

Assets, premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service

Questions on notice

QoN	Page	Question
1	19	<p>THE CHAIR: Does Treasury have a view or any line of sight as to, if the assets were to come across to the RFS, what the aggregate annual depreciation of those assets would be? What might that figure be?</p> <p>DOUGAL HORTON: Again, no. From my team, Treasury has not produced that information. That's something that RFS would need to produce based on the assets that are on hand, and that would get transferred to the RFS</p> <p>ANDY HOBBS: We can possibly take that on notice if RFS don't have it. If you don't get it in later evidence, we can probably establish that.</p>
		<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This question is more appropriately directed to NSW Rural Fire Service.
2	19	<p>The CHAIR: So Treasury doesn't have any visibility as to the amount of capex that's being expensed annually through the RFS's books? That does impact the State's accounts directly—the expensing of that capital expenditure in the year of purchase.</p> <p>DOUGAL HORTON: I don't have the information at hand. I'm happy to take it on notice. However, RFS would be able to answer that question, probably immediately.</p>
		<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This question is more appropriately directed to NSW Rural Fire Service.
3		<p>The CHAIR: Referencing that review on the ESL arrangements, are there any preliminary insights or findings that you might be able to share with us at this stage?</p> <p>DOUGAL HORTON: That's a different area that manages this process. Again, that would have to be a question that we would need to take on notice.</p>
		<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With respect to the Emergency Service Funding Reform announced in November 2023, a Stakeholder Reference Group was set up in March 2024 to advise government throughout the reform process. The Stakeholder Reference Group is an expert panel consisting of representatives from insurance, property, local government, emergency services and other sectors with an interest in the reform. The Government conducted a six-week public consultation on its consultation paper that closed on 22 May 2024 and is considering the feedback and insights provided in submissions. The Government will provide an update on the reform in due course.

4	22	<p>Ms JENNY LEONG: And we don't have a picture of that across the State in terms of what that make- up of the difference would be—or that's what you were suggesting, Mr Horton, would need to be directed to RFS?</p> <p>DOUGAL HORTON: Are you talking about what the council says is the gap?</p> <p>Ms JENNY LEONG: Yes.</p> <p>DOUGAL HORTON: No, we wouldn't have that information.</p> <p>ANDY HOBBS: Off the top of my head, it is, in total, something like low tens of millions of depreciation charge. We'll take this on notice and give you the proper answer but, in the interests of being helpful, I think it's something like \$1.5 billion in assets in total across the State, and the depreciation charge is in the \$20 million, \$30 million, \$40 million or \$50 million range in total. Obviously, that will vary greatly according to what assets are in which council and how big they are.</p>
		<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This question is more appropriately directed to NSW Rural Fire Service.