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2011-12

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 103

TUESDAY 31 JULY 2012

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. 96 (Including Question Nos 2323 to 2343)	17 July 2012
Q & A No. 97 (Including Question Nos 2344 to 2369)	18 July 2012
Q & A No. 98 (Including Question Nos 2370 to 2420)	19 July 2012
Q & A No. 99 (Including Question Nos 2421 to 2447)	24 July 2012
Q & A No. 100 (Including Question Nos 2448 to 2461)	25 July 2012
Q & A No. 101 (Including Question Nos 2462 to 2499)	26 July 2012
Q & A No. 102 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 103 (Questions—Nil)	-

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(Paper No. 96)

*2323 RE-ANALYSIS OF SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the re-analysis of all speed camera locations using five years of data which was conducted by the NSW Centre for Road Safety in September 2011:

- (1) Are results of the re-analysis available on the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) website?
- (2) If the results are not currently available, when will the results of the re-analysis be made available on the RMS website?
- (3) At the 38 locations where fixed cameras were deactivated, is the safety review and program of works completed?
- (4) When will the safety review and program of works be publicly available?
- (5) Apart from the 38 sites where speed cameras were deactivated in July 2011, has the re-analysis conducted by the Centre for Road Safety in September 2012 shown other location where the cameras have had no significant impact?
- (6) What are these locations and what alternative sites or other road safety treatments are proposed for these sites?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Annual NSW Speed Camera Performance Review is currently being finalised and will be published shortly. It will include a detailed analysis of all active fixed speed cameras, extending beyond five years in most cases. If it is determined a camera has not been effective, the site will be reviewed and other road safety alternatives will be considered.

On 1 June 2012 I announced the outcome of the safety review of decommissioned fixed speed camera locations. Details of the proposed program of works and the "three strikes" scheme for cameras in warning mode are available on the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

*2324 SPEED CAMERA STRATEGY—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the speed camera strategy that was due for completion by March 2012 as recommended by the Audit Office in their report "Improving Road Safety: Speed Cameras":

- (1) Has the strategy been released?
- (2) What key stakeholders took part in the consultation workshop that was held in December 2011?
- (3) When will the strategy be publicly released?
- (4) (a) Will the strategy be available on the Road and Maritime Services (RMS) website?
(b) If so when will it be available on the RMS website?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Speed Camera Strategy was announced and made publicly available on 1 June 2012. It can be downloaded from the NSW Centre for Road Safety website and the Safer Roads NSW website.

Key stakeholders consulted during the development of the strategy include Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, the NSW Police Force, NRMA Motoring and Services, the Pedestrian Council of Australia, the Transport and Road Safety Research Centre (University of NSW) and Monash University Accident Research Centre.

*2325 ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the Road Safety Advisory Council:

- (1) How many members are on the council?
- (2) Who are they?
- (3) What qualification and/or area of expertise does each member of the council have?
- (4) When was each member of the council appointed?
- (5) Are members of the council ministerial appointments?
- (6) How often does the council meet?

- (7) Does the council have its own secretariat?
- (8) What budget is provided to the secretariat?
- (9) What is the cost of the council?
- (10) How much does the council spend on sitting fees, travel and meeting costs, and accommodation?
- (11) What is the council currently working on?

Answer—

(1) 25.

(2) Each member represents a road safety related group within the NSW community. This includes officials from Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, the NSW Police Force, Motor Accidents Authority and other groups including NRMA Motoring and Services, Youthsafe, Pedestrian Council of Australia, Bicycle NSW and the Local Government and Shires Association.

(3) These organisations have been selected from their work within the community and government for improved road safety outcomes. These organisations and their representatives bring together a wealth of knowledge and experience in road safety.

(4) and (5) The Road Safety Advisory Council was established earlier this year with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and received ministerial endorsement.

(6) and (7) The Council meets at least twice yearly, with Transport for NSW providing the secretariat support to the group.

(8) and (9) No budget is allocated for the Council, which runs at minimal costs. These costs are absorbed within current road safety funding arrangements and include the provision of meeting facilities and papers for Council meetings.

(10) Transport for NSW does not provide travel expenses for the members.

(11) The development of a new NSW Road Safety Strategy for 2012-2021. The draft strategy will soon be released for public consultation.

*2326 FIXED SPEED CAMERAS SWITCHED OFF AND/OR REMOVED—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regards to the 38 locations where fixed speed cameras were switch off and/or removed in July 2011:

- (1) How many of these 38 locations have had safety measures completed as at 31 May 2012?
- (2) At which locations have the safety measures been completed?
- (3) What are the safety measures that were implemented at these sites?
- (4) Have the safety works at Urunga and Clunes been completed?
- (5) What are the safety measures that were implements at Urunga and Clunes?
- (6) At how many of these 38 locations are works currently underway as at 31 May 2012?
- (7) At which locations are the works currently underway?
- (8) What safety measures are being implemented at these sites?
- (9) At how many of these locations have any works or upgrade yet to start as at 31 May 2012?
- (10) At which locations are works or upgrades or safety measures yet to start?
- (11) What safety measures are proposed for these sites?
- (12) When will work on the proposed safety measures start at these sites?

Answer—

The safety treatments for the 38 decommissioned fixed speed camera sites are ongoing and are detailed on the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

*2327 FUNDING FOR ONCOLOGY SERVICES IN THE HUNTER—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) What is the Government doing to address the inadequate resources for oncology services in the Hunter?
- (2) When will the promised funds be provided to the Hunter's oncology services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) is preparing a Cancer Services Strategic Plan on how to position the District to meet the challenges of the future. The Plan will focus on addressing the projected increase in demand for cancer services across the whole HNELHD.

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The Plan will incorporate the service model for the North West Regional Cancer Centre currently under construction, and \$1 million has been allocated in the 2012-13 State Budget to support the establishment of radiotherapy services at the new facility.

Completion of the North West Regional Cancer Centre is on schedule and \$23.6 million has been allocated in the current budget for completion of this project, the total cost of which is \$40.7 million.

*2330 FUNDING FOR MAJOR WORKS ON HUNTER ROADS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Will the Minister be allocating any funding in the budget for major works on the Hunter roads besides the F3, in particular, to the Newcastle Inner City Bypass (stage 5)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The allocated 2012-2013 funding for road projects in the Hunter Region is available in Budget Paper 4.

*2331 REVENUE GENERATED FROM SAFETY CAMERAS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer—

How has the Government used the \$38 million revenue generated from safety cameras in the last financial year?

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

*2332 SAFETY CAMERA FINES—RUSHCUTTERS BAY—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Has the Minister investigated why so many drivers are being fined at the safety camera site at the Rushcutters Bay intersection?

Answer—

I am advised:

Red-light speed (formerly safety) cameras enforce both speeding and traffic light offences at intersections.

The Centre for Road Safety is conducting an annual review of cameras as part of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy. The preliminary analysis found that the red-light speed camera at the intersection of Craighend Street and McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay has been delivering road safety benefits. Since the camera was installed there has been a 57 per cent reduction in the yearly average number of crashes and a 47 per cent reduction in the yearly average number of casualties at the intersection.

These results are based on one year of data and will continue to be monitored annually to ensure that the safety camera is achieving the desired behavioural effect.

When speed enforcement is first introduced at a location, it is expected that infringements will increase initially. As drivers become aware of the need to change their behaviour by limiting their speed, the number of speeding vehicles detected by speed cameras declines over time as does the number of infringements issued.

This improvement in behaviour was observed at the intersection of Craighend Street and McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay, with speeding infringements reducing each month between December 2010 and May 2011.

The camera was not in operation between June 2011 and November 2011 because further work was needed at this location. Speed infringements again increased when the camera was switched back on in December 2011. Since that time, driver behaviour has been improving with infringements reducing over the period December 2011 to May 2012.

As part of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy, all safety camera locations will have new enhanced signage installed to make it clearer to motorists that they will be infringed not only if they pass through red-lights, but also if they speed.

New signage at each approach to the enforcing intersection will be more than double the size of current signage and will provide advance warning to drivers of red-light speed enforcement.

New signage has already been installed at the red-light speed camera location at Craighend Street and McLachlan Avenue, Rushcutters Bay.

*2337 ELECTRONIC TRACKING BRACELETS—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) How many offenders are currently being monitored by NSW Corrective Services by the use of electronic tracking bracelets?
- (2) On how many occasions and for how many offenders have such bracelets indicated that an offender has breached relevant conditions or regulations in the period 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) I refer to the response to Question on Notice number 1593 asked by Mr Shoebridge in the Legislative Council.
- (2) An alert from an electronic bracelet does not mean that an offender has breached a condition of his or her sentence or order. Each alert is subject to investigation by Corrective Services NSW staff to determine why it was activated. Corrective Services NSW uses electronic monitoring as one of a number of tools to monitor offenders.

*2338 FUNDING FOR SOUTH WEST YOUTH PEER EDUCATION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What funding, if any, has been provided since 1 April 2011 by Corrective Services NSW to South West Youth Peer Education, or organisations representing the Macarthur Pacific Tongan Community?

Answer—

I am advised:

No funding has been provided.

*2340 RESPONSE TO EMAIL—ROYAL PACIFIC TOURIST RETREAT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

What is the Minister's response to the email from Bob Caine of the Royal Pacific Tourist Retreat, Chinderah, dated 21 May 2012 concerning Tweed Shire Council and a new road near his caravan park?

Answer—

A response to Mr Caine's email was sent on 29 June 2012. Mr Caine's concern is a local planning matter and not one in which I can intervene. Mr Caine has been encouraged to continue his negotiations with Tweed Shire Council.

*2341 AUSTRALIAN REGISTRARS' NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING COUNCIL—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Small Business—

- (1) Does the Minister agree with proposals from the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council to establish a national system of electronic conveyancing?
- (2) (a) What NSW specific requirements, if any, does the Minister propose for the national system?
(b) What additional costs will result from such requirements?

Answer—

The questions raised by The Hon Paul Lynch MP fall under the administration of The Hon Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services, and should be directed accordingly for response.

*2342 PAYROLL TAX REBATE—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Treasurer—

- (1) How many applications have been made for the Payroll Tax Rebate?
- (2) How many applications have been approved for the Payroll Tax Rebate?
- (3) How many registrations have there been for the Payroll Tax Rebate?
- (4) How many successful applications for the Payroll Tax Rebate have been granted in metropolitan areas?
- (5) How many successful applications for the Payroll Tax Rebate have been granted in non-metropolitan areas?

Answer—

As at 9 July 2012, the Office of State Revenue received 10,991 registrations under the Jobs Action Plan. Of those 10,991 registrations received, 8,594 have been for positions created in metropolitan areas and

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2,397 in regional areas.

*2343 BASS SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What progress has been made with the Bass School for Special Purposes announced in the 2011-12 budget?
- (2) How much has been expended so far on this project?

Answer—

- (1) The project to construct the new Bass School for Specific Purposes is on track.
- (2) Approximately \$1.2 million has been expended so far on this project.

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*2344 SAFETY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the safety and security initiatives known as "School Zone Flashing Lights" and "School Fencing":

- (1) Which schools in the electorate of Cessnock currently do not have school zone flashing lights?
- (2) How much money was allocated in the 2011-12 Budget for the school zone flashing lights program and how many schools will receive flashing lights?

Answer—

(1) As at 18 June 2012, 14 schools in the Cessnock electorate had flashing lights installed and 27 schools have not had flashing lights installed. This is based on the best information available to Roads and Maritime Services about schools located in the electorate.

As at 18 June 2012 the following schools in the Cessnock electorate have not had flashing lights installed.

Schools in Cessnock Electorate without school zone alert systems

School Name	Category	State Electorate	Postal Address
Abermain Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Goulburn St Abermain 2326
Barnsley Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Cliffbrook St Barnsley 2278
Bellbird Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Doyle St Bellbird 2325
Beresfield Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Lawson Ave Beresfield 2322
Black Hill Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Blackhill Road Black Hill via Thornton 2322
Congewai Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Congewai Road Congewai 2325
Edgeworth Heights Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Ridley St Edgeworth 2285
Ellalong Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Olney St Ellalong 2325
Greta Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Wyndham St Greta 2334
Holy Spirit Infants School Abermain	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	PO Box 11 Weston 2326
Holy Spirit Primary School Kurri Kurri	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	PO Box 223 Kurri Kurri 2327
Kitchener Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Richmond St Kitchener 2325
Kurri Kurri Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Lang St Kurri Kurri 2327
Minmi Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Woodford St Minmi 2287
Mulbring Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Water St Mulbring 2323
Nulkaba Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Pokolbin & Branxton Sts Cessnock 2325

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School - Tarro	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	PO Box 246 Beresfield 2322
Paxton Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Anderson Ave Paxton 2325
Pelaw Main Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Abermain St Pelaw Main 2327
Rosary Park Catholic School, Branxton	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Branxton 2335
St Phillip's Christian College	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	PO Box 833 Cessnock 2325
Stanford Merthyr Infants School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Maitland St Stanford Merthyr 2327
Tarro Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Eastern Ave Tarro 2322
West Wallsend High School	Secondary	CESSNOCK	2 Appletree Rd West Wallsend 2286
West Wallsend Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Brown St West Wallsend 2286
Weston Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Sixth St Weston 2326
Wollombi Public School	Infants/Primary	CESSNOCK	Maitland Rd Wollombi 2325

(2) \$4.25 million was allocated in the 2011-12 budget for the school zone flashing lights program to install flashing lights in 180 school zones. There is often more than one school in a school zone and around 216 schools were catered for in the 2011-12 financial year.

*2345 ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regard to the concept known as "royalties for regions":

- (1) Was it an election campaign commitment of the NSW Coalition Government to implement such a program?
- (2) Is a "royalties for regions" style of funding currently being implemented by the NSW Government?
- (3) What process is available to local councils that consider themselves to be the source of mining royalties and affected by mining activities to access NSW Government funding under a "royalties for regions" style of funding?

Answer—

(1) to (3) Details of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program can be found in the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services' 2012-13 Budget Papers.

*2346 INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN HOUSING SITES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Since July 2011, in the electorate of Cessnock, how many violent incidents have been reported within:

- (a) Department of Housing sites;
- (b) Compass Housing sites?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that the COPS database does not identify locations or premises in the terms requested.

*2347 HUNTER TRANSIT OFFICERS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) When will the Hunter transit officers be made redundant?
- (2) How many police officers will replace them?
- (3) Will the police officers work solely in the Hunter?
- (4) (a) Will they work only on trains?
(b) If not, what will be their additional roles?

Answer—

I am advised:

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The new centralised Police Transport Command is currently staffed by 300 officers from local commuter crime units and will increase to a target authorised strength of 610 police officers by December 2014. The Command's structure is separate from other police activities and has clear accountability for reducing crime on the transport system. Command locations have been based on the identification of emerging crime trends and demographics, ensuring that officers are allocated to priority areas, including the Hunter. The Command will deploy resources on a risk and intelligence basis as required.

*2348 PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

Given that 88% of people in a recent poll agreed that increasing public education funding was something NSW needed to do now (Daily Telegraph 4 June 2012):

- (1) Will the Minister be increasing funding for public schools?
- (2) If so, by how much and when?

Answer—

In the 2012-13 State Budget funding for expenses in NSW public schools is over \$10.2 billion, an increase of \$290 million (3%) on the prior year's budget.

In addition to the \$10.2 billion expenses budget in the 2012-13 State Budget for public schools, over \$447 million has been budgeted for capital works in public schools in 2012-13.

The proportion of total Government expenses spent on education will increase from 22% in 2011-12 to 22.4% in 2012-13.

*2350 SUN PROTECTION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Education—

With regard to the sun protection policy for primary schools:

- (1) When was the policy last updated?
- (2) What plans does the Government have to update the policy?
- (3) What plans does the Government have to make sun policies mandatory in all primary schools, like they are in early childhood centres and most other states?

Answer—

- (1) 1997.
- (2) The Department of Education and Communities is currently reviewing the Protection from the Sun: Guidelines to assist in implementing the student welfare policy. Advice from the Cancer Institute NSW and the Cancer Council NSW has been provided and is being considered in this work.
- (3) Schools are required to provide a safe environment for students and staff including the provision of protection from the sun.

*2351 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

Given the reported success of the Macarthur Real Estate Engagement Working Party, a partnership of real estate agents with housing organisations and government agencies, which prevent private tenants from becoming homeless and helped homeless people into private rental:

- (1) How does the Government help prevent people in housing stress in the private market from becoming homeless?
- (2) What information does the Government provide to people struggling to sustain private tenancies about support services?
- (3) How does the Government work with real estate agents to inform and identify opportunities to prevent homeless?
- (4) What assessment has the Government made of the value of the Macarthur Real Estate Engagement Working Party and establishing similar projects in inner Sydney?
- (5) What other early intervention strategies does the Government plan to prevent private tenants from becoming homeless?

Answer—

(1), (2) and (5) To help people access a tenancy in the private rental market, Housing NSW has a range of private rental assistance products including Tenancy Guarantees, Bond Loan Scheme and Advance Rent, which are available to eligible clients. Housing NSW can also offer assistance to people to maintain a tenancy in the private rental market by providing assistance to pay rental arrears.

There are also a number of non-government organisations that provide assistance and information to people who are at risk of homelessness, including people in the private rental market, through the

provision of support services including financial counselling. Housing NSW also has a training package, Rent It Keep It, to assist people who are seeking private rental accommodation gain the skills to secure and maintain a tenancy. The training package is for a community or housing worker to use with their clients who may have issues with housing or living skills.

The Government remains committed to the priorities, strategies and actions to prevent, respond and break the cycle of homelessness as outlined in the NSW Homelessness Action Plan.

Under the recently launched consultations for Specialist Homelessness Services' reforms, Going Home, Staying Home, the Government wants to build on what currently works well to improve services and lives for homeless people. Real reform means acting earlier to stop people from becoming homeless and adopting individualised approaches to give homeless people the best possible chance of finding and staying in safe and affordable housing.

(3) and (4) Housing NSW delivers the Private Rental Brokerage Service. This service assists people with complex needs to access the private rental market through tenancy facilitation and support. Housing NSW staff develop relationships and networks with private real estate agents to improve access for clients into the private rental market.

Non-government organisations also develop partnerships with real estate agents to improve their understanding of prevention of eviction for people at risk, and to improve access for people who are homeless, into the private rental market.

Housing NSW also has a training package, Rent It Keep It, to assist people who are seeking private rental accommodation gain the skills to secure and maintain a tenancy. The training package is for non-government organisations to use with their clients who may have issues with housing or living skills.

*2352 FIREARMS ACT 1996—SECTION 6B REVIEW—Ms Clover Moore asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Noting that more than one person without a gun licence has obtained a pistol at a gun club without checking, with one person shot and killed:

- (1) What changes to gun club procedures were made following the Government's requested review of Section 6B of the Firearms Act 1996?
- (2) How was the promised review of Section 6B carried out and what community consultation occurred?
- (3) What recommendations were made from this review?
- (4) What legislative changes has the Government developed to prevent similar incidents?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to ensure that similar incidents cannot occur again?

Answer—

The Government's consideration of section 6B of the Firearms Act 1996 is still proceeding.

*2353 REDFERN AND SURRY HILLS BUSES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

Noting that Redfern and Surry Hills passengers continue to report that 300 series bus services are overloaded and full by the time they reach the inner city, especially during peak hours:

- (1) What are the monthly patronage numbers for these routes for 2010, 2011 and 2012?
- (2) What additional services or other improvements to bus services have been provided on these routes over the past three years?
- (3) What additional bus services on these routes have been provided to service Redfern and Surry Hills residents over the past three years?
- (4) How many complaints have been received about inadequate 300 series buses each year for the past three years?
- (5) What proportion of these complaints are about buses being full when they reach Redfern and Surry Hills?
- (6) What destination studies has the Government undertaken to determine the transport needs of Redfern and Surry Hills residents?
- (7) What other action will the Government take to improve bus services in Redfern and Surry Hills?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The average monthly patronage on these routes was:
 - 2010 - 655,368
 - 2011 - 622,658

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- 2012 (to 31 May) - 602,990.

- (2) The frequency and operating hours of the 300 series route services have been increased and the timetable amended to better reflect customer demand and prevailing traffic conditions. New high capacity Metrobus routes have also been introduced.
- (3) Timetable adjustments on routes operating along Crown Street, Botany Road and Anzac Parade have improved service reliability and increased the number of bus trips on Flinders Street/Anzac Parade, in the vicinity of Surry Hills. In addition, higher capacity buses have been added to selected trips.
- (4) Up to 19 June 2012, 611 customer complaints have been recorded. In 2011, 1,103 customer complaints were recorded and in 2010 there were 1,072.
- (5) Approximately one complaint every two months.
- (6) Transport for NSW undertakes bus service reviews on an ongoing basis.
- (7) Transport for NSW will continue to undertake ongoing bus service reviews to align service frequency with customer demand and improve connections as part of an integrated transport network.

*2354 SPORTS FACILITY FOR ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

- (1) What assessment has the Government made on the need for a specially designed facility in Sydney for athletes with a disability including Paralympian?
- (2) What plans does the Government have for funding such a facility, given the previous Government made a pre-election commitment of \$10 million for a sports centre for athletes with a disability?
- (3) (a) Does the Government support location of such a facility in the dilapidated tram sheds at Harold Park raceway given there is strong support from the local community and athletes with a disability?
(b) If so, what plans does the Government have to discuss the proposal with Mirvac the owners of the site?

Answer—

I have received no proposal regarding a specially designed facility in Sydney for athletes with a disability. Should such a proposal be provided to me, I would carefully consider the matter as and when funding becomes available.

*2355 FITTING OF SPRINKLERS TO AGED CARE HOMES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

- (1) What plans does the Government have to introduce requirements for aged care homes to be equipped with sprinklers?
- (2) What is the time frame for implementing these plans?
- (3) Will there be assistance and support provided to local organisations who provide aged care accommodation?

Answer—

- (1) The Government is currently examining ways to improve fire safety in residential aged care accommodation. This review is being undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders, including representatives of the aged care industry.
- (2) The time frame for the implementation of any policy will form part of the Government response.
- (3) This matter will be addressed as part of the Government response.

*2356 FUNDING FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

In relation to the recent budget announcement regarding public housing:

- (1) (a) How much of the \$210.2 million for repairs and maintenance in public and community housing will be spent on housing projects located in the electorate of Keira?
(b) Will the Minister provide a list of these projects?
- (2) What funding will be allocated to the Wollongong Women's Refuge in Keiraville in 2012-13?

Answer—

- (1) (a) and (b) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets.
- (2) In 2012-13, the Wollongong Women's Refuge will receive funding of approximately \$900,000.

*2357 REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

When will the Regional Land Use Plan covering the Illawarra be finalised?

Answer—

The Illawarra Regional Strategy has been in place since 2007 and is scheduled for its first review. The Government will be releasing a discussion paper for community engagement and will initiate the review process shortly.

In relation to the Government's draft Strategic Regional Land Use Policies, plans for the Southern Highlands and Illawarra are under consideration.

*2358 UPGRADES TO LOCAL SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) As a result of the recent NSW Budget what upgrades to local schools will take place in the electorate of Keira over the 2012-13 financial year?
- (2) What is the timeline from start to completion?
- (3) What is the value of each of these projects?

Answer—

(1) and (3) The following schools will receive funding under the \$40 million Public School Upgrade Program (Round 2) and the 2012-13 Extra Minor Maintenance Program (Round 2):

Public School Upgrade Program

Bellambi Public School will receive \$110,000 for upgrading roofs, gutters and stormwater drainage.

Keiraville Public School will receive \$20,000 for upgrading roofs, gutters and stormwater drainage.

Extra Minor Maintenance Program

Bellambi Public School - \$8,076

Corrimal East Public School - \$6,929

Corrimal High School - \$17,823

Corrimal Public School - \$5,852

Fairy Meadow Public School - \$10,964

Figtree Heights Public School - \$5,235

Figtree High School - \$24,451

Figtree Public School - \$7,692

Keira High School - \$23,244

Keiraville Public School - \$6,343

Mount Ousley Public School - \$5,600

Nareena Hills Public School - \$6,937

Pleasant Heights Public School - \$4,925

Russell Vale Public School - \$5,072

Tarrawanna Public School - \$5,776

Towradgi Public School - \$5,327

Wollongong Performing Arts High School - \$22,632

Woonona East Public School - \$6,783

Woonona High School - \$19,878

Woonona Public School - \$8,723

(2) Projects will be carried out in 2012-13.

*2359 WOLLONGONG LOCAL AREA COMMAND—Mr Ryan Park asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

As a result of the recent NSW Budget what plans does the Minister have to upgrade police stations in the Wollongong Local Area Command?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that its 2012-13 Minor Capital Works Program is currently being finalised.

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*2360 BULLI HOSPITAL FUNDING—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Why did the 2012-13 budget not allocate any additional funding to Bulli Hospital?
- (2) Will money be available after the review is finalised in the next few months?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) I refer the Member to my response to Written Question No. 2103 in the Legislative Assembly.

*2361 BULLI HOSPITAL NURSE NUMBERS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

How many nurses were employed at Bulli Hospital during the following years:

- (a) 2000;
- (b) 2001;
- (c) 2002;
- (d) 2003;
- (e) 2004;
- (f) 2005;
- (g) 2006;
- (h) 2007;
- (i) 2008;
- (j) 2009;
- (k) 2010;
- (l) 2011;
- (m) 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

The requested data is not routinely reported on an individual health facility basis. The Ministry of Health routinely provides workforce data in its annual Report.

*2362 COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

- (1) Given the Minister's announcement in the budget to spend \$15 million on coastal infrastructure repairs to maritime assets on Crown land, what projects will be funded in the Wollongong Local Government Area?
- (2) What is the estimated value of these projects?
- (3) What is the estimated timeline for completion?

Answer—

(1) and (2) An amount of \$320,000 has been provided from the \$15 million coastal infrastructure repair program for 2012/13 to undertake the following projects in Wollongong Harbour:

- Repairs to historic sandstone harbour seawall. An amount of \$200,000 has been allocated to complete this \$370,000 project, which was commenced in 2011-12.
- Construction of a fence between Brighton Beach and the timber jetty to improve public safety. An amount of \$90,000 has been allocated to this project.
- An amount of \$30,000 has been provided to enable minor maintenance works to be carried around the harbour.

(3) The above works will be completed by January 2013.

*2363 PAYMENTS TO SYDNEY HARBOUR FORESHORE AUTHORITY—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

How much was paid by Lend Lease to Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority as an upfront one-off fee for the 99-year lease of Darling Quarter?

Answer—

An upfront payment (the agreed sum) of \$19,950,000 was paid by Lend Lease to Sydney Harbour

Foreshore Authority in four separate installments.

*2364 MACQUARIE BANK AND KPMG SITE—FEES PAYABLE—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) What are the annual land lease fees payable this financial year for the car park, bus terminus and the offices at the Macquarie Bank site?
- (2) What amount was paid by the developer for the 99-year lease of the KPMG site?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The car park, coach layover facility and commercial office space at the Macquarie Bank site, known as 1 Shelley Street, Sydney, are subject to separate executed and registered leases. All executed registered leases can be viewed on the NSW Government's Land and Property Information database.
- (2) Roads and Maritime Services does not own the land on which the KPMG building is situated, known as 10 Shelley Street, Sydney.

*2365 MONITORING OF SPEED LIMITS IN BALMAIN—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- (1) What measures are currently in place to monitor speed limits in the suburb of Balmain?
- (2) Has there been any consideration given to using hand-held police speed cameras to monitor speed on the Balmain peninsula?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me:

The Leichhardt Highway Patrol conducts regular static and mobile patrols of the Balmain Peninsula to enforce compliance with the Road Rules, including monitoring speed limits. This has included covert and high visibility patrols of the Balmain Peninsula. Handheld LIDAR instruments are used by the Leichhardt Highway Patrol to enforce speed limits.

*2366 RENT INCREASE FOR SOCIAL HOUSING—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Was there a rent increase for social housing tenants in 2011?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) How much was this increase?
 - (b) When were social housing tenants notified of this increase?
 - (c) When did this increase take effect?
 - (d) What was the reason for the increase in rent?
- (3) Has there been a rent increase for social housing tenants in 2012?
- (4) If so:
 - (a) How much was this increase?
 - (b) When were social housing tenants notified of this increase?
 - (c) When did this increase take effect?
 - (d) What was the reason for the increase in rent?
- (5) Are there any further rent increases planned for social housing tenants?

Answer—

- (1) to (5) Regular six monthly increases for public housing tenants take effect in April and October each year. Rent increases for community housing tenants are applied around the same time. Adjustment of rent subsidies follows the six monthly increases in Centrelink payments. These arrangements have been in place under previous Labor Governments.

The amount of the increase depends on the circumstances of each social housing household. Social housing tenants are advised in advance of any rent increase.

From March 2013, as announced, the Clean Energy Supplement will be included as assessable income. The Federal Labor Government under Julia Gillard has already increased fees paid by nursing home residents to cover carbon tax costs.

Previous state Labor Governments approved social housing providers in NSW including the Large Family Supplement and the Income Support Supplement as assessable income for rent setting purposes.

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There are no plans to include other existing support payments as assessable income.

*2367 LEND LEASE OCCUPANCY OF DARLING WALK—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Was Lend Lease given occupancy of the site known as Darling Walk (Darling Quarter) to build the North and South buildings and private and public car parks comprising the Commonwealth Bank Plaza?
- (2) What was the basis of the agreement to give Lend Lease occupancy of this site?
- (3) When were the buildings scheduled to be finished and leased?
- (4) (a) What amount of money did Lend Lease pay the Government as part of this agreement?
(b) On what date was this amount paid?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In 2008, following a tender process, Lend Lease was awarded the development rights for the Darling Walk site at Darling Harbour.
- (2) The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) granted development rights to Lend Lease in accordance with the Darling Harbour Redevelopment Deed Put and Call Offer to Lease (the Deed) dated 23 April 2009.
- (3) The completion date is to be found within the terms of the Deed.
- (4) (a) and (b) Lend Leases monetary obligations are to be found within the terms of the Deed.

*2368 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES—FTE EMPLOYEES—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

What is the number of FTE employees for each service group within the Department of Education and Communities, for the following years:

- (a) 2010-11 actual;
- (b) 2011-12 actual;
- (c) 2012-13 forecast?

Answer—

(a) and (b) The number of FTE employees for each service group within the Department of Education and Communities for the 2010-11 year and estimated for the 2011-12 year is provided in the following table:

Service group	2010-11	2011-12
Teachers (schools)	61,144	61,630
Educational Support (schools)	18,045	18,283
Educational Support (SRO)	3,290	3,340
Corporate Services	2,075	2,096
Educational Support (TAFE)	4,153	4,139
Teachers (TAFE)	10,422	9,900
AMES and NAS	155	28
Early Childhood Education and Care	101	n/a
Office of Communities	946	828
Total	100,329	100,244

(c) The Department does not prepare a 2012-13 forecast.

*2369 HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Richard Torbay asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Will the conditions of game licences be suspended under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act for hunters accessing National Park Estate thereby enabling conservation hunters to utilise the same hunting methods as National Parks & Wildlife employees engaged in professional feral animal control?
- (2) Will any of the national parks declared under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act be used as breeding grounds for trophy quality deer through being managed under the Ecological Deer Management principles promoted by the Game Council NSW?
- (3) Will deer maintain their game status on National Park Estate and be given the protection afforded

- game animals under section 5.1 of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act?
- (4) Will hunters be encouraged to "let him go so he can grow" when confronted by a male deer on National Park Estate?
 - (5) Can Game Council NSW demonstrate any evidence of the reduction of the impacts of feral animals on ecosystems in declared state forests?
 - (6) Given that most Government agencies involved in feral animal control identify deer as a potential pest species, is Ecological Deer Management, as promoted by Game Council NSW, an appropriate management tool on public land?
 - (7) Given that ground shooting at night is the most common and effective method of deer population control used by Government agencies, why does the Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation apply conditions to game hunting licences prohibiting licensed hunters from hunting at night, using artificial light and using a vehicle when hunting deer?
 - (8) Will hunters accessing National Park Estate require a similarly higher standard of hunter education as those participating in conservation hunting groups?
 - (9) Have any additional costs been incurred by Forests NSW in managing forests declared under the Game and Feral Animal Control Act?
 - (10) What savings have been generated by Forests NSW through the use of conservation hunting as a method of feral animal control?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Hunting undertaken by volunteers in national parks and reserves will, as a minimum, comply with the standard restrictions on licensed game hunting that apply on all other public lands. Any necessary variations to these conditions for the volunteer pest control program will be developed in the coming months.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. However, deer are not protected under Section 5.1 of the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 from programs approved by the relevant park authority on national parks and reserves.
- (4) No.
- (5) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP.
- (6) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP.
- (7) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP.
- (8) Yes. However, the standards are not yet finalised. These will be developed in the coming months.
- (9) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP.
- (10) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP.

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*2371 NEW MRI MACHINES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Has the Federal Department of Health and Ageing called for interest in new MRI machines for Sydney?
- (2) Will the NSW Health Department be making a submission on this matter?
- (3) Will the State Government nominate Mount Druitt Hospital as a location for one of these new MRI machines?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (3) The Invitation to Apply issued by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in May 2012 is for the provision of Medicare-eligibility for MRI services and not for the provision of equipment.

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*2372 OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT MOUNT DRUITT HOSPITAL—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) How many operations were performed at the Mount Druitt Hospital in the 12-month period ending 31 May 2012?
- (2) Of the number mentioned above, how many of the patients were classified as:
 - (a) public (Medicare) patients;
 - (b) private patients?
- (3) Has this case mix changed from previous periods?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) 3,947. This represents an increase of 165 more than in the previous 12 month period.
- (2) (a) 3,637 (Medicare & Privately Referred Non-inpatients).
(b) 310 (Private).
- (3) No.

*2373 FUNDING FOR TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

Further to the NSW Budget Paper(s) 1, 2, 3 & 4, of the \$125 million identified to support tourism and major events in NSW:

- (1) How much will be targeted to meet the needs of Sydney?
- (2) How much will be targeted to meet the needs of regional NSW?
- (3) How much will be targeted specifically to meet the needs of the Hunter?
- (4) Which Hunter agencies will receive funding and for what purpose will this funding be allocated?
- (5) Will this indicate an increase or decrease for funding to Hunter agencies and to what extent?

Answer—

(1) and (2) In terms of tourism, the NSW Government will be directly investing \$34.6 million into tourism programs for Sydney and regional NSW. This includes:

- \$4.2 million on Sydney marketing activities.
- \$9 million on regional NSW marketing activities and grants.
- \$12.4 million on international marketing and trade development activities (includes Sydney and regional NSW).
- \$5.8 million on specific sector marketing activities, digital and content development and delivery (includes Sydney and regional NSW).
- \$3.2 million on industry development and training, plus strategic research and insights (includes Sydney and regional NSW).

It is anticipated that the tourism industry will also contribute more than \$5 million to our co-operative marketing campaigns and related activities.

Destination NSW does not disclose the level of funds that it will commit to event investment. This allows the organisation to bid for events in a competitive market.

(3) to (5) Destination NSW's regional program for 2012-13 includes an extension of the Regional Tourism Partnership Program, with a total commitment of \$5.133 million for the year. Destination NSW is currently working with the industry to determine the exact funding allocation per region.

*2374 NORTHNET—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

Given that "Northnet" is a registered training organisation based in the electorate of Cessnock:

- (1) What programs/training options are available for this service to seek funding in 2012-13?
- (2) What date/timeline is the application processes scheduled?
- (3) (a) Are there local, Hunter Region, contacts available for these programs?
(b) If so, who should Northnet contact for potential suitability?

Answer—

- (1) Northnet is able to seek training funds under the Approved Providers List which expires in December 2012. Funding is available through the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Training Program for new entrant trainees and selected apprenticeships and part qualifications through the Strategic Skills Program. Arrangements beyond this period are still to be determined.

(2) The 2011-2012 Approved Providers List contract ends on 31 December 2012. Applications for consideration can be made up to that date. Arrangements for the 2013-2014 contract will be advised later this year.

(3) (a) and (b) The local contact is the Regional Manager, Hunter and Central Coast, State Training Services on telephone number (02) 4974 8570 or via email at hunterstc@det.nsw.edu.au

*2375 SPECTACLES PROGRAM FUNDING—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With regard funding for the Spectacles Program:

(1) How much funding has been allocated in the State Budget for 2009-10?

(2) How much funding has been allocated in the State Budget for 2010-11?

(3) How much funding has been allocated in the State Budget for 2011-12?

(4) How much funding has been allocated in the State Budget for 2012-13?

(5) Has funding been increased to meet ageing population and demand?

Answer—

(1) to (3) The following funding was provided for the Spectacles Program:

Year	Budget	Expenditure	Overspend
2007-2008	\$4,240,600	\$ 5,314,667	\$1,074,067
2008-2009	\$4,303,156	\$ 5,114,076	\$810,920
2009-2010	\$4,369,160	\$ 4,607,630	\$238,470
2010-2011	\$4,422,147	\$ 5,583,258	\$1,161,111
2011-2012	\$4,468,334	\$ 4,510,813*	\$42,479

(4) The 2012-13 budget for the NSW Spectacles Program is \$4.5 million.

(5) The budget allocation for the Spectacles Program was overspent consistently and unsustainably under the previous Labor Government. As a result approximately \$3.2 million was not available for other Community Services clients, including vulnerable children and young people, between 2007-2008 and 2010-2011.

The Government made the right decision to hold the NSW Spectacles Program to budget in 2011-2012 and to reform the contract to improve services when it came due in 2012.

This year services will be provided within budget.

*2376 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regards to the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund:

(1) Who are the members of this fund?

(2) When were they appointed?

(3) How were they chosen?

(4) How often did they meet in 2011-12?

(5) How often will they meet in 2012-13?

(6) What minutes, motions, decisions, resolutions are available to public access?

(7) What is the total 2011-2015 budget?

(8) How much was allocated and deliberated in 2011-12?

(9) How much is allocated and deliberated in 2012-13?

(10) Which of the decisions in 2011-12 and or 2012-13 were a result of the decision making and deliberations of the members of this fund as per minutes and motions available in public access documents?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

*2377 RESOURCES FOR REGIONS FUND—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services—

With regard the Resources for Regions Fund:

(1) Who are the appointed members/decision makers of this fund?

(2) When were they appointed?

(3) How were they chosen?

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- (4) How often did they meet in 2011-12?
- (5) How often will they meet in 2012-13?
- (6) What minutes, motions, decisions, resolutions are available to public access?
- (7) What is the total 2011-2015 budget?
- (8) What are the terms and conditions for the funding and expenditure for this fund?
- (9) How much was allocated and deliberated in 2011-12?
- (10) How much is allocated and will be deliberated in 2012-13?
- (11) How should targeted LGA's "apply" for funds?

Answer—

(1) to (11) Details of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program can be found in the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services' 2012-13 Budget Papers.

*2378 SCHOOL ZONE FLASHING LIGHTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With regard to the safety and security initiatives known as "School Zone Flashing Lights":

- (1) How much money was allocated in the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 Budgets?
- (2) How many NSW schools in 2012-13 will receive funding to implement school zone flashing lights?
- (3) Which schools in the electorate of Cessnock currently do not have school zone flashing lights and which schools in the electorate of Cessnock will receive funding for school zone flashing lights in 2012-13?
- (4) Which schools in the electorate of Upper Hunter currently do not have school zone flashing lights and which schools in the electorate of Upper Hunter will receive funding for school zone flashing lights in 2012-13?
- (5) Which schools in the electorate of Maitland currently do not have school zone flashing lights and which schools in the electorate of Maitland will receive funding for school zone flashing lights in 2012-13?

Answer—

The NSW Government made a 4-year \$13 million election commitment towards the installation of school zone flashing lights. This will result in the installation of approximately 540 flashing lights in school zones. In addition, in May 2012 the Government committed an additional \$4 million for the rollout of flashing lights in regional areas, which will result in the rollout to approximately 160 more regional school zones.

This brings the Government's 4-year commitment to \$17 million and means we'll be able to install flashing lights in approximately 700 school zones over that period. The former State Labor Government installed flashing lights at 411 school zones in its last term of Government.

Schools with flashing lights, or identified for flashing lights, are published on the Roads and Maritime Services website. When the next round of sites to receive flashing lights in 2012-13 is identified, the details will be made available on the internet.

*2379 GRANTS TO SPORTING GROUPS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation—

With regard funding and/or grants provided by Sport and Recreation to sporting groups:

- (1) How much funding was available in 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13?
- (2) When will the 2012-13 grants be available for application?
- (3) When will the successful 2012-13 grants be notified?

Answer—

- (1) Treasury provides an annual allocation for the Sport and Recreation Fund from which all grants are made. The funds available vary each year depending on the Treasury allocation e.g. \$20,499,000 in 2009-10, \$16,299,000 in 2010-11, \$15,699,000 in 2011-12 and \$16,499,000 in 2012-13.
- (2) The 2012-13 grants will be open for applications shortly.
- (3) The successful 2012-13 grants will be notified following the assessment of the grant applications.

*2380 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Can you confirm:

- (1) You are not responsible for the security and preservation of Aboriginal heritage sites?
- (2) You do not have responsibility for the preservation of ancient Aboriginal sites exposed to residential

development?

Answer—

In response to questions one and two, I can confirm that I do not have responsibility for the security and preservation of heritage sites or for the preservation of ancient Aboriginal sites exposed to residential development. My colleague the Hon Robyn Parker MP, the Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage, has carriage of these matters.

*2381 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Do you have complete responsibility for the security and preservation of Aboriginal heritage sites?
- (2) Are you aware of the Aboriginal heritage site known as the Butterfly Caves just north of the West Wallsend Village?
- (3) Are you aware of the Aboriginal heritage site known as the "Scar Trees" just north of the West Wallsend Village?
- (4) What is/are the necessary process(es) required to have these ancient Aboriginal sites preserved and protected?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) No.

I do have a number of responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Heritage Act 1977.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, which is administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage, is the primary legislation for the protection of some aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW.

Part 4 of the Act provides for the reservation, care and management of Aboriginal areas and a range of other conservation mechanisms that can provide protection to Aboriginal heritage sites.

Part 6 of the Act provides for the identification, protection, recording of Aboriginal objects and places and transfer of objects for safekeeping to Aboriginal communities. Importantly, Part 6 also aims to prevent damage to Aboriginal objects and places by way of establishing clear and enforceable penalties for offences of harm.

I also have responsibilities for the protection of Aboriginal heritage under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, which is also administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage. Aboriginal places or objects that are recognised as having high cultural value can be listed and protected on the statutory State Heritage Register. Clear and enforceable penalties for offences of harm also exist under the Heritage Act.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

- (4) Under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, it is an offence to cause harm or desecrate any Aboriginal site or object without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.

The Office of Environment and Heritage also works with Aboriginal communities and landholders to provide additional protection to Aboriginal heritage, by assessing and declaration of Aboriginal Places, assessing and registering on the State Heritage Register, establishing and creating Voluntary Conservation Agreements and Plans of Management.

An application to declare the site as an Aboriginal Place has been received and is being assessed. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed. The development proposal includes a 20 metre buffer between the caves and the development.

*2382 INQUIRY INTO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In relation to the Staysafe Committee's 2009 Inquiry into Pedestrian Safety:

- (1) How many of the 24 recommendations of the committee have been implemented?
- (2) Which recommendations have not been completed?
- (3) Has the RMS (formerly the RTA) established the interagency crash data working group?
- (4) Is the data of the interagency crash data working group publicly available?
- (5) If the recommendations have not been completed, why not?

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(6) If the recommendations have not been completed, when will they be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1), (2), (5) and (6) Eleven of the Staysafe Committee's 24 recommendations have been completed, nine are ongoing, two are not supported and two recommendations are not the responsibility of either Transport for NSW or Roads and Maritime Services.

(3) A key action in response to recommendations 1 and 2 was the establishment of the Road Safety Data Management Committee by the Centre for Road Safety.

(4) The Road Safety Data Management Committee has been involved in a linkage study linking traffic crash casualty records to external (principally health) databases. The results will be published once the project is finalised.

*2383 PHASING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In relation to the phasing of traffic lights:

- (1) Has an audit of pedestrian traffic lights been conducted to identify the most dangerous crossings?
- (2) When was the audit completed?
- (3) What actions will be taken to address pedestrian safety at those crossings identified by the audit as dangerous?
- (4) Has the audit been publicly released?
- (5) If the audit has not been released, when will the audit be released?
- (6) If an audit has not been undertaken, when will an audit be undertaken?
- (7) Will the audit be publicly released when the audit is completed?

Answer—

I am advised that there has been no overall audit, however RMS and the Centre for Road Safety regularly undertake safety reviews at intersections where a member of the community may have raised a concern or there have been crashes.

Further information about pedestrian safety is available on the RMS website.

*2384 M5 TUNNEL CLOSURES—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In relation closures of the M5 tunnel:

- (1) How many times was the M5 tunnel been closed during the period March 2011 to March 2012?
- (2) What was the average duration of closure during this period?
- (3) How many times was the M5 tunnel closed during the period March 2010 to March 2011?
- (4) What was the average duration of closure during this period?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) For the period 1 March 2011 to 31 March 2012 there were 101 closures of the M5 tunnel.
- (2) The average duration of each planned closure was 8 hours (for the period 1 March 2011 to 8 December 2011). The average duration of each planned closure and resurfacing works closure was 7.5 hours (for the period 9 December 2011 to 31 March 2012 to align with requirements for permitting road occupancy under a new contract). The average duration of closures for unplanned maintenance and emergency incidents was less than 2 hours.
- (3) For the period 1 March 2010 to 31 March 2011 there were 122 closures of the M5 tunnel.
- (4) Average duration of each planned closure was 8 hours (for the period 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011). Average duration of closures for unplanned maintenance and emergency incidents was approximately 4.5 hours.

*2385 DAILY ROAD TOLL UPDATE—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In regards to daily road toll update available on the RMS website:

- (1) (a) Are there any plans to enhance the information provided on the daily road toll update in line with the daily road toll update provided by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) in Victoria?
- (b) If so when will the improvements be complete?

(2) If there are no plans to improve the information provided on the daily road toll update, why not?

Answer—

An enhanced Daily Road Toll Update report, which emulates the TAC's report, has been available on the Centre for Road Safety's website since July 2011.

*2386 NEWCASTLE INNER CITY BYPASS COMPLETION DATE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that the Government has now terminated contracts with Reed constructions, will the Minister advise the new completion date for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass?

Answer—

Please see my answer to Written Question 2252.

*2387 DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS IN THE HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Does the Hunter and Central Coast have the highest number of demountable classrooms in NSW at 676?

(2) If so, what is the Government doing to address this infrastructure backlog so that students are able to study under more conducive conditions?

Answer—

(1) No.

(2) See (1).

*2388 WESTERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Western NSW Local Health District (LHD) and the appointment of a medical practitioner to be the executive clinical director to each LHD (Question 1836):

(1) Who is/are the executive clinical director(s) to the Western NSW LHD?

(2) What was their date(s) of appointment?

(3) For how long is/are the position(s) tenured?

(4) How was the position advertised?

(5) How many applications were received?

(6) How many additional full time equivalents (FTEs) to their usual position(s) are involved in this role as executive clinical director?

(7) What are the duties of the position?

(8) What extra funding has been provided?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Western NSW Local Health District has three Executive Clinical Directors:

- Dr Randall Greenberg at Dubbo (March, 2010);
- Dr Geof Marshall at Bathurst (June, 2010); and
- Dr Allan Kerrigan at Orange (February, 2012).

(3) Ongoing.

(4) and (5) Expressions of Interest for these positions were called for within the facilities in accordance with standard NSW Health recruitment processes.

(6) 0.2 full time equivalent at Bathurst and Orange.

(7) The Executive Clinical Director is accountable for the provision of clear, visible clinical leadership to Health service staff. The Executive Clinical Director will model behaviours that reflect the Western NSW Local Health District values, including:

- Providing independent advice on the delivery of clinical services, clinical standards of care, and medical workforce matters to the Chief Executive, Director Operations and Health Service General Manager.
- Supporting local decision-making through regular forums and consultations with clinicians including local medical staff councils, to ensure that clinicians are kept aware of health system

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and clinical practice improvement; and providing feedback to Chief Executive and service managers.

- Championing clinical training standards and team-based training opportunities to enhance Western NSW Local Health District's prevocational, vocational and continuing professional development.
- Championing and supporting the implementation and maintenance of effective performance management for all levels of Health Service medical workforce.
- Championing the adoption of improved models of care and enhancements to clinical practice in conjunction with clinical governance and the workforce directorate.
- Contributing to and influencing clinical redesign projects that will enhance the efficiency of clinical services and model of care.
- Acting as a public spokesperson where required by the Chief Executive, Director Operations or General Manager on operational matter relating to clinical practice.
- Working with other office-bearers and service directors to achieve agreed directives.

(8) No extra funding is required.

*2389 CENTRAL COAST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT—EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Central Coast Local Health District (LHD) and the appointment of a medical practitioner to be the executive clinical director to each LHD (Question 1836):

- (1) Who is/are the executive clinical director(s) to the Central Coast LHD?
- (2) What was their date(s) of appointment?
- (3) For how long is/are the position(s) tenured?
- (4) How as the position advertised?
- (5) How many applications were received?
- (6) How many additional full time equivalents (FTEs) to their usual position(s) are involved in this role as executive clinical director?
- (7) What are the duties of the position?
- (8) What extra funding has been provided?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (7) Central Coast Local Health District has not appointed an Executive Clinical Director. The function of this role is being managed through the District's Clinical Council.

The District's Clinical Council is accountable for the provision of clear, visible clinical leadership to Health service staff. The District's Clinical Council will model behaviours that reflect the Central Coast Local Health District values, including:

- Providing independent advice on the delivery of clinical services, clinical standards of care, and medical workforce matters.
- Supporting local decision-making through regular forums and consultations with clinicians including local medical staff councils, to ensure that clinicians are kept aware of health system and clinical practice improvement; and providing appropriate feedback.
- Championing clinical training standards and team-based training opportunities to enhance Central Coast Local Health District's prevocational, vocational and continuing professional development.
- Championing and supporting the implementation and maintenance of effective performance management for all levels of Health Service medical workforce.
- Championing the adoption of improved models of care and enhancements to clinical practice in conjunction with clinical governance and the workforce directorate.
- Contributing to and influencing clinical redesign projects that will enhance the efficiency of clinical services and model of care.
- Acting as a public spokespersons where required on operational matters relating to clinical practice.
- Working with office-bearers and service directors to achieve agreed directives.

(8) No extra funding is required.

*2390 ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT NURSES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to your claim to have employed 2,500 extra full-time equivalent nurses since the 2011

election (Hansard 13 June 2012), how many of these nurses were employed in:

- (a) Central Coast Local Health District (LHD);
- (b) Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD;
- (c) Nepean Blue Mountains LHD;
- (d) Northern Sydney LHD;
- (e) South Eastern Sydney LHD;
- (f) South Western Sydney LHD;
- (g) Sydney LHD;
- (h) Western Sydney LHD;
- (i) Far West LHD;
- (j) Hunter New England LHD;
- (k) Mid North Coast LHD;
- (l) Murrumbidgee LHD;
- (m) Northern NSW LHD;
- (n) Southern NSW LHD;
- (o) Western NSW LHD;
- (p) NSW Kids ?

Answer—

I am advised:

The State Government committed to employing 2,475 additional nurses and midwives in our first term, and 14 months into that term we have already surpassed that target.

The 2012-13 budget builds on the important work already done in increasing nurse numbers across NSW by allocating a further \$64 million to recruit approximately 500 additional nurses at public hospitals. In addition, \$4.4 million will be allocated to employing more Clinical Nurse/Midwife Educators and Clinical Nurse/Midwife Specialists, and a further \$1.9 million will go to supporting the Health Professionals Workforce Plan.

Workforce data is published in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report available on the NSW Health website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

*2391 PATIENTS WALKING OUT OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regard to patients "walking out" of emergency departments (EDs) without being seen:

- (1) What was the statewide walkout rate for April 2012?
- (2) How many, and what percentage, of total numbers of those presenting to ED walked out without being seen in April 2012 in:
 - (a) Bankstown;
 - (b) Concord;
 - (c) Gosford;
 - (d) John Hunter;
 - (e) Calvary Mater
 - (f) Belmont
 - (g) Port Macquarie
 - (h) Taree
 - (i) Liverpool;
 - (j) Nepean;
 - (k) Prince of Wales;
 - (l) Royal North Shore;
 - (m) Royal Prince Alfred;
 - (n) St George;
 - (o) St Vincent's;
 - (p) Westmead;
 - (q) Wollongong;
 - (r) The Children's Hospital at Westmead;
 - (s) Sydney Children's;
 - (t) Blacktown;
 - (u) Campbelltown;
 - (v) Mount Druitt;

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- (w) Sutherland;
- (x) Wyong;
- (y) Maitland;
- (z) Fairfield;
- (aa) Tamworth;
- (ab) Wagga Wagga;
- (ac) Orange;
- (ad) Bathurst;
- (ae) Dubbo?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The question seeks detail on patients "walking out" of emergency departments (EDs) without being seen. The national terminology used for this group of patients is based on the departure status and is referred to as "Did not Wait". The statewide rate for April 2012 was 4.9% or 8,907 people.

(2)

Hospital	Did not wait number	Did not wait - % of total ED attendances
(a) Bankstown	176	4.5
(b) Concord	76	2.5
(c) Gosford	279	5.8
(d) John Hunter	146	2.5
(e) Calvary Mater	98	3.6
(f) Belmont	93	4.6
(g) Port Macquarie	88	3.3
(h) Taree/Manning	128	6.1
(i) Liverpool	497	8.8
(j) Nepean	200	4.2
(k) Prince of Wales	129	3.3
(l) Royal North Shore	140	2.7
(m) Royal Prince Alfred	304	5.3
(n) St George	149	2.6
(o) St Vincent's	252	7.0
(p) Westmead	390	7.8
(q) Wollongong	300	6.4
(r) The Children's Hospital at Westmead	447	10.2
(s) Sydney Children's	91	2.9
(t) Blacktown	187	6.2
(u) Campbelltown	314	6.6
(v) Mount Druitt	266	9.6
(w) Sutherland	105	2.6
(x) Wyong	222	4.6
(y) Maitland	146	3.9
(z) Fairfield	212	7.6
(aa) Tamworth	257	8.0
(ab) Wagga Wagga	105	3.7
(ac) Orange	87	3.7
(ad) Bathurst	69	3.3
(ae) Dubbo	127	5.3

*2392 SUTHERLAND HOSPITAL CAR PARK—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Government's \$10 million pre-election commitment to expand the car park at Sutherland Hospital ("NSW Liberals & Nationals Plan to Provide Timely, Quality Health Care"):

- (1) How much of the committed funds were allocated for the 2011-12 budget year?

- (2) Under what program or project are these funded in the 2012-13 budget papers?
- (3) Has work commenced?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If yes, when?
- (4) When is the car park due to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (4) The NSW Government committed \$10 million within the first term of Government for the car park at Sutherland Hospital. Planning funds were allocated in the 2012-2013 Budget as part of the Planning for Future New Health and Health and Hospital Fund Projects. Planning for the Sutherland Car Park is underway. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2015.

*2393 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT NURSES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

How many full-time equivalent nurses were employed by NSW Health on:

- (a) 1 April 2011;
- (b) 1 April 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

Workforce data is published in the Ministry of Health's Annual Report available on the NSW Health website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

*2394 MULLUMBIMBY HOSPITAL—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to Mullumbimby Hospital:

- (1) When did the Minister last visit this facility?
- (2) What plans does the Minister have for this facility?
- (3) Now that the night doctor is no longer on site, what plans are in place for medical care (triage 3-5) and medical emergencies (triage categories 1 and 2) at night?
- (4) What is the status of the Ewingsdale site?
- (5) Have other sites been investigated as the site for the new hospital?
- (6) Is there a start date for building the new hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Minister visited the facility as Shadow Minister and will visit again in the near future.
- (2) Under the government's devolved governance model the Minister has tasked the Boards of the LHDs to complete district Health Services Plans to determine the future needs and configuration of health services.
- (3) No change has been made to the Night Medical Officer arrangement at Mullumbimby District Hospital.
- (4) The Ewingsdale site has been purchased and has been re-zoned by the Byron Shire Council for Hospital use. The Byron Bay Ambulance Station occupies part of the land and this will eventually be co-located on the same parcel of land with the proposed Byron Shire Central Hospital.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) The Byron Shire Central Hospital is at the Clinical Services Planning stage.

*2395 BROKEN HILL MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the Government's planned \$6.6 million Broken Hill mental health facility (media release 11 November 2011 "a boost for Broken Hill mental health services"):

- (1) How much of the expected cost of this facility was spent in the 2011-12 budget year?
- (2) How much of the expected cost of the facility is allocated in the 2012-13 budget?
- (3) Under what program or project is this money listed in the 2012-13 budget papers?

Answer—

I am advised:

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- (1) The expenditure for 2011-12 for the Broken Hill Sub-acute Mental Health Unit was \$3,847,072.
- (2) The facility is scheduled for completion in September 2012 with the remainder of the capital budget allocated for 2012-13.
- (3) The project was listed under the Patient Services section of the 2012-13 budget papers.

*2396 BUDGET ALLOCATION—LAND ACQUISITION—WARATAH—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the NSW 2012-13 budget paper Infrastructure Statement (No. 4):

- (1) Given that page 4-33 lists "Land acquisition - Waratah" with an allocated budget of \$7 million for the 2012-13 budget period, what is this land acquisition to be used for?
- (2) Where exactly is this land to be acquired?
- (3) What was the \$1 million allocated in the previous budget period used for?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) This land is to be used for the future development of public and private health services, and research and teaching facilities on an expanded Mater (Hunter) Campus.
- (2) The land adjoins the existing Mater (Hunter) Campus, Lot 11 DP 1104803, and will entail approximately 3.2 hectares of the 3.47 hectares included in this Lot.
- (3) Planning.

*2397 BUDGET FUNDING FOR BASS SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

In reference to the NSW Budget 2012-13 Infrastructure Statement:

- (1) Why have no funds been allocated to complete the Bass School for Special Purposes in the 2012-13 financial year?
- (2) (a) Has funding been set aside for this important project?
(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Education.

*2398 SMOKING RESTRICTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Will the Government consider creating a separate State government entity to enforce smoking restrictions in public places?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government has in place a comprehensive approach to compliance monitoring and enforcement of tobacco control regulations with the establishment of Authorised Inspectors located in NSW Health Public Health Units of Local Health Districts across the state.

These Authorised Inspectors will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the new smoking bans in outdoor public places proposed in the Tobacco Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

*2399 INVESTMENT IN STACEY STREET BANKSTOWN—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Why were there no funds allocated for Stacey Street Bankstown in the 2012-13 Budget?
- (2) Will the Minister visit Stacey Street in order to see, first hand, the need for investment in this important arterial road?

Answer—

- (1) Funding allocation in the Budget has been made on a state-wide priority basis.
- (2) I am aware of road investment needs throughout the State, whether it be through first hand visits, advice from RMS, or representations from others.

*2400 INVESTMENT IN HENRY LAWSON DRIVE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

- (1) Why were there no funds allocated for Henry Lawson Drive in the 2012-13 Budget?

- (2) Did the Member for East Hills approach the Minister's office regarding this important infrastructure project prior to the completion of next year's budget?
- (3) Will the Minister visit Henry Lawson Drive in order to see, first hand, the need for investment in this important arterial road?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The upgrading of Henry Lawson Drive will be supported, based on need. Funds will be allocated in future Budgets based on competing priorities for infrastructure throughout the State, including that for other modes of transport. TfNSW & RMS will continue to monitor the performance and condition of Henry Lawson Drive and periodically reassess its priority.
- (2) and (3) The Member for East Hills frequently lobbies me on a range of issues, including Henry Lawson Drive, which is why I visit his electorate to see the issues first hand.

*2401 INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISHONEST BUSINESS OPERATORS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

Will the Government's decision to cut funding to NSW Fair Trading impact the ability of NSW Fair Trading to conduct investigations into dishonest business operators?

Answer—

The Government's 2012-13 budget allocation to NSW Fair Trading will not impact Fair Trading's ability to conduct investigations into dishonest business operators.

*2402 NSW FAIR TRADING JOB LOSSES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

How many employees of NSW Fair Trading will lose their jobs as a result of the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

Like most other agencies, NSW Fair Trading has a reduced budget allocation for 2012-13. Agencies have a significant degree of flexibility in how they meet their savings targets across the areas of employee-related and operational expenses, though it is likely that some positions will no longer be considered essential for Fair Trading to fulfil its role in safeguarding consumer rights, regulating specific industries and occupations, and advising traders on fair and ethical business practices.

*2403 CONSUMER, TRADER AND TENANCY TRIBUNAL—REGISTRY CLOSURES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) Which Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal registries will be closed as a result of the Government's decision to cut funding to the Department of Fair Trading?
- (2) Will the Minister keep the following Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal registries open:
 - (a) Hurstville;
 - (b) Liverpool;
 - (c) Penrith;
 - (d) Sydney CBD;
 - (e) Newcastle;
 - (f) Tamworth;
 - (g) Wollongong?

Answer—

No Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal Registries will be closed as a result of the Government's 2012-13 budget allocation to NSW Fair Trading. Each of the listed registries will remain open.

*2404 NSW FAIR TRADING—OFFICE CLOSURES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

- (1) Which NSW Fair Trading offices will be closed as a result of the Government's decision to cut funding to the Department of Fair Trading?
- (2) Will the Minister keep the following NSW Fair Trading offices open:
 - (a) Blacktown;
 - (b) Hurstville;
 - (c) Liverpool;
 - (d) Parramatta;
 - (e) Penrith;

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- (f) Sydney CBD;
- (g) Albury;
- (h) Armidale;
- (i) Bathurst;
- (j) Broken Hill;
- (k) Coffs Harbour;
- (l) Dubbo;
- (m) Gosford;
- (n) Goulburn;
- (o) Grafton;
- (p) Lismore;
- (q) Newcastle;
- (r) Orange;
- (s) Port Macquarie;
- (t) Queanbeyan;
- (u) Tamworth;
- (v) Tweed Heads;
- (w) Wagga Wagga;
- (x) Wollongong?

Answer—

No Fair Trading Centre will be closed as a result of the Government's 2012-13 budget allocation to NSW Fair Trading. Fair Trading will maintain its presence in each of the areas listed.

*2405 DEPARTMENT OF FAIR TRADING CUTS TO PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Fair Trading—

What programs and initiatives will be cut or scaled back as a result of the Government's decision to cut funding to the Department of Fair Trading?

Answer—

Previous to the recent budget, NSW Fair Trading had determined that no further funding would be made available under the industry grants programs from 1 July 2012.

All current programs approved prior to this date will continue to be delivered as per their funding agreement.

*2406 MILLERS POINT HOUSING SALES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

With respect to the response by the Minister for Family and Community Services to my Question Without Notice of 4 April 2012 that the Government is reviewing Millers Point public housing sales and promised consultation with key stakeholders:

- (1) What consultation has been carried out with Millers Point residents and businesses about selling Housing NSW homes?
- (2) What options are being considered for the future of heritage listed Millers Point homes owned by the Housing and Lands Corporation?
- (3) What assessment has been made of the social impacts on the Millers Point community of Stage One and Stage Two of the sales program?
- (4) How many Millers Point homes have been left vacant while the sales program is under review?
- (5) What consideration has been given to Housing NSW allocating tenants needing temporary accommodation in these vacant properties?
- (6) When will the Minister meet with me and a delegation of local tenants concerned about the sales, as requested?
- (7) Which key stakeholders will be consulted about future options for social housing in Millers Point?
- (8) How will future consultation include:
 - (a) Social housing tenants;
 - (b) The Millers Point, Dawes Point, The Rocks and Walsh Bay Resident Action Group;
 - (c) The City of Sydney Council;
 - (d) The National Trust?

- (9) How will the Government ensure the protection of the social and cultural heritage of Millers Point embodied in its residents and history of low cost housing, and recognised by the Office of Environment and Heritage as a Conservation Area and of State significance?

Answer—

(1) The current sales program was commenced by the previous Government. At the time the program was announced, the Land and Housing Corporation made a full presentation to the Executive Officers of Heritage NSW and consulted with those tenants directly affected by the program. Community wide consultation was not undertaken.

(2) The Government will consider a range of options, all of which involve protection of the heritage value of the area. Consultation with appropriate stakeholders will be undertaken accordingly.

(3) The social impact of Stage 1 and 2 of the sales program is considered minimal as they comprise only 36 properties out of a total of almost 300.

(4) 18 properties are vacant as part of the sales program; 13 properties have exchanged and are awaiting settlement, while five properties are waiting to be placed on the market. These 18 properties will satisfy the total sales program quota of 36 properties for Stages 1 and 2.

(5) Under the Millers Point sales program properties are evaluated for temporary accommodation as they become vacant and are available for that use if appropriate criteria are met.

(6) to (8) See the response to question (2) above.

(9) The Government will protect the heritage of Millers Point through the Office of Environment and Heritage, the responsible entity for the management of items of heritage significance, both publicly or privately owned.

- *2408 FUNDING FOR SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING TEACHERS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated to Support for Beginning Teachers in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

Funding for support for beginning teachers is no longer separately identified and is now included in the total 2012-13 expenses budget for public schools.

- *2409 FUNDING FOR BEST START LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated for the Best Start Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Program in the:

- (a) 2011-12 Budget;
- (b) 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

Best Start (Literacy) funding is no longer separately identified and is now included in the total expenses budget for public schools in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Budget years.

- *2410 FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated to Special Education in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

It is estimated that funding for special education that is included in the public schools total 2012-13 expenses budget is more than \$1.2 billion.

- *2411 FUNDING FOR STUDENTS IN REGIONAL AND RURAL AREAS—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated for students in regional and rural areas in NSW in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

Program funding in 2012-13 for rural and regional students in NSW public schools is over \$112 million.

TAFE NSW Institutes are allocated budgets against which they plan program delivery with the flexibility to meet the needs of students, employers and communities within the Institute.

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*2412 FUNDING FOR TRANSITION TO YEAR 7 INITIATIVE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated for the Transition to Year 7 Initiative in the:

- (a) 2011-12 Budget;
- (b) 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

- (a) The Transition to Year 7 Initiative was designed to provide targeted support for students moving from primary to secondary school. In 2011-12 the budget allocation for the Transition to Year 7 Initiative was \$4,392,558.
- (b) Funding for the initiative for the 2012-13 budget has not yet been finalised.

*2413 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL SPORTS INITIATIVE—Ms Carmel Tebbutt asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding was allocated for the School Sports Initiative in the:

- (a) 2011-12 Budget;
- (b) 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

With regard to the School Sports Initiative, I believe the Honourable Member is referring to the Premier's Sporting Challenge.

- (a) In the 2011-12 budget, the funding allocated for the Premier's Sporting Challenge was \$2.6 million.
- (b) Funding for specific programs for the 2012-13 budget has not yet been finalised.

*2414 YEAR 12 HSC PORTFOLIOS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What will replace Year 12 HSC Portfolios?
- (2) When will Year 12 HSC Portfolios cease to exist?

Answer—

The Board of Studies NSW has advised that, over recent years, it has become apparent that many schools do not use the plastic HSC portfolios previously provided by the Board and instead prefer to present their students with folders identifying the school.

- (1) There will not be a replacement portfolio issued by the Board of Studies NSW to HSC students.
- (2) The provision of plastic portfolios will cease immediately. The 2011 HSC cohort is the last to have received the portfolio.

*2415 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE SCHOOLS—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

What allocation of funding will be made available to Fairfield electorate schools from the 2012-2013 Budget?

Answer—

Funds will be allocated to schools in Fairfield electorate from a number of different funding sources including National Partnerships funding, funding for teacher and staff salaries, global funding and other funding streams.

*2416 HSC ADVICE LINE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Why is the Government ceasing the provision of the HSC Advice Line?
- (2) Was a review conducted that assessed the effectiveness of the service?
- (3) If so:
 - (a) What was the name of the review?
 - (b) Is there a report available that outlines the findings of the review?
 - (c) Where can a copy of such report be obtained?

Answer—

- (1) The small number of students using the HSC Advice Line makes it no longer viable.
- (2) The Board of Studies routinely reviews all aspects of its operations to ensure their effectiveness and

efficiency.

- (3) Data from the 2011 HSC Advice Line showed that calls to the service have trended down from 39,000 in 1997 to about 600 in 2011. These calls represented less than one half of one per cent of the HSC candidature at a cost of over \$500 per student call.

Alternative technology to a telephone landline service is now available that better meets student needs, such as the Board's website, and is accessible 24 hours per day. The Board's dedicated Students Online portal alone received over half a million visits from HSC students in 2011.

- *2417 BUDGET FUNDING FOR POLICE SERVICES—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

What funding provisions have been made available for increased services or police station upgrades to the following Local Areas Command in the 2012-2013 Budget:

- (a) Fairfield;
- (b) Bankstown;
- (c) Rosehill?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that its 2012-13 Minor Capital Works Program is currently being finalised. New Probationary Constables are deployed in May, August and December each year to replace and add to existing police numbers. Final Probationary Constable allocations will be announced on the date of the next attestation.

- *2418 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the allocation of funding in the 2012-13 Budget for maintenance of Department of Housing stock in the electorate of Fairfield?

Answer—

\$4.51 million.

- *2419 BUDGET FUNDING FOR FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

What funding provisions have been made specifically for Fairfield Hospital in the 2012-2013 Budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

Fairfield Hospital is administered by the South Western Sydney Local Health District (LHD). Budgets are allocated by the Ministry of Health to LHDs on a whole of LHD basis for all facilities under their control. Decisions regarding facility budgets are made at the local level allowing resources to be allocated where they are most needed.

- *2420 BUDGET FUNDING FOR ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

What funding allocations have been made in the 2012-2013 Budget specifically for the upgrade of the roundabout at the intersection of Polding Street and Cumberland Highway?

Answer—

I am advised:

An allocation of \$500,000 has been made in the 2012-13 Budget as part of a \$3 million election commitment for the upgrade of the intersection of Polding Street and the Cumberland Highway.

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- *2421 PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN ALONG COOKS RIVER—Ms Linda Burney asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

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As Sydney Water is required to undertake monitoring and leakage programs under its environment protection licence on behalf of the Cooks River Valley Association, what programs will be undertaken along the Cooks River?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

Questions regarding Sydney Water would be more appropriately directed to the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services.

*2422 FUNDING FOR TEACHERS' AIDES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has the Government reduced teachers' aides funding by half a million dollars in 33 Hunter schools?
- (2) If so, what are the ramifications for students who will now have their hours with teachers' aides cut?

Answer—

The Every Student, Every School initiative is being implemented to provide sustained high quality learning experiences and outcomes for all students with disability in NSW public schools. Every Student, Every School is not about cutting costs. It is increasing the State's total funding allocated directly to regular schools by \$69 million. It brings the total annual spend in NSW public schools on learning and support to more than \$219 million.

In Hunter Region schools there has been an increase in resource allocations to 147 schools equating to \$5,165,466 and a decrease in resource allocations to 35 schools equating to \$664,303. Overall, resource allocations to Hunter schools have increased by \$4,501,162.

The allocations for Hunter schools reflect current enrolments and current student learning needs. Each school principal, in consultation with the school's learning and support team, will use the allocated funds which are in addition to the specialist learning and support teacher to maximise outcomes for students with additional learning and support needs.

Support for students with additional learning and support needs is, as it has been in the past, determined by the school either through the employment of additional teachers or school learning support officers (previously known as teachers' aides) depending upon the specific learning and support needs of students.

*2423 CYCLING ROUTES DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to develop cycling routes in the Hunter?
- (2) How will the Minister improve existing amenities for cyclists?
- (3) Why has the Government scrapped funding for the \$6 million Victoria to Queensland bike trail?

Answer—

- (1) to (3) The NSW Government supports cycling as an affordable, sensible and healthy transport choice and to help reduce congestion in urban areas.

One example is that in 2011-12, Roads and Maritime Services designed mid-block traffic lights to be installed on Hannell Street, Maryville. This will provide an important crossing on the Newcastle City to University cycleway route.

The draft NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan will set out the Government's high-level cycling strategy for NSW cities and towns.

*2424 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY MEASURES—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Will the Government designate revenue raised from traffic enforcement cameras into funding for road safety measures in the Hunter?

Answer—

The establishment of the NSW Community Road Safety Fund is underway. Fine revenue from camera-detected offences, including from fixed speed cameras, school zone cameras, mobile speed cameras, safety cameras - red-light and speed offences - and point-to-point cameras, will go directly into the NSW Community Road Safety Fund which will fund the road safety program.

The NSW Community Road Safety Fund will fund road safety initiatives such as enhanced high visibility police enforcement operations, engineering works and road safety education throughout NSW, including a range of road safety initiatives in the Hunter region.

*2425 PLAN-IT YOUTH PROGRAM—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Education—

How much funding will be allocated to the Plan-It Youth program from July 2012 through to 2013?

Answer—

From July 2012, regional offices working with schools in their area will determine how they support mentoring in their region.

It is expected that schools and regions will use available funds flexibly so that they can make decisions locally about how to best meet the educational and support needs of their students.

*2426 POLICE RESOURCES FOR NEWCASTLE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Noting the spike in crime in Newcastle, in particular youth crime, including serious property damage, graffiti, break-ins and assaults, is the Minister planning to provide more police resources for this problem which is threatening the safety and security of local residents?

Answer—

This Government is determined to provide police with the numbers and resources they need to keep the community safe and has committed to delivering a record 16,356 officers by June 2014.

New Probationary Constables are deployed in May, August and December each year to replace and add to existing police numbers. Final Probationary Constable allocations will be announced on the date of the next attestation.

*2428 PAY AND CONDITIONS FOR CLEANERS—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

What is the Minister doing to ensure that the award for cleaners pay is increased and their conditions are improved?

Answer—

The pay and conditions of cleaners in the private sector are determined by the Federal Government's Fair Work laws.

*2429 HUNTER SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) Will the Minister implement changes to the State Budget so that Hunter sites are among those targeted for development?

(2) If so, where will the development occur and when?

Answer—

This question should be referred to the Minister for Finance and Services who has responsibility for public housing assets.

*2430 FUNDING FOR HUNTER WOMEN'S CENTRE—Ms Sonia Hornery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

(1) Will funding be allocated to the Hunter Women's Centre so that their services can continue after 30 June 2012?

(2) Will funding be provided for a case worker beyond 30 June 2012?

Answer—

As the Hunter Women's Centre currently receives funding from the Hunter New England Area Health Service, questions relating to this organisation should be directed to the Minister for Health.

The Hunter Women's Centre's services have never been funded by Women NSW (formerly the Office for Women's Policy) as grants program funding is not available for the day-to-day operations of an organisation, as was the case under previous Labor Governments.

*2431 TEMPE RAILWAY STATION—Ms Kristina Keneally asked the Minister for Transport—

Noting community concern from residents in Tempe that the State Government is investigating closing Tempe Railway Station, will the Minister commit to keeping this station open and rule out any plans to close it in the future?

Answer—

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There are no plans to close Tempe Railway Station.

*2432 LEGAL AID COMMISSION CIVIL LAW AND CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff positions will be lost, services not provided, grants reduced and organisations not funded or receive reduced funding, as a result of the monies allocated to Legal Aid Commission Civil Law and Criminal Law Services in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

Legal Aid NSW is currently finalising its plans to meet budget savings targets for 2012-13. In finalising savings measures Legal Aid NSW does not expect to reduce its services to disadvantaged people across NSW.

*2433 LEGAL AID COMMISSION SERVICE GROUP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff positions will be lost, services not provided, grants reduced and organisations not funded or receive reduced funding, as a result of the monies allocated to Legal Aid Commission Service Group Community Partnership in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

Legal Aid NSW is currently finalising its plans to meet budget savings targets for 2012-2013. In finalising savings measures Legal Aid NSW does not expect to reduce its services to disadvantaged people across NSW.

*2434 INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff positions will be lost or services not provided as a result of the reduced allocation to the Information and Privacy Commission in the 2012-13 Budget?

Answer—

I am advised:

The reduced budget allocation will be managed through organisational efficiencies. No staff positions will be lost and it is not anticipated that front line service delivery will be affected.

*2435 COURT SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff positions will be lost or services not provided as a result of the reduced allocation to "Court Services" service group in the 2012-13 Budget (Budget Paper No. 3, p. 2-8)?

Answer—

I am advised:

The 2012-2013 Budget is currently being reviewed to identify potential savings in the provision of court services. There has not been an approved change to staffing or service delivery at this time.

*2436 CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

How many staff positions will be lost, services not provided, grants reduced and organisations not funded or receive reduced funding, as a result of the monies allocated to "Crime Prevention and Community Services" service group in the 2012-13 Budget (Budget Paper No. 3, p. 2-9)?

Answer—

I am advised:

No positions performing frontline services will be lost. However, some positions currently vacant within this service group will not be filled at this time.

Services provided to the community will not be impacted by the reduced budget allocation to the Crime Prevention and Community Programs service group.

*2439 USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY—GRAFFITI ACTION DAY—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

What steps has the Attorney General taken to compensate Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) for the use of their intellectual property in relation to Graffiti Action Day?

Answer—

None. The Department is not aware of any claim for compensation.

*2440 CORRECTIVE SERVICES NSW—STAFF OVERPAYMENT—Mr Paul Lynch asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

- (1) Have staff of Corrective Services NSW been requested to repay four days pay allegedly overpaid to them in 1999?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) How many staff have been requested to repay this money?
 - (b) How much money was overpaid?
 - (c) How much money has been repaid?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) In July 1999, Corrective Services NSW implemented a new computerised payroll system which resulted in changes to the pay cycle. On 23 June 1999, Corrective Services NSW staff were advised that the pay cycle changes would result in salaries being paid 4 days in arrears. To ensure that staff were not disadvantaged, a four day advance payment was made. It was explained to staff that this would be recorded as a debit to Corrective Services NSW and adjusted at the end of an officer's employment.

On 24 February 2012, Corrective Services NSW staff received written notice concerning the recovery of the advance payment. Staff were offered the opportunity to repay the amount prior to retirement or cessation of employment, should they wish to do so. The notice clearly stated that this option is voluntary and if staff choose not to repay the amount now, it will be recovered at the cessation of their employment as per the current procedure (which is at the salary rate which applied on 8 July 1999).

Following representations from the Public Service Association of NSW and the NSW Teachers Federation, Corrective Services NSW is currently considering its position in respect of this matter.

- (2) (a) On 24 February 2012, letters were issued to 2,342 Corrective Services NSW staff, who had received the salary advance, to offer them the voluntary option to repay the amount prior to retirement or cessation of employment.
- (b) The amount of money paid as a salary advance to the 2,342 staff, who were issued letters on 24 February 2012, was approximately \$1.5 million.
- (c) As at 30 June 2012, approximately \$70,000 has been repaid by Corrective Services NSW staff who were issued letters on 24 February 2012. This includes money repaid from terminations of employment (e.g. voluntary redundancy or retirement) and staff who chose the option to repay the amount prior to retirement or cessation of employment.

*2441 PET SCANNER FOR THE ILLAWARRA—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

- (1) Noting community calls for the Government to fund a PET scanner in the Illawarra, will the Minister meet with a delegation of local MPs and community members to discuss this issue?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans for the establishment of a PET scanner in the Illawarra?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) and (2) The acquisition of a PET scanner for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is a priority for the District and is supported by the District's Clinical Council.

The Local Health District is currently examining business and service delivery models to identify an appropriate and sustainable strategy for PET services.

*2442 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

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- (1) In relation to the recent Auditor-General report into physical activity in Government primary schools, what action will the Government take in relation to each of the recommendations?
- (2) What are the timeframes for each of the actions the Minister intends to take in relation to this report?

Answer—

- (1) The Performance Audit on Physical Activity in New South Wales Government Primary Schools recognises the exemplary nature of the Department of Education and Communities' curriculum based and extra curricula sport and physical activity programs.

The Department is establishing an Advisory Group of stakeholders to review its current programs and practices to fully assess the report's recommendations and how best to respond in the context of curriculum requirements and current research on best practice in health promotion and physical activity in schools.

- (2) The Department will provide any implementation plans to the Minister and relevant parliamentary committee within the appropriate timeframe.

*2443 OFFICE REFURBISHMENTS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

in relation to Budget Paper No. 4, page 3-36, Office Refurbishment:

- (1) What office refurbishments will be undertaken in Wollongong?
- (2) For each project, what is the estimated cost, timeline and location of the office to be upgraded?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) To comply with the Building Code of Australia standards, a project to refurbish facilities for use by staff and the public namely: toilets; accessible amenities; kitchenettes and cleaners' facilities is being undertaken in the Government Office Building, 84 Crown Street, Wollongong.

The project cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million, excluding GST and is on target to be completed in September 2012.

*2444 DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION STAFF—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) What information and evidence was used to determine that six drug and alcohol education staff working in the department's head office were no longer required?
- (2) How will schools and teachers now receive support in relation to the implementation of strategies to address drug and alcohol issues within their school communities?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The functional realignment of the Public Schools NSW Portfolio is about logically arranging the functions needed to enable schools to more effectively meet the personalised learning needs of all students.

By streamlining the functions and minimising duplication, we are ensuring that it is easier for schools to access the advice and support they need.

Teachers and school leaders will continue to be supported in the delivery of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) syllabus which includes drug education from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Advisors will be available at State level to provide support and advice to both primary and secondary schools. These functions will continue as part of the work of the Early Learning and Primary Education and Secondary Education Directorates.

*2445 SOCIAL HOUSING UPGRADES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

In relation to the \$2.848 million to be spent on social housing upgrades in the electorate of Keira:

- (1) How much funding will be allocated to construct new dwellings?
- (2) For the remaining funding used to upgrade existing properties, which properties will be upgraded and how much will each receive?

Answer—

- (1) \$172,000 is forecast to be spent on the completion of new dwellings construction. This is in addition to the \$2.848 million allocated for upgrade work.
- (2) The \$2.848 million allocated for upgrade work in the Keira electorate is prioritised on known maintenance liability, as determined during regular property condition surveys.

*2446 SHOOTING IN NATIONAL PARKS—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

In relation to the changes to allow shooting in national parks:

- (1) Will authorised shooters be able to bring alcohol into national parks?
- (2) How will the effectiveness of any program of recreational shooting be measured with respect to its impact on the feral animal population?
- (3) What will the cost be to carry out such an evaluation?
- (4) When will those results be made available?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Detailed arrangements for the volunteer pest control program will be worked out over the next six months. However, I note that the Firearms Act 1996 prohibits a person from handling a firearm under the influence of alcohol, or any other drug.
- (2) The National Parks and Wildlife Service will be assessing the combined effectiveness of professional and volunteer shooters on feral animal populations. Details of information required for the assessment and monitoring of the program will be determined over the next six months.
- (3) The monitoring and evaluation program will be cost effective and practical.
- (4) The details of this public reporting will be determined over the next six months.

*2447 EXPANDED CARE SERVICES—Mr Ryan Park asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

In relation to expanded care services to be established at Wollongong and Shoalhaven:

- (1) How many additional staff will be required to operate these services?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the additional positions by location, classification and profession?
- (3) What, if any, additional funds were allocated to the local hospital network in the most recent budget for these additional staff?
- (4) When will the recruitment of this staff commence?
- (5) For the current operation of those two facilities, what is the allocated budget for:
 - (a) staffing;
 - (b) day-to-day operational expenses?
- (6) For the increased capacity of those two facilities once construction is completed, what is the allocated budget for:
 - (a) staffing;
 - (b) day-to-day operational expenses?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (6) The expanded care services to be established at Wollongong and Shoalhaven will include:

- Illawarra Elective Surgical Service/Emergency Department/Ambulatory Care
- Illawarra Regional Cancer Care Centre
- Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre
- Wollongong Subacute Ward

Budgets are allocated by the Ministry of Health to Local Area Health Districts (LHD) on a whole of LHD basis for all facilities under their control. Decisions regarding facility budgets are made at the local level allowing resources to be allocated where they are most needed. LHD's are responsible for publishing hospital budgets in consultation with their respective Boards.

The NSW Ministry and Local Health Districts do not routinely report expenditure on the basis of individual health facilities. However, NSW Health maintains the "Your Health Service" website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/detail.asp>

This website provides a snapshot of over 160 of the State's public hospitals and includes information relating to hospital budget, bed numbers and services provided.

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*2448 FIRST HOME OWNERS GRANT—Mr Richard Amery asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) Has the Government announced in the budget a new first home owners grant of \$15,000 for new home buyers buying a new property/dwelling?
- (2) If so:
 - (a) On what date will this new policy commence?
 - (b) From the date mentioned in (a) above, what assistance will be available for new home buyers who purchase an existing house/dwelling?

Answer—

In the 2012-13 NSW State Budget the Treasurer, the Hon Mike Baird MP, announced that from 1 October 2012, the First Home Owner Grant will be replaced by the First Home Owner Grant (New Homes) Scheme.

Under the new scheme, first home owners who enter into a contract to purchase or build a new home valued up to \$650,000 on or after 1 October 2012 will be eligible for the \$15,000 grant. The grant will reduce to \$10,000 from 1 January 2014 onwards.

In addition, the first home buyers of new homes or vacant land in NSW receive concessions on transfer duty under the First Home—New Home scheme.

From 1 July 2012, first home buyers receive a full exemption from transfer duty on new homes up to \$550,000 and partial concessions for new homes between \$550,000 and \$650,000. Exemptions and concessions are also available for first home buyers purchasing vacant residential land to build their first home. Vacant land up to \$350,000 is fully exempt, and vacant land between \$350,000 and \$450,000 is partially exempt.

People who purchase new homes but are not first home buyers can also receive a \$5000 New Home Grant. The grant was introduced from 1 July 2012, and is available to buyers of new homes, whether off the plan or newly built, valued up to \$650,000 and to buyers of vacant land that is intended to be the site of a new home valued up to \$450,000.

*2449 PUBLIC HOUSING RENT INCREASES—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) Since the Government was elected, how many times have rents for public housing tenants been increased?
- (2) What were the dates that these increases took effect?
- (3) What was the justification for each increase?
- (4) What increases have been announced to take effect on a future date?

Answer—

Regular six monthly increases for public housing tenants take effect in April and October each year. Adjustment of rent subsidies follows the six monthly increases in Centrelink payments. These arrangements have been in place under previous Labor Governments.

From March 2013, as announced, the regular carbon tax compensation payments will be included as assessable income. The Federal Labor Government under Julia Gillard has already increased fees paid by nursing home residents to cover carbon tax costs.

Previous state Labor Governments approved social housing providers in NSW including the Large Family Supplement and the Income Support Supplement as assessable income for rent setting purposes.

*2450 RELOCATION OF WANGEE PARK SCHOOL—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to the relocation of Wangee Park School:

- (1) What is the value of construction of the new classrooms?
- (2) When will construction commence?
- (3) When is construction expected to be completed?
- (4) How much is budgeted for expenditure in the 2012-13 financial year?
- (5) How many students can be accommodated at the current school?
- (6) How many students will be able to be accommodated at the new school?
- (7) When will the current site be vacated?
- (8) Will the site of the existing school be sold?

Answer—

- (1) The value of construction of the classrooms is confidential as the tender has not been released.
- (2) Construction is expected to commence in April 2014 on the new School for Specific Purposes following completion of a new classroom building at Harcourt Public School and removal of demountables where the School for Specific Purposes will be sited.
- (3) 2015.
- (4) This information is confidential as the project has not yet gone to tender.
- (5) 30.
- (6) 48.
- (7) Mid-2015.
- (8) No.

*2451 REVIEW OF THE MOBILITY PARKING SCHEME—Mr Robert Furolo asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

In reference to the review of the Mobility Parking Scheme:

- (1) (a) Has any research been undertaken to determine the rate of abuse of the scheme?
(b) If so, what has the research found in relation to the rate of abuse?
- (2) If research has not yet been conducted to determine the rate of abuse, when will research be undertaken to quantify the rate of abuse?
- (3) (a) When the review was announced in August 2011, which organisations and stakeholders were contacted to advise them of the review?
(b) By what method were these organisations and stakeholders contacted to advise them of the review?
(c) When were these organisations and stakeholders contacted to advise them of the review?
- (4) (a) Will the results of the consultation on the review be publicly released?
(b) If so, when will the results of the consultation on the review be publicly released?
- (5) When will the review be completed?
- (6) What was the cost of administering the Mobility Parking Scheme in December 2011?
- (7) What was the cost of administering the Mobility Parking Scheme as at January 2007?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b) The State Debt Recovery Office (SDRO) has advised that in 2011 there were 1,539 penalty notices issued for offences related to misuse of disabled parking permits.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a) to (c) The review was publicly announced in the media by the Minister for Roads and Ports and the Minister for Ageing and Disability Services.
Promotional activity has been undertaken through direct emails to peak disability groups, medical practitioner groups, road user groups and enforcement officers.
Regular updates have been published on the Roads and Maritime Services website with the release of the review's discussion paper and with the public consultations that have been held in Liverpool, Wollongong, Gosford, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour and Sydney.
- (4) (a) and (b) The results of the independent review of the Mobility Parking Scheme will be considered by Government in the second half of 2012.
A release date has not been determined as the review is yet to be finalised.
- (5) The independent advisory committee is expected to report to the Minister in November 2012.
- (6) \$87,094 (December 2011).
- (7) \$1,365,381 (from January 2005 to 31 January 2007).

*2452 MAITLAND/NEW HUNTER HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's pre-election commitment of \$20 million to the Maitland/New Hunter Hospital ("NSW Liberals & Nationals Plan to Provide Timely, Quality Health Care") and noting that the 2012-13 Budget Papers contain an allocation of \$2.7 million (to be shared with Parkes and Forbes hospitals):

- (1) Does the minister stand by the original commitment?
- (2) (a) Will the promised \$20 million be allocated in the 2013-14 budget?

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(b) If so, when is the Maitland/New Hunter Hospital project expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) and (2) The Government is committed to implementing its \$3 billion capital works plan to rebuild the NSW hospital and health infrastructure.

Funding for the Maitland/New Hunter Hospital project at this stage is for planning activities.

*2453 NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's pre-election commitment of \$125 million to the Northern Beaches Hospital project and noting that as at the release of the 2012-13 Budget Papers only \$14.2 million has been allocated to the project to date:

(1) Does the Minister stand by her original funding commitment?

(2) (a) Will the promised funds be spent by 2015?

(b) If so, when is building of the Northern Beaches Hospital expected to commence?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Yes, Budget Paper 4 states that the cost of the planning phase for the Northern Beaches Hospital Project is \$29 million. The \$14.2 million referred to in the member's question refers to Estimated Expenditure to 30-06-12 and the allocation for 2012-13.

(2) Details on the construction timetable for the Northern Beaches Hospital will be announced by the Government once planning has been finalised.

*2454 BLACKTOWN HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's commitment of \$300 million to the Blacktown Hospital project and noting that the 2012-13 Budget Papers contain an allocation of \$16 million:

(1) How much of the promised funds will be spent by 2015?

(2) When is the Blacktown Hospital project expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) It is estimated that \$280 million will be spent by the end 2015.

(2) The new building, including the comprehensive Cancer Centre and additional inpatient beds at Blacktown Hospital, is expected to be completed in late 2015.

The multi-storey car park is expected to be completed in early 2014 and the remaining service enhancements will be completed progressively by late 2016.

*2455 HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's pre-election commitment of \$50 million to the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital project (NSW Liberals & Nationals Plan to Provide Timely, Quality Health Care") and noting that the 2012-13 Budget Papers contain an allocation of \$3.5 million:

(1) Does the minister stand by the original commitment for \$50 million by 2015, and a further \$75 million by 2019?

(2) Will the promised \$50 million be spent by 2015?

(3) What works will the full \$125 million pay for?

(4) How many extra beds are planned?

(5) Will the final works shorten the distance from surgical wards to theatres?

(6) How will the Intensive Care Unit be enlarged?

(7) What is the future of the "Round Building"?

(8) When is the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai project expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The Budget allocated \$3.5 million in the 2012/13 Financial Year for planning and early works towards

an Estimated Total Cost of \$120 million.

(2) The current proposed project timeline will spend approximately \$50 million by 2015.

(3) and (4) The Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital redevelopment is a \$120 million project that addresses the requirement for replacing ageing infrastructure and provide a functional and efficient Clinical Services Building, with supporting departments that interfaces with the existing hospital facilities and designed to integrate with future stages.

5) Yes.

6) The Intensive Care Unit is not included in the Stage 1 project.

7) The Lumby Building will remain and is not part of the Stage 1 project.

8) Construction is scheduled to be completed prior to the 3rd quarter of 2016.

*2456 PARKES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's pre-election commitment of \$42.5 million to the Parkes Hospital project (NSW Liberals & Nationals Plan to Provide Timely, Quality Health Care"):

(1) How much is to be spent on this project in the 2011-12 financial year?

(2) Noting that the 2012-13 Budget Papers contain an allocation of \$2.2 million (to be shared with Forbes Hospital), does the minister stand by the original commitment?

(3) (a) Will the promised \$42 million be spent by 2015?

(b) If so, when is the Parkes Hospital project expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) to (3) The member is referred to the response to a related question on this matter, Written Question No. 2457.

*2457 FORBES HOSPITAL PROJECT—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

Given the Government's pre-election commitment of \$25 million to the Forbes Hospital project (NSW Liberals & Nationals Plan to Provide Timely, Quality Health Care"):

(1) How much of this money is to be spent in the 2011-12 financial year?

(2) Noting that the 2012-13 Budget Papers contain an allocation of \$2.2 million (to be shared with Parkes Hospital), does the minister stand by the original commitment?

(3) (a) Will the promised \$25 million be spent by 2015?

(b) If so, when is the Forbes Hospital project expected to be completed?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) \$100,000 in the 2011-12 financial year funded the commencement of planning for the Forbes and Parkes projects.

(2) and (3) The allocation of \$2.3 million in the 2012-13 Budget Papers allows further planning works for Forbes and Parkes Hospitals in line with the Government's commitment. The planning team will work with the Western NSW Local Health District, staff, clinicians, management and the community to undertake planning activities to develop a combined Service Procurement Plan (SPP) and Project Definition Plan (PDP) (Business Case) for Forbes and Parkes Hospitals. The endorsed SPP/PDP will contain the scope of services, which will help determine future timeframes for the project.

*2458 NSW HEALTH BUDGET—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to the NSW Health budget for the 2011-12 period, was NSW Health operating on budget as of 31 March 2012?

Answer—

I am advised:

As at 31 March 2012, NSW Health was operating on budget.

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*2459 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL MATERNITY SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to maternity services at Shoalhaven Hospital:

- (1) Under what classification of service delivery for premature babies does the Special Care Nursery currently operate?
- (2) (a) Below what gestational age is antenatal transfer recommended?
(b) Is this a change from past practices?
- (3) Are any changes to this service planned?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The Nursery at Shoalhaven Hospital currently operates within a Level 3 Role delineation in accordance with NSW Health Policy Directive PD2010_032.
- (2) (a) 34 weeks.
(b) No.
- (3) There are no current plans to alter this service.

*2460 SHOALHAVEN HOSPITAL SURGICAL SERVICES—Dr Andrew McDonald asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With regards to surgical services at Shoalhaven Hospital:

- (1) When will the contracts for the VMO surgeons be finalised?
- (2) What "on-call roster" is currently in use?
- (3) Has the hospital verified that this on-call roster does not breach the AMA "safe-hours" guidelines?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Contracts for the VMO surgeons were finalised on 29 June 2012.
- (2) and (3) Locum General Surgeons have been utilised at Shoalhaven Hospital to cover any roster shortfalls. The Locum General Surgeons have been rostered to cover onerous on-call shifts such as weekends, to reduce the on-call load for Shoalhaven General Surgeons.

*2461 BAYS PRECINCT TRANSPORT OPTIONS—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

- (1) What provisions are being considered for separate (internal) road access for the use of maritime and ports in the Bays Precinct to ensure that traffic impacts on local roads are minimised?
- (2) (a) Is the Government considering introducing regular ferry services to Rozelle Bay and White Bay?
(b) If yes, when are these services planned to start?
- (3) (a) Is the government considering an extension of the light rail to Rozelle Bay and White Bay?
(b) If yes, when are works estimated to start?
- (4) (a) Is the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) proceeding to approve its own proposal for the slip road at the head of Rozelle Bay?
(b) If yes, why is the RMS doing so before the Bays Precinct Master Plan has been finalised?
- (5) Are any provisions being made to quarantine land for any M4 East extension?
- (6) Will the Bays Precinct Master Plan require that any M4 East must cross the bays by tunnel, rather than the Anzac Bridge?

Answer—

This is a matter for the Minister for Roads and Ports.

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(Paper No. 101)

*2462 ROOTY HILL RAILWAY STATION PATRONAGE—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What number of rail tickets have been sold from the Rooty Hill Railway Station for each of the six

months ending 31 May 2012?

- (2) (a) Do these figures represent an increase in patronage for train travel from this station in comparison to previous periods?
(b) If so, what are the details of this increased patronage?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The official measure for rail patronage is passenger journeys.

A comparison of passenger journeys for the periods December 2010 to May 2011 (470,859) and December 2011 to May 2012 (475,963) shows an increase of 5,104 journeys which represents a 1.1 per cent increase.

*2463 MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Richard Amery asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

- (1) How many families have received assistance from the Mortgage Assistance Scheme since it was created?
(2) What are the criteria for receiving assistance from this scheme?
(3) What has been the actual budget for this scheme over the past three years?
(4) (a) Is the Government planning to end this scheme?
(b) If so, why?

Answer—

This Mortgage Assistance Scheme previously provided around 700 loans, with interest, to people who were having difficulty paying off their mortgage, subject to them meeting certain criteria.

The mortgage industry has acknowledged that it is in the clients' best interests to help them reschedule their payments if they get into difficulty, rather than clients taking out another loan. A number of services have emerged to assist people in financial difficulty, such as the Consumer Credit and Debt Hotline which provides financial advice to people in NSW who need it.

As a result, demand for this scheme has decreased in the last 10 years as most clients are able to re-negotiate loans with their mortgage providers, or have levels of total debt which made them ineligible for the scheme.

As it is no longer necessary or justifiable to keep this scheme open it ceased to operate on 2 July 2012.

Those who were receiving assistance prior to this date remain in the scheme and will not be disadvantaged.

*2464 CHILDREN IN CARE—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Women—

With reference to 2012-13 Budget Paper No 2, page 4-27:

- (1) What reforms are currently taking place in out-of-home care to suggest that there will be a decline in the expected number of children in care?
(2) What is the expected number of children in care by 30 June 2013?
(3) What was the number of children in care as at 30 June 2010, 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012?
(4) What strategies reflect this Government's "shift towards early intervention"?

Answer—

- (1) Extensive reforms are underway in relation to the transfer of some early intervention and prevention services, and Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) services to the non-government sector (NGOs).

Transferring services to NGOs will deliver more flexible and improved services and build the capacity of the system to better support vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Community Services is also working to reduce the number of children in OOHC by promoting stable long-term, permanent care, including adoption.

- (2) and (3) The previous Labor Government bequeathed to NSW 17,896 children and young people in out-of-home care, the largest number and highest proportion of children and young people in care in our nation.

The number of children and young people in care at the dates sought is in Budget Paper 3 (2012-13 Budget Estimates) at page 4-9. This includes the forecast number of children and young people in care at 30 June 2013 of 17.9 thousand.

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(4) There are a range of strategies that reflect the Government's commitment to improving services and lives through more effective early intervention and prevention and work with children who are at risk of entering out-of-home care. These include:

- The Government's commitment to increasing the capacity of the public sector, including through rigorous evaluation of taxpayer funded programs;
- Reforms to the Brighter Futures program to increase non-government operated services;
- Forging a genuine partnership with the non-government sector to grow the capacity of the entire sector to improve services and lives for vulnerable families; and
- Focussing Community Services' work on families above the threshold of risk of significant harm through Strengthening Families.

*2465 HUNTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT FUND—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer—

With regard to the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund:

- (1) Who comprises that committee/board?
- (2) In 2011-12, how many times did the committee/board meet?
- (3) In 2011-12, how much money was allocated to the fund?
- (4) In 2011-12, how much money was actually spent?
- (5) In 2011-12, what was the funding allocated to and/or the money spent on?
- (6) In 2012-13, how many times will the committee/board meet?
- (7) In 2012-13, how much money has been allocated to the fund?
- (8) In 2012-13, how much of the money has already been allocated and how much will be at the discretion of the committee/board via application or consideration for the remainder of 2012-13?

Answer—

These questions would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Planning.

*2466 FISCAL IMPACT OF CARBON TAX—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Treasurer—

With reference to 2012-13 Budget Paper No 2, page 5-4, and the "fiscal impact of the carbon tax":

- (1) Does the estimation of carbon tax cost to the NSW Government of \$1.5 billion in its first four years reflect just some, or all, fiscal impacts?
- (2) If the \$1.5 billion figure accounts for just "some" of the fiscal impacts, which does it account for?
- (3) If the \$1.5 billion figure account for just "some" of the fiscal impacts, which does it not account for?
- (4) (a) Does "the revenue raised each year by supplementary royalties an amount calculated to compensate the NSW Government for the fiscal impact of the carbon tax" provide for all costs and expenses incurred through the carbon tax and if not, does the supplementary royalties program provide the opportunity to increase in amount such that they do account for all costs and expenses incurred through the carbon tax?
- (b) If so, what would that "all costs" supplementary royalties figure be?

Answer—

- (1) The \$1.5 billion estimate of the fiscal cost to the NSW Government of the Commonwealth's carbon tax in the four years from 2012-13 to 2015-16 reflects all recurrent revenue and expenditure effects, to the extent they are reasonably quantifiable. The issues taken into account in developing this estimate are discussed in a report 'Evaluation of the impacts of the Commonwealth's carbon price package announced 10 July 2011', which is available on the NSW Treasury website.
- (2) Refer to the response to question (1).
- (3) The \$1.5 billion estimate of the fiscal cost of the carbon tax does not incorporate the effect of the carbon tax on NSW Government capital costs or the value of capital assets. Nor does the estimate include effects on the costs of public trading enterprises other than the direct effect of more expensive electricity. No estimate has been made of these fiscal impacts.
- (4) (a) The annual revenue target for supplementary royalties will be announced each year in the Budget. This would permit the revenue target to be adjusted to revised estimates of the fiscal impact of the carbon tax. The Government has no plans to change the estimates to take account of fiscal impacts not included in the current estimates, and as discussed in response to Question (3) no estimate of these fiscal impacts exists.
- (b) The 2012-13 Budget provided estimates of the full fiscal impact of the carbon tax for its first four years: \$235 million in 2012-13; \$244 million in 2013-14; \$465 million in 2014-15; and \$550 million in 2015-16.

*2467 ADDITIONAL BUSES FOR THE HUNTER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to Transport (Buses) spending identified in Budget Papers 2012-13:

- (1) Will any of the replacement 269 buses be allocated to the Hunter?
- (2) Will any of the additional 69 buses targeted "to meet patronage growth" services be allocated to the Hunter?
- (3) Will any additional funding or vehicles be offered to Hunter private sector services?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Transport for NSW is finalising the allocation of the 69 additional growth buses between both government and private operators in Metropolitan and Outer-metropolitan areas.

*2468 FUNDING FOR EVENTS IN THE HUNTER—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to funding for sponsored events under the auspice of Destination NSW and Events NSW:

- (1) How much funding was available during 2011-12?
- (2) How much funding is available during 2012-13?
- (3) How much of the 2011-12 funding was spent in the Hunter?
- (4) How much of the 2012-13 funding will be spent in the Hunter?
- (5) What events and/or campaigns in the Hunter were sponsored during 2011-12?
- (6) What events and/or campaigns in the Hunter will be sponsored during 2012-13?
- (7) How much of the 2011-12 funding was spent in Sydney?
- (8) How much of the 2012-13 funding will be spent in Sydney?

Answer—

(1) Destination NSW funds tourism and events in NSW via several mechanisms, the Regional Flagship Events Program, Regional Tourism Partnership Program and through event investment.

Destination NSW does not disclose the level of funds that it has or that it will commit to commercial event investment. This information is commercial in confidence between Destination NSW and event proponents to allow the organisation to bid for events in a competitive market.

In terms of regional tourism, in 2011-12 \$450,000 was available under the 2012 Regional Flagship Events Program.

(2) Destination NSW does not disclose the level of funds that it has or that it will commit to commercial event investment. This information is commercial in confidence between Destination NSW and the Event Proponent and allows the organisation to bid for events in a competitive market.

In terms of regional tourism, in 2012-13 \$450,000 has been budgeted for the 2013 Regional Flagship Events Program.

(3) Tourism: \$50,000 through the 2012 Regional Flagship Events Program and \$244,700 on dedicated event marketing of Hunter events.

(4) Tourism: Figure is not available as the 2013 Regional Flagship Events Program is not yet open for applications. Destination NSW has allocated \$300,000 for dedicated event marketing of Hunter events.

(5) and (6) Regional Tourism Flagship Program (2011-12):

Aberdeen Highland Games
Hunter Valley Food and Wine Month
Sculptures in the Vineyard
Bitter and Twisted International Beer Festival

Newcastle and Hunter Valley events included by Destination NSW in its marketing campaigns (2011, 2012 and 2013):

CMC Rocks the Hunter* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Surfest* - 2011, 2012, 2013
A-League: Newcastle Jets Games - 2011, 2012, 2013
NAB Newcastle Regional Show - 2012, 2013
Sparke Helmore/NBN Television Triathlon Festival - 2012
Duran Duran in Concert - 2012
Amacord, presented by Music Viva - 2012

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British Lions Tour* - 2013
Jack Newton Celebrity Classic* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Navy Surf Rowers* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Sail Port Stephens* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Qantas Wallabies v Scotland* - 2012
Dungog Film Festival* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Kellogg's Ironman and Iron Woman Series* - 2011, 2012, 2013
Holden Netball Test, Australia v England* - 2011
Australia v New Zealand Rugby League Test* - 2011

* Denotes events supported by Destination NSW commercial event investment.

There were also:

50 additional Hunter community events included on visitnsw.com
20 additional Newcastle events included on visitnsw.com
10 additional Newcastle and Hunter events listed on nswevents.com.

(7) and (8) Destination NSW does not disclose the level of funds that it has or that it will commit to commercial event investment. This information is commercial in confidence between Destination NSW and the event proponent to allow the organisation to bid for events in a competitive market.

*2469 FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Has funding for support of children with diagnosed autism who attend school been reduced in the 2012-2013 Budget?
- (2) What funding for children with autism who attend school was provided in:
 - (a) 2009-2010;
 - (b) 2010-2011;
 - (c) 2011-2012;
 - (d) 2012-2013?

Answer—

It is estimated that funding for special education, that is included in the public schools total 2012-13 expenses budget, is more than \$1.2 billion.

To determine the discrete funding for children with autism who attend school for each year from 2009-10 to 2012-13 would unnecessarily divert the resources of the Department of Education and Communities.

*2470 REPLACEMENT OF DEMOUNTABLE CLASSROOMS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the 2012-2013 State Budget and regarding demountable school classrooms in the electorate of Cessnock:

- (1) (a) Will any demountables in the electorate be removed and replaced with permanent buildings in 2012-2013?
(b) If yes, which demountables in which schools?
- (2) What is the approximate timeframe for each of these replacements?

Answer—

- (1) (a) No.
(b) Not applicable.
- (2) Not applicable.

*2471 PROVISION OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice—

With reference to 2012-13 Budget Paper No. 2, page 4-25:

- (1) What plans does the Government have to explore "greater contestability in the provision of corrective services"?
- (2) Which of NSW's corrective service centres will be considered for "contestability"?
- (3) Will "contestability" be considered for all levels of prisoner security, including "low", "medium" and "high"?
- (4) If high security prisons and/or prisoners are to be considered for "contestability" what data, research and comparative regimes will be considered during the decision-making process?

Answer—

I am advised:

Reviews of the operational requirements of Corrective Services NSW are ongoing. The criterion for examining the potential for greater contestability in the provision of corrective services will be "best practice standards". The Government will advise, in due course, of any decision it makes in this regard.

*2472 PUBLIC SECTOR JOB CUTS—Mr Clayton Barr asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

With regard to the projected 10,000 public sector job cuts identified in the Treasurer's 2012-13 Budget speech and documents, and the 5,000 public sector job cuts identified in the Treasurers 2011-12 Budget speech and documents:

- (1) How many jobs have already been cut in the Hunter region?
- (2) How many more jobs will be cut in the Hunter region?
- (3) If the Minister is unable to answer questions (1) and (2), why not?
- (4) If the Minister is unable to answer questions (1) and (2), when will a decision be made and by whom?
- (5) How many Government agencies and employees are there in the Hunter as at 30 June 2012?
- (6) How many employees, by job category, are there in each of these agencies as at 30 June 2012?

Answer—

The Government has a target of a 1.2 per cent per annum reduction in labour costs growth across the public sector.

The responsibility for implementing this policy is the responsibility of the Director General of each agency. The Budget commitment specifically excludes police, nurses and teachers.

Information is not specifically collated by the Public Service Commission on the number of voluntary redundancies per region.

*2473 PRICE INCREASES FOR WATER—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

What are the projected price increases for water in the Bankstown area between July 2012 and 2016?

Answer—

Last month the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) determined that prices for Sydney Water will go up by less than the rate of inflation from 2012-13 to 2015-16.

This means the combined water and wastewater bill for a typical household (using 200,000 litres of water a year) is proposed to decrease before inflation by \$29 (or 2.6%) by 2016.

If inflation is 2.5% a year, that household's bill will still only rise by \$72 by 2016. That is less than \$1.50 a week more than they are paying now.

*2474 COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Given that the 2012-13 Budget projected an increase of 75,000 working with children checks, bringing the projected total to 165,000:

- (1) Will additional staff be provided to the Commission for Children and Young People to handle the increased workload?
- (2) Will the Minister rule out any job cuts to the Commission for Children and Young People?

Answer—

The 2012-13 Budget funds the new Working With Children Check established by the Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012. The new check will be operated by a central unit in the Commission for Children and Young People, rather than by four separate screening agencies.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There will be no net loss of positions in the new Working With Children Check.

*2475 BANKSTOWN-LIDCOMBE HOSPITAL PARKING—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

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Given that the South Western Sydney Local Health District is currently reviewing the Clinical Services Development Plan 2011 which explores parking options for Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital (Question 1956):

- (1) What is the current status of the review?
- (2) When will the review be completed?
- (3) What, if any, parking options are being explored for Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital?

Answer—

I am advised:

The member is referred to my response to her earlier question on this matter, Written Question No 1956.

- *2476 ADDITIONAL SPEED CAMERAS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given that New South Wales will see an additional 148 new speed cameras across the State, how many will be placed in the Bankstown electorate?

Answer—

All speed camera locations are available online at the NSW Centre for Road Safety website. All new speed camera locations will be published online prior to camera installation or the commencement of mobile speed enforcement.

- *2477 FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

Given the increasing use of Bankstown state and arterial roads such as Stacey Street and Henry Lawson Drive as a major thoroughfare that connects southern Sydney to western Sydney and northern parts of Sydney, why has the Minister cut \$500,000 in funding for road safety and infrastructure from the budget for the electorate of Bankstown?

Answer—

I am advised:

The projects in the maintenance program are determined on a needs basis across the State, and funding is allocated accordingly.

The allocation in 2011-12 for Stacey Street and Salvia Avenue was for traffic signal improvements as part of the Pinch Point congestion management program. Funding of projects in this program is allocated each year across 23 corridors in Sydney, also on a priority basis.

The fact that a jurisdiction may not have a constant allocation, year to year, is to be expected from such programs and should not be construed as a cut in funding.

- *2478 FIRE SAFETY PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR GROUPS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Given that Fire and Rescue NSW has recently rolled out a program in Western Sydney aimed at educating seniors from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds about fire safety (Question 2142), are any senior groups in the electorate of Bankstown included in this fire safety program?

Answer—

Fire & Rescue NSW has advised me that it supports seniors living in the Bankstown electorate with a wide range of fire safety education and awareness initiatives.

- *2479 ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

Will the Government cut struggling Bankstown families' bills by investing \$55 million over 5 years to the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme?

Answer—

This question would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Resources and Energy.

- *2480 NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Treasurer—

Given that the Government deems Bankstown as a major metropolitan centre in accordance with the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy, why has the Treasurer not committed to any new infrastructure projects?

Answer—

The Government recognises that Bankstown is a Major Centre and continues to support the long-term priorities in the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy to facilitate its growth, including:¹

- Increased capacity for office, retail, entertainment, cultural and residential development
- Increased capacity on the Bankstown Rail Line
- Strategic Bus Corridors connecting to other Major Centres.

The Treasury, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Infrastructure NSW and Transport for NSW are currently working together to further identify infrastructure priorities that could support the growth of Bankstown and the Sydney west-central region.

The priorities will be detailed in the upcoming State Infrastructure Strategy, the Long Term Transport Master Plan and the updated Sydney Metropolitan Strategy. These documents will help identify the most efficient infrastructure projects to be fully Budget funded in the 5 year Infrastructure Plans.

Government is committed to investing significantly into infrastructure to boost the State economy. The 2012-13 State Budget will invest an average of \$8 billion per annum into Government infrastructure (including public transport) over the next four years.² This is \$2.2 billion or 38 per cent higher than the previous four years of Government.

¹ Department of Planning and Infrastructure (2010), Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036, page 260.

² NSW 2012-13 Budget Paper 4, page 1-2.

*2481 BASS HILL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS—Ms Tania Mihailuk asked the Minister for Education—

In reference to Bass Hill School for students with special needs and the expected start of construction in August 2012 (Question 1955), will construction still be beginning in August 2012?

Answer—

The Department of Education and Communities expects to start construction on site in September 2012.

*2482 WOMEN'S HEALTH—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research—

With respect to the joint Sydney University and ACON "Health Check - Sydney Women and Sexual Health" survey which identified that marginalisation and invisibility result in higher rates for some health conditions and lower rates of help seeking:

- (1) What key health concerns were identified in the Sydney Women and Sexual Health survey?
- (2) What action has been taken to ensure that all health services acknowledge and provide appropriate treatment to lesbian women?
- (3) What action has been taken to ensure that lesbian women are aware of health issues and treatments, and seek treatment?
- (4) What action has been taken to address:
 - (a) lower rates of cervical cancer screening;
 - (b) problematic alcohol, tobacco and other drug use;
 - (c) mental health support;
 - (d) violence against lesbians including domestic/family violence;
 - (e) obesity and overweight concerns?
- (5) What changes have been made to health services in the inner city based on these findings?
- (6) What support does the Government provide to specialist lesbian health services and programs?
- (7) What further action does the Government propose to address these concerns?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1), (5) and (7) Summary results of "Health Check - Sydney Women and Sexual Health Survey 2010" are available at <http://www.acon.org.au/sites/default/files/SWASH%20Report%20Card.pdf>

(2) and (3) NSW Health's services acknowledge and provide appropriate treatment to all patients regardless of their sexual orientation.

(4) (a) Initiatives undertaken by the NSW Cervical Screening Program include:

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- implementation of a mass media social marketing campaign, Peace of Mind.
- new reminder strategies targeting women who participate in cervical screening outside the recommended two-year period, including in collaboration with general practitioners.
- redevelopment of the Program website to ensure it is engaging, accessible, culturally appropriate and supports key promotional strategies, includes an enhanced Pap test provider search tool and a message recommending to lesbians and other same-sex attracted women to participate in biennial screening for cervical cancer.

The Cancer Institute NSW has made available to health professionals and community groups a brochure, Lesbians need Pap tests too, which addresses misconceptions that may prevent lesbians and other same-sex attracted women from participating in screening for cervical cancer.

(b)

- The NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012-2017 sets out the broad range of Government action to reduce the harm associated with tobacco use.
- The Opioid Treatment Program provides assessment, treatment, and referral services to an already marginalised drug-using population, around a third of whom are women.
- The NSW Health Club Drugs campaign targets the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community and raises awareness of the risks and harms associated with the use of "Club drugs" which include ecstasy, methamphetamine (speed, base, crystal, ice), cocaine and GHB.
- There are a number of drug and alcohol treatment services that target women, both in the government and non-government sector. There are a number of residential rehabilitation services specifically for women within NSW. These treatment programs may include beds for women and their children, as well as women participating in the diversion programs - MERIT and Drug Court.

(c) ACON has developed a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2010-13 to support their work to promote mental health and wellbeing, and reduce the impact of mental health problems on GLBT communities through direct activity, partnerships and service development.

NSW Health provided funding of \$450,000 under the NGO Grant Program for the ACON Peace of Mind Mental Health Literacy Project, from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2012, with two primary aims:

- To develop and pilot a mental health information and promotion program (adapted from an existing recognised evidence based training package) to ensure relevance and specificity for GLBT communities.
- To develop and implement a strategic promotion and partnership campaign.

Workshops have been held to pilot the training package. Further information is available on the ACON website: <http://www.acon.org.au/home>

(d) NSW Health's response to violence against lesbians is guided by the NSW Strategic Framework 2007-2012 Working Together: preventing violence against GLBT people and the NSW Health Policy and Procedures for Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence 2003.

Local Health Districts undertake a range of actions including targeted activities such as community information resources, and activities incorporated into other relevant policies and strategies such as workplace bullying and harassment policies.

NSW Health's Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) provides training for health staff and interagency partners on working with clients in same sex relationships who experience domestic violence.

(e) NSW 2021 sets out targets to reduce overweight and obesity in children and adults. The NSW Ministry of Health has commenced the preparation of a new cross government overweight and obesity plan.

(6) The NSW Government provides funding to ACON through the NSW Ministry of Health Non Government Organisation Grant Program to support programs to prevent the transmission of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in lesbian and same-sex attracted women.

*2483 SUPPORT FOR TENANTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

Noting consistent reports from constituents that an increasing number of social housing tenants with ongoing mental health concerns are not getting the community-based support they need to sustain their tenancies:

(1) What mental health education, support and intervention is provided to social housing tenants in the inner city?

- (2) What training has been provided to Housing NSW officers to support tenants with a mental illness, including the Mental Health First Aid course?
- (3) What was the Government's assessment of the Joint Guarantee of Service?
- (4) What changes will be made with the new Housing and Mental Health Agreement and how will these benefit mental health consumers?
- (5) How does the Government ensure that mental health services work closely with social housing providers?
- (6) What procedures have been set up to ensure that social housing tenants with an acute or worsening mental illness get timely help?
- (7) What procedures have been set up to ensure that social housing tenants get rehabilitation programs?
- (8) What structures and processes have been set up in the inner city to facilitate this coordination?
- (9) What further plans does the Government have for implementation of the Housing and Mental Health Agreement?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) Social Housing tenants are eligible to access the same mental health services as any other eligible resident of the inner city of Sydney. The Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) provides stable and secure accommodation linked to other support services for people with a mental illness. It assists and supports more than 850 people with mental illness living in social housing across NSW.

(2) This is a matter for the Minister for Family and Community Services.

(3) and (4) Following review of the Joint Guarantee of Service by the NSW Ombudsman, the Ministry of Health and Department of Family and Community Services agreed to replace the Joint Guarantee of Service (JGOS) with the Housing and Mental Health Agreement.

The Agreement retains the sound principles and intentions of the JGOS to support people with mental health problems and disorders in accessing and maintaining stable housing, and strengthens governance and mechanisms for implementation.

The Agreement aims to improve housing outcomes and general well-being of people with mental health problems and disorders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or living in social housing by improving the way services are coordinated at the local level. It focuses on improving the service system and aims to improve the delivery of integrated services and assist clients to access the full range of services for which they are eligible.

(5) NSW Health and the Department of Family and Community Services are signatories to the Housing and Mental Health Agreement. It commits signatory government Departments to working in partnership with each other and with the NGO sector when responding to the needs to people with mental health problems and disorders who are living in social housing or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

(6) to (9) Information about mental health services in the inner city is provided to housing providers through the Housing and Mental Health Agreement and HASI. With this information, housing providers are able to refer tenants when a need for mental health services is identified.

The Housing and Mental Health Agreement is being implemented across NSW by District Implementation and Coordinating Committees (DIACCs) which cover each Local Health District. DIACCs will be responsible and accountable for implementing the Agreement and will promote good practice in providing coordinated services to people with mental health problems and disorders in the locations they cover.

*2484 INNER CITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

With respect to mental health resources for the inner city:

- (1) What proportion of patients at St Vincent's Mental Health Service are from outside the catchment area for this service?
- (2) What is the average length of stay and occupancy rates for patients in this service compared to other mental health services?
- (3) (a) What is the Government's assessment of the St Vincent's Hospital Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre and its impact on demand for inner city mental health services?
(b) Does this indicate that additional beds and services for people with a mental illness are needed in the inner city?

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- (4) (a) How does the Government ensure that funds for inner city mental health services can meet the demand of residents as well as homeless people, tourists and approximately half a million people in the CBD every day?
- (b) How does the allocation of funds for inner city mental health services reflect these demands and pressures?
- (5) What services and programs does the Government fund or provide in the inner city to help people with a mental illness get back on their feet with employment and participation in community life?
- (6) What action has the Government taken to increase inner city mental health services since March 2011?
- (7) What further action will the Government take to increase inner city mental health services to meet demand?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) NSW public hospitals are networked and provide care for patients from all over the State as required. St Vincent's Mental Health Service is physically located within the boundaries of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. Of the 1318 patient separations recorded for 2011-12 across St Vincent's Mental Health Service, it is estimated that 45% had a residential address outside of the District, including homeless persons.

(2) For the July-December 2011 period for St Vincent's acute services, including the Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre (PECC) and Caritas Inpatient Unit, the combined acute service average length of stay is 8 days, and average occupancy is 87%.

Across NSW the average length of stay for adult mental health acute facilities is 15 days, with occupancy at an average 90%.

(3) and (4) The measure of access to mental health admission from Emergency Departments (referred to as Emergency Access Performance) for St Vincent's Hospital is consistently better than the national benchmark. Occupancy and average length of stay for the St Vincent's PECC are close to the average for all NSW PECCs.

When opportunities for service expansion and development arise, proposals for expansion within all parts of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District are reflected back against current estimations of need articulated in the Mental Health Clinical Care and Prevention Model.

(5) to (7) Local Health Districts and non-government organisations are funded to deliver a wide range of programs, including those that target community participation and rehabilitation, such as the Mental Health Community Rehabilitation Program.

St Vincent's delivers a range of integrated mental health, drug and alcohol and other health services across inpatient and community settings, including through the O'Brien Centre, the Caritas Unit, and assertive outreach partnerships with non-government organisations which target the inner city's homeless population.

The NSW Government has established a Mental Health Commission to provide advice and strategic planning to improve mental health service delivery. The Mental Health Commission will be responsible for monitoring the needs and strategic priorities of the mental health service system, and advising the Government in relation to these.

*2485 RENEWABLE ENERGY PRECINCTS—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

With regard to the Renewable Energy Precincts initiative, which is identified on the Department of Environment and Heritage website as a key component of the Government's renewable energy agenda:

- (1) What renewable energy projects have been developed through Renewable Energy Precincts?
- (2) What consideration will the Government give to extending the initiative to cover energy efficiency as well as renewables?
- (3) What consideration will the Government give to extending the initiative to other areas where there is considerable interest in renewable energy generation such as the North Coast?
- (4) To what extent will funding be provided to enable feasibility studies and initial community engagement for community renewable energy projects before they are developed?
- (5) What funding has been allocated for the initiative in the 2012-13 Budget?
- (6) What consideration will the Government give to providing regular funding such as triennial rather than annual funding, to enable longer term planning and staffing?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Within the NSW Renewable Energy Precincts there are:
 - three wind farms, with a projected generation capacity of around 380 mega-watts (MW), under construction;
 - six wind farms, with a projected generation capacity of around 791 MW, which have been approved but not yet constructed; and
 - a further eighteen wind farms, with a potential generation capacity of up to almost 6700 MW, that are currently being assessed.
- (2) The Government has extended the NSW Renewable Energy Precincts initiative for a further year to 30 June 2013. During t his year opportunities to extend the initiative to cover energy efficiency will be explored and evaluated.
- (3) The Government is considering extending the reach of the Renewable Energy Precincts program through the development of a Renewable Energy Action Plan for NSW.
- (4) The Government is supportive of community renewable energy projects. The potential for funding opportunities will be considered as part of the development of the Renewable Energy Action Plan.
- (5) \$1.47 million has been provided to the Renewable Energy Precincts program for the 2012-13 financial year.
- (6) The Renewable Energy Precincts program is continuing to evolve and the program has been extended into the 2012-13 financial year. Any future extensions will be included as part of the Governments considerations in the Renewable Energy Action Plan.

*2486 GREEN SQUARE TRANSPORT PLANNING—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport—

Given Green Square will have 40,000 new residents and 22,000 new workers, and that existing bus and rail services are at or near capacity:

- (1) What assessment has the Government made on growing congestion in this planned major centre if new public transport options are not provided?
- (2) What assessment has the Government made on the impact of growing congestion on the function of the Botany Road national freight corridor if new public transport options are not provided?
- (3) What public transport projects has the Government planned for Green Square?
- (4) When will these projects commence, given rapid population growth has already commenced with 5,000 new residents in the last five years and over 7,000 more expected in the next four years?
- (5) What plans does the Government have to deliver the Eastern Transit Corridor for public transport as identified in the 2008 Green Square Urban Renewal Area Transport Management and Accessibility Plan?
- (6) Will the Government protect the Eastern Transit Corridor from inappropriate development?
- (7) Will the Government acquire sites owned along the Eastern Transit Corridor owned by Waverley Council and Energy Australia sites to ensure the necessary transport can be provided?
- (8) What plans does the Government have to introduce additional bus services to cope with demand?
- (9) When was the Botany Road Corridor Action Plan Study completed?
- (10) When will the Botany Road Corridor Action Plan Study be publicly available?
- (11) When will the updated Green Square Urban Renewal Area Transport Management and Accessibility Plan be publicly available?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (11) The Green Square Urban Renewal Area Transport Management and Accessibility Plan (2012 Update) is currently being refined by Transport for NSW. Providing a full answer to each of these questions requires the completion of that work.

In addition, the Green Square and Botany Corridor Plans are inter-dependent. The Government will determine an appropriate timeframe for release of these plans once they are finalised.

*2487 POLICE CYCLING EDUCATION—Ms Clover Moore asked the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter, and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

Noting the rapid increase in numbers of people cycling and the increasing use of NSW Police bicycle units:

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- (1) What education and training is provided to police officers about road rules as they relate to cycling, including hook turns, overtaking on the left, stop signals, riding alongside other riders and motorists blocking bicycle lanes?
- (2) What ongoing professional development is provided to police officers about cycling and road rules?
- (3) How does the Government ensure that all police officers are aware of the road rules for the increasing number of separated cycleways, shared paths, bicycle storage areas and bicycle lanterns?
- (4) How does the Government ensure that NSW Police traffic operations focused on cycling, give priority to pedestrian safety and conflict between cyclists and other road users?
- (5) What education materials does the Government provide for police officers to use with new cyclists and those who are not aware of road rules for cycling?
- (6) What further action will the Government take to ensure that all police officers have up to date knowledge of cycling road rules?

Answer—

The NSW Police Force has advised me that training relating to the road rules as they apply to cyclists and cycling facilities is provided to officers through the Bicycle Patrol Operations Program and the Traffic Services Course.

The NSW Police Force disseminates information to officers in the field relating to any changes in road transport legislation and its application to bicycle use and any arising enforcement issues for police.

In addition all police bicycle operatives undertake annual re-accreditation which includes any operational or legislative changes. Police also conduct road safety education in schools.

*2488 BAYS PRECINCT LEASES—Ms Clover Moore asked the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Roads and Ports—

With respect to Government-owned maritime industrial land and water in the Bays Precinct that are leased to other organisations and agencies and currently subject to community consultation about long term plans:

- (1) Will the Government release copies of the terms and conditions of all executed leases and agreements to lease the land and water owned or controlled by the Roads and Maritime Services and the Sydney Ports Corporation in the Bays Precinct including:
 - (a) Rozelle Bay;
 - (b) Blackwattle Bay;
 - (c) Glebe Island;
 - (d) White Bay?
- (2) What leases, agreements to lease and licences apply to the land and water components of sites known as B1 (Lot 3 DP1064339 at 1C Bridge Road, Glebe) and B2 (Lot 4 DP1064339 at 1B Bridge Road, Glebe) in the Bays Precinct and what time periods and conditions apply to each of these leases?
- (3) Will the Government release the original Tender Documents, Expressions of Interest or Requests for Proposal and any proposal assessment, contract documents, Agreements to Lease or executed Lease details for the sites Lot 3 DP1064339 and Lot 4 DP1064339?
- (4) How will the Government ensure that community members have the information they need about leases, agreements to lease and licences to effectively participate in consultation?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) All executed registered leases can be viewed by the public on the NSW Government's Land and Property Information database.

Other agreements, such as Agreements for Lease, may contain commercial-in-confidence information and other parties may need to be consulted prior to disclosure.

- (2) Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) entered into an Agreement for Lease for sites B1 and B2 with the selected developer in 2009. This provides for a 35 year lease period once construction has been completed.

RMS has also entered into a licence with the operator of the current facility on the two sites to allow it to operate until the development of the proposal starts.

- (3) The Requests for Proposals document was released publicly in January 2009.

The proposal assessment document, existing licence, and Agreement to Lease may contain commercial-in-confidence information and other parties may need to be consulted prior to disclosure.

(4) The Bays Precinct Taskforce is presently undertaking a review of land uses in the locality. This has included a number of community workshops and other opportunities for providing public comment.

*2489 BAYS PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

In relation to the Bays Precinct redevelopment:

- (1) What is the estimated completion date of the Bays Precinct Master Plan?
- (2) At what stage of development is the Bays Precinct Master Plan?
- (3) How will the Bays Precinct Master Plan reflect the desire of the community for maximisation of public access and use of the foreshores and other areas of the Bays Precinct?
- (4) What is the timetable for providing additional open space in the Bays Precinct?
- (5) How is the Government planning to address the immediate needs for community facilities such as foreshore access, open space and sporting facilities?
- (6) Is there an overall plan for Sydney Harbour under which plans for the Bays Precinct will fall?
- (7) Does this plan specify why maritime uses are being concentrated in the Bays Precinct?
- (8) Is the Government currently consulting on a new Metropolitan Strategy?
- (9) What measures are in place to ensure that the Bays Precinct Master Plan is consistent with this strategy?
- (10) Does the Bays Precinct consultation aim to inform long-term strategic planning?
- (11) How will the findings and recommendations of the consultation be structured and implemented to ensure they are funded and implemented?
- (12) Which elements of the Bays Precinct Master Plan have already been decided?
- (13) Which elements of the Bays Precinct Master Plan are yet to be decided?
- (14) What is the definition of "working harbour" being used for the planning process?
- (15) Is the desire for a "working harbour" the main consideration of agencies in developing the Bays Precinct Master Plan?
- (16) What is the estimated amount of revenue expected to be generated by the proposed "lowest common denominator" uses of the Bays Precinct?
- (17) What does "mixed use" mean in the context of the Bays Precinct Opportunities Map?
 - (a) What uses are admissible?
 - (b) What uses are prohibited?
 - (c) Does "mixed use" include residential use?
- (18) Noting the Bays Precinct Opportunities Map shows no use for the old Glebe Island Bridge, what options are being considered for its future?
- (19) (a) Have expressions of interest for the development of the old Glebe Island Bridge been received?
 - (b) If yes, which organisations or companies have expressed interest and what have they proposed?
- (20) Is Rozelle being considered for a regional waste transfer station?
 - (a) If yes, what is the proposed location for the station?
 - (b) If yes, what are the potential activities and uses of the proposed station?
- (21) (a) What are the current plans to achieve adaptive reuse of the White Bay power station?
 - (b) What is the timetable for implementation of these plans?
- (22) (a) Did the Barangaroo Review find that the proposed function centre at White Bay should proceed?
 - (b) Does the Minister accept the finding that the proposed function centre at White Bay should not proceed?
 - (c) If not, what are the reasons for not heeding this finding?
- (23) (a) Are some of the proposed lease terms (with options) longer than the planning horizon of 25 years?
 - (b) If yes, why?
- (24) (a) Which leases/licences/occupants have not complied with the terms of their occupations, such as constructing buildings, facilities or other works or actions?
 - (b) For each of the non-compliant leases/licences/occupants, when are/were these works or actions required to be completed?
- (25) Where there are serious breaches of terms, will the occupations be terminated under the terms of the lease or licence?
- (26) What payments are Government agencies committed to make to NSW Treasury on the leasing and associated usage of the Bays Precinct lands?

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- (27) What plans do any Government agencies have to directly operate services or enterprises on the land around the Bays Precinct?
- (28) What demographic and socio-economic data and analysis is being used to inform the consideration of the needs of the surrounding communities?
- (a) Is this information publicly available?
- (b) If not, when will it be made publicly available?
- (29) (a) Will the Master Plan prohibit intensive development in front of high-density residential areas?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (30) What is the process for collecting and treating contaminated stormwater drainage from the large concrete areas within the Bays Precinct?
- (31) Does the process for collecting and treating contaminated stormwater drainage include measures to ensure it will not run into the Bays?
- (32) (a) Have there been any breaches of statutory standards for the management of stormwater drainage?
- (b) If yes, how was this breach (or breaches) addressed and rectified?
- (33) Will the Master Plan respond to the need for green space and other approaches to addressing the large area covered by concrete slabs around the foreshores?
- (34) (a) Is there evidence of toxic sediments in the Bays Precinct?
- (b) If yes, how will future use of the Bays Precinct ensure that these toxic sediments are not disturbed by marine and foreshore activities?
- (35) How will the Master Plan address the impacts of flooding and global warming?

Answer—

The Government has requested the Bays Precinct Taskforce to prepare a report to the Government that would provide a broad strategic plan for lands identified within the Bays Precinct. I have requested the report due by the end of July 2012, subject to any exigencies.

Many of the matters raised in the Member for Balmain's questions fall within the scope of inquiry of the Taskforce and reflect areas of work currently being finalised.

In the interest of openness and transparency, I directed the Taskforce to include representation from local councils and a dedicated community representative. In preparing its report, the Taskforce has conducted nine public consultation sessions in the Bays Precinct area, attracting over 300 attendees in total.

The consultation process has attracted a significant level of interest and input from local communities and all submissions or questions raised by community members have been published on the Bays Precinct website.

Those questions have been published, with answers, on the Bays Precinct consultation website at www.thebaysprecinct.net.au

*2490 ROZELLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

What meetings has the Premier had with the proponents of the Rozelle Village development?

- (a) Who attended each of these meetings?
- (b) When did they occur?
- (c) What was discussed?

Answer—

No such meetings have taken place.

*2491 BARANGAROO—PREFERRED DESIGN SCHEME—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

With regards to the Barangaroo site:

- (1) When was the possibility of short-listed proponents submitting a non-conforming Preferred Design Scheme first included in the Request For Detailed Proposal process?
- (2) When was such a possibility first discussed with Lend Lease?
- (3) When was such a possibility first discussed with Multiplex?
- (4) Did Multiplex submit a non-conforming Preferred Design Scheme?

- (5) Upon what reports and/or design advice did the Barangaroo Delivery Authority Evaluation Panel rely when reporting that Lend Lease should be the successful proponent having regard to its Preferred Design Scheme?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) At the commencement of the Request for Detailed Proposals on 25 September 2008 provision for non-conforming proposals was included.
- (2) Refer to answer (1).
- (3) Refer to answer (1).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The Evaluation Panel took into account the Expert Reports by the Advisory and Technical Teams and the Design Excellence Review Panel.

*2492 ROZELLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

- (1) What meetings has the Minister for Planning or any other Minister had with the proponents of the Rozelle Village development?
 - (a) Who attended each of these meetings?
 - (b) When did they occur?
 - (c) What was discussed?
- (2) What meetings did any Minister of the previous Government have with the proponents of the Rozelle Village development?
 - (a) Who attended each of these meetings?
 - (b) When did they occur?
 - (c) What was discussed?
- (3) How many meetings has the proponent of the Rozelle Village development had with staff of the Department of Planning, including the Director General?
 - (a) Who attended each of these meetings?
 - (b) When did they occur?
 - (c) What was discussed?
- (4) What written advice has the Department of Planning provided to the proponent of the Rozelle Village development in relation to the current application under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act?
- (5) What advice has the Department of Planning or Minister for Planning received from Air Services Australia or Sydney Airport or any other body associated with air travel in relation to the proposed Rozelle Village development?
- (6) Has the Department of Planning or any other department taken any action to seek to amend the regulations that cover air space above the Rozelle Village development site?
- (7) What advice has the Department of Planning or the Minister for Planning received relating to the impact of the proposed Rozelle Village development on traffic flow along Victoria Road?
 - (a) Who did that advice come from?
 - (b) What was the substance of that advice in relation to the impact of the proposed Rozelle Village development on travel times along Victoria Road?

Answer—

- (1) None.
- (2) This question should be directed to relevant former ministers.
- (3) (a) to (c) The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has had multiple meetings with the proponents between 2010- 2012. Included were a range of stakeholders including The Tipping Point Institute, Pacific Investments, Balmain Tigers Club, Stanasic Associates Architects, Urbis and GTA Consultants.

A range of issues were discussed in these meetings including the scale of development and public benefits of the proposal, traffic and transport issues, height, retail floor space and the assessment process.

- (4) I am advised that the Department has written to the proponent on a number of occasions in relation to the Director General's Requirements for the submission of an Environmental Assessment, the outstanding requirements for exhibition and advising of the Air Services Australia submission on

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height constraints due to the Procedures for Air Navigation Services - Aircraft Operations(PANS-OPS) surface constraints.

- (5) As part of the public exhibition consultation process the Department received advice from a range of authorities advising that the proposal extends into the airspace prescribed by PANS- OPS. All these advices are available on the Department's website.
- (6) No
- (7) (a) Transport for NSW, the Roads and Maritime Services, and the State Transit Authority.
(b) These authorities raised concerns with phasing of traffic lights, queuing of traffic, off-site storage of vehicles during excavation/construction, impact on bus services along Victoria Road and access to the site. These submissions are publicly available on the Department's website.

*2493 CALLAN PARK MASTER PLAN—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW, Leader of the House—

- (1) What progress has been made on the Callan Park Master Plan?
- (2) What advice has the Minister for Planning received from any department in relation to the Callan Park Master Plan?
- (3) When will the Government provide a response to the Callan Park Master Plan prepared by Leichhardt Council?
- (4) (a) Is there a process for independent review of the Callan Park Master Plan?
(b) If yes, what is the process for reviewing the Master Plan and who is responsible for the review?

Answer—

- (1) Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) has been asked to review the draft Callan Park Master Plan.
- (2) No advice has been provided as the review is still in progress.
- (3) The NSW Government will provide a response after consideration of the review.
- (4) (a) Yes.
(b) A planning consultancy has been engaged by SHFA to undertake an independent review.

*2494 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO HOUSING NSW PROPERTIES—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

- (1) For each local office area of Housing NSW:
 - (a) What is the average waiting period between a Housing NSW tenant calling the maintenance line and an officer of Housing NSW attending the property to inspect?
 - (b) What is the average waiting period between a repair being deemed urgent and the repair being carried out?
 - (c) What is the average waiting period between a repair being deemed non-urgent and added to the planned program of works, and the repair being carried out?
- (2) (a) Once repairs are added to the planned program of works, is any consideration given to the length of time the tenant has been waiting for the repairs to be carried out?
(b) If yes, how is this consideration applied?
- (3) How many Housing NSW properties are currently on the planned program of works?
- (4) For each local office area of Housing NSW:
 - (a) How many Housing NSW properties are currently unoccupied because they are not considered fit for habitation?
 - (b) Of all Housing NSW properties leased to new tenants in the previous 2 years, how many have since required responsive repairs or scheduled maintenance?
- (5) For each local office area of Housing NSW:
 - (a) In the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12, how many Housing NSW properties were subject to CTTT orders for repair?
 - (b) Once subject to a CTTT order to repair, what is the NSW Land & Housing Corporation process for ensuring repairs are carried out (e.g. are they placed on the program of works)?
 - (c) What is the timeframe in which the NSW Land & Housing Corporation complies with CTTT orders to repair?
 - (d) How many CTTT orders has the NSW Land & Housing Corporation complied with within the timeframe ordered?
 - (e) How many CTTT orders has the NSW Land & Housing Corporation failed to comply with within the timeframe ordered?

- (f) In the same period, how many CTTT matters in which orders had been made were re-listed on the grounds that the NSW Land & Housing Corporation had failed to comply with those orders?
- (g) Where the NSW Land & Housing Corporation has failed to comply with the timeframe ordered by the CTTT, what was the average length of time that the NSW Land & Housing Corporation actually complied?
- (h) In the financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12, what was the value of compensation the NSW Land & Housing Corporation was ordered to pay to Tenants under CTTT orders for failing to repair (including economic loss, non-economic loss and rent reductions)?
- (6) Has the Chairperson of the CTTT referred matters of non-compliance with CTTT repair orders to the Commissioner for Fair Trading for investigation and possible prosecution?
- (7) (a) What has been the outcome of the matters referred to the Commissioner for Fair Trading?
(b) What measures has the NSW Land & Housing Corporation taken in relation to these referrals to improve their compliance failures?
- (8) What quality control processes does Housing NSW have in place to ensure that repair works are carried out to an adequate standard?
- (9) What processes does Housing NSW have in place to allow tenants to have works assessed or rectified if the repair works are not carried out to an adequate standard?
- (10) For each local office area of Housing NSW, how many properties and in how many instances has Housing NSW had to raise identical or near identical work orders for the same repair?
- (11) Does Housing NSW have guidelines to regulate the engagement of subcontractors by companies contracted to carry out repair works?
- (12) Since 1 July 2010 has Housing NSW or NSW Land & Housing Corporation taken any action against a company contracted to carry out repairs for failure to comply with the terms of their contract?
(a) If yes, what aspects of the contract did the company/s fail to comply with?
(b) If yes, what was the action taken?
(c) If yes, on how many occasions has action been taken?
- (13) For each Housing NSW local office area, what is the estimated cost of carrying out all repairs currently on the planned program of works?
- (14) Is the budget for repairs and maintenance allocated according to local office areas?
(a) If yes, what is the budget for each Housing NSW local area office for repairs and maintenance for 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years?
(b) If no, how is that budget allocated?
- (15) For each Housing NSW local office area, how many projects are currently on the planned program of works?
- (16) For each Housing NSW local housing area, what is the average length of time between a work being placed on the planned program of works and the work being completed?

Answer—

- (1) and (2) The completion timeframes for specific works orders are prioritised based on their urgency or risk category:

Urgent - 4 hours: immediate threat of danger or threat to security, such as electrical danger, gas leak, sewer choke into a common area, internal flooding.

Priority 1 - 24 hours: threat to safety needing prompt attention, such as no lighting within dwelling, inoperative smoke alarm, external flooding.

Priority 2 - 48 hours: certain essential items not working, such as hot water systems, heaters in cold climates.

Priority 3 - 72 hours: other essential items not working, such as stoves, common area washing machines/driers, external doors or toilets.

Responsive Work - 20 days: within 20 working days from the date of issue as stated on the relevant Work Order.

Planned maintenance: based on whole of Land and Housing Corporation asset portfolio standards that targets properties most in need of repairs. Once works are added to the planned maintenance program, work is packaged according to priorities.

- (3) As of 30 June 2012, there were 3079 properties on the planned program of works.

- (4) (a) Nil.

(b) From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012, the NSW Land and Housing Corporation has carried out scheduled or responsive repairs on 23,345 properties with new tenants.

(5) to (7) (a) Refer to the Social Housing Division section of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal Annual Report.

(7) (b) and (8) Staff of Housing NSW attend hearings at the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal initiated by public housing tenants. If an order for maintenance is made by the Tribunal, Housing NSW liaises with NSW Land and Housing Corporation, Department of Finance and Services, to arrange for the maintenance to be scheduled and completed within the timeframe set in the Tribunal order.

The Maintenance Services for Residential Properties (MRP08) contract with multi-trade contractors governs quality of repair works ensuring work complies with the contracted specifications and standards. The contract also covers auditing procedures.

(9) Tenants call the Housing Contact Centre to have works assessed and rectified. The Centre will contact and request the contractor to rectify the issue or refer the matter to the Land and Housing Corporation to undertake a technical inspection.

(10) From 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012, there have been 39,142 recalls for work previously carried out by contractors. The majority of this work was carried out at no cost to Land and Housing Corporation unless work was found to be unrelated to the initial fault.

(11) Yes. MRP08 regulates sub-contractor induction by requiring:

- Contractors to complete criminal checks to ensure sub-contractors are of a fit and proper character.
- Sub-contractors to comply with the Land and Housing Corporation Code of Conduct and applicable legislative requirements.
- Currency of contractor insurance.
- Contractors and sub-contractors to be relevant licensed trades persons under NSW Fair trading licensing requirements
- Compliance of contractors and sub-contractors with Land and Housing Corporation contractor documents and manufacturer instructions.
- Head contractors to be responsible for the work of all sub-contractors.

(12) No.

(13) and (14) Estimated maintenance costs are attributed to maintenance contract areas which are not related to local office areas or regional boundaries.

The 2012-13 budget allocation across all designated areas in NSW is \$210.2 million for planned and responsive maintenance and a further \$194.5 million to upgrade social housing properties.

The budget allocation for planned capital maintenance and upgrading is based and prioritised on known maintenance liability, undertaken from regular property condition surveys.

(15) As of 30 June 2012, there were 3079 work orders for planned works across all maintenance contract areas.

(16) See response to questions(1) and (2).

*2495 BUILDING RETROFIT PROGRAM—Mr Jamie Parker asked the Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Has the Government Building Retrofit Program begun?
 - (a) If yes, when did it begin?
 - (b) If yes, when is it expected to be completed?
- (2) Was the Government Building Retrofit Program an initiative of the former Government?
- (3) Is the Office of Environment and Heritage considering reapplying within the Government for further funding for the program?

Answer—

I am advised as follows:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) 1 July 2010.
 - (b) The regional pilots in the Hunter and Illawarra regions were completed on 30 June 2012.
- (2) Funding for the Government Building Retrofit Pilot Program was approved by the former Government. The current Government increased the scope of the program to include larger energy intensive Government buildings, such as hospital and TAFE facilities, and the Goulburn Police Training Academy.

- (3) The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is currently evaluating the results of the regional pilots. A decision on future funding for further small site building upgrades will be made after that evaluation is complete. In the meantime, OEH continues to provide technical assistance and advice to agencies on how to improve the environmental performance of their buildings and save money on electricity bills.

*2496 WORKERS COMPENSATION LEGISLATION—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to the workers compensation legislation:

- (1) What mechanisms will be put in place by the Government to ensure injured workers are given appropriate support under the new regime?
- (2) What is the projected timeline and when will these changes to the worker's compensation legislation come into effect?

Answer—

I am advised:

(1) The workers compensation amendments were implemented to provide workers who are injured in the work place with the tools and mechanisms to ensure that a return to work is achieved, where possible. This includes:

- greater financial support for injured workers, who will be entitled to:
 - 95 per cent of their average weekly earnings, accessible for the first 13 weeks of the claim; and
 - 80 per cent of their average weekly earnings, accessible for weeks 14 to 130, should they remain incapacitated;
- vocational rehabilitation to support injured workers in the process of returning to work;
- unchanged access to medical treatment while the worker has an incapacity; and
- increased subsidies and incentives for employers to employ workers who cannot return to work with their pre-injury employer.

Further information is available on the WorkCover website (www.workcover.nsw.gov.au).

(2) The Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 and the Safety, Return to Work and Support Board Bill 2012 were passed by Parliament on 22 June 2012 and assented on 27 June 2012.

The new workers compensation laws change the way workers compensation benefits claims are assessed and paid. Some of the changes, including arrangements for journey claims, lump sum payments, nervous shock, heart attack and stroke and disease injuries, have already taken effect. The remaining changes will come into effect gradually over the next 12 to 18 months.

*2497 PRIVATISATION OF CITYRAIL NETWORK—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Transport—

Is the Government planning to privatise the rest of the CityRail network, considering it has revealed that the North-West Sydney commuter service will be run by a private company?

Answer—

No.

*2498 ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Central Coast—

How will the Government alleviate the pressure on NSW households after the abandonment of the planned \$55 million increase to the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme?

Answer—

The former Labor Government announced in 2009 an additional \$55 million in funding over five years to expand the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance scheme yet never delivered on this promise.

In 2010, then Energy Minister John Robertson dumped the scheme's announced expansion, reduced the budget allocation and subsequently froze the scheme's budget.

This Government has markedly increased the amount of assistance for energy consumers. The 2012/13 Budget contains a \$210 million assistance package to help households with energy rising costs which will deliver rebates to over 940,000 eligible households.

The Government has also increased the 2012/13 funding allocation for the EAPA scheme, rising to \$14.9

million.

The Member is encouraged to note that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has confirmed that Labor's carbon tax is responsible for rising electricity prices from 1 July.

The best way to alleviate the pressure on NSW households is to stop the carbon tax - a policy which has the full support of the NSW Labor Party.

*2499 SYDNEY WATER—PLANNED FUNDING CUTS TO INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET—Mr Guy Zangari asked the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra—

What program or mechanism does the Government plan to put in place to alleviate the possibility of service disruptions because of planned funding cuts to Sydney Water's infrastructure budget?

Answer—

Sydney Water is focussed on achieving efficiencies while maintaining a high level of customer service.

Sydney Water will not compromise on customer standards. We will prioritise our investment program so that we continue to meet customer service standards in our Operating Licence.