



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1999-2000

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

No. 70

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2000

(The Questions and Answers Paper is published for each sitting day and will contain, by number and title, all unanswered questions, together with questions to which answers have been received on the previous 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.)

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PUBLICATION OF QUESTIONS	ANSWER TO BE LODGED BY
Q. & A. No. 60 (Including Question Nos 1231 to 1261)	5 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 61 (Including Question Nos 1262 to 1286)	6 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 62 (Including Question Nos 1287 to 1305)	7 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 63 (Including Question Nos 1306 to 1336)	19 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 64 (Including Question Nos 1337 to 1369)	20 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 65 (Including Question Nos 1370 to 1402)	21 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 66 (Including Question Nos 1403 to 1405)	22 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 67 (Including Question Nos 1406 to 1421)	26 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 68 (Including Question Nos 1422 to 1454)	27 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 69 (Including Question Nos 1455 to 1466)	28 December 2000
Q. & A. No. 70 (Including Question Nos 1467 to 1476)	29 December 2000

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- 1232 MR54 ROADWORKS—Ms Hodgkinson to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1234 GTECH MEETINGS—Mr O'Farrell to the Minister for the Olympics—
- 1236 BUNDJALUNG NATIONAL PARK—Mr Souris to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1238 LAND PURCHASES—NATIVE TITLE GRANTS—Mr Stoner to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
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- 1240 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING—BONDI ROAD AND PAUL STREET—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1241 INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATION UNIT—Mr Debnam to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1242 COLLAROY HOSPITAL SITE—Mr Barr to the Minister for Health—
- 1243 WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCTION—GARDEN ISLAND—Ms Moore to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
- 1244 PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST—SUTHERLAND SHIRE—Mr Kerr to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
- 1245 STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS—NSW PUBLIC HOSPITALS—Mr Piccoli to the Minister for Health—
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- 1247 RHODES PENINSULA REDEVELOPMENT SITE—Mr Brogden to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
- 1248 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL—Mr Brogden to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1249 SEWAGE OVERFLOWS—Mr Brogden to the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1250 PROGRAM FOR AIDS FOR DISABLED PERSONS—BUDGET—Mr R. H. L. Smith to the Minister for Health—
- 1251 WATERWAYS DEPARTMENT WORKS—TEA GARDENS—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1252 GLAUCOMA DETECTION AND TREATMENT—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Health—
- 1253 REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS—NELSON BAY ROAD UPGRADE—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1254 MORGAN AND BANKS REPORT—Mr Tink to the Minister for Police—
- 1255 SUMMER HILL STATION—UPGRADE—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1256 SEWAGE FACILITIES—SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL—Mr Webb to the Minister for Education and Training—
- 1257 PROPERTY—BARRACKS FLAT DRIVE, QUEANBEYAN—Mr Webb to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
- 1258 DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS PROGRAM—FUNDING—Mr Webb to the Minister for Education and Training—
- 1259 CRONULLA POLICE STATION—STAFFING—Mr Kerr to the Minister for Police—
- 1260 POKER MACHINES—NSW HOTELS—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development—

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1423 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS)—Ms Seaton to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

1424 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS) PROPERTY AT WOODY HEAD IN BUNJALUNG NATIONAL PARK—Ms Seaton to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

1425 PRISONER ESCORT SERVICES—Mr Piccoli to the Minister for Police—

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1433 GRAFFITI—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- 1434 POLICE TV—Mr Tink to the Minister for Police—
- 1435 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY—WAGGA WAGGA—Mr Maguire to the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—
- 1436 MICHELAGO AND BREDBO SCHOOLS—Mr Webb to the Minister for Education and Training—
- 1437 ASBESTOS DISPOSAL—Mr Webb to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1438 ASBESTOS DISPOSAL—Mr Webb to the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney, representing the Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations—
- 1439 SPEEDING NEAR BULLI PUBLIC SCHOOL—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1440 REDLIGHT CAMERA, BULLI SCHOOL—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1441 DONATION TO AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Health—
- 1442 INJECTING ROOM PROTOCOL—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1443 INJECTING ROOM PROTOCOL—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Health—
- 1444 SCHOOL SECURITY—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Education and Training—
- 1445 TAFE COURSES ON TRAINS—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1446 HEROIN INJECTING ROOM—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1447 MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—

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- 1448 SCHOOL SECURITY—Mrs Chikarovksi to the Minister for Public Works and Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship—
- 1449 LOCAL AMENITY FUND—Ms Moore to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1450 NATIONAL PARKS STAFF—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1451 PARKING FEES—Mr Stoner to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1452 TRAIN SERVICES IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS—Ms Seaton to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1453 FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAM—Ms Seaton to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1454 CRONULLA POLICE STATION—Mr Kerr to the Minister for Police—

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- 1455 GRAFFITI REMOVAL—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1456 INMATE NUMBERS—GOULBURN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE—Ms Hodgkinson to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1457 DAMAGED WOOL COMPENSATION—Ms Hodgkinson to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Land and Water Conservation—
- 1458 NRMA SHARES—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Education and Training, representing the Treasurer, Minister for State Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council—
- 1459 GRAFFITI POLICY—Mr Debnam to the Premier, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Citizenship—
- 1460 LOSS OF EQUIPMENT—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Education and Training, representing the Treasurer, Minister for State Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

- 1461 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE STAFFING—Mr Maguire to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—
- 1462 RESUMPTION OF PERMISSIVE OCCUPANCIES—Mr Webb to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—
- 1463 THEATRE UTILISATION—QUEANBEYAN HOSPITAL—Mr Webb to the Minister for Health—
- 1464 REGIONAL ROAD FUNDING LEVELS—COUNCIL REPRESENTATIONS—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—
- 1465 REGIONAL FLAGSHIP FUNDING—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Small Business, and Minister for Tourism—
- 1466 STROUD AMBULANCE SERVICE—Mr J. H. Turner to the Minister for Health—

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(Paper No. 70)

- 1467 LAND TITLES OFFICE—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Information Technology, Minister for Energy, Minister for Forestry, and Minister for Western Sydney—

In relation to the application of National Competition Policy to the Land Titles Office:

- (1) Has the Land Titles Office (LTO) been reviewed as part of the Government's commitment under National Competition Policy to review all state owned monopolies, and if so, what actions have been taken?
- (2) (a) In 1998/99, was the LTO's "profit" approximately equal to 30% of total revenue?
(b) If so, do these figures constitute "monopoly profits"?
- (3) What was the LTO's return on assets in 1998/99?
- (4) Do the high profits being generated by the LTO constitute a form of "back door taxation"?
- (5) (a) As outlined in "Performance of NSW Government Businesses – 1998/99", issued by NSW Treasury, what are the "public good" operations that were carried out by 10.5% of the equivalent full time (EFT) staff in 1998/99?
(b) What are the non-public good operations that are carried out by 89.5% of the EFT staff in 1998/99?
- (6) What analysis has his department undertaken in relation to the economic benefits of introducing market competition?
- (7) Are the LTO monopoly profits a disincentive to economic growth in the property sector?
- (8) Will the restructure of the LTO to form the new Land and Property Information NSW continue to operate as a natural monopoly?
- (9) To what extent will the Integrated Property Warehouse, currently being developed, lead to a reduction in charges being levied on customers?

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1468 REGIONAL TRAFFIC PLANNING—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Transport, and Minister for Roads—

In relation to regional traffic planning:

- (1) Did the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) announce they would prepare a Regional Traffic Plan for the eastern suburbs prior to approval of the Eastern Distributor?
- (2) Is it true that the RTA has not yet prepared a Regional Traffic Plan for the eastern suburbs?
- (3) Given the Cross City Tunnel EIS (p.2-48) states, “The existing road and transport networks do not satisfactorily cater for this travel demand. This results in a high proportion of private vehicle use and impacts on the environmental quality of Central Sydney and general accessibility within Central Sydney. These problems are likely to worsen over time ...”, will the RTA produce a Regional Traffic Plan?
- (4) Will the RTA prepare a Regional Traffic Plan before the Cross City Tunnel is approved?

1469 PRE-PAYMENT FUND—Mr Debnam to the Minister for Education and Training, representing the Treasurer, Minister for State Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council—

In relation to the \$830 million ‘pre-payment fund’ established in the 2000/01 Budget:

- (1) What criteria will determine whether he can access these taxpayers funds?
- (2) If the Government decides to draw upon the funds, how and when will such drawings be disclosed in financial reports and accounts?
- (3) Why won’t the Government use the funds to repay state debt incurred between 1976 and 1987 when gross debt rose from \$7 billion to \$22 billion?
- (4) Will the Government be acting on the Auditor-General’s recommendation to initiate a review of the current accounting treatment of superannuation (pre) payments, (Report to Parliament 2000, Vol.1, p.40)?

1470 ESD PRINCIPLES—Ms Seaton to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

- (1) How will he ensure the ecologically and environmentally sustainable environmental benchmarks achieved in the construction and operation of the Newington (Athletes Village) will be incorporated with the planning and construction of the site known as the Media Village, the former Lidcombe Hospital, in Lidcombe?
- (2) What steps has he taken to ensure any redevelopment adopts and builds on the lessons learned and provided in the Olympic Games design and constructions?
- (3) What objectives has he set and argued in cabinet for adoption for beneficial outcomes in renewable energy reduced use of PVC, adoption of ozone friendly refrigerants, and other ESD design features?

1471 ESD PRINCIPLES—Ms Seaton to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister for Housing—

- (1) How will DUAP ensure the ecologically and environmentally sustainable environmental benchmarks achieved in the construction and operation of the Newington (Athletes Village) will be incorporated with the planning and construction of the site known as the Media Village, the former Liscombe Hospital, in Lidcombe?
- (2) How will this be done, and who will be responsible for following ESD principles and compliance through this redevelopment?
- (3) What steps has he taken to ensure any redevelopment adopts and builds on the lessons learned and proved in the Olympic Games design and constructions?

1472 LAND BOARDS—Ms Seaton to the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Land and Water Conservation—

- (1) (a) How many Land Boards exist in NSW?
(b) Where are those Land Boards?
- (2) How many times have each of those boards been convened to hear applications in each of the last five years?
- (3) What have been the costs of Land Boards, including member fees, in each of the last five years?
- (4) Are any application fees required to be paid by applicants to have matters heard and resolved by Land Boards?

1473 BOURNDA AND MURRAMARANG NATIONAL PARKS—Mr R. H. L. Smith to Attorney General, the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Corrective Services, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts—

- (1) Have entry fee ticket machines been installed for Bournda and Murramarang National Parks?
- (2) If not, are they going to be installed?
- (3) If so, when were they installed, how much did the machines cost and what was the cost of installation?
- (4) How much revenue has been collected since any such installation?
- (5) How many hours have been spent by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff in collecting fees and policing the park?
- (6) What activities have these NPWS staff been diverted from in order to collect this revenue and police the park?
- (7) Have extra staff had to be employed to collect fees?
- (8) What has any revenue so collected been spent on, and where?
- (9) Does the imposition of a fee contradict the original intention that the parks be places of public recreation?
- (10) What accounting systems are in place to ensure that these funds are expended in the National Park in which the fees are levied?
- (11) What guarantee can be given that the monies raised will not be utilised in other parks for administration costs or general revenue?

1474 POLICE FLYING SQUADS—Mr Maguire to the Minister for Police—

- (1) Where will the 400 police in the newly created “flying squads” be located?
- (2) Will the Southern Rivers Region have squad staff located there?
- (3) Will flying squad staff be located in Wagga Wagga?
- (4) Where in Wagga Wagga does he intend to house the flying squad staff?
- (5) Will he be utilising Sturt Street and Tarcutta Street or Morgan Street accommodation for the newly created squad?
- (6) (a) Does he have alternative accommodation arrangements for new staff?
(b) If so, will he provide details?

1475 STAFF SALARY OVERPAYMENTS—Mr Maguire to the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he confirm that salary overpayment to staff in his department as at 30 June 2000 was \$31,000.00 as contained in the Auditor General’s Report to Parliament 2000?
- (2) Will he provide the details of why \$31,000.00 was overpaid to staff in his department?

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- (3) Will he provide details of how much of this money has been repaid by employees prior to 30 June 2000?

1476 PROMPT PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS—Mr Maguire to the Minister for Health—

Is the Greater Murray Area Health Service working within the prompt payment legislation guidelines when taking up to 59 days as at 30 September 2000 to pay accounts as revealed in volumes of the Auditor General's Report to Parliament 2000?