closed.

* 4124 LOCAL SCHOOLS - CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER VACANCIES—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What are the current teacher vacancies, by subject at Concord High School?
- (2) What are the current Learning Support Officer vacancies at Concord High School?

Answer—

- (1) Schools in the Drummoyne electorate began Term 3 with 9 teacher vacancies, which is down more than 35% on the same time last year. This is a positive improvement that follows the Minns Labor Government's decision to scrap the former Liberal National Government's cap on teachers' wages and deliver the most significant uplift in salaries in a generation. It is disappointing that the Member for Drummoyne has criticised this pay rise and, along with her Liberal and National colleagues, pledged to bring back the wages cap.
- (2) Schools in the Drummoyne electorate began of Term 3 2024 with 1 centrally funded SLSO vacancy.

* 4125 CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT VALUE—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

What is the total project value of the Concord High School upgrade?

Answer—

The Minns Government is delivering a major upgrade at Concord High School after years of neglect by the former Liberal National Government. Project updates will continue to be provided on the School Infrastructure NSW website, and through the NSW Budget Papers.

- * 4126 CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL SOD TURNING—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

What is the Minister's process for alerting Local Members of a sod turning in the seat they have been democratically elected to represent?

Answer—

If a member wishes to visit a school in their electorate, the visit should be coordinated with the school principal.

The Minns Labor Government is working hard to deliver school upgrades, at schools such as Concord High School, after years of false promises and neglect by the former Liberal National Government.

- * 4127 CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL SOD TURNING - LOCAL MEMBERS OMISSION—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Was the local State Member advised about the sod turning at Concord High School for the upgrade?
 - (a) If not, why?

Answer—

Please refer to LA Question on Notice 4126.

- * 4128 CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL - FEDERAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL FUNDS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How much is the Federal Government contributing to the Concord High School upgrade?
- (2) How much is the local Council contributing to the Concord High School upgrade?

Answer—

Please refer to LA Question on Notice 4125.

- * 4129 CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL SOD TURNING - PROCESS FOR INVITING LOCAL MEMBERS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What is the process of your office in determining which Members are invited to attend a sod turning on an important project in a local electorate?
- (2) Regarding the sod turning at Concord High School to mark the upgrade:
 - (a) Was the local Labor Federal Member invited?
 - (b) Was the local Labor Councillor invited?
 - (c) Was the Local Liberal State Member invited?
 - (i) If not, why?

Answer—

Please refer to LA Question on Notice 4126.

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- * 4130 KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALKWAY—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask 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—

Do you have an update about the funding for the Kokoda Track Memorial Walking after 30 June 2025?

Answer—

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway (KTMW) has contacted the NSW Government regarding potential funding arrangements beyond June 2025. The NSW Government has received a proposal from KTMW and will consider the proposal in line with the NSW Government's grant guidelines.

- * 4131 LOCAL SCHOOLS - MERGED AND CANCELLED CLASSES—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What are the statistics for merged and cancelled classes for primary schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (2) What were the figures in 2022 and 2023?
- (3) What are the statistics for merged and cancelled classes for high schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (4) What were the figures in 2023 and 2023?

Answer—

Due to the teacher shortage crisis overseen by the former Liberal National Government, NSW public schools were left with 10,000 merged and cancelled classes every day.

Under the Minns Labor Government, the number of merged and cancelled classes has been reduced by 43%.

In the Drummoyne electorate, merged and cancelled in the Strathfield principal network have fallen by 49% and in the Iron Cove principal network, 44%.

This positive improvement follows the Minns Labor Government's decision to end the former Liberal National Government's 12 year suppression of teachers' wages and deliver the most significant uplift in salaries in a generation. It is disappointing that Liberal and National MPs, including the Member for Drummoyne have opposed this decision and pledged to bring back the cap on teachers' wages.

- * 4132 LOCAL SCHOOLS - PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER VACANCIES—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What are the current teacher vacancies in the following primary schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
 - (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School ?

- (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?
- (2) What are the current Learning Support Officer vacancies in the following primary schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
- (b) Concord Public School?
- (c) Concord West Public School?
- (d) Drummoyne Public School?
- (e) Five Dock Public School?
- (f) Lucas Gardens School?
- (g) Russell Lea Public School?
- (h) Mortlake Public School?
- (i) Strathfield North Public School ?
- (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?

Answer—

Schools in the Drummoyne electorate began Term 3 with 9 teacher vacancies, which is down more than 35% on the same time last year. This is a positive improvement that follows the Minns Labor Government's decision to scrap the former Liberal National Government's cap on teachers' wages and deliver the most significant uplift in salaries in a generation. It is disappointing that the Member for Drummoyne has criticised this pay rise and, along with her Liberal and National colleagues, pledged to bring back the wages cap.

Schools in the Drummoyne electorate began of Term 3 2024 with 1 SLSO vacancy.

- * 4133 MIDWIVES AND OBSTETRICIAN SHORTAGE—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

In relation to the critical shortage of midwives and obstetricians in the Northern Tablelands:

- (1) How is the Government supporting pregnant women who need to travel hundreds of kilometres to deliver their babies?
- (2) What are you doing to attract midwives and obstetricians to regional New South Wales?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The global shortage of midwives poses a significant challenge, particularly in rural and regional areas like Tamworth and the New England region.

Hunter New England Local Health District continues recruitment efforts through targeted workforce planning, scholarships, partnerships with universities and other training providers, internal pathway programs and internal secondment opportunities, as well as regular national and overseas recruitment drives. A recent overseas recruitment drive has resulted in one new midwife and 3 registered nurses who will work in the maternity service.

The NSW Government is supporting local recruitment efforts by offering the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme to positions with hard-to-fill and critical vacancies at rural and remote Hospitals and introducing the Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program.

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The NSW Government also announced that midwives moving from NSW MM1 and MM2, interstate, and international locations to work in an MM3 to MM7 location will receive a \$20,000 sign-on bonus as part of the Rural Health Workforce Incentive Scheme. Commencing in September 2024, this will be a 6-month campaign targeting midwifery vacancies in our rural and remote areas.

The Tertiary Health Study Subsidy Program will provide an annual financial subsidy to up to 150 midwives and 850 nurses while they study or upon graduation and entering the NSW Health workforce. Midwives and nurses who receive this subsidy will be required to commit to working for NSW Health for at least 5 years.

* 4134 LOCAL SPORTS DEFIBRILLATOR GRANT PROGRAM—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

In relation to the Local Sports Defibrillator grant program:

- (1) Can you explain why Armidale has been excluded from this program?
- (2) Will you reassess the eligibility of localities, including Armidale and North Star, under this program?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The postcode for Armidale is 2350, which was ineligible under the relevant criterion of the 2024-25 round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program. The postcode for North Star is 2408, which was also ineligible.

The use of postcodes to determine eligibility was based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas. Organisations located in postcodes listed in the lowest five deciles of these indexes were eligible on those grounds although they must also satisfy other requirements.

In the 2024-25 round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program, additional eligibility criteria provided for organisations located outside an eligible postcode, but able to provide evidence of their sporting or recreational activities being primarily undertaken at a facility(ies) in an eligible postcode, and/or applicants making a case that a majority of their participants reside in eligible postcodes. Sporting and recreational organisations which could demonstrate hardship were also eligible, subject to an assessment of their submission.

The 2024-25 round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program has now closed.

* 4135 DOUGHT INFRASTRUCTURE FUND—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In relation to the Drought Infrastructure Fund as administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA):

- (1) Have the NSW RAA lending guidelines recently changed?
- (2) Are organisations and individuals who apply for this program given an explanation as to why their application is not successful?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

- (1) Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) lending guidelines have not changed. The RAA applies responsible lending standards to ensure that a farming business has the capacity to repay the loan, and the provision of the loan does not lead to undue financial hardship. All applications are assessed in accordance with the program guidelines and the program eligibility criteria.

- (2) All applicants are provided with a reason for refusal and have the opportunity to reapply for open programs should the circumstances surrounding the refusal change.
- (a) See Answer 2.

* 4136 FORENSIC PATIENTS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to forensic patients as determined by the Mental Health Review Tribunal:

- (1) Can forensic patients leave the country?
- (2) Are details made available to victims when a forensic patient relocates or leaves the country?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (3) Are current processes set by this Tribunal adequate for victim and community safety?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Mental Health Review Tribunal has the authority to approve and restrict travel outside of Australia for forensic patients.

Section 157(1) of the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 (NSW) provides that:

'The Commissioner of Victims Rights must give notice to a victim of a forensic patient whose name is recorded in the Victims Register if-

...

- (c) the Tribunal makes an order for the release (including the conditional release) of, or granting leave of absence to, the forensic patient or refuses to make an order of that kind, or

...

- (e) the forensic patient is unlawfully absent from a mental health facility or other place of detention'

There is no legal requirement to inform victims who are not recorded in the Victims' Register.

Details might not be made available to a registered victim in the case of a forensic patient who is conditionally released and whose orders do not include a requirement to obtain approval from the Tribunal prior to relocation or travel.

Sections 84 and 94 of the Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020 (NSW) provide that the Mental Health Review Tribunal must not grant leave of absence or release to a forensic patient unless it is satisfied that the safety of others will not be seriously endangered.

* 4137 ENERGY ACCOUNT PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

In relation to the Energy Account Payment Assistance (EAPA) scheme:

- (1) Why does this program support natural gas but not liquid petroleum gas (LPG)?
- (2) Can constituents in my electorate apply for the EAPA if they are only connected to LPG?

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- (a) If not, will this discrepancy be reviewed?

Answer—

- (1) EAPA is intended to help eligible customers stay connected to essential energy services by preventing disconnection due to bill non-payment. EAPA cannot be applied to paid energy accounts.

The nature of up-front payments for LPG bottles or refills precludes disconnection through non-payment of an account.

- (2) Constituents can apply for EAPA in relation to their electricity accounts if they are on-grid customers. EAPA cannot be applied to LPG bills or invoices. LPG users with a Pensioner Concession Card, Low Income Health Care Card or Veteran Gold Card may be eligible for up to \$121 each year from the NSW Gas Rebate.

- (a) The NSW Government publicly consulted on a review of EAPA in late 2023. This included consideration of a fuel-neutral approach. The final reforms are being finalised.

- * 4138 RURAL WATER PRICES - FARMER SUPPORT—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

How will you support farmers if rural water prices increase by 22 percent?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is currently reviewing prices paid by rural water access licence holders for:

- Water management services delivered by the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC)
- Rural bulk water services delivered by WaterNSW.

When setting prices, IPART will ensure that costs are efficient and will take into account the impacts of prices on customers.

- * 4139 HARRISIA CACTUS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In relation to the control of the invasive *Harrisia Cactus* undertaken by the Local Land Services in Moree:

- (1) Has funding for this program been reduced or cut?
(2) If yes, how will you help manage this invasive weed?

Answer—

- (1) I am advised that North West Local Land Services and Local Control Authorities have and continue to provide awareness and education activities on *Harrisia Cactus* for land managers.
(2) I am advised that North West Local Land Services undertakes chemical control programs for *Harrisia Cactus* on Local Land Services managed Traveling Stock Reserves.

This control activity occurs annually in the Moree Plains and other local government areas within the region as resourcing allows.

* 4140 SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on the efforts being taken by the Government to protect the heritage of Scheyville National Park?
- (2) Can the Minister provide an update on the status of the Conservation Management Plan for Scheyville National Park?
- (3) Is there intention to evaluate and/or update the Conservation Management Plan for Scheyville National Park, commissioned in 2009?

Answer—

(1) The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Heritage NSW continue to manage Scheyville National Park and its State Heritage Register values. NPWS has progressively upgraded the heritage assets to improve conditions and ensure longevity into the future. These works have included:

- complete restoration of the Dreadnought Dining room, including a commercial kitchen upgrade
- replaced the roofs of several buildings
- refurbished the administration building and Stran Steel Arch Rib huts to make them safe for use
- painted external walls of four significant buildings in the main visitor precinct
- completed landscaping repairs to the main courtyard
- increased security to the precinct with gates and video surveillance
- repaired the concrete cancer in the main water tower, replaced the electricity lines to the precinct, and repaired water leaks as required
- ongoing maintenance of the roads and fire trails surrounding the site, including maintaining a large asset protection zone around the buildings to protect from wildfire
- undertaken minor maintenance to buildings when required
- NPWS has more recently put out an expression of interest for a community group to occupy and use several of the buildings under a licence. This process has seen a not-for-profit organisation obtain a grant of \$5 million from the Australian Government to upgrade several buildings to be used for community purposes.

(2 - 3) The Conservation Management Plan remains current and does not require updating at this time.

* 4141 ILLEGAL TOBACCO AND VAPING PRODUCTS—Ms Jacqui Scruby to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How many raids or similar enforcement actions in relation to illegal tobacco and/or vaping products have taken place in the Pittwater electorate or equivalent local government area (LGA)/police district in the last 24 months?
 - (a) If any such raids or similar enforcement actions have taken place, how many have taken place and on what dates in:
 - (i) Shops?
 - (ii) Privates residence(s)?

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- (iii) Other premises?
- (b) If any such raids have taken place, were any illegal tobacco and/or vaping related products identified?
 - (i) If so, how many and what was the value?
- (2) How many illegal tobacco shops are operating in the Pittwater electorate or equivalent LGA/police district?
- (3) How many complaints have been reported in relation to illegal tobacco and/or vaping products from the general public in the Pittwater electorate or equivalent LGA/police district?
- (4) How many charges have been laid in relation to these raids or similar enforcement actions?
- (5) How many occurrences of breaking and entering have occurred on premises where tobacco products (such as cigarettes) or vaping products have been stolen?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Police Force have conducted four enforcement actions:
 - Newport/Mona Vale -On 29 February 2024, the NSW Police Force partnered with NSW Health, to conduct a joint operation targeting three tobacconists in Newport and Mona Vale (two in Newport and one in Mona Vale). A total of 1,873 nicotine vapes and 2,219 illegal tobacco products were identified with a total value of \$64,359. NSW Health proceeded with legal action against the shop owners.
 - Dee Why -On 14 March 2024, police conducted an inspection of a Dee Why tobacconist. A total of 368 nicotine vapes, and 135 illegal tobacco products were identified with a total value of \$16,062. The owner was charged by police.
- (2) The management and investigation of illicit tobacco remains the function of the Federal Government and NSW Health. The NSW Police Force continues to closely monitor illegal tobacco and is involved in a support role, assisting with the development of strategies for all areas of law enforcement, including data and information exchange from other agencies and police forces.
- (3) Refer to answer to Question 2.
- (4) Refer to answer to Question 1.
- (5) Five (5) as at 4 December 2024.

* 4142 NARRABEEN SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL—Ms Jacqui Scruby to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What has been the allocated maintenance budget for Narrabeen Sports High School for the financial years listed below and how much of those allocated budgets were spent respectively?
 - (a) 2016-17?
 - (b) 2017-18?
 - (c) 2018-19?
 - (d) 2019-20?
 - (e) 2020-21?
 - (f) 2021-22?
 - (g) 2022-23?

-
- (h) 2023-24?
(i) 2024-25?
- (2) What has been the allocated project budget for Narrabeen Sports High School for the financial years listed below and how much of those allocated budgets were spent respectively?
- (a) 2016-17?
(b) 2017-18?
(c) 2018-19?
(d) 2019-20?
(e) 2020-21?
(f) 2021-22?
(g) 2022-23?
(h) 2023-24?
(i) 2024-25?
- (3) What plans are there or have there ever been for a creative and performing arts space at Narrabeen Sports High School, if any?
- (4) What capital investment has been made for Narrabeen Sports High School for the financial years listed below?
- (a) 2016-17?
(b) 2017-18?
(c) 2018-19?
(d) 2019-20?
(e) 2020-21?
(f) 2021-22?
(g) 2022-23?
(h) 2023-24?
(i) 2024-25?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government inherited an unfunded \$1.2 billion school maintenance left by the former Liberal Nationals Government. Moving forward, maintenance work will continue to be prioritised on a needs-basis through an annual statewide review of schools' maintenance needs. This is in addition to any urgent maintenance which may be required.

Expenditure on major works upgrades at the Narrabeen Education Precinct, comprising the Narrabeen Sports High School and Narrabeen North Public School, is publicly available in the NSW Budget papers.

Narrabeen Sports High School are continuing on the school's needs and the scope of works as part of the upgrade project underway. An update on this work will be available in 2025.

More than \$2.9 million in capital works were delivered at Narrabeen Sports High School from 2016-17 to 2024-25. This is in addition to the major works upgrades expenditure at the Narrabeen Education Precinct which is publicly available in the NSW Budget Papers.

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- * 4143 TEACHER VACANCIES IN THE PITTWATER ELECTORATE—Ms Jacqui Scruby to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

How much are teacher vacancies down in public schools in the Pittwater electorate or local government area equivalent over the past 12 months?

Answer—

Schools in the Pittwater electorate began Term 3, 2024 with 12 permanent teacher vacancies, which is down 47.8% on the same time in 2022, under the former Liberal National Government.

- * 4144 SOCIAL HOUSING PROPERTY VACANCIES—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

Noting the Minister's response to LA QON 3734:

- (1) Are there any further Land & Housing Corporation owned properties in the locations listed, that are currently vacant but which are not referred to in the Minister's response?
 - (a) If so, where are they located?
- (2) Of the 49 vacant properties listed, how many properties are vacant due to outstanding maintenance or repairs being required before that property will be allocated to an applicant on the social housing waiting list?
 - (a) If any, where are they located?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes, as of 30 October 2024, there are 32 vacant properties undergoing restoration which are not referred to in the previous response to LA QON 3734:
 - (a) Annandale - 1
 - (b) Balmain - 7
 - (c) Camperdown - 5
 - (d) Glebe - 11
 - (e) Leichhardt- 3
 - (f) Lilyfield - 4
 - (g) Ultimo - 1

The number of vacant properties managed by Homes NSW is constantly changing as vacancies can occur due to redevelopment, upgrades, damage, or tenant changeover. Homes NSW endeavours to ensure properties do not remain vacant for longer than necessary.

- (2) As at 30 October 2024, 33 of the 49 NSW Land and Housing Corporation owned properties previously reported are still undergoing vacant restoration:
 - (a) Annandale -1
 - (b) Balmain -2
 - (c) Camperdown - 9
 - (d) Glebe - 16

- (e) Leichhardt- 1
- (f) Lilyfield - 3
- (g) Ultimo - 1

* 4145 MEDIUM TERM BUS PLAN—Ms Kobi Shetty to ask the Minister for Transport—

Regarding the Medium Term Bus Plan:

- (1) What progress has been made in developing the plan?
- (2) What opportunities will there be for community consultation and input into the plan?
- (3) What considerations are being given, if any, to the restoration of the 370 bus service from Leichhardt to Coogee?

Answer—

I am advised

In May 2023, the NSW Government established a Bus Industry Taskforce, including bus operators, industry experts, the workforce, and community representatives to make recommendations to improve the reliability, quality and effectiveness of bus services across NSW.

One of the key recommendations made by the Taskforce was the development of a Medium-Term Bus Plan. The Plan is currently in development and will leverage the insights and be informed by the extensive community engagement program undertaken by the Taskforce.

Information about the Taskforce is publicly available on the Transport for NSW website: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/industry/independent-reviews/bus-industry-taskforce>

Transport for NSW is also undertaking the service planning work that includes the delivery of the election commitments.

* 4146 PARENTS OF DEAF CHILDREN—Ms Kellie Sloane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Was Parents of Deaf Children (PODC) defunded?
 - (a) If so, why?
 - (b) Were Parents of Deaf Children consulted before this defunding decision was made?
 - (c) What is the Government's plan for the patients of Parents of Deaf Children who will no longer be able to access these services?
 - (d) Will you consider reinstating the funding for Parents of Deaf Children (PODC) that has provided services for more than six decades?

Answer—

I'm advised:

NSW Health has no funding arrangements with Parents of Deaf Children.

* 4147 STATE ROADS - MAINTENANCE BUDGET—The Hon. Mark Speakman to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

- (1) What is the maintenance budget for State roads in the Sutherland Shire in 2024-25?
- (2) What was the maintenance budget for State roads in the Sutherland Shire in 2023-24?

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(3) What was the maintenance budget for State roads in the Sutherland Shire in 2022-23?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is unable to provide this information as it is commercial-in-confidence.

* 4148 QON 2465 - UPDATE—The Hon. Mark Speakman to ask the Minister for Transport—

Can the Government provide any update to its answer to question on notice 2465 (regarding wharves at Kurnell and La Perouse)?

Answer—

I am advised

The Expression of Interest for the operation of a ferry connection between La Perouse and Kurnell was open between 25 July and 6 September 2024. No formal expressions were received. Transport for NSW will re-visit potential opportunities in the future and remains open to private sector interest.

Transport for NSW has not called for expressions of interest or tenders for use of the wharves as there are no facilities on the wharves that would be subject for an agreement.

* 4149 BURLEY GRIFFIN WAY—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Burley Griffin Way intersection improvement project at Binalong:

- (1) What community consultation was undertaken?
- (2) Did this community consultation support the recommendations of works to be conducted by Transport for NSW
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads.

* 4150 GOULBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Can the Minister confirm details surrounding the planning of upgrade works for Goulburn Public Primary School in the Goulburn electorate?

Answer—

Details regarding the upgrades to Goulburn Public School will be shared with the local community as they become available.

This project is part of the NSW Government's commitment to deliver a record \$1.5 billion investment in maintenance and local upgrades at public schools across NSW, including in the Goulburn electorate.

* 4151 COWPER STREET AND CLINTON STREET INTERSECTION—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

In relation to Cowper Street and Clinton Street Intersection in Goulburn

- (1) How many traffic incidents have occurred at this intersection in the past 5 years?
- (2) Has the Government investigated safety management or upgrading this section of road?

- (3) Does the present layout of the intersection meet current road safety standards?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) There have been two crashes at Clinton Street and Cowper Street intersection in the last five years, according to validated crash data for the period 2019-2023. These crashes resulted in moderate injuries.
- (2) Investigations for upgrading the intersection commenced in 2023 and a recommended solution for installing traffic lights is being developed in consultation with Goulburn Mulwaree Council.
- (3) A preliminary review of the signage and delineation at the intersection has been conducted. Some elements of the intersection do not fully comply with the current Transport for NSW's standards, such as: insufficient directional arrow signage and road pavement markings; the absence of no-right-turn signage; the use of broken separation line markings where unbroken barrier line road markings are required on certain approaches. However, the installation of traffic signals will likely resolve these issues.

Further, while Transport for NSW has adopted the 'Austroads Guide to Road Design' (AGRD) as the standard for geometric road design, this standard is not always suitable for use in an urban context with lower speed streets.

Transport for NSW therefore uses the guidance provided in the Design of Roads and Streets manual to challenge the current standards to achieve a better outcome in urban areas.

- * 4152 LOCAL SPORT DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) How many defibrillators have been installed in the Goulburn electorate since the Local Sport Defibrillator Program was first established?
- (a) In what year were they installed?
- (b) Where are they installed?

Answer—

I am advised that 39 Automated External Defibrillator packages have been funded in the Goulburn electorate since 2017.

The 2024-25 round of the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program recently closed. The approval process for those applications is not yet complete.

Organisations that received funding for AEDs under the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program in the Goulburn Electorate are as follows:

2017-18

Boorowa Junior Rugby League Club

Goulburn Workers Clay Target Club

Crookwell Men's Bowling Club

Southern Highlands Carriage Club Inc

Goulburn District Netball Association

Table Tennis Goulburn Inc

Goulburn Golf Club Ltd

Yass Clay Target Club

Goulburn Tennis Club Inc

Yass Netball Association Inc

2018-19

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Boorowa Rugby Club Crookwell Soccer Club	Scouts Australia - NSW Branch (2)
Goulburn Dog Training & Kennel Club Inc	Southern Highlands Croquet Club
Goulburn Kart Racing Club Incorporated	Southern Highlands Sailing Club Inc
Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	Taralga Rugby Union Club Incorporated
Moss Vale Junior Dragons RLFC Inc	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Penrose Tennis Club Inc	Yass District Cricket Association
2019-20	
Goulburn Greyhound Racing Club Inc	Robertson Bowling Club Ltd
Goulburn Rodeo Club Inc	Toyota Land Cruiser Club of Australia (2)
Moss Vale Basketball Association Inc	
2020-21	
Boorowa Recreation Club Ltd	Goulburn Rifle Club Incorporated
Captains Flat Community Association	Goulburn Workers Smallbore Rifle Club Inc
Goulburn Region Woodworkers	Nissan Patrol 4wd Club of NSW & ACT Inc
2022-23	
Invert Sports Centre Inc	Yass Golf Club Ltd
2023-24	
Crookwell AP&H society	

* 4153 GOULBURN SCHOOLS ENROLMENT DATA—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm both current student enrolment and school enrolment projections for:
- (a) Avoca Public School?
 - (b) Berinba Public School?
 - (c) Berrima Public School?
 - (d) Bigga Public School?
 - (e) Binalong Public School?
 - (f) Binda Public School?
 - (g) Bowning Public School?
 - (h) Bradfordville Public School?
 - (i) Breadalbane Public School?
 - (j) Bundanoon Public School?
 - (k) Burrawang Public School?

- (l) Collector Public School?
- (m) Crookwell Public School?
- (n) Dalton Public School?
- (o) Exeter Public School?
- (p) Goulburn East Public School?
- (q) Goulburn North Public School?
- (r) Goulburn Public School?
- (s) Goulburn South Public School?
- (t) Goulburn West Public School?
- (u) Gundaroo Public School?
- (v) Gunning Public School?
- (w) Kangaloon Public School?
- (x) Laggan Public School?
- (y) Marulan Public School?
- (z) Moss Vale Public School?
- (aa) Penrose Public School?
- (bb) Robertson Public School?
- (cc) Sutton Public School?
- (dd) Tallong Public School?
- (ee) Tarago Public School?
- (ff) Taralga Public School?
- (gg) Tirranna Public School?
- (hh) Wee Jasper Public School?
- (ii) Windellama Public School?
- (jj) Wingello Public School?
- (kk) Wollondilly Public School?
- (ll) Yass Public School?
- (mm) Mt Carmel School?
- (nn) The Crescent School?
- (oo) Yass High School?
- (pp) Goulburn High School?
- (qq) Mulwaree High School?
- (rr) Moss Vale High School?

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Answer—

The Department of Education has advised that school enrolment information is available publicly. The department has further advised that Local Government Area level school age projections are available publicly on the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure website.

- * 4154 SEATBELT AND MOBILE PHONES—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Attorney General representing the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—

Regarding infringements detected by mobile phone and seatbelt detections cameras:

- (1) How many fines have been issued to drivers from the Goulburn Electorate (postcodes 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2611, 2618, 2620, 2621, 2622) for not properly wearing a seatbelt?
- (2) What is the collective value of these fines to-date?
- (3) How many fines have been issued to drivers from the Goulburn Electorate (postcodes 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2611, 2618, 2620, 2621, 2622) for mobile phone use while driving?
- (4) What is the collective value of these fines to-date?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) From 1 July 2024 to 18 November 2024, 1,050 fines for not properly wearing a seatbelt were issued to drivers from the postcodes stated.
- (2) The collective value of these fines is \$486,260.
- (3) From March 2020 to 18 November 2024, 16,194 fines for mobile phone use while driving were issued to drivers from the postcodes stated.
- (4) The collective value of these fines is \$6,392,306.

Please note:

This data relates to the fine recipients who reside in the postcodes stated. The offences may have occurred outside of the postcodes stated.

- * 4155 CROWN RESERVE IMPROVEMENT FUND—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) What is the rationale for heavily weighting visitor utilisation in the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund (CRIF) application assessment process?
- (2) Why is visitor utilisation measured exclusively by absolute visitor numbers rather than adjusted relative to local population size?
- (3) Will this measure create a disadvantage for rural and regional Crown Land applications?
 - (a) If so, how will the assessment process account for this disadvantage?
- (4) Given the high utilisation threshold, what alternative funding opportunities are available to rural and regional Crown Land sites that cannot access large populations?
- (5) How many Crown Land sites outside metropolitan New South Wales are positioned to achieve a perfect score of over 1,000,000 visitors for CRIF application utilisation?
- (6) Was the example in the CRIF guidelines of a Crown Land site hosting a campdraft event with 30,000 visitors twice per year intended as a benchmark?

- (a) If so, which specific site meets this criterion?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) is heavily oversubscribed each year. To ensure that the maximum number of people benefit from CRIF funded projects, the 2024-25 funding round is targeting projects on reserves that are highly utilised.
- (2) Using visitor numbers will mean that funded projects will be able to deliver a significant community impact to the maximum number of people.
- (3) The 2024-25 CRIF criteria apply to applications irrespective of location.
- (4) Information on potential alternative funding sources is available on the reserve manager website at: <https://reservemanager.crownland.nsw.gov.au/funding/funding-sources>
- (5) Reserve utilisation scores have been set to provide a way to differentiate applications based on visitation numbers and it is not expected that many, if any, will achieve the maximum score.

Reserve utilisation is not the only criteria that will be considered as part of the assessment process. Assessment of CRIF applications will also take into consideration community impact and deliverability and affordability.
- (6) An example has been provided in the CRIF guidelines for illustration purposes to help applicants understand the requirements of the question. The numbers used in the example are not benchmark numbers.

* 4156 HOME SCHOOL STATISTICS—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many students were home schooled in the Goulburn Electorate (postcodes 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2611, 2618, 2620, 2621, 2622 if Electorate does not hold data) in the following years:
 - (a) This year to date?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2022?
 - (d) 2021?
 - (e) 2020?
 - (f) 2019?

Answer—

NESA publishes annual home-schooling data on their website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-07/home-schooling-data-reports-relating-to-2023.pdf>

* 4157 YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

Can the Minister advise of the statistics for Youth Crime in the Goulburn electorate or Hume Police District (if data not available by electorate or Police district by postcodes 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2611, 2618, 2620, 2621, 2622)?

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Answer—

Statistics on youth crime in NSW, including the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Area (LGA), are available via the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) website at <https://crimetool.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/bocsar>.

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- * 4158 ACCESS TO PET DESEXING IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Can the Minister advise of the level of support currently provided by the Government to support rural and remote communities to access pet desexing, vaccination and pet education services?

Answer—

- (1) As part of a 2022 Mobile Animal Care Support Services Grant \$2.5 million was allocated to the Animal Welfare League NSW and the RSPCA to support rural and remote communities with animal care services during natural disasters and community outreach programs. This program has a three-year delivery time frame.

Animal Welfare League NSW was approved to upgrade and deploy a mobile vet truck to deliver mobile vet services to 63 regional NSW locations at least twice a year over the three-year period.

RSPCA NSW was approved to purchase vehicles and equipment, including an emergency response unit campervan, rescue response trailers, and horse floats, to support delivery of routine animal care services through regional community outreach.

The NSW Government has delivered an education campaign from 2022 - 2024, via social media, targeting both puppy breeders and consumers. The campaign focused on breeder responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding dogs and cats, as well as consumer protections and rights.

Further, the NSW Government actively promotes responsible pet ownership (RPO), including providing free RPO communication resources for all NSW councils to use in their local communities. Additional education programs are provided in partnership with organisations such as the NSW RSPCA and Cat Protection Society of NSW. The Government also funds pet educators that visit schools across NSW, including in rural and remote communities, to educate on dog safety and responsible pet ownership.

The Minister for Local Government also has responsibility for companion animal management. For further information I would direct the Member to the responsible Minister.

- * 4159 RURAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND FUNDING - TIMEFRAMES—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) Have Government grants and funding opportunities targeted toward rural and regional New South Wales seen many successful applicants having difficulty meeting timeframes for constructional works and repairs, a result of the shortage of specialised trade services?
- (2) Can the Minister advise whether funding and grant conditions are designed to consider trade wait periods exceeding 12-18months?
- (a) If not, can this be investigated as an option for future grants and funding?

Answer—

- (1) In relation to Special Disaster Grant (SDG) programs for flood impacted primary producers in 2022, assistance administered by the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) was made available to provide immediate relief for:
- clean up costs, and
 - reinstatement of bona fide primary production enterprises that suffered direct damage as a result of an eligible disaster.

If delays were experienced by approved SDG applicants during the program period, the RAA worked with clients to ensure they could maximise their claims for all eligible expenses, in accordance with the program guidelines.

- (2) SDG programs are typically open for applications and claims between six to twelve months. Following the 2022 floods impacting primary producers across NSW, assistance programs administered by the RAA provided extended application and claim times of up to 19 months, in recognition that producers may need more time to source contractors, complete works and submit claims to be reimbursed.

The Special Disaster Grant program open and closing dates are approved by the Commonwealth Government's National Emergency Management Agency in consultation with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, which acts on behalf of the NSW Government.

* 4160 PROVIDING TRAINING FOR REGISTERED NURSES TO PERFORMN BASIC SUTURING—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Can the Minister advise of any support or training opportunities that can be provided or advocated for by the Government to enable Registered Nurses to become qualified to provide basic suturing in rural and remote hospitals and multi-purpose services?
- (2) Can the Minister advise of any support provided by the Government for existing Registered Nurses working for Local Health Districts in Barwon to become Nurse Practitioners should they wish to do so?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The assessment and closure of minor wounds using sutures or staples can be completed by appropriately trained nurses in all emergency care settings, including rural and remote hospitals and multi-purpose services.

The Wound Closure Education Program, accessed via My Health Learning (NSW Health's online education platform), has been designed for nurses working in emergency care settings to enable them to assess and close minor wounds. The training program includes an elearning module, local face to face workshop and capability assessment.

Western NSW Local Health District has developed a strategic Grow Our Own approach, centred around transitional nurse practitioner positions, which provides a structured 3-year career development pathway for registered nurses. This initiative has resulted in a significant increase in the nurse practitioner workforce, growing it from 15 in 2020 to 34 in 2024. This growth was supported by funding from NSW Health's Nursing and Midwifery Office.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District supports professional development of registered nurses. The District has engaged an external provider to train emergency department nurses at Lake Cargelligo in wound closure and suturing while a local program is developed. The nurses are also being supported to undertake the Health Education Training Institute (HETI) wound closure online package.

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The District provides scholarship opportunities for registered nurses to undertake postgraduate studies and offers opportunities for nurses to apply for roles as a transitional nurse practitioner. The value of scholarships is determined by the level of coursework undertaken.

- * 4161 PATIENT RATIOS—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

How many Hospitals in the Murrumbidgee Local health District have implemented Nurse/Patient Ratios?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Safe Staffing Levels reform is set to boost the number of frontline healthcare workers in NSW public hospitals and is one of the most significant reforms to the way we staff our hospitals in decades.

Safe Staffing Levels commenced rollout in Level 5 and 6 emergency departments in March 2024. Recruitment processes have started in 16 sites across NSW, including Wagga Wagga Hospital.

Safe Staffing Levels will be progressively rolled out across other hospitals and departments in a staged approach. The rollout is planned to occur until June 2027.

- * 4162 MENINDEE LAKES—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

(1) Are there further trials being conducted to send pulse flows of New South Wales held environmental water through the Menindee Lakes to improve water quality, salinity and overall river health?

(a) If not, why?

Answer—

I am advised that:

More trials will occur at least up until June 2025, and likely beyond. However, before any further releases are made of the protected-held environmental water from the Northern Basin, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is undertaking an assessment of accounting for losses.

We need to do this work so we can be clear that there are no unintended impacts on NSW or Victorian Murray water users. When finished, the trials will be evaluated, and enduring solutions developed, so that we can continue to deliver river health outcomes, whilst providing for our important irrigation industry in the Murray.

- * 4163 ILLEGAL TOBACCO—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

(1) How many officers are located in the Murray electorate to investigate illegal tobacco?

(2) How many arrests have been instigated as a result of an investigation by your department over the past year?

(3) How many of these arrests have resulted in prosecutions and convictions?

Answer—

I'm advised:

NSW Health takes non-compliance with tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws seriously and has a strong compliance and enforcement program. NSW Health Inspectors proactively visit retailers to monitor for

compliance and take enforcement action when breaches related to tobacco and ecigarette retailing laws are identified.

Health services are not provided on the basis of electorate. There are 2 authorised Inspectors located in the Murrumbidgee Local Health District. There are also 14 dedicated authorised tobacco inspectors in the Ministry of Health who conduct tobacco compliance and monitoring activities across NSW, including in Murrumbidgee.

On 24 October 2024, the NSW Government announced an additional 14 enforcement officers will be recruited to the Ministry of Health to strengthen compliance efforts across the state. Across NSW Health there are approximately 60 staff authorised to undertake inspections.

The Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 does not confer health officers with the power to arrest offenders. NSW Health is responsible for regulating matters relating to public health and will continue to collaborate with other relevant agencies in relation to enforcement.

In the 12 months between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, NSW Health successfully prosecuted 35 cases for non-compliance with tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws.

- * 4164 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION REDUCTION PROGRAM—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to School Administration Reduction Program:

- (1) How many of the 419 schools in 2023-2024 that were a part of this program were in the Murray electorate?
- (2) How many of the 700 schools that will be a part of the program in 2025-2026 are in the Murray electorate?

Answer—

From the Murray Electorate, 13 schools participated in the program in 2023-24. From the Murray Electorate, 26 schools will participate in the expanded program across 2025-2026.

- * 4165 RURAL WATER PRICING – SUPPORT FOR FARMERS—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

What financial support will be provided to farmers if rural water prices increase by 22 percent?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is currently reviewing prices paid by rural water access licence holders for:

- Water management services delivered by the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC)
- Rural bulk water services delivered by WaterNSW.

When setting prices, IPART will ensure that costs are efficient and will take into account the impacts of prices on customers.

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- * 4166 SALT LOADS IN THE WATER TABLES—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to constraints programs currently being rolled out across the Murray electorate to increase environmental flows:

- (1) Were the results of previous studies and reports in relation to shallow water tables in the Murrumbidgee River taken into account?
- (2) If so, what was the weight given to ground water recharge and that it could lead to higher salt loads in the upper reaches of the water tables?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2022 the Reconnecting River Country Program engaged water quality specialists from CSIRO to undertake a risk assessment of potential water quality impacts, including salinity, associated with higher environmental flows in the Murray and Murrumbidgee project areas. This assessment considered previous studies on water quality and salinity across the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

CSIRO's water quality risk assessment is publicly available at:

https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/559548/water-quality-overall-report.pdf

CSIRO concluded that the flows being considered by the Program would be unlikely to have any adverse salinity impacts. This conclusion is primarily because the flows considered by the program are not large enough to lead to significant ground water recharge or inundate enough floodplain area to release large quantities of salt from floodplains. The flows proposed by the Program are relatively modest, well below major flood levels and consistent with flows that occur relatively frequently under current conditions.

The flows being considered by the Program may have some localised salinity benefits, freshening water quality in some creeks and wetlands with naturally high salinity, where the frequency of flows has reduced due to river regulation and consumptive use of water.

- * 4167 ELECTRICAL TRADE UNION - INDUSTRIAL ACTION—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—

In relation to the ongoing industrial action by the Electrical Trade Union (ETU):

- (1) Could the Minister outline what measures or strategies the Government is implementing to mitigate the impact of ETU's industrial action on delays and cost overruns in housing and infrastructure projects?
 - (a) Additionally, how is the Government working with relevant stakeholders to ensure projects proceed with minimal disruption?

Answer—

I am advised that there is no industrial action currently being undertaken by the ETU in relation to energy bargaining.

Questions on housing and infrastructure would be better directed to the relevant Ministers.

- * 4168 HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AFFECTED BY INDUSTRIAL ACTION—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—

In relation to the ongoing industrial action by the Electrical Trade Union (ETU):

- (1) Can the Minister provide data on the number of housing and infrastructure projects affected by ETU industrial action in 2024, including the estimated costs of delays and overruns?

Answer—

I am advised that there is no industrial action currently being undertaken by the ETU in relation to energy bargaining.

Questions on housing and infrastructure would be better directed to the relevant Ministers.

- * 4169 BUILDER CONDUCT AND CLIENT INTIMIDATION—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to builder conduct and client intimidation:

- (1) Over the past two years, how many complaints have been lodged with NSW Fair Trading concerning builders threatening clients and ceasing work?
 - (a) Of these complaints, how many resulted in an investigation and subsequent action?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to complaints, compliance and enforcement can be found in the Department of Customer Service annual report.

- * 4170 INVESTIGATIONS INTO BREACHES OF THE HOME BUILDING ACT—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to Builder's Licenses:

- (1) Can the Minister provide the exact number of investigations conducted into breaches of the Home Building Act over the past 2 years, specifying the outcomes of these investigations?
 - (a) Additionally, can you please provide the exact number of cases that have resulted in the suspension or cancellation of builder licenses within this timeframe, along with the reasons for these actions?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to investigations, compliance and enforcement can be found in the Department of Customer Service annual report.

The Public Register at [Verify.licence.nsw.gov.au](https://www.verify.licence.nsw.gov.au) enables customers to search for information on individual licence holders by name or by licence number, including any disciplinary or enforcement action taken.

- * 4171 STRATA MANAGEMENT LICENCES—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to Strata Management licenses:

- (1) Could the Minister provide the exact number of investigations conducted into misconduct by strata managers over the past two years, including specific figures on completed investigations?
 - (a) Of these investigations, how many have resulted in the loss or suspension of a licence due to confirmed misconduct?

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Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to investigations, compliance and enforcement can be found in the Department of Customer Service annual report.

The Public Register at Verify.licence.nsw.gov.au enables customers to search for information on individual licence holders by name or by licence number, including any disciplinary or enforcement action taken.

- * 4172 MISCONDUCT OF STRATA MANAGERS—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to Strata Management licenses:

- (1) Could the Minister provide the exact number of investigations conducted into misconduct by strata managers over the past two years, including specific figures on completed investigations?
 - (a) Of these investigations, how many have resulted in the loss or suspension of a license due to confirmed misconduct and can you please detail the reasons for license revocations or suspensions in these cases?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information relating to investigations, compliance and enforcement can be found in the Department of Customer Service annual report.

The Public Register at Verify.licence.nsw.gov.au enables customers to search for information on individual licence holders by name or by licence number, including any disciplinary or enforcement action taken.

Reasons for license revocations or suspensions are determined on a case-by-case basis.

- * 4173 TWO NEW SCHOOLS PLANNED FOR WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to the two new schools planned for Willoughby:

- (1) How many students are these two new schools intended to accommodate upon completion?
 - (a) What provisions have been made to ensure the schools can meet the anticipated demand in the area?

Answer—

Please refer to the answer to LA QON 3690.

- * 4174 FLEXIBILITY IN TRADING HOURS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to extended trading hours:

- (1) What steps is the government taking to allow more flexibility in trading hours for small businesses in areas like Willoughby, enabling them to capitalize on the night economy and better serve local residents?
 - (a) Are there plans to streamline the approval process for extended trading hours, especially for businesses in hospitality, retail, and entertainment?

Answer—

(1) The NSW Government's Vibrancy reforms introduce significant opportunities for licensed venues to enhance their offerings, extend trading hours, and contribute to thriving night-time economies. These reforms are designed to balance the needs of businesses, residents, and visitors while supporting live music, cultural events, and economic growth. More information can be accessed at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/business-and-economy/office-of-24-hour-economy-commissioner/vibrancy-reforms>.

(a) More information can be accessed at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/business-and-economy/office-of-24-hour-economy-commissioner/vibrancy-reforms>.

* 4175 NIGHTTIME PROFITABILITY—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to supporting nighttime profitability:

- (1) Has the government considered offering financial incentives, grants, or tax relief specifically for small businesses in the night economy to offset increased operating costs and staffing expenses associated with nighttime trading.
- (2) Could the Minister provide data for the average profitability of the night economy for small businesses in New South Wales over the past 2 years

Answer—

(1) The NSW Government has implemented initiatives to support small businesses operating in the night-time economy, particularly those hosting live music and performances.

Live Music and Performance Venue Incentives - Licensed venues regularly featuring live music or performances can take advantage of incentives, including:

- 80% reduction in annual liquor licence fees and permanent extended trading application fees: the reduction applies to base fees and trading hours risk loadings, easing the financial burden on venues committed to live entertainment
- extended trading hours: eligible venues can access up to two additional hours of trading on nights when live performances are held.

Live Performance Venue Program - A two-stage program offering small to medium size hospitality venues support to build their knowledge and skills to stage live performances in their venue.

- Stage 1 - Live Performance Venue Accelerator Program provides knowledge and skills, networking opportunities and mentorship to run live performances in venues
- Stage 2 - Live Performance Venue Grant Program provides funding to make minor modifications to the venue, purchase sound equipment and cover programming and marketing activity costs. Stage 2 commences in February 2025.

Uptown District Acceleration Program - This program offers teams of businesses representing their local area ('District Teams'), including small businesses in the night-time economy, two initiatives:

- Uptown Accelerator - provides a capacity building program to help District Teams establish their district brand and identity, build their capabilities and networks and connect with potential partnership and revenue opportunities
- Uptown Grant Program - provides funding to help District Teams effectively coordinate their business and partnership activities and build consumer engagement with their district and local businesses.

(2) Insight into business profitability is currently not available.

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* 4176 POWER OUTAGE SUPPORT PAYMENTS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) Can the Minister advise when Broken Hill, Central Darling Shire and The Unincorporated LGAs residents and businesses started receiving power outage support payments?
- (2) How many residents have claimed the power outage support payments as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (3) How many small businesses have claimed the power outage support payments as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (4) What are the total funds distributed to residents and businesses as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (5) Will workers at CBH and Perilya forced to take paid leave have their annual leave be refunded or compensated?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Customers started receiving support payments from 6 November 2024 following the successful pilot of both grants.
- (2) From 6 November to 12 November 2024 inclusive, Service NSW received 7,388 applications from individuals.
- (3) From 6 November to 12 November 2024 inclusive, Service NSW received 330 applications for the business support grant.
- (4) The total funds distributed to residents and businesses from 6 November to 12 November 2024 inclusive was \$1,065,600.
- (5) The NSW Government is supporting individuals affected by the Far West NSW power outage event with a one-off payment of \$200. Employees who experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the event may also be eligible to receive the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance, which is a short term income support payment.

* 4177 LIVERPOOL RANGE WIND FARM—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

Can the Minister advise:

- (1) When will construction commence on The Liverpool Range wind farm?
- (2) Will the increase in capacity affect the planned transmission lines to the Merotherie Energy Hub?
- (3) What road upgrades are planned to handle the additional heavy vehicle traffic and wide loads?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Approval from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is required before Tilt Renewables (the applicant) can commence construction.
- (2) No. The Energy Corporation of NSW already accounted for the increased capacity of the Liverpool Range Wind Farm.
- (3) The required road upgrades are listed in the wind farm's consolidated consent (under Appendix 6), which is publicly available at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/liverpool-range-wind-farm.

* 4178 RANDOM BREATH TEST NUMBERS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many random breath tests were conducted:
 - (a) In 2022,
 - (b) In 2023,
 - (c) So far in 2024, as at 1 Nov.

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
 - (a) 3,815,699
 - (b) 3,508,537
 - (c) 2,635,311 (as at 31 October 2024)

Note: Random Breath Test data is sourced from the NSW Police Force Random Breath Test database. Data is accurate as at the point in time it is extracted from the database.

* 4179 STORM AND POWER OUTAGES—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

With respect to the recovery from the storm and power outages in Broken Hill and surrounding local government areas, can the Minister advise:

- (1) What is the total number of emergency services personnel deployed to Broken Hill to assist as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (2) What is the total number of emergency services vehicles deployed to Broken Hill to assist as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (3) How many back-up generators were sent as at 12 Nov 2024?
- (4) As at 12 November 2024, what is the total cost of the recovery effort?
- (5) Will Transgrid contribute to those costs?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 46, including 12 local operational emergency services members.
- (2) 20, including 3 aircraft.
- (3) This question should be referred to the Minister for Energy.
- (4) The total cost of the recovery effort is shared across multiple agencies, including the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and as a consequence, global figures are not available.
- (5) This question should be referred to the Minister for Energy.

* 4180 TRANSGRID BREACH OF CONTRACT—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

With respect to Transgrid's fine of up to \$90 million for 'breach of contract' to supply power to Broken Hill and surrounding LGAs:

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- (1) Will the funds be directed to the communities of Broken Hill, Central Darling Shire and The Unincorporated LGAs to assist residents and businesses recover?
- (2) Will funds be used to secure future power supply and back ups to Broken Hill and surrounding towns of Menindee, Tibooburra, White Cliffs, Packsaddle, Milparinka and Sunset Strip?
- (3) If not, what will the funds be used for?

Answer—

This question should be directed to the Minister for Energy.

- * 4181 FUNDING FOR ROAD PROJECTS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Can the Minister advise the total amounts for each LGA in Regional New South Wales:
 - (a) Funding from the Regional and Local Road Repair Program in 2022-23?
 - (b) Funding from the Regional Emergency Road Repair fund in 2023?
 - (c) Funding from the Regional Emergency Road Repair fund so far in 2024?
 - (d) Funding from the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program in the 2024-25 budget?

Answer—

*This answer can be viewed on the Parliament's website at Questions and Answers Tracking under Attachment A.

- * 4182 500 NEW JOBS FOR PARAMEDICS - BUDGET COMMITMENT—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to the Labor election commitment for extra 500 intensive and extended care paramedics in regional New South Wales, can the Minister advise for each local health district:

- (1) As at 1 Nov 2024, how many intensive care paramedics have entered service?
- (2) As at 1 Nov 2024, how many extended care paramedics have entered service?

Answer—

I'm advised:

NSW Ambulance does not deploy its workforce based on Local Health District boundaries.

- * 4183 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

With respect to the Community Building Partnership Grants:

- (1) When will the 2025 round open?
- (2) Will the eligibility, guidelines and total funding be the same as 2024?

Answer—

I am advised:

Details regarding the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program are available in the link below:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-building-partnership>

- * 4184 DRUG SUMMIT—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to the Drug Summit:

- (1) What was the criteria for holding the regional forums in Lismore and Griffith?
- (2) What other locations were also considered for these forums?

Answer—

I refer the member to the response to LA 3712.

- * 4185 SEXTORTION CASES—Ms Jacqui Scruby to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) What data is available for the number of sextortion cases that have been received by New South Wales state authorities, such as the Police, over the last 24 months, broken down by electorate/LGA/police district?
- (2) What data is available for the number of sextortion cases that have been successfully prosecuted by New South Wales state authorities over the last 24 months, broken down by electorate/LGA/police district?
- (3) Is the Government considering any reform to state laws to deal with the rise in sextortion cases?
 - (a) If so, what specifically?
- (4) What action is the New South Wales Government taking in tandem with Commonwealth Government counterparts to deal with the rise in sextortion cases?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Statistics relating specifically to 'sextortion' cannot be extracted from NSW Police Force databases.
- (2) Refer to answer to question 1.
- (3) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney General.
- (4) The Cybercrime Squad works in collaboration with the Australian Federal Police and interstate policing partners under the Joint Policing Coordination Centre to utilise the powers, experience, investigative and intelligence capabilities of all Australian policing jurisdictions to disrupt cybercrimes such as sextortion. The Cybercrime Squad also collaborates with the e-Safety Commissioner, Meta Platforms Inc, Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, Scamwatch, Australasian Telecommunication Investigation Association, Australian Signals Directorate, ANZPAA Cybercrime Coordination Committee, and other government agencies to help combat cybercrime and sextortion offences.

- * 4186 MARINE LIFE ENTANGLED IN SHARK NETS—Ms Jacqui Scruby to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) What is the phone number that a member of the public can call if a marine animal is entangled in a shark net?
- (2) Is that number available and/or staffed 24/7?
- (3) If that number is not answered, who do people call?
- (4) Is a member of the public or authority or community group, including Surf Lifesavers, legally able to remove animals that are entangled, including cutting shark nets if required?

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- (5) How can the public partake in the consultation on shark management strategy currently being conducted with councils, if at all?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) Members of the public can call the 'Fisheries Watch' number on 1800 043 536.
- (2) People can make a report online or the phone 24/7, and an SMS will then be sent to Fisheries Officers in the relevant area with the information provided
- (3) N/A
- (4) Interfering with set fishing gear is an offence under cl.75 of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2019 and cl. 5.7 of the 2024 Management Plan for the Shark Meshing Program.
- (5) Consultation is currently occurring between Councils and the NSW Government as announced in July 2024.

- * 4187 NEW ZEALAND NURSES—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many vacancies are being filled up with those from New Zealand in our hospital as nurses?
- (2) How many full time equivalents for nurses do we have at the Bathurst Health Service as of 1/11/2024?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Western NSW Local Health District does not maintain data about the country of origin of new employees. Bathurst Health Service has not directly employed any new nurses who have identified as transferring from the New Zealand healthcare system.
- (2) The current nursing full time equivalent at Bathurst Health Service is 262. This consists of registered nurses, enrolled nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing.

- * 4188 JENOLAN CAVES ROAD NETWORK REPAIR—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

In relation to Transport for NSW's repair of Jenolan Caves road network:

- (1) Can you please provide an update on the works being carried out on Jenolan Caves Road?
 - (a) What is the predicted completion date?
 - (b) What is the budget for this project?
- (2) Can you please provide an update on the works being carried out on Two Mile Road?
 - (a) What is the predicted completion date?
 - (b) What is the budget for this project?
- (3) Can you please provide an update on the works being carried out on Five Mile Road?
 - (a) What is the predicted completion date?
 - (b) What is the budget for this project?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Work to remediate Jenolan Caves Road at Hampton was completed in July 2024, two months ahead of schedule. Following completion, critical remediation work started at Carlos Creek near Hampton.
- (a) Work at Carlos Creek is expected to be completed ahead of schedule in December 2024. Asphaltting this section of road will follow completion.
- (b) Transport for NSW's repair works to Jenolan Caves Road are funded under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Carlos Creek failure occurred due to a rain event in April 2024 and has been declared a natural disaster under ARGN1119. The estimated project cost is around \$15 million.

- (2) Two Mile Slope Remediation Project, carpark 1 slope, commenced in August 2024. Remediation works include eight failures across multiple land tenures, including Transport for NSW, Oberon Council, National Parks and Jenolan Caves Trust. Environmental approval for the works was complex and required Crown Solicitor advice on Native Title matters. These were resolved and the Review of Environmental Factors was determined on November 2024, allowing restoration works to commence on 20 November 2024.
- (a) The expected completion date is February 2026. The whole area remains highly unstable. A minor rainfall event occurred between 26 to 30 September 2024, causing further failure at a location known as the Fflint site. Jenolan Caves Trust requires access to maintain its sewerage treatment plant through this site. Transport for NSW staff and contractors were redirected to assess and intervene at this location.
- (b) Transport for NSW's repair works to Jenolan Caves Road are funded under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The awarded contract for the current slope work is \$55 million, but this is only part of the total cost of the repairs. The total Essential Public Asset Restoration claim is \$72.1 million under the natural disaster declaration AGRN1025.

The more recent failures at Carlos Creek and surrounds that occurred in April 2024 will be estimated and claimed under natural disaster declaration AGRN1119. The Essential Public Asset Restoration claims for ARGN1119 are yet to be fully scoped and costed.

- (3) The Five Mile section of Jenolan Caves Road has been closed since 2021. A contractor was appointed to undertake repair works in September 2023.

On 5 April 2024, further rain caused significantly more damage to Five Mile. All work at Five Mile has stopped while further investigations are carried out to fully assess the additional damage and understand the scope and feasibility of repairs.

The Fflint failure site is located on Five Mile Road, and the slope is around 330 metres in length. Emergency works are underway to stabilise a critical 10 metre section of the slope. This work is progressing separately to the major failure. Restoration of this slope and culvert is critical for Jenolan Caves Trust to access its sewerage treatment plant.

- (a) The completion date of Five Mile is currently unknown. The long-term viability of Five Mile is being considered.
- (b) A budget has not been developed due to extensive damage and further consideration of options.

For the Fflint failure - completion of a Form 306 under Natural Disaster declaration ARGN1119 is underway. Project costs are estimated to be around \$5 million.

* 4189 NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE OFFICER NUMBERS—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

As of the 1 December 2024:

- (1) What is the authorised strength of the New South Wales Police Force?

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- (2) What is the current strength of the New South Wales Police Force?
- (3) How many police stations are operating below authorised capacity across New South Wales?
- (4) Can you please list these stations including the authorised capacity and current capacity?
- (5) How many vacancies are there in unsworn roles?
- (6) How many officers are currently on:
 - (a) Sick leave?
 - (b) Maternity / Paternity leave?
 - (c) Injured?
 - (d) Long service leave?
 - (e) Any other forms of leave?
 - (f) Suspended with pay?
 - (g) Suspended without pay?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Police Force publishes information regarding staff numbers and strength in its annual report.
- (2) Refer to answer to question 1.
- (3) Police officers are generally allocated to Police Area Commands (PACs), Police Districts (PDs) or Specialist Commands, not to individual police stations. All police positions attached to PACs and PDs are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. Staffing at any police station can fluctuate daily in response to crime trends and other intelligence-led operational requirements. All local resources are supplemented by specialist police (highway patrol, major crime squads, covert resources), which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.
- (4) Refer to answer to question 3.
- (5) Refer to answer to question 1.
- (6) The table below shows the number of officers on leave as of 15 November 2024:

Leave Type	Number of officers on leave
Sick leave	267
Maternity/Paternity leave	375
Injured	1,537
Long Service leave	121
Any other forms of leave	807
Suspended with pay	20
Suspended without pay	3

Note: The number of police officers on leave fluctuates daily, and alongside usual seasonal variations, is also impacted by police operations and global events. The figures above are for indicative purposes only. The number of police officers on leave as of 1 December 2024 was not available at time of writing. Figures as of 15 November 2024 are provided above.

- * 4190 ATTESTATION CLASSES—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to attestation classes from the Goulburn Police Academy:

- (1) For the following years can you please list each class that attested and the number of graduates from each class:
- (a) 2018?
 - (b) 2019?
 - (c) 2020?
 - (d) 2021?
 - (e) 2022?
 - (f) 2023?
 - (g) 2024?
- (2) Can you please outline any changes to class formats that has occurred in the past two years and the reasoning for these changes?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The table below shows attestation figures for each year since 2018:

Year	Class No.	Attestation Date	Number attested	Year Total
2018	333	27.04.18	234	737
	334	17.08.18	246	
	335	07.12.18	257	
2019	336	22.02.19	201	1,007
	337	03.05.19	261	
	338	23.08.19	269	
	*	10.09.19	1	
	339	13.12.19	275	
2020	340	09.04.20	263	1,000

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	341	19.06.20	159	
	342	14.08.20	197	
	343	09.10.20	192	
	344	04.12.20	189	
2021	345	26.02.21	194	1,217
	346	23.04.21	204	
	347	18.06.21	192	
	348	13.08.21	182	
	349	08.10.21	226	
	350	03.12.21	218	
	*	17.12.21	1	
2022	351	04.03.22	193	1,046
	352	29.04.22	196	
	*	09.05.22	6	
	353	24.06.22	195	
	*	04.07.22	6	
	354	19.08.22	154	
	355	14.10.22	145	
	356	09.12.22	151	
2023	357	28.04.2023	221	656
	358	23.06.2023	97	
	359	18.08.2023	159	
	360	8.12.2023	179	
2024	361	1.03.2024	158	437

	362	21.06.2024	169
	363	16.08.2024	110
	364	6.12.2024	To be confirmed

(2) Changes to the number of class intakes are reflected above.

* 4191 NEW GRADUATE NURSES—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Is there an end date for new graduate clinical support officers?
- (2) Has the funding been removed?
- (3) If no longer being supported – why not?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Western NSW Local Health District does not have any Clinical Support Officers (CSOs) for new graduate nurses.

There are however Clinical Nurse Educators employed throughout the District who provide clinical education and support for all nurses including new graduates.

* 4192 NURSES STAFFING LEVELS—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many nurses have been rolled out across New South Wales for “safe staffing levels”?
- (2) Which hospitals have they been employed in?
- (3) How many have been engaged in the central west?
- (4) When will the 2480 staff needed be deployed?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Safe Staffing Levels reform is set to boost the number of frontline healthcare workers in NSW public hospitals and is one of the most significant reforms to the way we staff our hospitals in decades. As at November, more than 100 FTE have commenced as part of the Safe Staffing Levels rollout.

Safe Staffing Levels commenced rollout in level 5 and 6 emergency departments and rollout is currently being facilitated at Liverpool Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital, Lismore, Port Macquarie, Bankstown-Lidcombe, Campbelltown, Coffs Harbour, Royal Prince Alfred, John Hunter, Tamworth, Children's Hospital Westmead, Gosford, Nepean, St George, and Wagga Wagga hospitals. We have started to see additional nurses in the emergency departments at these hospitals as recruitment progresses.

On 18 November 2024, Western NSW Local Health District was formally advised to commence implementation of Safe Staffing Levels in the Orange Health Service Emergency Department.

Safe Staffing Levels will be progressively rolled out across other hospitals and departments in a staged approach. The rollout is planned to occur until June 2027.

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* 4193 LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION - PREMIER—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Premier—

In relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation – Playground and Park Upgrades:

- (1) Can you please provide a list of what each local government area was allocated?
- (2) Can you please outline the reasoning behind this allocation decision?

Answer—

I am advised;

This question should be directed to the Special Minister of State.

* 4194 LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Local Government—

In relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation – Playground and Park Upgrades:

- (1) Can you please provide a list of what each local government area was allocated?
- (2) Can you please outline the reasoning behind this allocation decision?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Special Minister of State.

* 4195 NURSES PAY AWARD—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Does the Government plan to address the 15% pay rise that the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association has been calling on?
- (2) Has the NSW Health and Treasury considered the report written by Deloitte, and commissioned by the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, that researched savings that could be made through NSW Health that could cover wage increases and provide savings back to the Government?
- (3) What aspects of the report will the Government be adopting? Why/Why not?

Answer—

I'm advised:

With respect to the 15% pay rise:

The NSW Government and the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) have engaged in intensive negotiations over 4 weeks as recommended by the Industrial Relations Commission (Commission).

The parties reached in-principle agreement on the NSWNMA's non-wage related claims.

We worked through a range of options to fund and deliver a new increased wage offer and we have asked the Commission to progress the matter to arbitration.

With respect to the Deloitte Rapid Business Case:

On 24 June 2024, the NSWNMA published on its website a report titled 'Rapid Business Case supporting submission for the NSWNMA 2024 Award Claim' (the report).

The Ministry met with the NSWNMA to discuss the report.

* 4196 ILLAWARRA -SHOALHAVEN DENTAL VAN SERVICES—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to the NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program launched in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) in October 2023:

- (1) Can you list the 15 schools visited in Illawarra – Shoalhaven over the first 12 months of the initiative?
- (2) In relation to (1) can you list the number of students that received services for each school?
- (3) For how long did the van provide services at each school?
- (4) Can you provide a breakdown the number of services delivered:
 - (a) On-site dental check-ups?
 - (b) Cleans?
 - (c) X-rays?
 - (d) Other preventive treatments?
 - (e) Education on good oral hygiene practices?
- (5) What was the cost to deliver this service for the first 12 months?
- (6) Why were only 15 schools visited during a whole year?
- (7) Will this service continue for the next 12 months?
- (8) If so, will the same or other schools be visited?
- (9) How did you determine which schools were visited and how will you determine future visits?
- (10) Will students see the van more than once during their seven years of primary school?
- (11) How many vans service the state under this or other initiatives, and what support is there for students outside the Illawarra and Shoalhaven?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District started the Primary School Mobile Dental Program in October 2023 and has visited 15 schools and provided dental care for more than 1,500 children in its first 12 months, with plans to continue to expand the reach of the program over the coming years.

The District's mobile dental van has visited schools in Shoalhaven, Northern, Central and Southern Illawarra areas, and prioritises the most disadvantaged schools, based on the schools' Index of Socio-Educational Advantage. The amount of time a van spends at a school depends on the number of children enrolled and the participation rate. More information about the program is on the NSW Health website <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/oralhealth/primaryschool dental/Pages/default.aspx>.

All children under 18 years of age can access free dental care provided by NSW Health at public dental clinics. Parents can contact NSW Health Public Dental Services on 1800 679 336 to request care for their children.

The Australian Government Child Dental Benefits Schedule provides up to \$1,095 per 2-year period for eligible children to access dental care, and can be used at private dentists as well as in the NSW Health public dental service.

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* 4197 SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With reference to Question 3949 and the Answer on 13 November 2024:

- (1) Does the Government plan to implement free lunches for prep through year 6 students at state schools?
- (2) What school programs are currently available:
 - (a) For the State?
 - (b) For regional New South Wales?
 - (c) For the Kiama electorate?
- (3) How are you ensuring any food in canteens or school programs are minimising sugars and unhealthy diets?
- (4) Can you provide an estimate of how many students attend schools without lunches?
- (5) Can you report on and provide an update on the department's Healthy School Canteens Strategy?
- (6) What is the Healthy School Canteen Strategy and where can this be downloaded or viewed?
- (7) Are schools in the Kiama electorate meeting the Food and Drink Criteria that underpins the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy?
- (8) How many schools in New South Wales have passed the menu check and received a 'Great Choice' badge, certified and displayed in their canteen?
- (9) How many schools in the Kiama electorate have passed the menu check?
- (10) Can you list the last ten schools that undertook the department's menu check service and free canteen menu assessment?

Answer—

Across NSW, the Minns Labor Government is expanding the number of public schools participating in the School Breakfast 4 Health Program from 500 to 1,000, including in regional NSW.

The Healthy School Canteen Strategy, a collaboration between the NSW Ministry of Health and the Department of Education, aligns with the broader NSW Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Strategy 2022–2032. Information on the strategy can be accessed on the Healthy School Canteens webpage at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/school-community/healthy-canteens>.

Verification of compliance with the Food and Drink Criteria is conducted by the Healthy Food Information Service under contract with NSW Health. Further information can be requested from NSW Health.

* 4198 CAPACITY OF PRINCES HIGHWAY—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

With respect to the capacity of the Princes Highway from Helensburgh to Ulladulla:

- (1) What are the pinch points on the Princes Highway concerning congestion between Helensburgh and Ulladulla?
- (2) Is the Princes Highway at capacity at any point between Helensburgh and Ulladulla?
- (3) If no, does the government have forecasts of when the Princes Highway will reach capacity?
- (4) What is the government doing to address capacity issues on the Princes Highway?
- (5) What data does your agency use to determine capacity and how is that data collected?

- (6) What conversations, if any, have you had with the Minister for Planning about capacity issues on the Princes Highway?
- (7) Have you or your agency had any correspondence with any stakeholder indicating the Princes highway is at capacity?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is planning several projects to increase network capacity, cater for future traffic demands and improve safety for road users. It is also investigating broader transport solutions to improve multi-modal connectivity between Shellharbour and Wollongong and reduce the reliance of private vehicles and the M1 Princes Motorway. Several upgrades to the Princes Highway are under investigation, including:

- Mount Ousley interchange project - improving safety, increased capacity for future traffic growth, and improved access and travel time between the M1 Princes Motorway and Wollongong.
- Mount Ousley Safety and Resilience improvements (Planning) - funding allocated to carry out development activities and preparing a business case to improve safety for all road users, including freight, and resilience of the M1 Princes Motorway at Mount Ousley.
- M1 Princes Motorway - Dapto Ramps - investigation of new south-facing ramps at Dapto to connect to the M1 Princes Motorway.
- Nowra bypass and transport improvements - initiatives to reduce congestion and support population growth, such as options for a bypass of Nowra and network and transport improvements, as well as improved access to public transport or active transport options.
- Princes Highway Upgrade Program - between Nowra and Victorian border.

Traffic data is typically collected on a project basis. Most recently, Transport for NSW collected traffic volume data as part of the Princes Highway Dapto ramps project, and Nowra bypass and transport improvements project. The data is collected using Automatic Tube Counts and camera technology and is compiled with traffic count data previously collected to understand how growth rates are changing over time. Capacity is estimated using various traffic modelling solutions and by visually monitoring the network and engaging with community and stakeholders outside of the organisation.

- * 4199 VOLUNTEERING—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—

Following your endorsement of the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020-2030:

- (1) What initiatives is the Government conducting to encourage volunteering in New South Wales?
- (2) What changes has the Government made to the Volunteering Strategy since a 10-year strategic plan was launched by the former government?
- (3) What red tape and regulations has the Government identified and cut to make it easier for people to volunteer?
- (4) What steps is the Government taking to identify barriers to volunteering such as unnecessary regulation and red tape that may prevent people joining volunteer organisations?
- (5) Is red tape and regulation a barrier to volunteerism in New South Wales?
 - (a) If not, why not?

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Answer—

Please refer to correspondence sent to the Kiama electorate office on 3 April, 2024 which address many of these questions.

I am advised:

Key initiatives being implemented under the NSW Volunteering Strategy 2020 - 2030 to encourage volunteering include:

- NSW Volunteering Webpages and the NSW Volunteer Recruitment Portal on the Government's master website, www.nsw.gov.au/volunteering.
- Development of tools and resources, including the NSW Volunteer Charter (released in November 2023), and the NSW Youth Volunteering Guidelines (released in May 2024).
- Ongoing support of the annual NSW Volunteering Conference and NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.
- NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative, with the release of the NSW State of Volunteering Report (December 2023), and five State of Volunteering Focus Group Reports (16 September 2024).
- Sector networking and collaboration - The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) works closely with a wide range of government and non-government stakeholders across the NSW Volunteering Sector, to encourage volunteering and respond to the sector's diverse needs.

In 2023 the NSW Volunteering Strategy was refreshed and relaunched, including updated data on the scale, value and impact of the sector. Updates were made to reflect a greater diversity of the sector's volunteers and opportunities.

The NSW Government is making it easier to volunteer.

For example, volunteers can renew Working with Children checks online as part of a collaboration between Service NSW and the Office of the Children's Guardian. NSW Police have also enabled volunteer involving organisations to register and access more affordable \$15 checks for volunteers which are accessed via a system generated link.

I have also written to the Federal Minister for Social Services to signal the NSW Government's willingness to work with the Commonwealth Government to improve the National Criminal History Check process for the volunteering sector

The NSW Government is consulting with the State's Volunteering Sector through the NSW State of Volunteering Research Initiative and the NSW Volunteering Taskforce which have identified diverse experiences with recruiting and retaining volunteers.

The Government is also working in collaboration with sector stakeholders to improve the volunteering journey. Sector priorities are being considered in line with the sector's scale, diversity and complex needs.

* 4200 BREASTSCREEN NSW—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to the BreastScreen NSW initiative:

- (1) Will the Government expand free breast screening every 2 years to women under 40?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (2) Will the Government expand free breast screening every 2 years to women under 40 with a family history of breast cancer?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) What support is there for women under 40 who cannot afford a breast screening?
- (4) Can you report on the 50 screening clinics and 15 mobile vans that visit over 200 locations?

- (5) What is the cost of the mobile van service?
- (6) How many screenings have the mobile van services delivered each month for the last twelve months and can you provide a breakdown by van, location and electorate?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1 - 3) The age range eligibility for BreastScreen services is set by BreastScreen Australia and based on current evidence weighing up the benefits and harms of screening.

BreastScreen Australia services are for asymptomatic women. Women with a family history of breast cancer should discuss their circumstances with their GP to determine the care that they require. The Australian Government provides funding under the Medicare Benefits Schedule for women with breast symptoms to access mammograms and ultrasounds outside the BreastScreen program.

- (4 - 6) Each local health district records the number of screens that they undertake and the locations of those screens. Locations for clinics and mobile vans are available on the BreastScreen NSW website. The planning of van sites is arranged by the districts and considers the eligible population, available locations and amenities, and the time since the last visit.

The annual operational cost is funded through an activity-based funding model ie by the number of screens performed across the local health district.

The number of screenings delivered by mobile vans varies by month, location, travel distance and servicing schedules. BreastScreen NSW does not report by electorate. In 2023, there were 373,104 screenings, the highest level of screening activity in the history of the program. About 25% of all screens undertaken in NSW are delivered in a mobile screening location.

- * 4201 KIAMA TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Explicit to the Kiama Electorate:

- (1) How many active Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) participants exist?
- (2) Can you provide the total dollar value of passenger fare subsidies provided to customers each month for the last twelve months?
- (3) How many subsidised trips have been taken in a wheelchair accessible taxi each month for the last twelve months?
- (4) How many wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) Driver Incentive Scheme payments have been issued each month for the last twelve months?
- (5) What is the average wait time for WAT transport?
- (6) How many complaints have you received in relation to taxi services, subsidised or otherwise, since managing the transport portfolio?
- (7) In relation to (1) to (6), can you broadly comment on how the above compares with other regional electorates?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) There are 402 active Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme participants.
- (2) The total dollar value of passenger fare subsidies for Financial Year 2023-24 is \$208,107.61 (includes all subsidised taxi trip s). Total subsidy paid:

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July 2023: \$20,911.36
August 2023: \$21,317.23
September 2023: \$20,292.90
October 2023: \$20,758.09
November 2023: \$20,860.45
December 2023: \$14,509.19
January 2024: \$12,257.27
February 2024: \$14,561.97
March 2024: \$14,291.54
April 2024: \$14,709.57
May 2024: \$18,363.18
June 2024: \$13,272.86.

- (3) There were 1,880 subsidised trips taken in a Wheelchair Accessible Taxi over Financial Year 2023-24.

Total subsidy trips in a Wheelchair Accessible Taxi:

July 2023: 186
August 2023: 165
September 2023: 126
October 2023: 145
November 2023: 139
December 2023: 146
January 2024: 176
February 2024: 166
March 2024: 170
April 2024: 133
May 2024: 175
June 2024: 153

- (4) There were \$31,020 Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Scheme payments issued for Financial Year 2023-24. Total Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Scheme payments:

July 2023: \$3,069.00
August 2023: \$2,722.50
September 2023: \$2,079.00
October 2023: \$2,392.50
November 2023: \$2,393.50
December 2023: \$2,409.00
January 2024: \$2,904.00
February 2024: \$2,739.00

March 2024: \$2,805.00

April 2024: \$2,194.50

May 2024: \$2,887.50

June 2024: \$2,524.50

- (5) Transport for NSW does not hold this information.
- (6) I have received seven items of ministerial correspondence containing complaints in relation to taxi services in Kiama.
- (7) Each electorate has a unique population size and varying taxi demand. Therefore, I cannot make an accurate comparison between Kiama and other electorates.

* 4202 DISABILITY INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

With respect to your disability inclusion portfolio, can you:

- (1) Outline all available grants and/or funding in your portfolio that are currently available with links to applications or supports?
- (2) Provide a list of grants that have been administered during your time as a Minister?
- (3) Provide a list of grants or funding to support disability advocacy with links to those programs?
- (4) Provide a list of grants or funding to support disability employment with links to those programs?
- (5) Provide a list of grants or funding to support motivational speakers and supporters to people with disabilities and links to those programs?
- (6) Provide a list of grants or funding to support events that promote disability inclusion and links to those events?
- (7) Is your department complying with Disability Inclusion Action Plans?
 - (a) If yes, how are you ensuring compliance across your department and how are you determining this?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (8) Outline what engagement you have had with other departments about compliance with their disability inclusion action plans?
- (9) List the total amount of funding available for disability grants and supports from your department each year for the last four years?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Disability Advocacy Futures Program: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/disability-and-inclusion/disability-advocacy-futures-program.html>
- (2) The Disability Advocacy Futures Program (including the Special Purposes and Projects and Sector Development grant program).
- (3) The Disability Advocacy Futures Program: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/service-providers/grants/disability-advocacy-futures-program.html>
- (4) The NSW Government has funded Get Skilled Access to support disability employment by providing targeted programs to various agencies
- (5) The Disability Inclusion portfolio does not provide funding for these activities.

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- (6) The Disability Inclusion portfolio does not provide funding for these activities.
- (7) Yes, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) is complying with its Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). DCJ has a current DIAP and will launch a new DIAP in 2025.

DCJ has reported on its DIAP in the department's most recent annual report and will report on it in future annual reports (<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/annual-reports.html>). DCJ has also provided progress reports on projects within its DIAP which can be found here: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/community-inclusion/disability-and-inclusion/disability-inclusion-action-plan.html>

- (8) DCJ, with the Disability Council NSW, is responsible for monitoring the implementation of public authorities' DIAPs and providing DIAP guidelines. DCJ has also prepared webinars and reporting guidelines for public authorities. DCJ is working closely with other public authorities to implement a streamlined reporting framework and tool.
- (9) See the table below for disability grants and supports administered by DCJ (all figures are exclusive of GST):

Programs	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Disability Advocacy Futures Program (DAFP)		\$5,792,662	\$13,772,544	\$15,333,572
Voluntary Out of Home Care – Rent and Board	\$1,570,900	\$1,712,209	\$1,683,073	\$1,122,828
NDIS Mental Health	\$1,101,500	\$1,101,500		
Transitional Advocacy Funding Supplement	\$11,458,033	\$7,133,418		
Total:	\$14,130,433	\$15,739,789	\$15,455,617	\$16,456,400

The NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC) also provides support to people with disability and older people. The table below outlines NSW Government funding for the ADC as a whole, to provide safeguards against abuse, neglect and exploitation for adults with disability and older people:

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
NSW Ageing and Disability Commission (ADC)	\$5.4M	\$5.4M	\$5.5M	\$7.3M

* 4203 TOOLIJOOA PASSING LOOP—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Will your Government build the Toolijooa Passing Loop this term?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised

This is a matter for the Minister for Transport.

* 4204 RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY NATURAL DISASTER TRANSPORT SUBSIDY—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

With respect to the Rural Assistance Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy:

- (1) When did the change in the subsidy (i.e. one claim only each financial year) come into effect?
- (2) When was this information updated on the Grants and Funding website?
- (3) Did you notify pending applicants of this change?
 - (a) If so, how?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (4) How many applications were pending or being considered when the change came into effect?
- (5) Will the government honour earlier claims submitted before any limitations were made official?
- (6) Does this change and any lack of communication perceived or otherwise warrant further investigation by your department?
- (7) If more than one flooding or natural disaster event occurs in a financial year, what additional support is in place for impacted farmers?
- (8) What was the rationale for the limitation of one subsidy each financial year?
- (9) Noting statutory compliance with the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (PPIP) 1988, how much assistance has been provided through the fund to the Kiama electorate each round for the last five rounds (2024: September, May, March, February, January) and can you report this by local government areas?

Answer—

These questions should be directed to the Minister for Agriculture.

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(Paper No. 88)

* 4205 PUBLIC SCHOOL PEST CONTROL—Mrs Tina Ayyad to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Can the Minister advise:

- (1) Whether the following schools have received pest control treatment between 1 October 2024 and 11 November 2024:
 - (a) Moorebank High School?
 - (b) Newbridge Heights Public School?

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- (c) Nuwarra Public School?
 - (d) Holsworthy Public School?
 - (e) Holsworthy High School?
 - (f) Hammondville Public School?
 - (g) Wattle Grove Public School?
 - (h) Gulyangarri Public School?
 - (i) Liverpool Boys High School?
 - (j) Liverpool Girls High School?
 - (k) Liverpool Public School?
 - (l) Warwick Farm Public School?
 - (m) Mainsbridge School?
 - (n) Marsden Road Public School?
 - (o) Liverpool West Public School?
 - (p) Casula Public School?
 - (q) Lurnea Public School?
 - (r) Lurnea High School?
- (2) Whether fly screens have been installed between 1 October 2024 and 11 November 2024:
- (a) Moorebank High School?
 - (b) Newbridge Heights Public School?
 - (c) Nuwarra Public School?
 - (d) Holsworthy Public School?
 - (e) Holsworthy High School?
 - (f) Hammondville Public School?
 - (g) Wattle Grove Public School?
 - (h) Gulyangarri Public School?
 - (i) Liverpool Boys High School?
 - (j) Liverpool Girls High School?
 - (k) Liverpool Public School?
 - (l) Warwick Farm Public School?
 - (m) Mainsbridge School?
 - (n) Marsden Road Public School?
 - (o) Liverpool West Public School?
 - (p) Casula Public School?
 - (q) lurnea Public School?
 - (r) Lurnea High School?

Answer—

The Department of Education has been working with NSW Health to determine the most effective ways to manage the mosquito outbreak, and considered the action plans of Sydney Water, local council and the Public Health Unit.

NSW Health advised that schools within two kilometres of the Liverpool Water Recycling Plant were the most severely impacted by the infestation, and these schools were prioritised for pest control accordingly. Flyscreens were also installed where needed.

- * 4206 SUPPORT FOR CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

Can the Minister advise of any support for Crown Land Management of Commons for rural and remote communities in Barwon, including maintenance and upkeep?

Answer—

I am advised:

Crown Lands provides the following insurance coverage free of charge to Commons managed by a Trust - public liability, property, volunteers, consequential loss and cyber liability.

Commons Trusts are supported through the Reserve Manager website, which provides tools and resources to assist them in their role as land managers.

Commons Trusts also participated in the 2020 - 2023 Governance development program, which was developed in collaboration with the Institute of Community Directors Australia.

- * 4207 VETERINARY SERVICE SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Can the Minister advise whether there are plans for an increase in support of veterinary support to rural and remote communities considering the increased demand for veterinary services facing small councils with increasing amounts of stray animals?

Answer—

The NSW Government response to the Portfolio Committee No.4 - Regional NSW - Veterinary workforce shortage in New South Wales (the Inquiry) was tabled on 30 September 2024.

In the response to the Inquiry the NSW Government committed to investigating in barriers and consider options to help attract veterinarians to private practices that focus on livestock, ensuring regional areas have sufficient large animal practitioners to support primary producers.

Work is already underway to meet this commitment with the NSW Government recently announcing an expansion of the Welcome Experience program to include veterinary professionals and provide support to relocate to rural and regional communities: [The Welcome Experience | NSW Government](#).

The NSW Government also made an election commitment to review the Companion Animals Act 1998 (CA Act). Matters concerning stray companion animals will be considered as part of that review.

- * 4208 SUPPORT FOR NURSES TO BECOME NURSE PRACTITIONERS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can the Minister advise of any support provided by the Government for existing Registered Nurses working for Local Health Districts in Barwon to become Nurse Practitioners, should they wish to do so?

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Answer—

I am advised:

I refer the Member to the responses to LA 4160.

- * 4209 AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS - COOTAMUNDRA—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to Ambulance paramedics across the Cootamundra Electorate:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise the total number of Ambulance paramedics stationed across the Cootamundra electorate?
 - (a) Ardlethan Ambulance Station?
 - (b) Boorowa Ambulance Station?
 - (c) Coolamon Ambulance Station?
 - (d) Cootamundra Ambulance Station?
 - (e) Cowra Ambulance Station?
 - (f) Grenfell Ambulance Station?
 - (g) Gundagai Ambulance Station?
 - (h) Harden Ambulance Station?
 - (i) Junee Ambulance Station?
 - (j) Narrandera Ambulance Station?
 - (k) Temora Ambulance Station?
 - (l) West Wyalong Ambulance Station?
 - (m) Young Ambulance Station?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to support our paramedics from fatigue due to long work hours?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what systems are in place for stations which are understaffed?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Health services are not provided on an electorate basis.

NSW Ambulance manages workplace fatigue in line with NSW Health guideline [GL2023 012](#) Fatigue Management in NSW Health Workplaces and the NSW Ambulance operating procedure PRO2023-005 Work Related Fatigue Mitigation and Management.

NSW Ambulance fills vacant clinical positions in line with the NSW Ambulance Operating Procedure PRO2024-026 Filling vacant positions - staff transfers. Clinical vacancies are advertised frequently to all NSW Ambulance staff, who can apply for a position. Where vacant positions remain, paramedics may be permanently appointed into these positions anywhere in NSW following successful completion of their training with NSW Ambulance.

- * 4210 CHILDCARE - COOTAMUNDRA—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With respect childcare across the Cootamundra Electorate:

-
- (1) Would the Minister please advise the total number of children who are on a wait list for childcare and early learning centres across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (a) Bland Shire?
 - (b) Coolamon Shire?
 - (c) Cowra Shire?
 - (d) Cootamundra-Gundagai Region?
 - (e) Hilltops Council?
 - (f) Junee Shire?
 - (g) Temora Shire?
 - (h) Narrandera Shire?
 - (i) Weddin Shire?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise how many vacancies are there for Early Childhood Educators across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (a) Bland Shire?
 - (b) Coolamon Shire?
 - (c) Cowra Shire?
 - (d) Cootamundra-Gundagai Region?
 - (e) Hilltops Council?
 - (f) Junee Shire?
 - (g) Temora Shire?
 - (h) Narrandera Shire?
 - (i) Weddin Shire?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to increase the capacity of childcare and early learning centres across the Cootamundra electorate?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to ensure vacancies for Early Childhood Educators is not impacting on our childcare and early learning centres across the Cootamundra electorate?

Answer—

Waitlist and vacancies details for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services are held and maintained by individual service providers.

A number of investments have been made to create additional ECEC places in regional NSW, including under the Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program. In addition, the Building Early Learning Places Program launched in November 2024 to deliver additional ECEC places for communities with the greatest immediate need.

Other initiatives are being implemented by the NSW Government to ensure more families across the state can access affordable, quality ECEC include:

- Building 100 new public preschools allowing more than 9,000 additional children to benefit from a fee-free preschool education. In the Cootamundra electorate, Boorowa Central School will receive a new public preschool.
- More than \$430 million in preschool fee relief for families in 2024-25.

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- A \$20 million Flexible Initiatives Trial, which provides grants to early childhood education and care services so that they can trial new and innovative ways of operating. This includes weekend hours and flexible drop off and pick-up times to better cater for families' needs.
- More than \$17 million in scholarships and professional development to increase the pipeline of early childhood educators and teachers.
- More than \$5 million in the Business Capability Development Program to support early childhood services with business skills.

* 4211 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN TEMORA—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) Would the Minister please advise what Taxi Services are available in Temora?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is the capacity of people Community Transport in Temora can accommodate?
 - (a) Are Community Transport in Temora accepting new clients or are they closing their books?
- (3) What is the Government doing to assist those who require community transport:
 - (a) To get to and from medical appointments?
 - (b) To get to and from the supermarket?
 - (c) To get out and about to reduce the effects of isolation?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing to assist others across the Cootamundra electorate who are having similar problems accessing community transport across the following areas:
 - (a) Bland Shire?
 - (b) Coolamon Shire?
 - (c) Cootamundra-Gundagai Region?
 - (d) Cowra Shire?
 - (e) Hilltops Council?
 - (f) Junee Shire?
 - (g) Narrandera Shire?
 - (h) Weddin Shire?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) There is currently one taxi in Temora, which is a wheelchair-accessible taxi.
- (2) Temora Community Transport delivers community transport services to more than 150 customers each year and has not closed its books to new clients.
- (3) Transport for NSW contracts with 67 operators to provide community transport services across NSW. Community Transport supports eligible customers by providing specialised transport services to access shopping, essential services, social activities, and medical appointments.
- (4) Transport for NSW has contracts in place with the following providers across the Cootamundra electorate for the delivery of community transport services:
 - Bland Shire: Neighbourhood Central, Wyalong

- Coolamon Shire: Coolamon Council - Allawah Community Care
- Cootamundra - Gundagai Region: Valmar and Temora
- Cowra Shire: LiveBetter
- Hilltops Council: Coast and Country Community Services Ltd (Young & Boorowa) and Murrumburrah Harden
- Junee Shire: Junee Council
- Narrandera Shire: Narrandera Council
- Weddin Shire: Coast and Country Community Services Ltd, Weddin.

Eligible customers are encouraged to contact their local community transport provider to discuss their individual transport needs.

- * 4212 ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES - REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to electricity infrastructure across Regional New South Wales:

- (1) Would the Minister please outline what are the current electrical infrastructure priorities across regional New South Wales?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is the current status of these electrical infrastructure priorities and when will they be completed?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what is the Government doing in relation to supporting the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap across regional New South Wales?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise how is the Government working with communities in rural and regional areas to ensure they have fit for purpose electrical infrastructure not only for now but into the future?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government has designated the implementation of the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap as a strategic priority. The Roadmap is central to ensuring all of NSW has a reliable supply of affordable energy, and will deliver significant economic benefits to host landowners and regional communities.

The Government also works closely with Essential Energy and other energy companies to ensure that regional and rural communities have access to reliable electricity.

We are also supporting the roll-out of new electric vehicle public charging infrastructure across the state.

- (2) Regular project updates about REZ network infrastructure are published on EnergyCo's website. Transgrid, Essential Energy and Endeavour Energy also provide project updates via their websites. The transformation of NSW's electricity system is a once-in-a-generation effort that is expected to take place over the next 15 years.
- (3) The NSW Government is committed to delivering the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. This includes designating the Roadmap as a strategic priority of the Government and establishing a whole-of-government Steering Committee to coordinate implementation actions across government.

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In November 2024, the NSW Government published the Renewable Energy Planning Framework to promote faster planning decisions, provide investment certainty for industry and host communities, and boost economic benefits for regional communities.

- (4) The Government is working closely with rural and regional communities to deliver new electricity infrastructure, associated infrastructure like road upgrades, landowner payments and community benefit programs.

* 4213 AMBULANCE RESPONSES - COOTAMUNDRA—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to Ambulance responses across the Cootamundra Electorate:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise the total number of Ambulance vehicles stationed across the Cootamundra electorate:
- (a) Ardlethan Ambulance Station?
 - (b) Boorowa Ambulance Station?
 - (c) Coolamon Ambulance Station?
 - (d) Cootamundra Ambulance Station?
 - (e) Cowra Ambulance Station?
 - (f) Grenfell Ambulance Station?
 - (g) Gundagai Ambulance Station?
 - (h) Harden Ambulance Station?
 - (i) Junee Ambulance Station?
 - (j) Narrandera Ambulance Station?
 - (k) Temora Ambulance Station?
 - (l) West Wyalong Ambulance Station?
 - (m) Young Ambulance Station?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise the total number of Ambulance responses across the Cootamundra electorate for 2023 and 2024 in the stations mentioned above?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise how many of these responses resulted in one station covering another station?
- (4) Would the Minister please advise are stations allowed to cross other station boarders to transport patients, or do they need to have patients transferred to an Ambulance from that area/location (e.g. if travelling from West Wyalong to Temora would the patient stay in the one ambulance to be transferred to another)?
- (a) If so why?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Health services are not provided based on an electorate.
- (2 - 3) NSW Ambulance activity and performance data is publicly available on the Bureau of Health Information website (<https://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au/>).

Ambulance vehicles can be relocated throughout NSW to ensure efficient utilisation and the provision of patient care. Paramedics are a mobile workforce and usually respond from one patient

to the next across NSW, regardless of whether they are located at a hospital, an ambulance station, or another location. Vehicles and their paramedic crew are moved throughout their shift to provide geographical coverage of ambulance resources across NSW. During periods of higher demand NSW Ambulance can fluidly deploy resources to where they are needed most, helping deliver the best possible out-of-hospital care for the community.

- (4) Decisions relating to staged transports are undertaken with consideration of multiple factors such as the distance of the required transport destination, the impact on emergency response coverage, patient condition, and the availability of an appropriate location to undertake the transfer between ambulance vehicles.

* 4214 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to an assistance program for people exiting departmental housing:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how often reviews are conducted for tenants who are residing in departmental housing?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise do these reviews take into account changes in the tenants income and assets?
- (3) Would the Minister please advise what assistance program is available to those exiting departmental housing?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Homes NSW conducts two different reviews with regard to tenants residing in public and Aboriginal housing properties. These reviews are outlined below:

Lease Reviews

Homes NSW residential tenancy agreements are either fixed term or continuous. Homes NSW reviews every public and Aboriginal housing fixed-term tenancy before the end of its term, to determine:

- if a tenant is still eligible to remain in a Homes NSW managed property,
- what type and length of lease extension should be offered,
- if the current property is appropriate to the needs and size of the current household.

Different from fixed-term tenancies, continuous leases apply to public and Aboriginal housing tenants housed before 1 July 2005. Continuous leases do not have a set end date. The lease will continue if the tenant continues to meet the terms and conditions of their lease agreement (and does not own property that could suitably house them).

Homes NSW no longer offers continuous leases to new tenants.

Information regarding the different types and length of residential tenancy agreements offered by Homes NSW can be found at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/policies/types-length-of-lease-policy>.

Rental Subsidy Reviews

Homes NSW also conducts regular rental subsidy reviews of all public housing tenants. There are three types of rental subsidy reviews:

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- An individual subsidy review – this commonly occurs at the signing of a residential tenancy agreement or when a tenant's income or household circumstances have changed.
- An automatic group subsidy update – this update occurs twice a year when Homes NSW applies the Centrelink consumer price index increases to tenants' statutory incomes. Homes NSW currently conducts rental subsidy reviews automatically for around 95% of tenants.
- A scheduled group subsidy review – which occurs when Homes NSW writes to a group of tenants and requests updated income details to review their eligibility for a rental subsidy. Clients must provide a Rent Subsidy Application form, as well as proof of income.

Aboriginal housing tenancies are reviewed every 12 months by a specialist team. Aboriginal housing subsidy review dates vary across each Housing District.

Information regarding the different types of rental subsidy reviews can be found at:
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/policies/charging-rent-policy>.

- (2) The two review types identified at (1) involve sending letters to tenants requesting they provide current evidence of income and assets for their household.
- (3) Assistance for tenants leaving tenancies managed by Homes NSW includes:
 - A Homes NSW Statement of Satisfactory Tenancy, which indicates whether the tenant has satisfactorily maintained their tenancy in a Homes NSW property. This statement can assist tenants in securing private rental accommodation. Information regarding a Statement of Satisfactory Tenancy can be found at:
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/factsheets/statement-of-satisfactory-tenancy>
 - Rentstart Move, which is a private rental assistance product that offers a bond loan in the form of an interest-free loan for eligible clients. Information regarding Rentstart Move can be found at: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/factsheets/rentstart-move>.
 - Rent Choice Transition, which provides short to medium-term private rental assistance for social housing tenants in limited locations who want to move to a private rental property. This information is publicly available at
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/factsheets/rent-choice-transition>.

* 4215 HOSPITAL PATIENT NUTRITION—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to meals for hospital patients:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise which of the following hospitals are operating under the CHEF Program:
 - (a) Boorowa Multipurpose Service?
 - (b) Coolamon-Ganmain Multipurpose Service?
 - (c) Cootamundra Hospital?
 - (d) Gundagai Multipurpose Service?
 - (e) Junee Multipurpose Service?
 - (f) Murrumburrah-Harden Hospital?
 - (g) Narrandera Hospital?
 - (h) Temora Hospital?
 - (i) West Wyalong Hospital?
 - (j) Young Hospital?

- (k) Canowindra Soldiers Memorial Hospital?
 - (l) Cowra Hospital?
 - (m) Grenfell Multipurpose Service?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is being done to ensure all patients are provided with nutritional meals across both the Murrumbidgee Local Health District and Western NSW Local Health District?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The new Co-Designing Healthy and Enjoyable Food (CHEF) is currently live in Bowral and Balmain hospitals. Further implementation to other locations is being considered as part of planned hospital redevelopment works as this allows for kitchen space to be more easily reconfigured to suit the CHEF model.

All acute hospital patient meals, including options available via CHEF, are developed and designed to comply with the NSW Health Nutrition Standards. Menus for residents of Multipurpose Services are also underpinned by the NSW Health Nutrition Standards and the nutrient reference values specific to older people.

- * 4216 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES - MEALS AND HAMPERS—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to food hampers and meals for those in need:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise how many people seek meals and hampers from community support services throughout the Cootamundra electorate:
- (a) Bland Shire?
 - (b) Coolamon Shire?
 - (c) Cootamundra – Gundagai Region?
 - (d) Cowra Shire?
 - (e) Hilltops Region?
 - (f) Junee Shire?
 - (g) Narrandera Shire?
 - (h) Temora Shire?
 - (i) Weddin Shire?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what support is the Government providing to community support services who supply meals and hampers to those in need?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Food Transport Program falls under the Portfolio of The Hon. Kate Washington MP, Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Disability Inclusion.
- (2) The NSW Food Transport Program funds two food relief providers. These are Foodbank NSW & ACT Limited and OzHarvest Limited.

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The NSW Food Transport Program supports the costs of direct transport, such as fuel or haulage incurred while distributing food throughout NSW.

Funded food relief providers distribute food relief products across their networks of community partners, to provide to the public through their local food relief services.

- * 4217 MOBILE COVERAGE BOOST FOR REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—Ms Steph Cooke to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With respect to the \$48 million mobile coverage boost for regional New South Wales:

- (1) Would the Minister please advise which roads have been identified under this program?
- (2) Would the Minister please advise what is the cutoff date for industry partners to submit their expressions of interest to deliver initiatives in this space?

Answer—

- (1) The Australian Government and NSW Governments have committed up to \$48 million in joint funding to deliver better mobile coverage along highways and major roads in regional and remote NSW. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is contributing up to \$38 million, with a further \$10 million from the Federal Government's national \$50 million pilot Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP).

The program aims to improve mobile coverage on major highways/roads and to adjacent communities across rural, regional and remote Australia through innovative solutions to strengthen economic growth, enhance social connectivity and improve safety of drivers.

The expression of interest includes proof-of-concept projects delivering coverage to the following:

- (a) Roadside rest areas.
 - (b) Roads linking First Nations communities to their nearest regional service centre.
 - (c) Blackspot infill coverage on significant transport corridors.
 - (d) Tourist locations requiring contiguous coverage.
- (2) The expressions of interest closing date is 30 January 2025. A request for tender process will follow in February 2025.

- * 4218 REGION 14 BUS CANCELLATIONS—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) In relation to the buses in Region 14, how many services were cancelled during the period:
 - (a) 1 November 2024 to 14 November 2024?
 - (b) 15 November 2024 to 30 November 2024?
 - (c) 1 December 2024 to 14 December 2024?
 - (d) 15 December 2024 to 31 December 2024?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1)
 - (a) During the period 1 November 2024 to 14 November 2024 (inclusive), there were 44 trips cancelled. This equates to 0.2% of the 19,620 scheduled trips.

(b) During the period 15 November 2024 to 28 November 2024 (inclusive), there were 86 trips cancelled. This equates to 0.4% of the 19,620 scheduled trips.

(c - d) This data is not yet available.

* 4219 HAZARD REDUCTION - KU-RING-GAI AND NORTHERN BEACHES—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

Can the Minister confirm that hazard reduction has taken place for Ku-ring-gai and Northern Beaches residents?

Answer—

I am advised:

In 2023-24, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) undertook hazard reduction in Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area which provided protection to approximately 3,210 properties. A further 1,245 properties have been protected to date from hazard reduction undertaken since July 1 2024.

In the Northern Beaches Local Government Area, the RFS undertook hazard reduction which provided protection to approximately 11,756 properties in 2023-24. A further 2,159 properties have been protected to date from hazard reduction undertaken since July 1 2024.

* 4220 BUSH FIRE EVACUATION PLAN - NORTH TURRAMURRA—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

In relation to North Turramurra, is there a bush fire evacuation plan for residents?

Answer—

I am advised:

Community evacuation procedures are established in Local Emergency Management plans. Questions in relation to the Local Emergency Management plan for North Turramurra should be directed through Ku-ring-gai Council to the Local Emergency Management Committee which is responsible for preventing and preparing for emergencies, coordinating emergency response and supporting recovery efforts.

* 4221 HARTLEY HOUSE, BELLINGER RIVER DISTRICT HOSPITAL—Mr Michael Kemp to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

(1) What recruitment efforts for nurses are being made to re-open Hartley House, Bellinger River District Hospital?

(2) What is the expected timeline for Hartley House reopening?

(3) How many patients from Bellinger River District Hospital have been transferred to Coffs Harbour hospital since the closure of Hartley House?

Answer—

I'm advised:

(1) Attracting and retaining healthcare staff in rural and regional areas is a long-standing challenge faced by all state and territory health systems across Australia. Mid North Coast Local Health District continues to actively recruit into vacant positions at the hospital. The vacant nursing roles are advertised via NSW Health Jobs and other online recruitment platforms such as Seek. The hospital has recruited new nurses who have commenced in the inpatient and community settings, with additional nurses to start before the end of the year.

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- (2) Mid North Coast Local Health District looks forward to reopening Hartley House Medical Ward when its staff vacancies have been filled.
- (3) The role of Coffs Harbour Health Campus is to manage high acuity and acute care patients. Bellingen River District Hospital does not transfer patients to Coffs Harbour unless clinically indicated.

* 4222 BELLBROOK POLICE STATION—Mr Michael Kemp to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

Given the recent departure of the Bellbrook stationed officer:

- (1) What immediate measures are being implemented to address the gap in police services in Bellbrook following the officer's departure?
- (2) What is the anticipated timeline for the replacement of the officer to ensure that the safety and security of our community remains a priority?
- (3) Given the significant distance of a 40-minute drive to the nearest police station, what steps are being taken to ensure that community concerns and safety issues are addressed in a timely manner.
- (4) What strategies are being employed to inform the community of the measures implemented to ensure safety and security in the absence of a dedicated officer?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Bellbrook position is currently advertised to identify a suitable candidate for the position. The Mid North Coast Police District continues to provide 24/7 coverage to the Bellbrook area through a variety of operational deployment models including first response agreements, on call, and mobile policing arrangements. The NSW Police Force deploys police to places where crime may be expected to occur in response to crime trends and other intelligence-led operational requirements. All local resources are supplemented by specialist police (highway patrol, major crime squads, covert resources), which are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to crime patterns and emerging issues.

* 4223 EDUCATION AND MENTAL AWARENESS - SOCIAL MEDIA BAN—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Premier—

What plans does the Government have to improve education and mental health awareness as part of the State's agreement to work with the Commonwealth Government on banning social media for people under 16 years of age?

Answer—

I am advised;

The NSW Government supports national legislation to establish a minimum age of 16 years old to access social media as announced by the Prime Minister on 7 November 2024.

NSW will continue to work with the Commonwealth and will consider initiatives related to education and mental health awareness.

The NSW Department of Education operates the Cybermarvel program, a joint initiative of the New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Northern Territory education departments. The program takes direction from the Commonwealth eSafety Commissioner's Best Practice Framework for online safety education,

The Cybermarvel program aims to:

- build staff and students' cyber safety awareness and skills
- inform parents and carers how to keep their family safe on line
- encourage safe and positive online behaviours and experiences.

Since 2021, Cybermarvel has connected with 165,000 students and more than 3,500 staff and parents (2021-24) across Australia, guiding them to be safe, responsible and respectful online citizens.

The NSW Department of Education further leverages the work of the Commonwealth eSafety Commissioner through the eSafety Champions Network. This links teachers, wellbeing professionals, staff and education sector representatives with resources and training from the Commonwealth eSafety Commissioner to keep students and their schools safe online.

It is noted that the NSW opposition has expressed support for raising the legal age of social media access to 16.

- * 4224 MACQUARIE PARK PRECINCT AND BUS INTERCHANGE PROJECT—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Macquarie Park Precinct and Bus Interchange Project:

- (1) Are there plans for a legal car drop off/pickup point at the station and/or bus interchange?
- (2) Are there plans to increase bus stop capacity to prevent overcrowding?
- (3) Are there plans to incorporate accessways for cyclists?
- (4) Are there plans for a grade separation to prevent pedestrians disrupting the flow of traffic within the precinct?
- (5) Are there plans for commuter parking for Metro customers?
- (6) Are there plans to increase bus service frequency?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Macquarie Park Precinct and Bus Interchange upgrade will deliver two accessible kiss and ride spaces.
- (2) Significantly larger bus shelters will provide higher capacity seating and shelter, while wider footpaths and pedestrian crossings will improve the flow of pedestrian movement in and around the interchange.
- (3) Transport will continue to engage closely with the City of Ryde to ensure cycling access aligns with Councils active transport planning and provides safe customer access.
- (4) There are no plans for a grade separation at the Interchange.
- (5) There are no plans for commuter parking. This multi-modal interchange is designed to encourage and prioritise access via walking, cycling and public transport.
- (6) Future bus services are considered as part of the Medium-Term Bus Plan.

- * 4225 MATERNITY WARD CLOSURES—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many maternity wards have closed in New South Wales over the past two years?
- (2) At the present point in time, how many maternity wards does the Government know are due for closure at any point in the future?
 - (a) If any, when and where are these forthcoming closures occurring?

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Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) The Ministry of Health is not aware of any NSW Health maternity wards or birthing services that have closed in the last 2 years.
- (2) NSW Health is not aware of any NSW Health maternity wards or birthing services that are planned for closure in the future.

NSW Health has been advised that:

- Healthe Care plans to close Gosford Private Hospital's maternity service from March 2025.
- HealthScope plans to close Sydney South West Private Hospital's maternity service from 6 December 2024.

* 4226 POKER MACHINES REDUCTION—Mr Jordan Lane to ask 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) Have the number of poker machines increased since the last election?
 - (a) If so, by how much?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to reduce the number of poker machines in New South Wales in line with its pre-election commitment?

Answer—

- (1) The cap on the maximum number of gaming machine entitlements set out in the Gaming Machine Regulation 2019 has been reduced twice since the 2023 election.
 - (a) The cap on gaming machine entitlements was lowered from 99,000 to 95,739, a reduction of 3,261 entitlements from 16 June 2023 to 1 November 2024.
- (2) The NSW Government has committed to increasing the impact of forfeiture by increasing the rate to one entitlement forfeited for every two entitlements traded, instead of one for every two or three as is currently the case.

* 4227 HEAVY RAIL AND METRO DATA—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) In relation to rail stations where both heavy rail and Metro services are available (like Epping, Martin Place and Central), how does the Government accurately quantify the number of passengers boarding and alighting from each mode of travel?
 - (a) Specifically, how does the Government know whether a person tapping on at a station with both services is catching one mode of transport over the other?
 - (b) If it can't, then how can the Government accurately quantify the number of customers using a given mode of transport for the purposes of data transparency, and future planning?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW has developed and uses the Opal Allocation Model to determine the number of passengers boarding and alighting for each mode of transport at these interchange stations. This model combines data from the Opal ticketing system with timetable information for the different public transport services.

The Opal Allocation Model enables the calculation of vehicle patronage loadings, providing insights into the number of passengers boarding and alighting at each station per service.

* 4228 HOUSING DELIVERY AUTHORITY—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) In what specific ways is the proposed Housing Delivery Authority different to the former Part 3A planning legislation?
- (2) Are there any ways that it is similar or identical?
 - (a) If so, how?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) and the associated State Significant Development (SSD) pathway are different from the previous Part 3A pathway in many respects.

Critically, as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, I have no involvement in, or influence over, which projects are nominated to, or selected by, the HDA for assessment as SSD projects.

The previous Part 3A pathway effectively switched off the planning rules or development standards. In contrast this SSD pathway applies development standards set out in local environmental plans and state environmental planning policies, and aligns outcomes with those applicable standards.

The creation of the HDA provides a streamlined and robust way for new classes of development to access the existing SSD assessment pathway. Projects will be reviewed and considered by the HDA against published objective criteria before being recommended to be declared SSD.

Once a proposal is declared to be SSD, the process for assessment and consideration of applications for State Significant Development remains unchanged.

* 4229 HOMESHARE PILOT FUNDING—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

- (1) Was the New South Wales HomeShare pilot defunded?
 - (a) If so, why?
 - (b) Was Holsworth consulted before this defunding decision was made?
 - (c) What is the Government's plan for those requiring homelessness services who will no longer be able to access these services?
 - (d) Will you consider reinstating the funding for HomeShare, to assist in addressing homelessness?

Answer—

I am advised:

This question is for The Hon Rose Jackson, Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast.

* 4230 AGED CARE HOUSING AND PLANNED INITIATIVES—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

What specific aged care housing or planning initiatives does the Government have to ensure an adequate supply of aged care housing is provided to address the aging population?

Answer—

I am advised:

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The State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 (Housing SEPP) helps facilitate seniors housing by permitting seniors housing in a range of zones and providing bonus floor space incentives for seniors living developments in high density areas. The Planning System SEPP includes a State Significant Development pathway for seniors housing for projects where the estimated development exceeds \$30 million (or more than \$20 million outside of Sydney).

A Seniors Housing Design Guide, released in December 2023, sets design criteria to achieve quality outcomes. Additionally, the NSW Government has repealed the moratorium on seniors housing in heritage conservation areas to facilitate the increased supply of diverse housing and to support ageing in place.

* 4231 BUILD TO RENT APARTMENT RATES—Mr Jordan Lane to ask the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Can a local Council charge rates for each individual lot in a 'Build To Rent' apartment?
 - (a) If not, who pays the rates for a Build To Rent apartment?
 - (b) If not, what measures are in place to ensure the payer of the rates pays an equivalent amount as would be the case in a standard residential apartment?
 - (i) If no measures are in place, what plans does the Government have to support local Councils who will experience a higher utilisation of public services when Build To Rent apartments are occupied, without the subsequent ratepayers that would otherwise sustain and maintain said public services?

Answer—

I am advised:

Build-to-rent developments are rated as one parcel of land and land rates are paid by the single owner. The owner of the building pays the rates.

There are no provisions to require the owner of the building to pay rates that would be of an equivalent amount to a standard residential apartment block.

The NSW Government is aware of the issues being raised and matters relating to 'build-to-rent' developments were canvassed during the Standing Committee on State Development Inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services (Committee's Inquiry). The Committee's Inquiry has recently handed down its Final Report, including recommendations as to potential reforms of the rating system. The Government will respond in due course.

* 4232 ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE FINAL REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE—Ms Robyn Preston to ask 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—

Can the Minister provide an update on actions being taken to address the recommendations made in the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide final report?

Answer—

The Commonwealth Government released its response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (DVSRC) on December 2, 2024. The NSW Government has been considering its response in context to the Commonwealth response. The NSW Government will respond to the DVSRC in due course.

* 4233 INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH COMPLEX, WESTMEAD - CONSTRUCTION UPDATE—Ms Robyn Preston to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can the Minister provide an update on the construction of the Integrated Mental Health Complex at Westmead?

Answer—

I'm advised:

Early works for the new \$540 million Integrated Mental Health Complex at Westmead commenced in 2023. Main works are expected to commence in early 2025, once early works are completed.

The project is still on-track for completion in 2027.

- * 4234 LANG WALKER AO MEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING, SOUTHWESTERN SYDNEY - CONSTRUCTION UPDATE—Ms Robyn Preston to ask 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—

Can the Minister provide an update on the construction of the Lang Walker AO Medical Research building in southwestern Sydney?

Answer—

Construction at the Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building is in progress. The construction completion date is due in late 2025.

- * 4235 SCHOOL CLOSURES - GOULBURN—Mrs Wendy Tuckerman to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to the consultation of school closures that the department is currently undertaking in Goulburn:

- (1) What schools are being consulted for closure in the Goulburn?
- (2) What measurement is this based on?
- (3) What consultation is occurring, who specifically is being consulted?
- (4) What is the timeline for consultation to be completed?

Answer—

The Department of Education website provides information on the change in future school operation procedures at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2021-0477-05>.

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- * 4236 RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

What steps is the Government taking to maintain and improve grid Infrastructure for solar power in regional New South Wales?

Answer—

The maintenance of electricity infrastructure operated by licensed businesses is regulated and subject to licence conditions with compliance monitored by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Essential Energy, as the distributor across most of regional NSW is pursuing microgrid sites for 10 locations and battery storage solutions across four sites. These projects, when deployed, will improve the resilience of electricity supply in regional areas of NSW. In addition, Endeavour Energy has installed a microgrid between Bawley Point and Kioloa on the NSW South Coast to improve grid infrastructure.

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I have also recently asked my Department for advice on what else could be done to accelerate projects such as these and work is already underway.

The NSW Government is also working to deliver the legislated targets under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 for new renewable energy generation and long-duration storage infrastructure. This will support more reliable power supply for the entire state.

Increasing the amount of short- and long-duration storage in the energy system will enable better management of solar power for households and businesses.

- * 4237 **KEY WORKER HOUSING MAINTENANCE**—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Can the Minister advise of any support that is provided to existing Local Health District-owned key worker housing in Barwon to ensure their maintenance and upkeep so they can be utilised and not left empty?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The District's maintenance staff adhere to comprehensive preventative maintenance schedules to ensure the reliability and safety of all assets. These schedules cover essential services such as air conditioning servicing, fire system maintenance, Building Code of Australia compliance inspections, and other critical upkeep activities.

The District maintains all owned assets, including key worker housing, in accordance with asset management planning documents and relevant standards and policies. This enables the District to make informed decisions and forward plan their current and future asset and housing requirements.

Key worker accommodation is a priority for the Government and is a critical initiative in attracting and retaining staff, particularly in regional and remote areas. It also plays a vital role in supporting the sustainability and accessibility of health services in the regions, including across the Barwon electorate.

- * 4238 **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR ACCESS IN RURAL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS**—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

Does the Government plan to supply rural and remote schools with limited access to ambulance services and medical assistance with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)?

Answer—

The Department of Education's policy allows for schools and workplaces to decide to purchase and maintain a defibrillator as part of their first aid equipment if there is an identified risk. The department has published Defibrillator Guidelines to provide advice and support to schools considering the purchase of defibrillators as first aid equipment. Based on advice from NSW Health, defibrillators are not a mandatory item of first aid equipment within NSW public schools.

- * 4239 **WEST HEAD ROAD - SPEEDING MOTORISTS**—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to West Head Road:

- (1) How many fines have been recorded for speeding motorists in the following financial years:
- (a) 2019-20?
 - (b) 2020-21?
 - (c) 2021-22?

- (d) 2022-23?
 - (e) 2023-24?
- (2) Is the NSW Police Force monitoring speeding cars?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
- (a) 2
 - (b) 2
 - (c) 1
 - (d) 4
 - (e) 1

Note: Data current to: 15/11/2024

- (2) Yes. Police will continue to monitor and enforce speed and speed-related traffic offences in this area.

* 4240 RHODES EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) What date will construction start on the Rhodes East Public School?
- (2) What date will the Rhodes East Public School open?

Answer—

Updates about school infrastructure projects are made available publicly and are shared with local communities as they become available.

* 4241 TOLL RELIEF – UNCLAIMED FUNDS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

- (1) How much money is unclaimed from previous toll relief initiatives in New South Wales?
- (2) How much money is unclaimed in toll relief for commuters living in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (3) Does the Government have a plan to ensure motorists are accessing their toll relief rebate?
 - (a) If yes, can you provide details about this campaign?
- (4) How many motorists in the Drummoyne electorate have become eligible for the Government's \$60 toll cap rebate?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) There have been two previous toll relief initiatives, Toll Relief 1 and Toll Relief 2. Toll Relief 1 ran from 2018 to 2023. There were 19,207 beneficiaries in the Drummoyne electorate, and 956,989 across NSW.

Information about unclaimed funds from Toll Relief 1 is held by NSW Treasury.

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Toll Relief 2 ran from 2023 to June 2024, and remains open for claims to be submitted until June 2025, for trips made between 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

As at November 2024, for the Drummoyne electorate, 17,928 claims have been paid with a value of \$6,133,285 (noting that data is filtered by postcode, so suburbs outside of the electorate are included).

- (2) The Budget for toll relief is allocated across NSW and not by locality, therefore Transport for NSW is unable to provide a dollar figure of unclaimed relief for the Drummoyne electorate.

An estimated \$163 million in toll relief is available to motorists for the first three quarters of 2024. As at November 2024, approximately \$93 million is yet to be claimed.

- (3) Information about the toll relief programs and how eligible customers can claim toll relief can be found on the Service NSW website. Service NSW also issues e-newsletter updates to notify and remind customers about these programs.
- (4) Transport for NSW only holds data for E-Toll customers so is not able to provide information on the number of motorists eligible for the rebate.

* 4242 LAND AUDIT—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) How many sites in the Drummoyne electorate have been identified in the Land Audit?
- (2) What are those sites?
- (3) How many sites in the Drummoyne electorate have been identified for redevelopment in the Land Audit?
- (4) How many sites in the Drummoyne electorate have been identified to be sold off in the Land Audit?
- (5) When will the Land Audit report be published?
- (6) Will it be publicly accessible?
- (a) If not, how will the public find out about the Government's plans for assets in their community?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1 - 4)

The NSW Government is conducting an audit of NSW Government owned land to fulfill its inter-jurisdictional housing commitments and deliver on its commitment of delivering social and affordable housing on surplus public land. This audit also ensures the availability of land for essential social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

The audit is being jointly led by the Cabinet Office and Property and Development NSW (PDNSW), with representatives from NSW Treasury, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Homes NSW and Landcom.

The audit focuses on metropolitan and regional areas where there is greater community demand for housing. This demand may be partially met by making government owned sites, no longer needed for service delivery or civic infrastructure available for housing.

No decisions have been made regarding individual government owned sites within the Drummoyne electorate.

(5 - 6)

The NSW Government will announce particular sites when they are identified as suitable for housing on the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>

* 4243 RHODES FERRY WHARF—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What date will construction start on the Rhodes Ferry Wharf?
- (2) What date will the Rhodes Ferry Wharf open?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is collaborating with the City of Canada Bay and the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure to plan the necessary infrastructure to support the development of the Rhodes Peninsula. This involves assessing the proposed progression of the development and its impact on the operations within the precinct surrounding the proposed Rhodes Wharf.

* 4244 439 BUS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What are the reasons why Transport for NSW will not restore the 439 bus route which was convenient for many in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (2) What were the reasons why Transport for NSW deleted the 439 bus route?
- (3) How many passengers tapped onto the 439 bus in:
 - (a) 2014?
 - (b) 2015?
 - (c) 2016?
 - (d) 2017?
 - (e) 2018?
 - (f) 2019?
 - (g) 2020?
- (4) Do passengers need to take 3 buses to get from Breakfast Point to MarketPlace at Leichhardt at times?
 - (a) Is this appropriate under Transport for NSW policy?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Routes 464, 502, 438X and 438N, as well as BRIDJ On Demand, provide regular services across the Canada Bay area previously served by the 439 bus route.

Changes to services affect customers over a wide area, so it is important that any planning work takes into account the impact of a change in different suburbs.
- (2) In October 2020, under the former Liberal government, changes to some bus routes and timetables were introduced across the Inner West, this included the withdrawal of the 439 bus route.
- (3) The number of tap-ons across the full length of the 439 route for the following years were:
2014 - 591,017

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2015 - 678,047

2016 - 682,693

2017 - 413,580

2018 - 695,875

2019 - 685,947

2020 - 304,002

- (4) The number of buses required between those two destinations depends on time of travel and which bus stops passengers use.

* 4245 SCHOOL MAINTENANCE—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How much is the Department of Education investing in addressing the school maintenance backlog in the Drummoyne electorate over the school holidays?
- (2) What is the project scope for maintenance works being conducted over the summer at the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?

Answer—

The NSW Labor Government inherited an unfunded \$1.2 billion school maintenance left by the former Liberal Nationals Government. Moving forward, maintenance work will continue to be prioritised on a needs-basis through an annual statewide review of schools' maintenance needs. This is in addition to any urgent maintenance which may be required.

Expenditure on major works upgrades is publicly available in the NSW Budget Papers.

* 4246 LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) How many learning support officers were employed at each of the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate in 2021?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?

- (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?
- (2) How many learning support officers were employed at each of the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate in 2022?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?
- (3) How many learning support officers were employed at each of the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate in 2023?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?
- (4) How many learning support officers were employed at each of the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate in 2024?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?

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- (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?
- (5) How many learning support officers will be employed at each of the following schools in the Drummoyne electorate in 2025 at the start of Term 1?
- (a) Abbotsford Public School?
 - (b) Concord Public School?
 - (c) Concord West Public School?
 - (d) Drummoyne Public School?
 - (e) Five Dock Public School?
 - (f) Lucas Gardens School?
 - (g) Russell Lea Public School?
 - (h) Mortlake Public School?
 - (i) Strathfield North Public School?
 - (j) Victoria Avenue Public School?

Answer—

Under the Minns Labor Government, there are more SLSOs employed in schools in the Drummoyne electorate than under the previous Liberal National Government, who suppressed the wages of these committed and hard-working staff for 12 years.

One of the first decisions of the Minns Labor Government was to abolish the wages cap, which meant we were able to deliver a 4.5% increase last year for Crown employees, which includes SLSOs. This was highest increase in more than a decade. Furthermore, in October 2024 our government delivered a multi-year pay agreement for Crown employees, delivering a further 11.4% increase over three years.

It is disappointing that the Liberal and National Party MPs, including the Member for Drummoyne, have opposed this decision and pledged to bring back the cap on SLSO wages.

- * 4247 LOCAL SPORTS GRANT—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

When will applications open for the next round of the Local Sports Grants program?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Details regarding the opening of Office of Sport grant programs are published on the Office of Sport website, www.sport.nsw.gov.au and the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder website, www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding when they become available.

- * 4248 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS—Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua to ask the Premier—
When will applications open for next round of Community Building Partnership Grants?

Answer—

I am advised;

Details regarding the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program are available in the link below:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-building-partnership>

* 4249 SYDNEY PARK JUNCTION—Ms Jenny Leong to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Regarding the revision of plans for Sydney Park Junction:
 - (a) What is the updated timeframe for revising the plans?
 - (b) What is the expected delivery date?
 - (c) Are any elements of the project still being considered for removal by Transport for NSW?
 - (d) Is the revision happening due to funding shortfalls as stated by Transport for NSW and, if so, how much additional funding is needed to complete the plans as they were exhibited in 2021?
- (2) Has the Road User Space Allocation Policy been corrected applied at the intersection of Sydney Park Road with Mitchell Road and what was the process of checking the compliance of the de-scoped project with other Transport for NSW strategies including the Walking Space Guide, the NSW Movement and Place Framework and the Cycleway Design Toolbox?
- (3) Can you confirm if existing road space will be reallocated for the cycleway linking Sydney Park Road and Mitchell Road, rather than using the grass verge which would require the removal of a large number of mature trees?
- (4) Is the Government still intending to deliver all elements of the approved project scope including:
 - (a) New bus stop at Sydney Park Rd/Mitchell Rd intersection?
 - (b) Pedestrian crossing on western arm of the Sydney Park Rd/Mitchell Rd intersection?
 - (c) Dynamic community space for parklets on both sides of Princes Highway?
 - (d) Landscaped buildouts on Sydney Park Road and Princes Highway?
 - (e) 50+ new trees?
 - (f) Reducing the design speed in the project area to 40 km/h or below?
 - (g) Removing the slip lane at Sydney Park Rd/Princes Highway intersection?
 - (h) New mid-block pedestrian crossing on Princes Highway north of Short Street?
 - (i) New mid-block pedestrian and cyclist crossing on Princes Highway between May Street and Goodsell Street?
 - (j) Separated cycleway on the western side of King Street between May Street and St Peters square?
 - (k) Separated cycleway on the southern side of Sydney Park Road between Princes Highway and Mitchell Road?
 - (l) Separated cycleway on the western side of Mitchell Road between Sydney Park Road and existing cycleway?
- (5) Does the Sydney Park Junction plan prioritise cars over other methods of transport?
 - (a) If so, why?
 - (b) What is Transport for NSW doing to consider alternate methods of travel?

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Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is committed to delivering the Sydney Park Junction project to provide better safety and connectivity for people walking and bike riding in the Sydney Park area.

While there are some changes to the design being considered, following feedback received during the display of the Review of Environmental Factors and by councils, key features of the project remain and will be delivered.

Transport for NSW is liaising with City of Sydney and Inner West Council to finalise the design for the project, which includes the delivery of a new cycle path connection between Sydney Park Road and the Mitchell Road cycleway, as well as a pedestrian crossing on the western leg of the Sydney Park Road intersection. This work considers all relevant policies and guidelines.

The Sydney Park Junction project will be delivered in stages, and Transport for NSW will keep the community updated.

Transport for NSW has already redirected freight traffic and reduced speeds to 40 km/h on the Princes Highway to King Street and Sydney Park Road corridors. This has reduced traffic volumes and improved safety for people walking and bike riding on the Princes Highway, while allowing safer access to Sydney Park.

Information about the Sydney Park Junction project is available on the Transport for NSW website: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/sydney-park-junction>.

* 4250 IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT IN DEE WHY ON STONY RANGE BOTANIC GARDENS—Mr Michael Regan to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Has the development of 280 apartments at 4 Delmar Parade and 812 Pittwater Road been referred to the Independent Planning Panel for decision?
 - (a) If so, what is the expected timeframe for a decision on the project?
- (2) Will there be any further public consultation in relation to the proposed development at 4 Delmar Parade and 812 Pittwater Road?
 - (a) If so, what will this involve?
- (3) How are the impacts of the proposed development at 4 Delmar Parade and 812 Pittwater Road on the adjacent Stony Range Botanic Gardens being recognised and taken into account in the development assessment process for the project?
- (4) Is there any work underway by the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure to investigate improving protections under New South Wales planning laws to help protect botanic gardens, such as Stony Range, from surrounding developments (for example buffer zones or guidelines for councils)?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has referred this development to the Independent Planning Commission.
 - (a) The Commission is expected to meet the average timeframe of 32 calendar days for a routine determination.
- (2) The Commission recently accepted submissions on its website from 19 November to 3 December 2024. If the Commission determines any further public consultation is required this will be

announced in due course. More information is available at <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/engage-with-us/our-public-hearings-and-meetings>.

- (3) The Department conducted a robust assessment of this State Significant Development. It found additional impacts to the Stony Range Regional Botanical Garden would be minor compared to the Sydney North Planning Panel's existing development consent. The impacts are within limits permitted by planning controls.
- (4) The current NSW planning system has robust policies and procedures to avoid, mitigate or manage any potential environmental and other impacts from developments, including those near botanic gardens.

* 4251 NORTHERN SYDNEY LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESIDENTIAL REHAB BROKERAGE PROGRAM—Mr Michael Regan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) In relation to the information contained in Question on Notice 3324:
 - (a) For the 6 clients who used the rehabilitation brokerage program between May and July 2024, what were the nature of their enquiries and were they referred to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) rehab facilities?
 - (i) If so, where?
 - (b) Why have there been no referrals to the brokerage program from General Practitioners, AOD Outreach Services, Mental Health Units at Royal North Shore and Northern Beaches Hospital and Clinical Psychologists?
 - (i) Has there been any outreach to increase awareness among these logical referral partners?
 - (c) Is the Northern Sydney Local Health District collecting data on the number of people who call requesting the brokerage service?
 - (i) If not, why not?
- (2) How many people have accessed the brokerage program since May 2024?
- (3) What has been the financial expenditure of the brokerage program since May 2024?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1)
 - (a) Inquiries made were for detoxification and funded residential rehabilitation placement.
 - (i) Residential rehabilitation placements have occurred with 4 people who attended Triple Care farm and 2 people who attended Sydney Retreat.
 - (b) Clients need to self-refer to both inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation programs. Practitioners may encourage individuals to engage treatment services, but it is the individual who needs to self-refer.
 - (i) The service regularly engages the Primary Health Network regarding the availability of brokerage for clients. All service brochures and flyer materials include brokerage information. Additional promotion occurs with Northern Sydney Local Health District clinicians to encourage usage where appropriate.
 - (c) The service has funded all 6 clients between May and July 2024 who have sought assistance with residential rehabilitation placement. In addition to the patients funded to date, another 4 clients have inquired but not continued with their request for residential rehabilitation placement.

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- (2) 6 clients have accessed the program, and an additional 4 people have asked about services on offer.
- (3) \$22,480 for 6 clients.

* 4252 SEDIMENT RUN-OFF POLLUTION FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES—Mr Michael Regan to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) What is the current status of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) investigation into the 22nd June 2024 pollution event reported in connection to the Forest High School construction site at Allambie Heights?
 - (a) If the investigation is not concluded, when is it expected to conclude?
- (2) Has the EPA received reports of additional pollution events since the 22nd June 2024?
 - (a) If yes, what are the dates of each pollution event that is currently being investigated?
 - (b) If yes, does the EPA have an indicative timeframe for when these supplementary investigations will be completed?
- (3) What is the status of the 'preliminary inquiries' into the current framework for the assessment and management of sediment and erosion from construction sites under the New South Wales planning framework referenced in the answer to Question on Notice 3550?
- (4) Has the EPA engaged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to discuss any identified issues with the existing regulatory framework regarding sediment run off from construction sites?
- (5) What are the next steps to progress reform to better manage sedimentation and erosion risk on construction sites given the increasing frequency and severity of significant rain events?

Answer—

- (1) The EPA has concluded its investigation. On 20 November 2024, the EPA issued the contractor, ADCO Pty Ltd, with a \$30,000 fine for polluting waters.
- (2) Since 22 June 2024, the EPA has received one report about the construction site.
 - (a) This report did not identify a specific event and focused on general site management.
 - (b) N/A.
- (3) The EPA has already engaged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on this matter; and has met again on 9 December 2024 to continue discussions.
- (4) See response to Question 3.
- (5) The EPA will continue to work with the DPHI on this matter.

* 4253 NATIONAL RENTAL AFFORABILITY SCHEME - TRANSITIONAL MODEL—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) What plans does the Government have to house residents in subsidised housing through the National Rental Affordability Scheme when the scheme ends in 2026?
- (2) Is the Government developing a transitional model to ensure these residents can access ongoing social housing?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The not-for-profit Community Housing Providers (CHPs) who own National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) properties have indicated to Homes NSW that they will retain these dwellings and their tenants will remain in situ. Where CHPs only manage NRAS properties for a private owner on a fee-for-service basis they are supporting tenants in exiting into the private market.
- (2) Under the Building Homes Program, Homes NSW is building 8400 new social homes in the next few years. Commonwealth funding for social and affordable housing supply is also helping the transition, including the Housing Australia Future Fund, the National Housing Accord and the National Housing infrastructure Facility.

* 4254 16 REGIONAL CITIES BUS IMPROVEMENT SERVICE PROGRAM - PORT MACQUARIE—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

In response to my Question on Notice regarding the funding for 16 Regional Cities Bus Improvement Service Program for Port Macquarie on the 23d July 2024, you state the implementation of the service is subject to future budget consideration by the Government.

- (1) What is the dollar figure required to implement the Port Macquarie service?
- (2) What action if any have you taken to ensure that a funding allocation will be included in the 2025 State Budget?

Answer—

I am advised

Port Macquarie is one of the remaining five cities awaiting delivery as part of the 16 Cities program. The program included funding for planning and delivery across 11 cities and planning only for five cities. The Bus Taskforce Second Report has recommended funding the delivery of the remaining five cities, Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Armidale, Grafton and Parkes.

* 4255 COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE CLOSURES—The Hon. Leslie Williams to ask the Attorney General—

- (1) Is the Government planning on closing Community Justice Centres in New South Wales effective from June 2025?
 - (a) If so, why?
- (2) Will the Government reconsider this proposal?
 - (a) If not, why not?

Answer—

I am advised:

In the 40 years since Community Justice Centres (CJCs) were established, the alternative dispute resolution system in NSW has significantly matured, with CJCs now being only one of many government agencies and services offering mediation. Despite mediation being the primary objective of Community Justice Centres, less than nine per cent of inquiries proceed to mediation. The NSW Government remains committed to ensuring that the people of NSW have access to resources and services that help them resolve their disputes quickly and informally, under a less adversarial and expensive model for the parties involved. The Department of Communities and Justice will continue to provide mediation services for legislatively mandated referrals. This includes disputes involving associations and connecting people with alternative services to assist them with understanding their legal rights and how best to deal with disputes. The new in-house mediation service will be operational from 1 July 2025.

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* 4256 HIGH NEED LIFETIME MEDICAL CLAIMANT ENTITLEMENTS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) Can the Minister advise why the Workers Compensation Act 1987 does not clearly outline what entitlements High need (21% impairment and above) lifetime medical claimants are eligible for?
 - (a) Claimants with low grade impairments are provided a detailed list of their entitlements, can this also be provided to those of high need?

Answer—

I am advised:

The entitlements for injured workers in NSW in the Workers Compensation Act 1987 do not set out a single reference point for all entitlements for high needs workers. The Act is structured to describe the possible entitlements for all workers, and where further entitlements exist, they are included by exception.

* 4257 LAND RATE RISE—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) Can the Minister advise what the average land rate rise in New South Wales has been over the last decade?
 - (a) Considering this increase will the Minister be scheduling a review of the Local Government Act, specifically Section 575, reductions available for eligible pensioners?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In the period 2013 to 2023 average rates per property have increased by 30% calculated on the basis of the statewide increases in rating revenue against the number of new and existing properties receiving rate assessments.
 - (a) The NSW Government is considering the recommendations of the State Development Committee Inquiry into the Ability of local Governments to fund infrastructure and services, which has recommended the Government conduct a comprehensive review of rate exemptions and concessions under the Local Government Act 1993.

* 4258 PAPER ROADS—Mr Roy Butler to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Can the Minister confirm whether “paper roads” planned and surveyed back in the late 1800s early 1900s will be developed into visible roads in the future?
 - (a) Is there an option to waive road enclosure permits for property owners until Crown lands can re-investigate the relevance of the road?
- (2) Can the Minister explain why the annual fees for road enclosure permits increased from \$173 to \$595 in 2024?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Department's responsibility as a road authority is based on the administration of legal access along unformed Crown roads and the closure, sale, or transfer of Crown roads.

Road construction, repair and maintenance are not functions of the Department. There are many Crown roads that are not used or required for public access, some within the boundaries of freehold property that are not connected to a public road network. In these cases, Crown roads may be closed or sold without compromising accessibility or the broader public interest.

- (a) An enclosure permit is an authorisation issued by the Department to an owner of an adjoining property and allows a paper Crown road to be fenced into the owner's private land to be used for purposes such as the grazing of stock.

If the enclosure permit holder is no longer using the Crown road and they fence it out, they can apply to cancel the enclosure permit.

- (2) Under the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (section 6.2), the Department is required to apply statutory minimum rent for enclosure permits.

The Department communicated to all existing enclosure permit holders that rent would be standardised to 'statutory minimum rent' by removing concessions and to align with the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (section 6.2).

To support customers with this change, concessions are being phased out over two years. Rents are \$295 from 1 July 2024 and full statutory minimum (adjusted for CPI) from 1 July 2025.

For customers who hold two or more enclosure permits, concessions are being phased out over three years. Rents are \$295 from 1 July 2024, \$413 from 1 July 2025, and full statutory minimum (adjusted by CPI) from 1 July 2026.

From 1 July 2024, any new enclosure permits that are issued have statutory minimum rent applied.

- * 4259 CABLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT BELROSE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

In relation to the Cable Replacement Project at Belrose:

- (1) Why are current underground cables been replaced overhead instead of underground?
- (2) Was consideration given for the replacement cables to be placed underground?
- (3) Was consultation undertaken with the local community in Belrose?
- (a) If yes, how many individuals and / or households attended the meetings I information sessions?
- (b) If yes, was there support for overhead cables?

Answer—

Ausgrid was privatised by the previous Coalition government and is therefore not a state-owned corporation. Any questions about its commercial operations and decisions should be directed to the corporation.

- * 4260 ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS IN FIRE AND RESCUE NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

- (1) How many additional firefighters in Fire and Rescue NSW are there in:
- (a) 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024?
- (b) 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024?

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Answer—

I am advised that firefighter numbers are published in the Fire and Rescue NSW annual reports.

* 4261 NEW SOUTH WALES SEXUAL VIOLENCE HELPLINE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—

In relation to the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline:

- (1) How much one off funding was provided in 2023-24 to improve access to sexual violence services in priority populations?
- (2) How much recurrent funding was provided in:
 - (a) 2023-24?
 - (b) 2024-25?
- (3) How much recurrent funding is budgeted for:
 - (a) 2025-26?
 - (b) 2026-27?
 - (c) 2027-28?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Health.

NSW Health manages the contract with Full Stop Australia to deliver the NSW Sexual Violence Helpline services.

* 4262 BUS INDUSTRY TASKFORCE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Transport—

In relation to the Bus Industry Taskforce:

- (1) Can you please provide an update on the status of each of the 19 recommendations?

Answer—

I am advised

Recommendations 1 and 14 from the Bus Industry Taskforce's Final Report have been implemented, and the implementation of the remaining 17 recommendations are underway.

* 4263 HAVEN HUBS UPDATE—Mr Matt Cross to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Treasurer—

Can you please provide an update on your election commitment to "allocate \$20 million to establish three sites for Haven Hubs in New South Wales"?

Answer—

I am advised that this question is more appropriately directed to the Minister for Housing.

* 4264 NURSES AND MIDWIVES PAY RISE—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

In relation to the call from the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association:

- (1) Will the Government consider a 15% pay rise for nurses and midwives?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The NSW Government has worked to reinstate the power of the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW (Commission) so its powers to determine fair and reasonable terms and conditions of employment are no longer restrained by a wages cap.

The Government has agreed to accept the assistance of the Commission and abide by its recent recommendations.

Discussions remain ongoing with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, and we will continue to work together to find meaningful solutions.

* 4265 DOLI INCAPAX FOR 10–14-YEAR-OLD OFFENDERS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Attorney General—

In relation to the common law presumption of doli incapax for offenders 10–14 years old:

- (1) Will you consider reviewing this so that when a young person is arrested, the onus should be on them to prove doli incapax to the requisite standard?
- (2) Will diversionary programs for children be considered?

Answer—

I am advised:

The doli incapax presumption is a longstanding common law principle which is part of the law in all Australian jurisdictions. The presumption reflects the fact that some children aged under 14 do not possess the capacity to understand the serious wrongfulness of their actions, while other children do. That is why the presumption is rebuttable and why what suffices to rebut the presumption will vary according to the allegation and the child. If the prosecution can prove that a child understood that his or her actions were seriously wrong in the criminal sense, then the child can be found guilty of committing a crime.

The NSW Government is considering ways to identify additional and alternative responses needed to maintain community safety while supporting children aged under 14 years who are demonstrating problematic and harmful behaviours to be diverted away from the criminal justice system.

The NSW Government is committed to preventing and reducing youth crime through investing in a range of early intervention, prevention, and diversion programs and services, such as:

- Youth on Track, which provides intensive case management and tailored behaviour and family interventions to support young people at risk of long-term involvement in the criminal justice system; and
- Youth Action Meetings, to help young people achieve outcomes by bringing together key government and non-government agencies to share information, develop multi-agency action plans, and implement tangible strategies.

* 4266 PROGRAM FUNDING 2024 - NORTHERN TABLELANDS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

- (1) How much funding has been secured under the following programs in 2024 in the Northern Tablelands:
 - (a) The Regional Emergency Road Repair fund?
 - (b) The Towards Zero Safer Roads Program?

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Answer—

I am advised

(1)

- (a) In October 2023, the NSW Government provided an additional \$390 million to 95 eligible regional councils under the Regional Emergency Road Repair fund (RERRF).

The RERRF was an election commitment over two years however we prioritised getting direct funding to regional NSW councils in one year.

Local Councils in the Northern Tablelands electorate received \$28,779,505.

Council	Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund (RERRF)
Armidale Regional Council	\$4,728,427
Moree Plains Shire Council	\$6,906,059
Gwydir Shire Council	\$5,937,370
Inverall Shire Council	\$5,911,811
Glen Innes Severn Council	\$2,941,848
Uralla Shire Council	\$2,353,990

- (b) Funding secured under the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program in 2024 in the Northern Tablelands, is below:

Council	Towards Zero Safer Roads Program Funding Awarded - Transport for NSW Regional Projects (Aug 2024)	Towards Zero Safer Roads Program Funding Awarded - Council Regional Projects (Oct 2024)
Armidale Regional Council	\$152,460	\$4,249,093

- * 4267 REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES RELOCATION SUPPORT—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

What are you doing to attract and support people to relocate to regional New South Wales?

Answer—

The NSW Government is delivering real and practical solutions to current workforce shortages in regional NSW through the innovative \$25 million Essential Worker Attraction Program (EWAP), which comprises the Make the Move advertising campaign and The Welcome Experience relocation support service.

The key goal of the EWAP is to support the relocation of essential workers employed in the health, education and early childhood, corrective services, child protection, aged care, disability support, emergency services (NSW Police, Fire and Rescue, NSW Ambulance, Rural Fire Service) and veterinary sectors to regional NSW.

Research indicates that the attraction of essential workers to regional NSW is influenced by the lifestyle benefits they perceive, and their retention is dependent on how quickly they settle in and feel connected to their new community.

The Make the Move advertising campaign features real-life case studies of essential workers who have relocated from metropolitan Sydney to regional NSW and the personal, lifestyle and career benefits they have gained. The campaign started on 31 January 2024 and as of 28 November 2024 has already led to over 174,000 people accessing the Make the Move website for further information on how to relocate to regional NSW. It has also resulted in 2,164 eligible registrations for support to relocate through The Welcome Experience.

The Welcome Experience is a place-based concierge service where local people provide personalised support to essential workers and their families during and after relocation to their new regional community. After a successful initial 12-month pilot in 8 regional Local Government Areas, The Welcome Experience is now being offered in 55 Local Government Areas across regional NSW. Over 800 essential workers have moved to regional NSW through The Welcome Experience since it began in mid-2023.

- * 4268 LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION PROGRAM—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Local Government—

In relation to the Local Small Commitments Allocation program:

- (1) How was the allocation of funding for each Local Government Area in my electorate determined?

Answer—

I am advised:

This is a matter for the Special Minister of State.

- * 4269 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER IN REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

How will you help alleviate the pressure of out-of-pocket costs for people diagnosed with cancer in regional New South Wales?

Answer—

I'm advised:

There are 9 public comprehensive cancer care centres in regional NSW, in addition to 5 private centres. All public centres provide comprehensive services such as radiotherapy, medical oncology, clinical haematology, palliative care and rehabilitation. These public centres also provide access to other essential services such as diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine, pathology, intensive care and pharmacy services, and have the skilled workforce necessary to provide a quality sustainable cancer service.

The Cancer Institute NSW publishes information about support for cancer patients on its website (www.cancer.nsw.gov.au). Cancer Council NSW has accommodation services to support patients who travel from regional and remote areas for cancer treatment. They can help with finding affordable accommodation in cities and regional towns.

Assistance for cancer patients is also available through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS).

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- * 4270 WATER PRICE INCREASE AND SUPPORT—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

In relation to water price hikes submitted to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) by Water NSW:

- (1) Will water prices increase by up to 245% over the next five years?
(a) If yes, how will you support vulnerable communities to deal with this increase?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is currently reviewing prices paid by rural water access licence holders for:

- Water management services delivered by the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC)
- Rural bulk water services delivered by WaterNSW.

When setting prices, IPART will ensure that costs are efficient and will take into account the impacts of prices on customers.

- * 4271 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Premier—

When will the next round of the Community Building Partnership grant program open?

Answer—

I am advised;

Details regarding the Community Building Partnership (CBP) program are available in the link below:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-building-partnership>

- * 4272 SOCIAL HOUSING WAIT TIMES AND APPLICANTS—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

Regarding social housing wait times and the number of applicants on the NSW Housing Register:

- (a) What are the current waiting times for the Tweed Heads allocation zone (NN37)?
(b) When will the waiting times and number of applicants published on the Communities and Justice website be updated from 30 June 2023 data to 30 June 2024 data?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) This information is publicly available at:
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/applying-assistance/expected-waiting-times>
(b) The expected wait times and the number of applicants for 30 June 2024 will be published by end of December 2024.

Since June 2023 the social housing wait list is updated monthly and is publicly available at: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/families-and-communities-statistics/social-housing-waiting-list-data.html#Newly1>

- * 4273 VAPE SEIZURE DATA - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

Of the 300,000 vapes seized by the Government over the past year, how many of these were seized in the Tweed Electorate (or in postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490 if data is not held by Electorate)?

Answer—

I'm advised:

NSW Health takes non-compliance with tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws seriously and has a strong compliance and enforcement program. NSW Health Inspectors proactively visit retailers to monitor compliance and take enforcement action when breaches related to tobacco and e-cigarette retailing laws are identified.

NSW Health does not collect tobacco compliance and monitoring information by electorate or by postcode.

From 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, about 14,000 of the 300,000 vapes confiscated across NSW were seized in the Northern NSW Local Health District.

- * 4274 SENIORS STORIES—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—

Regarding Seniors Stories':

- (1) Since Volume 10 was made available for download from the NSW Seniors Card website, how many electronic copies have been downloaded to date?
- (2) How many electronic copies of Volume 9 have been downloaded from the NSW Seniors Card website to date?
- (3) How many electronic copies of Volume 8 have been downloaded from the NSW Seniors Card website to date?

Answer—

I am advised:

This information is not captured on the NSW Seniors Card website.

- * 4275 SENIORS CARD EXTRA E-NEWSLETTER - EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault—

How many recipients are on the email distribution list for the monthly Seniors Card EXTRA e-newsletter?

Answer—

I am advised:

As of 1 December 2024, more than 470,000 members were on the email distribution list.

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* 4276 FIREARMS SURRENDERED BY LICENSED FIREARM HOLDERS - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) How many firearms have been surrendered by licensed firearm holders from postcodes in the Tweed (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490) in the following timeframes:
- (a) 2024 to date?
 - (b) 2023?
 - (c) 2022?
 - (d) 2021?
 - (e) 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The table below shows the number of firearms surrendered by licensed firearm holders in postcodes in the Tweed each year:

Postcode	Number of firearms surrendered by licensed firearm holders				
	2024 YTD (to 1 Dec)	2023	2022	2021	2020
2483	8	3	0	2	1
2484	24	20	17	19	35
2485	2	2	14	0	5
2486	10	12	3	10	8
2487	4	6	2	0	1
2488	2	3	23	0	0
2489	0	2	0	1	3
2490	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Data is correct as of 1 December 2024. Figures above indicate firearms surrendered for destruction.

* 4277 REASONS FOR POSSESSING AND USING REGISTERED FIREARMS - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

- (1) Of the firearms registered in postcodes in the Tweed Electorate (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490), what is the breakdown of genuine reasons for possessing and using these firearms:
- (a) Sport/Target Shooting?
 - (b) Recreational Hunting/Vermin Control?
 - (c) Primary Production?

- (d) Vertebrate Pest Animal Control?
- (e) Business or Employment?
- (f) Rural Occupation?
- (g) Animal Welfare?
- (h) Firearms Collection?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The table below provides the total number of license categories issued for the provided Genuine Reasons in the Tweed electorate (postcodes 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490):

Genuine Reason	Number of Licence Categories Issued
Target Shooting	308
Recreational Hunting Vermin Control	3,578
Primary Production	564
Rural Occupation	8
Firearms Collection	10
Business or Employment	14
Animal Welfare	51
Total	4,533

Note:

- The total figure does not indicate the total number of licences issued as one licence may be issued for multiple licence categories and licence categories may have multiple genuine reasons provided for each.
- The genuine reason of Recreational Hunting Vermin Control (RHVC) may have up to 5 subcategories recorded against the one licence category for Category A and Category B. The available sub-categories are:
 - RHVC - Hunting Club.
 - RHVC - Owner Rural Land.
 - RHVC - Permission to Shoot.
 - RHVC - Government Agency.
 - RHVC - Game Hunting Licence.
- In the table above, each sub-category is included in the figures depending on the sub-categories substantiated by the licence holder, therefore the one licence may be issued for up to five genuine reasons (or sub-categories of the genuine reason) relating to RHVC.
- The total number of licences the above Genuine Reasons relate to is 2,351 firearms licences.

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- Data is correct as at 1 December 2024.

* 4278 CURRENT FIREARM PERMITS - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many current Firearms Permits are held by people residing in postcodes in the Tweed Electorate (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The table below shows the number of Firearm Permits held by residents in the nominated postcodes in the Tweed Electorate as at 1 December 2024:

Postcode	Number of Firearm Permits
2483	3
2484	4
2485	1
2486	3
2487	0
2488	0
2489	3
2490	0

Note: Above figures do not include Minor's Permits.

* 4279 CURRENT MINOR'S FIREARMS PERMITS - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many current Minor's Firearms Permits are held by residents of postcodes in the Tweed Electorate (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The table below shows the number of Minor's Firearm Permits held by residents in the nominated postcodes in the Tweed Electorate as of 1 December 2024:

Postcode	Number of Minor's Permits
----------	---------------------------

2483	5
2484	20
2485	2
2486	16
2487	4
2488	0
2489	2
2490	0

* 4280 CANCELLED FIREARM LICENCES - TWEED—Mr Geoff Provest to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

How many firearm licences held by residents of postcodes of the Tweed Electorate (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490) were cancelled in the following timeframes:

- (a) 2024 to date?
- (b) 2023?
- (c) 2022?
- (d) 2021?
- (e) 2020?

Answer—

I am advised:

The table below shows the number of firearm licences, held by residents of postcodes in the Tweed electorate (2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490), that were cancelled each year since 2020:

Postcode	Number of Firearm Licences Cancelled				
	2024 YTD (to 1 Dec)	2023	2022	2021	2020
2483	9	4	4	6	6
2484	12	14	13	18	13
2485	3	2	1	4	7

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2486	5	4	6	10	7
2487	1	3	2	6	5
2488	0	0	1	0	0
2489	2	3	1	0	1
2490	2	0	1	0	0
Total	34	30	29	44	39

Note: The status of "cancelled" licence captures those licences where a licence holder has not actioned their photo advice within the allowed timeframe or where the licence holder requests to cancel their licence. A licence may also be "refused or revoked" in circumstances where the NSW Police Force identifies concerns for the suitability of the licence holder to obtain or continue to hold a licence. The above figures capture "cancelled" licences only.

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(Paper No. 91)

* 4281 APPOINTMENT OF HOLDING REDLICH—Mrs Tina Ayyad to ask the Minister for Local Government—

- (1) On what date was Holding Redlich appointed Solicitors Assisting the Public Inquiry into Liverpool City Council?
- (2) Was there a competitive process to appoint Holding Redlich as Solicitors Assisting the Public Inquiry into Liverpool City Council?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (3) What is the value of the contract that has been awarded to Holding Redlich as the Solicitors Assisting the Public Inquiry into Liverpool City Council?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Holding Redlich was appointed on 8 October 2024.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No value has been specified. The appointment is in line with the NSW Government Legal Services Panel arrangements and is not a fixed fee engagement.

* 4282 AI IN HEALTH—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Is patient data being used to train AI systems within the New South Wales health system?
- (2) What specific measures are in place to ensure that patients and healthcare providers give informed consent for their data to be used in this manner, particularly given that consent is standard practice in clinical trials?

- (3) What steps is the New South Wales health system taking to address known biases in health data that disadvantage vulnerable populations?
- (4) How is the impact of these biases on AI decision-making being monitored, particularly in areas such as cardiac health, where historical data already underrepresents outcomes for women?
- (5) What safeguards exist to ensure that AI tools do not exacerbate inequities or diminish the role of nursing judgement and patient advocacy in clinical decision-making?

Answer—

I am advised:

Where AI is used clinically in NSW Health, it is used to support the clinical decision-making framework, not replace it. Human oversight is included in all AI clinical decision-making software. There are no current statewide solutions in NSW Health using patient data to train AI systems.

NSW Health adheres to all relevant legislation and internal policies to ensure patients and providers provide informed consent. This includes the NSW Health Privacy Manual for Health.

Consent in clinical trials is managed by the application, review and approval process by Human Research Ethics Committees, in line with the Research - Ethical & Scientific Review of Human Research in NSW Public Health Organisations Policy Directive.

NSW Health adheres to the NSW Government Artificial Intelligence Ethics Policy, which requires safeguards to be in place to identify and manage risks including bias. NSW Health also uses the NSW Artificial Intelligence Assessment Framework, which ensures the responsible design, development, deployment, procurement and use of AI technologies.

In 2025, NSW Health will release the NSW Health Artificial Intelligence Framework to further guide the use of AI in the public health system.

* 4283 AGED CARE AND REHABILITATION WARD IN GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Is the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Ward in the redevelopment of Griffith Base Hospital going to open to patients on completion in 2025?
- (2) Is there a later timeframe for the Ward to open?
- (3) Will there be a geriatrician based at the hospital?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1 - 2) The new Griffith Base Hospital has been designed with capacity to grow and cater for increased demand for service changes.

Two of the three acute inpatient units will be opened in 2025, including a general inpatient unit and the aged care and rehabilitation unit. The inpatient units will be used flexibly to accommodate medical, surgical, rehabilitation and aged care patients.

- (3) Griffith Base Hospital will provide multidisciplinary team geriatric services under the medical leadership of specialist physicians and rehabilitation specialists. Patients requiring specialised geriatric services will receive geriatric services from Murrumbidgee Local Health District's aged care network.

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* 4284 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

- (1) How many people attended community consultation sessions in relation to:
 - (a) Reconnecting River Country Program?
 - (b) Billabong Creek Floodplain Management?
 - (c) Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan?
 - (d) Murrumbidgee Floodplain Management Plan?
- (2) Will the Minister change consultation sessions on Government programs to be outside of peak harvest times when farmers are unavailable?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1)
 - (a) Reconnecting River Country Program/draft Landholder Negotiation Scheme consultation.
As part of recent consultation activities since September 2024, 337 community members participated through various sessions, including face-to-face, webinars, and online meetings. Additionally, 20 briefings were held with peak bodies, local councils and Members of Parliament to ensure broad engagement and input.
 - (b) Billabong Creek Floodplain Management Plan:
 - Stage 1 public consultation (8 October- 25 November 2024):
 - 101 individuals attended landholder appointments at Jerilderie, Moulamein or Wanganella, on line or over the phone.
 - (c) Murrumbidgee Unregulated Water Sharing Plan consultation:
 - Two face-to-face stakeholder meetings:
 - Griffith, 20 November, 10 attendees
 - Cooma, 21 November, 21 attendees
 - One webinar, 12 November, 15 attendees.
 - (d) Murrumbidgee Floodplain Management Plan:
 - Stage 1 public consultation (25 March - 5 May 2024):
 - 48 individuals attended landholder appointments either in-person at Hay, Balranald, Darlington Point or Wagga, on line or over the phone.
 - Stage 2 public exhibition (19 August - 29 September 2024)
 - 53 individuals attended landholder appointments either in-person at Hay, Balranald, Darlington Point or Wagga, online or over the phone.
- (2) Our consultations are planned as much as possible not to clash with peak activities for farmers and regional communities. We have heard loud and clear that consultations in these spring and summer months have placed an added burden on already busy farming communities. The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has provided extensions of time for people to have their say over the summer and is also continuing to review the calendar of plan and program delivery dates in 2025. We have a lot to deliver, and we are committed to ensuring everyone has the chance to provide their input.

* 4285 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) What proportion of the \$300 million announced in the Sustainable Communities program will be available for New South Wales?
- (2) How much of the \$300 million will actually make it to the communities effected by water buybacks?
- (3) Will you continue to monitor the social and economic impacts of water recovery and provide additional funding?

Answer—

- (1) \$160 million.
- (2) \$160 million.
- (3) The Federation Funding Agreement between the NSW and the Australian Government for the Sustainable Communities Program includes a mid-term review of the program to consider the progress of water recovery in NSW and any implications for the Sustainable Communities Program.

* 4286 FOSTER CARERS IN THE MURRAY ELECTORATE—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion—

- (1) How many foster cares are there in the following Community Service Centre (CSC) areas – Deniliquin, Griffith, Dareton and Leeton?
- (2) How many children are in foster care in the aforementioned CSCs?
- (3) Are there enough foster carers in the CSCs?
- (4) What is the average length of stay?
- (5) Where are children placed when there is no foster care available in the CSCs?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) As of 30 June 2024, there were 19 foster carers managed by Deniliquin CSC, and 15 foster carers managed by Griffith CSC.
- (2) As of 30 June 2024, there were less than 5 foster carers managed by Dareton CSC and 14 managed by Leeton CSC.
- (3) As of 30 June 2024, there were 52 children and young people in care placed in 31 foster care households associated with Deniliquin, Griffith, Dareton and Leeton CSCs.
- (4) No. Like most areas across NSW, there is a challenge in recruiting and retaining authorised carers to meet demand.
- (5) The average length of stay for a foster child is:
62 days for Dareton CSC
120 days for Deniliquin CSC
100 days for Griffith CSC
52 days for Leeton CSC
- (6) It is always preferred that children and young people are placed with family. When there is no identified family and no foster carers available, including emergency foster carers, children and young people are either:

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- If eligible, referred to funded Intensive Therapeutic Care homes managed by accredited non-government organisations.
- Placed in a High-Cost Emergency Arrangement service type while the casework team works to identify a suitable foster care placement or further identification of extended family.

People interested in becoming a foster carer with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) can visit the DCJ foster, relative and kinship care webpage: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/foster-relative-and-kinship-care/become-a-foster-carer>. Alternatively, they can contact the Fostering with DCJ Information Line on 02 9716 2444.

Carer applicants can also contact My Forever Family on 1300 782 975 or submit an online application form: <https://www.myforeverfamily.org.au/become-a-carer/>

* 4287 NUMBER AND COST OF LOCUMS EMPLOYED AT GRIFFITH BASE HOSPITAL—Mrs Helen Dalton to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) How many locums have been employed at Griffith Base Hospital in the time January 2020 – November 2024
- (2) What total cost?
- (3) What was the cost of accommodating the locums during this time?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1 - 2) Between January 2020 and November 2024, Griffith Base Hospital employed 1,975 doctors on a locum basis, equating to between 30-50FTE at a cost of \$38.1 million.
- (3) The cost of accommodation for the locum/agency workforce is \$1.38 million per annum.

* 4288 INDUSTRIAL ACTIONS—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—

In relation to industrial actions:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on the number of industrial actions that have occurred under the current Government since it came into office?
- (2) How does this compare year-on-year to the number of industrial actions reported over the preceding five years?

Answer—

I am advised that it is not practicable to provide data on all industrial actions undertaken in NSW.

* 4289 PROACTIVE INSPECTIONS OF CLASS 1 BUILDING SITES—Mr Tim James to ask 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—

In relation to proactive inspections of Class 1 building sites by Fair Trading and/or the Building Commission:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on the number of proactive inspections conducted on Class 1 building sites since the Government took office?
- (2) What measures are being implemented to ensure these inspections address compliance and safety issues effectively during this term?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Information regarding compliance and enforcement can be found in the Department of Customer Service Annual Report.
- (2) The Minns Labor Government passed new laws dramatically expanding the Building Commission NSW's powers over freestanding homes in November 2023. The new powers to inspect class 1 residential buildings commenced on 11 December 2023 following assent of the Building Legislation Amendment Act 2023.

* 4290 SERVICE NSW OPERATIONS WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

In relation to Service NSW operations in Willoughby:

- (1) Have there been staffing reductions at the Service NSW Chatswood Centre?
 - (a) If so, could you please provide details of how this has impacted service delivery?
 - (b) What measures are being implemented to ensure residents in Willoughby continue to receive timely and efficient service despite these reductions?

Answer—

I am advised that the number of full-time equivalent staff at Chatwood Service Centre has remained steady with only minor fluctuations over the past 12 months.

* 4291 PUBLIC AMENITIES IN WILLOUGHBY—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

In relation to public amenities in Willoughby:

- (1) Could the Minister provide an update on funding support for the long awaited building of the Gore Hill Indoor Sports facilities?
- (2) What steps are being taken to ensure these upgrades meet the needs of local sporting clubs and community groups?

Answer—

I am advised:

This question should be directed to the Minister for Sport.

* 4292 RESURFACING ROADS—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Transport representing 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—

In relation to the resurfacing of Willoughby Road and Penshurst Street:

- (1) Could the Minister provide an update on the current status of the resurfacing projects for these roads, including any scheduled time lines for commencement and completion?
- (2) What is the total budget allocated for these resurfacing projects?

Answer—

I am advised

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- (1) Transport for NSW recently completed two pavement projects at Penshurst Street, Willoughby, totalling approximately \$3 million. One was on Victoria Avenue to 30 metres north of Ashley Street and the other was on Victoria Avenue to Mowbray Road.

Transport for NSW has no future resurfacing works planned for Penshurst Street at this stage.

- (2) The total budget for the Penshurst Street, Willoughby projects has not yet been finalised.

* 4293 SMALL BUSINESS CONFIDENCE—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

In relation to small business confidence in New South Wales:

- (1) Could the Minister provide details on the steps being taken to address the confidence levels reported by the NSW Small Business Commission in October 2024?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The NSW Government established the Service NSW Business Bureau (the Bureau) in October 2023 to support small businesses, including assisting businesses build confidence and increase performance. The Bureau is the one front door access to government information, services and support to NSW businesses through the following services:

- Frontline support through Business Concierges and independent business advisors.
- Digital self-service including a Business Profile and Business Bureau Mobile App.
- Targeted communications including eDMs, social media, promotion campaigns.
- Stakeholder engagement including local councils and business associations.

Business Concierge assist small businesses over the phone or in person to navigate and understand regulatory requirements and promote awareness of relevant Government services and support. Business Concierges are available in metro and regional NSW and conduct mobile outreach to assist businesses who are time-poor by coming to them. Business Concierges can also be available at the local Service NSW service centre by appointment. In addition to guidance and information, Business Concierges can liaise with councils on behalf of the business and assist businesses with any applications for either regulatory requirements or financial support.

The Service NSW Business Bureau also provides free independent advice through its Business Connect program. Business advisors are able to run a business 'health check' and provide advice on a wide range of operational matters including business planning, financial planning, marketing/promotion, understanding procurement and growing business capability on tendering. The Business Connect program includes in person and online events and webinars on topics of interest including those tailored for start-ups.

Businesses can self-service on the Service NSW Business Bureau digital platform, including use of a Business Profile, a personalised account where businesses can manage their interactions with NSW Government business services all in the one place. It includes functionality on licences to help businesses manage their licences and compliance, as well as the ability to apply for grants and rebates.

The Service NSW Business Bureau mobile app launched in November 2023 enables small businesses to manage their business on the go, including the ability to manage licences and permits, apply for rebates and grants, scan and redeem vouchers and track the progress of transactions and applications. Businesses are kept informed of the latest information and programs through regular eDMs and social media campaigns as well as through notifications via their Business Profile.

There are also a number of financial supports currently available to small businesses which include:

-
- Toll Relief providing 40% cash back, which is a scheme for eligible sole traders with a personal, business, or mixed toll account who spend more than \$402 a year. This applies to tolls accrued from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, and eligible sole traders can claim up to \$1,605. Claims need to be submitted prior to 30 June 2025.
 - SafeWork small business rebate is available for small business owners and sole traders who have an ABN and less than 50 full time employees. It is a \$1,000 rebate to help purchase safety items to improve work health and safety for employers and their workers.
 - Targeted relief to Far West businesses impacted by a major electrical outage. Payments of \$400 are being made available to impacted small and medium businesses via Service NSW.

The NSW Government released the Charter for Small Business in February 2024, delivering on its election commitment. The Charter sets out 6 principles and 13 actions on how the NSW Government will engage and support small businesses across the state.

Recent progress under the Charter includes:

- Agreement between the Business Bureau and Reconstruction Authority to roll out dedicated procurement support to build tender readiness for businesses in the Northern Rivers to promote participation in construction contract opportunities.
- Release of a new online self-check tool to support motor vehicle repairers stay compliant, identify opportunities to improve and avoid fines.
- Supporting Vibrancy reforms by digitising processes that small businesses use to apply for a takeaway liquor licence to make it easier and quicker to comply.
- Supporting food handling businesses with compliance of new food standards regulations, through enhanced referral pathways between the Business Bureau and NSW Food Authority.

The NSW Government is also progressing a number of other election commitments that support small business and complement the aims of the Charter.

The Government is increasing local procurement from small business by making it easier for small businesses to work with Government, and prioritising local suppliers. In November 2023, the Government directed the NSW Procurement Board to raise the direct procurement threshold for goods and services from small and medium enterprises from \$150,000 to \$250,000 (excluding GST) and minimise insurance requirements for these businesses when tending for Government contracts.

In September 2024, the NSW Government directed Procurement Board to require that Government Agencies identify suitable NSW-based suppliers before going to tender for contracts valued \$7.5m or more.

The Government is also progressing proposed reforms to the planning system to support entertainment venues, licensed premises, cafes and restaurants, which would benefit small business. Between 15 November and 13 December 2024, the Government consulted on proposed planning changes under a Cultural State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), through a Have Your Say survey. The proposed changes include:

- Reducing the instances where businesses need to modify their development consent, including for unlicensed venues to extend trading hours during special events, and for venues to conduct outdoor dining and music performances as exempt development.
- Reforms to council development application (DA) processes, such as applying a non-refusal standard to unlicensed premises and other entertainment venues, and the introduction of model DA consent conditions to improve consistency in the management of venues.

These changes support a more vibrant 24-hour economy in NSW. As part of these reforms, the NSW Government is also examining the relationship between liquor licensing and Development Approvals, to make it easier to open new licensed venues.

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* 4294 AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED LABOUR—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

In relation to the availability of skilled labour for small businesses:

- (1) Could the Minister provide data on the percentage of small businesses reporting labour shortages in New South Wales over the past 2 years?
 - (a) What programs or incentives are in place to help small businesses attract and retain skilled workers?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Department of Customer Service Business Sentiment Survey found that approximately 27% of NSW small businesses identified challenges in attracting or retaining appropriately skilled staff in the past 2 years (2022-2024).
 - (a) The Service NSW Business Bureau provides one front door access to government information, services and support NSW businesses through the following services:
 - Frontline support through Business Concierges and independent business advisors.
 - Digital self-service including a Business Profile and Business Bureau Mobile App.
 - Targeted communications including eDMs, social media, promotion campaigns.
 - Stakeholder engagement including local councils and business associations.

The Service NSW Business Bureau can also support business owners with attracting and retaining skilled workers by navigating to relevant government services including Training Services NSW, the Fair Work Ombudsman, NSW Jobs Connect, and the Business Connect program.

The Business Connect program offers free independent business advice, events and online resources providing practical insights on essential business topics. This includes human resource management and strategies to attracting and retaining staff and online resources including webinars on hiring, managing and retaining staff.

The Service NSW Business Bureau's service offering provides personalised case management support by Business Concierges in metro and regional areas to small businesses to build business resilience via:

- Awareness and compliance with regulatory requirements, including navigating government
- By being informed of relevant services and support available and
- By readily accessing free advisory support through Business Connect.

The Bureau's focus on boosting export and procurement by small businesses ensures that small businesses are supported to take up growth opportunities.

* 4295 TRAINING AND UPSKILLING FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

In relation to training and upskilling for small business owners:

- (1) Could the Minister provide details on the programs available to small business owners to upskill in areas such as digital marketing, financial management and customer service?
 - (a) How many small businesses have participated in these programs over the past year?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) The Service NSW Business Bureau provides a Business Connect program where small business owners are eligible to receive free independent business advice tailored to their business. Online resources, workshops and advisory support is available for business owners to upskill in areas including business planning, cashflow, marketing, digital presence, as well as attracting and retaining customers. Business advisors may provide referrals to professional services as well as other relevant government services such as Digital Solutions and Australian Tax Office resources.

Upcoming workshops and webinars include:

- 'AI powered business marketing' webinar
- 'Social media trends for small businesses' webinar
- 'Effective customer communication leads to great customer service' webinar
- 'Supercharge your marketing with AI' workshop in Campbell town

- (a) Since October 2023, the Business Connect program has supported 11,923 small business customers, with 32,540 advisory hours and 18,990 event hours.

The Business Connect program has an 'Access to Finance' program, which 976 small business customers have accessed, equating to 1,921 advisory hours and 771 event hours.

- * 4296 GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES—Mr Tim James to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

In relation to Government assistance for small businesses in the Willoughby electorate:

- (1) Could the Minister provide details on the number of small businesses in Willoughby that have accessed Government grants or support programs in the past year?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Since October 2023, the Service NSW Business Bureau has supported 104 small businesses within the Willoughby electorate (postcodes 2060, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2089, 2090). The Bureau has received a total of 169 queries arising from phone and in-person outreach.

Business Connect business advisory program and the Active Kids and Creative Kids vouchers are government support programs that are currently available.

Business Connect advisors have assisted 92 business customers and provided 298 hours of free tailored business advice in the Willoughby electorate. Topics with which customers have been assisted include advice on marketing, business planning and strategy, and finance.

Active Kids and Creative Kids voucher program provides \$23.1 M for small businesses for the 2024/25 financial year. There are 148 business providers registered across 358 locations in the Willoughby electorate to participate in the program. These business providers offer activities relating to dance, sport, language, music and more.

- * 4297 FUNDING CUTS FOR RAIL TRAIL PROJECTS—Mr Brendan Moylan to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

In relation to funding cuts for rail trail projects in both Armidale and Glen Innes:

- (1) Has funding for these projects been cut?

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- (a) If yes, why?
- (2) What will the money be used for instead?
- (3) Will this money remain within the Northern Tablelands?

Answer—

- (1) An offer of funding for Glen Innes Severn Council to deliver the New England Rail Trail under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund has been revoked by the NSW Government. Responsibility for funding announced for the Armidale section of the rail trail sits with the Australian Government through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
 - (a) Projects approved for funding under the Australian and NSW Government's jointly funded Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (including Stage 1 of the New England Rail Trail at Glen Innes) must be completed by 30 June 2025 to satisfy the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Stage 1 of the New England Rail Trail is unable to be delivered by 30 June 2025.
- (2) Funds will be returned to the Australian and NSW Governments under the terms of the Federation Funding Agreement governing the program.
- (3) As above.

* 4298 LANE COVE BUS SERVICES—The Hon. Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Minister, with respect to every bus route that operates within the Lane Cove Electorate, can you please provide how many times these services have been delay and/or cancelled since January of 2024?

Answer—

I am advised

There are 39 bus routes that service the Lane Cove electorate with 666,310 services scheduled between January 2024 and October 2024. During this period 4.9% have been delayed and 1.4% have been cancelled.

* 4299 LANE COVE BUS SERVICE COMPLAINTS—The Hon. Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Minister, with respect to every bus route that operates within the Lane Cove Electorate, can you please provide how many complaints Transport for NSW has received with respect to these bus routes since January of this year?

Answer—

I am advised

There are 39 bus routes that service the Lane Cove electorate, with 666,310 services scheduled between January 2024 and October 2024. During this period 3,539 complaints were received which is 20.1 complaints per 100 000 boardings, and above the performance target.

* 4300 GREENWICH TO LANE COVE BUS—The Hon. Anthony Roberts to ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Minister, with respect to the transport connectivity between the suburb of Greenwich and the Lane Cove Plaza, does Transport for NSW have any plans to provide a bus service from the Greenwich Peninsula to Lane Cove Plaza?

Answer—

I am advised

Passengers wishing to travel from Greenwich to Lane Cove can use Route 267 and interchange at River Road to routes 261 or 265, or at Greenwich Road and Pacific Highway to routes 252 and 254.

- * 4301 LOCAL SPORT DEFIBRILATOR GRANT PROGRAM—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

With respect to the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program, can the Minister Advise:

- (1) What was the criteria for the eligible postcodes for the program?
- (2) Why were key postcodes with an aging population excluded?
- (3) Will these postcodes be considered for the 2025 round of grants?

Answer—

- (1) The Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program Guidelines for the 2024-25 round state that, to be considered eligible under the Program, one or more of the following criteria must be met:

- The applicant organisation's registered address being located within an eligible postcode.
- Applicants providing clear evidence of their sporting or recreational activities being primarily undertaken at a facility(ies) in an eligible postcode, and/or
- Applicants making a case that a majority of their participants reside in eligible postcodes.

An eligible postcode is defined in the 2024-25 Guidelines as being within the lowest five deciles of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA).

- (2) The SEIFA data indicated the locations of the most disadvantaged communities in the state, irrespective of age.
- (3) It is anticipated that the Program, including eligibility criteria, will be reviewed prior to the opening of the 2025-26 round.

- * 4302 STORM AND POWER OUTAGES - WALGETT AND CARINDA—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With respect to the recovery from the storm and power outages in Walgett and Carinda, can the Minister advise:

- (1) What assistance is available for residents and businesses affected by the storm?
- (2) How many SES units were dispatched to Walgett and Carinda as at 19 November?
- (3) What was the total number of requests for assistance as at 19 November?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Government is supporting communities in the Walgett Local Government Area through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Support has been made available to Walgett Shire Council to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets.

Assistance includes:

- Support for eligible residents to help meet immediate needs like emergency accommodation and replacing essential household contents.
- Support for Walgett Shire Council to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets.

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- Assistance to low income, uninsured eligible residents to replace damaged essential household items or undertake repairs to return their house to a safe, habitable standard.

A Recovery Assistance Point (RAP) operated from 26 to 28 November 2024 at the Carinda Footy Ground. The RAP enabled impacted residents to access household and mental health support as well as legal and insurance advice.

- (2) This question should be referred to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib MP.
- (3) This question should be referred to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jihad Dib MP.

- * 4303 CUTS TO NSW TRAINS TO FUND PAY INCREASES FOR TRAIN DRIVERS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Can the Minister advise, does the Government plan to make any cuts to NSW Trains to fund pay rises for train drivers?

Answer—

I am advised

The NSW Government is committed to negotiating a fair and reasonable enterprise bargaining agreement with rail workers and maintaining existing service standards.

- * 4304 CUTS TO REGIONAL TRAIN SERVICES - RTBU PAY DEALS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Can the Minister advise, will there be cuts to regional train services as a result of Rail, Tram & Bus Union (RTBU) pay deals?

Answer—

I am advised

The NSW Government is committed to negotiating a fair and reasonable enterprise bargaining agreement with rail workers and maintaining existing service standards.

- * 4305 STAFF NUMBERS - NSW TRAINS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

Can the Minister advise, how many staff are employed by NSW Trains as at 22 November, 2024?

Answer—

I am advised

As at 22 November 2024, 816 staff are employed by NSW Trains.

- * 4306 ROUTES OVERSEEN BY NSW TRAINS—Mr Dugald Saunders to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

(1) Can the Minister advise, on average, how many regional routes did NSW trains oversee per week in:

- (a) 2022
- (b) 2023
- (c) Jan 1 – November 17, 2024

Answer—

I am advised

(1)

- (a) NSW Trains operated 140 regional rail services and 574 coach services per week during calendar year 2022.
- (b) NSW Trains operated 152 regional rail services and 585 coach services per week during calendar year 2023.
- (c) NSWTrains operated 148 regional rail services and 595 coach services per week from 1 January to 30 November 2024.

* 4307 BATHURST SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY GROUP PROJECT—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to the Bathurst Secondary School Community Group project.

- (1) Can you please provide an update on this project?
- (2) What is the total budget for this project?
- (3) Can you please provide the scope of works and timeframe for works to be completed?
- (4) What works are currently underway or completed at Bathurst High Campus?
- (5) What works are underway or completed at Kelso High Campus?

Answer—

Information is available on the Department of Education's School Infrastructure website, including a September 2024 update.

* 4308 REDEVELOPMENT OF BATHURST SES—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

In relation to the redevelopment of Bathurst SES:

- (1) Can you please provide a progress update on the Bathurst SES upgrade?
- (2) Has land been acquired for this project?
- (3) When will construction start?
- (4) Has the tender process been completed?
 - (a) If not, when will tenders open?
- (5) What is the timeline for this project?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) NSW State Emergency Service (SES) and Bathurst Regional Council have been working closely together on the redevelopment of the Bathurst SES Unit.
- (2) Bathurst Regional Council has allocated land for this project.
- (3) Construction will commence following review of concept designs and a tender process.
- (4) Please see response to Question 3.
- (5) The timeline will be subject to the milestones referred to in the response to Question 3.

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- * 4309 NEW STATION FOR LITHGOW FIRE RESCUE—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice—

In relation to the new station for Lithgow Fire Rescue:

- (1) Can you please provide a progress update on the new station?
- (2) What is the budget allocation for this project?
- (3) What is the timeline for this project?
- (4) Can you please provide a timeframe for designs and plans to be confirmed, a tender process to take place and works to commence on site?
- (5) Where will the new facility be located?
 - (a) If a new location, has this land been secured?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The Project is in the concept design phase.
- (2) \$9,350,000.
- (3) The targeted project completion is the third quarter of 2026.
- (4) The design and tender phase are targeted to commence in the third quarter of 2025.
- (5) 11 Lithgow Steet, Lithgow, was purchased at the end of 2023 for the new station.

- * 4310 NSW RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT APPLICATIONS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

In relation to renewable energy project applications in NSW and Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

- (1) How many renewable projects have been approved in each of the REZ:
 - (a) Central-West Orana REZ?
 - (b) South-West REZ?
 - (c) New England REZ?
 - (d) Hunter-Central Coast REZ?
 - (e) Illawarra REZ?
 - (f) Total for NSW?
- (2) How many renewable projects have not been approved in each of the REZ:
 - (a) Central-West Orana REZ?
 - (b) South-West REZ?
 - (c) New England REZ?
 - (d) Hunter-Central Coast REZ?
 - (e) Illawarra REZ?
 - (f) Total for NSW?
- (3) How many renewable projects are currently proposed for each of the REZ:

-
- (a) Central-West Orana REZ?
 - (b) South-West REZ?
 - (c) New England REZ?
 - (d) Hunter-Central Coast REZ?
 - (e) Illawarra REZ?
 - (f) Total for NSW?
- (4) How many renewable projects are currently in the planning system for each of the REZ:
- (a) Central-West Orana REZ?
 - (b) South-West REZ?
 - (c) New England REZ?
 - (d) Hunter-Central Coast REZ?
 - (e) Illawarra REZ?
 - (f) Total for NSW?

Answer—

These questions should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Hon Paul Scully MP.

- * 4311 CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COERCIVE CONTROL) ACT 2022—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

Since the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Act 2022 came into effect on 1 July 2024:

- (1) How many cases of coercive control offences have been reported to NSW Police?
- (2) How many cases of coercive control offences have been investigated by NSW Police?
- (3) How many charges have been laid for coercive control offences?
- (4) How many convictions have been made in relation to coercive control offences?
- (5) What support is provided to victims of coercive control throughout the reporting and legal process and afterwards?
- (6) What training or resources have been provided to NSW Police Officers to carry out investigations into coercive control offences?
- (7) What standard of evidence is required to prove a coercive control offence?
- (8) Can you provide an update from the Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 176 (as of 16 December 2024).
- (2) 176 (as of 16 December 2024).
- (3) Three charges, which include at least one coercive control offence, have been laid as of 16 December 2024.
- (4) As of 16 December 2024, of the three charges, one resulted in conviction proved; one in a non-conviction (not proved) and the other is awaiting result (has not been before court).

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- (5) Police provide victim-survivors extensive support during the reporting process and beyond. Support services are also provided by NSW Police Force Domestic Violence Officers, Multicultural Community Liaison Officers, Aged Crime Prevention Officers, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers and ‘GLLO’ (LGBTIQ) Liaison Officers to ensure specialised and appropriate support is provided.

Police refer victim-survivors to the NSW Government’s Safer Pathway program where specialist domestic and family violence workers undertake safety assessments, offer help with safety planning, and connect victims with supports and services.

Further, the NSWPF and Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) co-location program embeds specialist support workers in police stations to improve the experience of victim-survivors who report to police and streamline their access to safety and support.

- (6) The following coercive control training is provided to police officers:
- Domestic and Family Violence Overview (all staff)
 - Coercive Control Responding and Recording (all sworn officers)
 - Coercive Control Investigators course (mandatory for NSW Police Force Investigators and available for all sworn officers)
 - Coercive Control Prosecutors course (mandatory for NSW Police Force Prosecutors and available for all sworn officers)
 - Domestic and Family Violence Fundamentals Course – includes subject on coercive control (mandatory for all graduating police)
 - Detective Education Program (includes subject on coercive control)
 - Pilot Domestic Violence Investigators Workshop (for DV Team Leaders, DV Officers/Operatives, High Risk Offender Teams, and officers performing Criminal Investigator duties).
- (7) Admissible evidence must be available for each element of the offence; there must be reasonable prospect of conviction; and it is in the public interest to proceed.
- (8) The Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce is chaired by the Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice. This question should be directed to the Attorney General.

* 4312 MISSING NSW POLICE BALLISTIC VESTS—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the missing NSW Police ballistic vests:

- (1) Of the 2,258 missing vests, how many have been accounted for or retrieved since notifying LECC?
- (2) Has this number increased since initial reports in February 2023?
- (3) What is being done to locate the missing vests?
- (4) Are any vests known to be in the public domain or held by civilians?
- (5) Can you rule out they are not in the public domain?
- (6) Is it illegal for a civilian to possess a vest of this kind?
- (7) What measures or processes have been implemented to prevent equipment from going ‘missing’ again?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 444. The statewide audit of NSW Police ballistic vests is still underway and is due to be completed in Quarter 2, 2025. Further phases of the audit are yet to commence, and vests will continue to be recovered as the audit progresses.
- (2) The number of missing vests has not increased.
- (3) The NSW Police Force (NSWPF) is currently conducting a statewide audit of ballistic vests in accordance with best practice auditing governance and procedure. A procedure in relation to this body of work has been implemented and communicated to Police Commanders.
- (4) No.
- (5) As of 4 December 2024, there have been no unaccounted-for NSWPF vests located in the public domain.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) All NSWPF commands are required to return ballistic vests to the Police Armoury for disposal/destruction. Commands are now also required to undertake quarterly checks on ballistic vests and report outcomes on an electronic system.

* 4313 NSW STAFFING NUMBERS OF POLICE—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the staffing numbers of police in NSW that are not included in the NSW Police Annual Report:

- (1) What was the actual strength of the NSW Police Force (meaning active sworn staff members working in the force, excluding any on all forms of leave) at the below time stamps:
 - (a) March 2021?
 - (b) March 2022?
 - (c) March 2023?
 - (d) March 2024?
 - (e) 30 November 2024?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Police Force publishes information regarding police officer numbers and strength in its annual report.

* 4314 NSW POLICE STATIONS—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

In relation to the NSW Police Stations:

- (1) Please list what stations or buildings are earmarked for upgrades in 2025?
- (2) Please list new station builds planned for construction in 2025?
- (3) Please list any projects currently under construction that will be completed in 2025?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Police stations and buildings to be upgraded in 2025 include:
 - Blayney Police Station.

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- Bourke Police Station.
 - Coonamble Police Station.
 - Rose Bay Police Station.
 - Waverley Police Station.
 - Singleton Police Station.
 - Eugowra Police Station.
 - Molong Police Station.
 - Potts Hill Buildings 1, 2 and 3.
 - Granville Police Station.
 - Liverpool Police Station.
 - Raymond Terrace Police Station.
 - Wyong Police Station.
 - Tuggerah Data Centre.
 - Lithgow Contact Centre.
 - Port Macquarie Police Station.
- (2) New police stations planned for construction in 2025 include:
- Goulburn Police Station.
 - Moama Police Station.
 - Byron Bay Police Station.
- (3) Projects currently under construction due to be completed in 2025 include:
- Bega Police Station.
 - Goulburn Academy Critical Incident Response Training Facility.
 - Goulburn Academy Gym and Recreation Centre.
 - Goulburn Academy Police Driver Training Upgrade (Skid Pan).

* 4315 O'CONNELL FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT—The Hon. Paul Toole to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

In relation to O'Connell Footbridge project:

- (1) Can you please provide an update of the progress of this project?
- (2) Is this project going ahead?
- (3) What is the budget for this project?
- (4) Will there be community consultation on designs?
- (5) What is the timeline of this project's construction?

Answer—

I am advised

Transport for NSW is committed to improving pedestrian safety in the O'Connell area. Geotechnical investigations are progressing to support the development of a concept design for a pedestrian footbridge over the Fish River on O'Connell Road.

Once the concept design is finalised, the funding requirements for detailed development and construction will be determined. Transport for NSW has secured a \$500,000 grant from the Active Transport Program to fund the completion of the concept design.

Community consultation will follow the concept design and construction dates will be established, after which Transport for NSW will be able to advise the project's timeline.

- * 4316 BUSINESS NSW - CEO OF ICARE—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety—

What discussions, if any, has your Government had in relation to engaging Business NSW CEO Dan Hunter as the new CEO of iCare?

Answer—

I am advised that a formal recruitment process is underway to appoint a new CEO of iCare.

- * 4317 BUSINESS NSW - SMALL BUSINESS PORTFOLIO—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport—

With respect to your Small Business Portfolio:

- (1) What policy initiatives has Business NSW put to you since becoming Minister?
- (2) With request to (1), how many of these initiatives have been taken up?
- (3) Can the Minister list Government initiatives which have been supported by Business NSW?
- (4) How many meetings have you had with Business NSW and can you provide a list of these meetings?
- (5) What status does Business NSW have with the NSW Government?
- (6) What NSW Government boards or Government consultative bodies does Business NSW sit on or have ex officio representation?
- (7) Does Business NSW sit on any of your ministerial advisory bodies?
- (8) Can you list Government grants provided to Business NSW?
- (9) What involvement did Business NSW have in establishing your Small Business Charter?
- (10) Did Business NSW offer any support or suggestions when establishing the Small Business Bureau?

Answer—

I am advised

The NSW Government receives a range of external policy proposals for consideration each year, and these are considered on their merits. The NSW Government has not provided any grants to Business NSW.

- * 4318 CANCER SERVICES KIAMA—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

With respect to cancer services in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven Local Health District (LHD):

- (1) How many patients accessed cancer services each year for the last four years?
- (2) Is demand for cancer services growing in the LHD, and if so at what percentage rate each year for the last four years?

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- (3) Is the Government considering expanding cancer care services at any existing cancer service center in the LHD?
- (4) Based on growth in demand for cancer services, when will the district need additional linear accelerators?
- (5) Where will additional linear accelerators be based?
- (6) How many patients were sent to other health districts, outside of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven LHD, in the last two years because of a lack of capacity to support patients residing in the LHD?
- (7) Have cancer service demographics changed over the last 10 years such as services provided based on age, gender or ethnicity?
 - (a) If yes, what detail and data can you provide about these trends?
- (8) What Local Government areas in the LHD have the highest numbers and percentages of cancer diagnoses?
- (9) What are the 5 top types of cancer diagnosis in the LHD each year over the last four years?
- (10) How many FTE medial staff work in providing cancer services in the LHD each year for the last four years?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Cancer Institute of NSW advises that meeting growing demand for cancer services in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven forms part of clinical service planning for hospitals across the District.

The NSW Government election commitment of \$7.5 million for Milton Ulladulla Hospital upgrades includes upgrading the Community Cancer Services Centre.

NSW is boosting the capacity of services to treat patients with a cancer related diagnosis through:

- the expansion of hospital-based services
- recruitment of specialist staff
- the purchase of new and replacement linear accelerators and other major equipment.

About 95% of the NSW population now resides within 100 kilometres of a cancer care centre. This includes radiation oncology services, as well as public and private radiation oncology treatment centres, in NSW and the ACT.

There are 9 public cancer care centres in regional NSW, including in Wollongong. All public centres provide comprehensive services such as radiotherapy, medical oncology, clinical haematology, palliative care, and rehabilitation. These public centres also provide access to other essential services such as diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine, pathology, intensive care, and pharmacy services, and have the skilled workforce necessary to provide a quality sustainable cancer service.

The Cancer in NSW 2024 report can be found on the Cancer Institute NSW website which details the burden of cancer in NSW and the efforts taking place to reduce cancer's burden and advances in cancer research.

- * 4319 SOCIAL HOUSING KIAMA—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to social housing:

- (1) How many social housing properties are there in the Kiama electorate?

-
- (2) How many social housing properties in the Kiama electorate are currently vacant?
 - (3) In relation to (2), how many are vacant due to maintenance issues?
 - (4) How many social housing properties in the Kiama electorate are currently vacant because they have been declared uninhabitable or have been condemned?
 - (5) What is the average length of time taken between a person leaving a tenancy and a new tenant entering a social housing property in the Kiama electorate?
 - (6) How many social housing tenants in the Kiama electorate were evicted each year for the last four years?
 - (7) Of those people evicted, how many:
 - (a) Were aboriginal?
 - (b) Had a disability?
 - (c) Were NDIS recipients?
 - (d) Had been supported by an SHS or through Link2Home?
 - (8) How many social housing tenants in the Kiama electorate were evicted due to drug or alcohol related breaches or offences?
 - (9) How many social housing tenants in the Kiama electorate were evicted for noise complaints?
 - (10) How many social housing leases in the Kiama electorate were terminated because of convictions that resulted in a custodial sentence?
 - (11) How many social housing tenants in the Kiama electorate sought to purchase their properties each year for the last four years?
 - (12) How many social housing properties in the Kiama electorate have received notices from your department due to poor maintenance?
 - (13) How many social housing properties in the Kiama electorate have received a notice, for any offence or request, from a local government authority?

Answer—

- (1) Homes NSW owns 712 properties in the Kiama electorate, of which 207 are public housing properties and 505 community housing properties are managed by community housing providers. In addition, community housing providers manage 204 social housing properties, which they own or lease from the private market.
- (2) There are currently 2 vacant public housing properties. During 2023/24, there were 15 vacant community housing properties.
- (3) Of the 2 vacant public housing properties, 1 is undergoing vacant restoration between tenancies and 1 is being held for redevelopment. Detail on the reason for vacancies in community housing managed properties is not available.
- (4) Nil for public or community housing
- (5) The time taken between a person leaving a tenancy and a new tenant entering a Homes NSW managed property in the Kiama electorate during the financial year 2023/24 is 65 days. The time taken between a person leaving a tenancy and a new tenant entering a community housing managed property in the Kiama electorate during the financial year 2023/24 is 31.9 days.
- (6) The number of Homes NSW managed tenants evicted in the Kiama electorate are as follows:
2020-21:<5

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2021-22: 0

2022-23: 5

2023-24: 0

The number of community housing managed tenants evicted in the Kiama electorate are as follows:

2020-21: 2

2021-22: 1

2022-23: 2

2023-24: 5

- (7) Due to privacy and confidentiality provisions, Homes NSW cannot release the data further broken down as this may lead to indirect identification of individuals.

	Across all 4 years (2020-21 to 2023-24)
a) Were Aboriginal	<5
b) Had a disability	<5
c) Were NDIS recipients	0
d) Supported through Link2Home	<5
Total	6

The categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a person may be both Aboriginal and have a disability.

Of the community housing provider evictions, 2 households were Aboriginal and one had a disability. Detail about NDIS or support from Link2Home is not available.

- (8 - 9) Please see the response to question 6 as no further breakdown is available.
- (10) In the last four years there were no social housing leases in the Kiama electorate which were terminated because of convictions that resulted in a custodial sentence.
- (11) Nil.
- (12) Homes NSW does not issue notices to properties for poor maintenance.
- (13) Homes NSW does not hold data on tenancies receiving a notice for any offences or request from the local government authority.

- * 4320 ROBBERY, THEFT KIAMA ELECTORATE—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

With reference to Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) data, crime rates, and NSW Police in the Kiama electorate:

- (1) Can you explain the reasons for the increase in robbery, theft, malicious damage to property and drug offences in the Kiama electorate?
- (2) What are you doing to reverse these trends?
- (3) In relation to (1), can you provide incidence rates by town or suburb?

- (4) Is there capacity for increased patrols and police presence in villages in the Kiama electorate?
- (5) On average, what proportion of police resources are allocated to dealing with domestic violence in the Kiama electorate?
- (6) How many Officers have joined Local Area Commands that serve the Kiama electorate and how many have left LACs each year for the past five years?
- (7) What message do you have to residents of the Kiama electorate who are concerned about safety and increased rates of crime in their communities?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Questions relating to data, crime rates and research produced by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) should be directed to the Attorney General.
- (2) The NSW Government is strengthening laws, building better policing facilities, upgrading technology, and driving more recruitment to ensure the NSW Police Force has the tools they need to combat crime and keep our communities safe.
- (3) Refer to answer to question 1.
- (4) Yes. All police positions attached to Police Districts and Police Area Commands are flexible resources available to respond to incidents across the district. All local resources are supplemented by specialist police (highway patrol, major crime squads, covert resources) who are managed centrally but can be deployed across boundaries to meet changing community needs and respond to changing crime patterns and emerging issues.
- (5) All police are equipped to respond to domestic and family violence incidents, supplemented by specialist Domestic Violence Officers and the NSW Police Force Domestic and Family Violence Registry.
- (6) The NSWPF publishes information regarding police officer numbers in each Police Area Command and Police District in its annual report.
- (7) The NSW Government is strengthening laws, building better policing facilities, upgrading technology, and driving more recruitment to ensure the NSW Police Force has the tools they need to combat crime and keep our communities safe.

* 4321 FERAL DEER IN THE ILLAWARRA AND SHOALHAVEN—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education representing the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With reference to Question 3422 and the answer on 13 September 2024:

- (1) What steps and actions have you taken to reduce feral deer population in (1) the Illawarra and (2) the Shoalhaven?
- (2) When were you last briefed on the matter by Local Land Services?
- (3) What discussions have you had with the Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast about this issue?
- (4) Do current estimated numbers of feral deer in the Illawarra and South Coast continue to grow annually?
- (5) How are you measuring any reduction in populations?
- (6) What is your current estimate of feral deer in (1) the Shoalhaven and (2) the Illawarra?
- (7) When did Local Land Services last cull feral deer in (1) the Illawarra and (2) the South Coast?
- (8) What are the target locations in the Illawarra and South Coast for culling this year and next?

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- (9) How many community members or groups are registered to remove deer in the region?
- (10) Regarding the Illawarra Deer Management Program, does the removal of on average 700 deer per year reduce the population?
- (11) What long-term plans and initiatives do you have to significantly reduce deer populations in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven?
- (12) How much has the Government invested each year for the last five years in deer management / control in the:
 - (a) Illawarra?
 - (b) South Coast?
- (13) How much of the \$13.1 million invested in the expanded Feral Pig and Pest Program 2024-25 is allocated to feral deer in the Illawarra and South Coast?
- (14) How many users are subscribed to the feral scan app?
- (15) How are you minimising the bushfire risks associated with feral deer, particularly in the escarpment of the Illawarra?
- (16) How many people have completed the LLS Deer in the Illawarra Survey and will these results be made public?
- (17) What are your plans for the South East Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan and where can the plan be found?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Information can be found here <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/south-east/key-projects/illawarra-wild-deer-management-program>.
- (2) The Minister for Agriculture regularly gets briefed by her Department on matters relating to her portfolio.
- (3) The Minister regularly communicates with her Ministerial colleagues about matters relevant to their portfolios.
- (4) Information can be found here <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/vertebrate-pests/publications/distribution-maps-for-vertebrate-pests>.
- (5) Refer to answer 1.
- (6) Local Land Services does not estimate actual numbers of deer - rather the focus is on managing impact, movement through the landscape and relative abundance.
- (7) Contractors will be operating up until the commencement of school holidays when culling is paused. The Shoalhaven program ended mid September 2024.
- (8) Priority areas include Helensburgh, Figtree, Cordeaux Heights, Farmborough Heights, Mount Keira, Mount Pleasant, Russell Vale, Berkeley, Dapto, and Wongawilli.
- (9) Refer to answer 1.
- (10) Information can be found here <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-024-03345-y>.
- (11) Information can be found here <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/plans-and-publications/pest-and-weed-plans>.
- (12) The NSW Government has invested \$1,630,541.

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- (13) Funding from the Feral Pig and Pest Program 2024-25 is not intended for the Illawarra or Shoalhaven at this time.
 - (14) As at June 2024 there were 53,000 users subscribed to the FeralScan app.
 - (15) Local Land Services is not involved in any bushfire mitigation in the Illawarra Escarpment - this is the responsibility of land managers.
 - (16) The survey closed on 6 December 2024 and was a joint initiative with Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils. 254 responses were received.
 - (17) Refer to answer 11.

* 4323 SYDNEY WATER—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast representing the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast—

With respect to Sydney Water:

- (1) How many Sydney Water accredited Water Servicing Coordinators are there in New South Wales?
- (2) Where can the register of Water Serving Coordinators be found?
- (3) How can a business or qualified person apply to be an accredited Water Servicing Coordinator?
- (4) What are you doing to address dissatisfaction from the building and construction sector about the service levels, access and competition by the limited number of accredited Water Serving Coordinators?
- (5) Will you undertake a review of the timeliness and delivery of water and wastewater planning and connections that have been facilitated by the current offering of Water Servicing Coordinators?
- (6) How will you address market competition and innovation among Water Servicing Coordinators under current arrangements?
- (7) When was the last time Water Servicing Coordinators were contracted and accredited?
- (8) When was the last time contracts were extended for Water Servicing Coordinators?
- (9) Will you commission an independent audit of current arrangements?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) There are 34 Sydney Water accredited Water Servicing Coordinators covering its area of operations.
- (2) This information is publicly available at: <https://www.sydneywater.com.au/plumbing-building-developing/provider-information/listed-providers/water-servicing-coordinators.html>
- (3) Sydney Water's list of Water Servicing Coordinators is currently closed. If Sydney Water opens the list to new entrants, it will be published on Sydney Water's website.
- (4 - 5) Sydney Water has engaged extensively with the development industry on how it can improve the developer experience. Sydney Water has plans in place to address industry feedback, including improving turnaround times for complex Section 73 applications and complex Building Plan Assessments that are facilitated by Water Servicing Coordinators.
- (6) In late 2022, Sydney Water completed a market engagement review of its Water Servicing Coordinator model. The feedback from the market was that the current list provides sufficient capability choice, competition, and market liquidity.

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- (7) January 2024.
(8) January 2024.
(9) No.

* 4324 FERAL DEER PUTTING DRIVERS AT RISK—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads—

With reference to deer collisions as earlier reported by the Invasive Species Council:

- (1) Can you provide statistical information on the number of deer collisions for Wollongong, Lake Illawarra, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and the South Coast respectively for the years 2017 through 2024:
- (a) Major collision, death?
(b) Major collision, injury?
(c) Major collision, no injury?
(d) Minor collision?
- (2) How are you ensuring safety in relation to the above with the increasing deer populations in our region?
- (3) Have you met with the Minister for Agriculture or the Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast to discuss this issue?

Answer—

I am advised

- (1) Transport for NSW reports in accordance with the Quality Assurance Specification - M3 Routine Services, which does not require the animal type to be identified in reporting. The table below provides the number of crashes involving hitting a large animal in the first impact by degree of crash from 2017 to 2024p (as at 2 December 2024).

Degree of crash	South Coast Region LGA's			Illawarra Region LGA's			Total
	Bega Valley	Eurobodalla	Shoalhaven	Shellharbour	Kiama	Wollongong	
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Non-casualty (towaway)	0	0	0	1	0	10	11
Total	0	0	0	1	0	16	17

There have been no crashes involving hitting a large animal in the first impact in the town of Lake Illawarra from 2017 to 2024p (as at 2 December 2024).

Notes:

- Deer and Emus are considered as large animals.
 - 2024 data is preliminary (as at 2 December 2024) and subject to change.
 - The data for non-fatal crashes (including serious injuries) for 2024 are incomplete as the coding of these crashes lag by a few months.
 - Transport for NSW's Centre for Road Safety only reports on crashes recorded by the NSW Police Force, in which at least one person was killed or injured, or in which at least one motor vehicle was towed away.
 - 'Major collision, death' = Fatal crashes
 - 'Major collision, injury' = Injury crashes
 - 'Major collision, no injury' = N/A - grouped with Non-casualty crashes.
 - 'Minor collision' = Non-casualty crashes
- (2) The rising feral deer population in Australia has increased the risk of collisions with vehicles (information about the National Feral Deer Action Plan is available here: <https://feraldeerplan.org.au/the-plan/>). Such incidents not only pose significant risks to human safety but also result in costly vehicle damage. Efforts to address this include coordinated deer management programs, such as aerial culling initiatives, and public awareness campaigns aimed at mitigating their impact. Transport for NSW has committed to investigating emerging technologies to reduce wildlife vehicle strikes and this would include large animals such as deer.

In May 2024, Transport for NSW hosted a Symposium to hear from recognised researchers from around the world about the current state of wildlife vehicle strike reduction technologies and heard from experts in Austria, Sweden, Portugal and Canada, as well as from around Australia.

Transport for NSW is moving to trial the most promising technologies and is aiming to commence trials in the near future. Technologies under consideration include: integrating information about wildlife vehicle hotspots to vehicle GPS/navigation systems or roadside signage; intelligent signs connected to animal detection systems to give drivers real time information of animals on the road and roadside; pavement treatments which aim to improve the visibility of animals to drivers.

Testing the ability of these emerging technologies in reducing large animal strike such as deer would be a key objective of any trial. Transport for NSW's current advice for all those traveling in deer-prone areas, is to reduce speed and be vigilant, especially during dawn and dusk when deer are most active. Transport for NSW's website has a range of safe driving tips for road users on country roads, to minimise risks of colliding with wildlife such as kangaroos, horses or livestock.

Transport for NSW manages requests to lower speed limits with the aim of reducing wildlife vehicle strikes, within the framework provided by the NSW Speed Zoning Standard. Transport for NSW July 2023 NSW Speed Zoning Standard sets out principles and technical information for reviewing, determining and implementing speed zones on NSW public roads. The Standard considers road and roadside hazards (which may include animals) in the setting of safe speed limits, among other factors.

- (3) The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads invited the Minister for Agriculture, Regional New South Wales and Western New South Wales to a Wildlife Symposium held in May 2024.

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(Paper No. 92)

* 4322 PUBLIC FERTILITY CARE SERVICES—Mr Gareth Ward to ask the Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast—

- (1) Can you list public fertility care services available in the Kiama electorate?

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- (2) What has the government done to improve public fertility care services since coming to power?
- (3) Can you report on public fertility services and IVF wait times in the State?
- (4) How many people each year for the last five years have accessed the NSW Government's fertility rebate scheme?
- (5) Is the Government considering extending the scheme or introducing initiatives such as Victoria's Bulk-Billed IVF clinic?
- (6) Is the Government considering a dedicated authority like the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA)?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (7) Does the Government have plans for a public egg and sperm bank?
 - (a) If not, why not?
- (8) How are you assisting access to public fertility care services for low-income earners, people living in rural and regional areas or people who need donor services or altruistic surrogacy support?

Answer—

I'm advised:

- (1) Health services are not provided on an electorate basis.
- (2 - 5) and (7 - 8)

The NSW Government supports access to affordable fertility testing and treatment through the NSW Affordable IVF Initiative. The Initiative includes lower cost IVF through publicly supported clinics, fertility preservation services for people with a medical need, a pre-IVF fertility testing rebate, and the fertility treatment rebate.

Publicly supported lower cost IVF is available at the Fertility Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the Westmead Fertility Centre linked with Westmead Hospital, and the Fertility and Research Centre at the Royal Hospital for Women. Each clinic provides information about other services, including donor services on their respective websites.

Programs under the initiative can be accessed by anyone who is eligible, regardless of where they live.

The NSW Government has committed to help low to middle income families undergoing fertility treatment by extending the \$2,000 Fertility Treatment Rebate to June 2028.

- (6) In NSW, assisted reproductive technology is regulated under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Act 2007 and ART Regulation 2024.

It is reported that as a result of recent legislative change in Victoria, the regulation of ART and management of Victoria's donor conception registers will be transferred from VARTA to the Victorian Government Department of Health.