



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**The Legislature (Franklin)**

Hearing: Friday 30 August 2024

**Answers due by: 5.00 pm Friday 27 September 2024**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

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**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

<b>Questions from Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC</b>
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**Printer contracts**

- (1) Can you please provide a copy of the contract for the printers (including toners and servicing) for the printers in the Member's offices and electorate offices
  - (a) I note Members pay a per page cost for printing using printers in Members' offices, are there any circumstances where a member would be expected to purchase toner outside of this arrangement? Are there any elements of the contract that would require a Member to purchase ink for their office in particular circumstances?
    - i. If so how does a Member's purchase of toner outside of this arrangement affect the per page cost they pay?
  - (b) There have been a number of reports of delayed arrival of toner to Member's offices, in some circumstances leaving Members and their staff without a usable printer in their office. While there are Follow Me printers available this may not be an appropriate solution given the sensitive nature of the material being printed. Are you aware of the issue of delayed toner shipments/arrival?
    - i. What steps been taken to minimise the occurrence of an office toner shipment being delayed?
  - (c) What is the average time for a printer maintenance issue to be completely resolved?
    - i. Anecdotally we have heard of maintenance issues taking upwards of a month to be resolved, leaving Members' without a usable printer for that time. What steps have been taken to minimise the occurrence and impact of extended maintenance turn around?

**Staff Training**

- (2) The parliament recently ran a training course for Members' staff entitled 'Thriving in your parliamentary role with Sharon Bent'. Are there plans to instigate similar training that focuses on the unique aspects of the role for staff in the Legislative Council who may not be as constituent facing but deal with high workloads, small teams and extremely sensitive materials - particularly in relation to some recent committee inquiries?

- (a) Are there any other general training for Members' staff the parliament is planning to provide?

<b>Questions from Hon Bob Nanva MLC</b>
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### **Staffing Budgets**

- (3) The 2024-25 Budget Papers state that in the 2023-24 financial year, \$104,042,000 in expenditure was incurred by the Legislature for 'Employee Related' expenses. Are there any legal, regulatory, or other requirements for how this total amount is apportioned within The Legislature?
- (a) Of this total expenditure, what proportion of this expenditure was allocated to the following:
- i. Department of Parliamentary Services Staff
  - ii. Members of Parliament Staff
  - iii. Any other categories of staff
- (b) Could you please also provide the above breakdown for each of the following financial years:
- i. 2022-23
  - ii. 2021-22
  - iii. 2020-21
  - iv. 2019-20
- (c) For the 2024-25 financial year, \$112,328,000 has been budgeted for 'Employee Related' expenses for the Legislature, what proportion of this expenditure is budgeted for:
- i. Department of Parliamentary Services Staff
  - ii. Members of Parliament Staff
  - iii. Any other categories of staff

### **Parliamentary Renumeration Tribunal Expenses**

- (4) For how many days in the following financial years was the office holder of the PRT engaged for?
- (a) 2022-23
  - (b) 2023-24
  - (c) 2024-25 (as of 30 August 2024)
- (5) How is the office holder of the PRT remunerated for their services?

<b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>
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**Parliament website screen reader accessibility**

- (6) Is parliament's website fully compliant with digital access guidelines under the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), an internationally recognised standard created by the World Wide Web Consortium?
- (7) Some of the links on parliament's website are not linked across the appropriate words that describe the destination of the link (not just the word "here"). What is the process for ensuring compliance with digital access guidelines like this?

**Budget infrastructure papers**

- (8) When Parliament is conducting any kind of disability work or upgrades, who is consulted and what is the process for this?
- (a) Are you consulting with any disability organisations or experts?
- (9) Have you done a full audit of the building to determine exactly what is accessible and what isn't?

**Accessible toilets**

- (10) When was the accessible toilet on level 6 installed?
- (a) How much did it cost?
  - (b) Who did parliament consult with before this process?
  - (c) Is there any intention to build any further accessible toilets in the building?

**Cafe menu**

- (11) Have you considered doing a survey of all staff who work in the building about the kind of food they'd like on the menu in the cafe and restaurant, with questions around dietary requirements, allergies and food preferences?

### **Site visits**

- (12) How many site visits in total have Legislative Council Committees, including both standing and select, undertaken in each year from 2018 to 2024?
- (13) How many site visits in total have Joint Committees, including select, statutory and standing, undertaken in each year from 2018 to 2024?

### **Smoking**

- (14) In answers to supplementary questions for the November 2023 Budget Estimates hearing, it was stated that smoking is allowed on Members' office balconies. Given that smoke from balconies is commonly blown back into other people's offices, how is this compliant with the Smoke Free Environment Act 2020?

<b>Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)</b>
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### **Public Bar / Café**

- (15) How much did it cost to renovate the public bar / café?
- (16) Are there any planned upcoming renovations for either the public bar / café or Strangers Dining Room?

### **Rooftop Accessibility**

- (17) What is the current access policy for Members and Staff concerning the rooftop of the twelve-storey office block facing onto the Domain: are they able to access it?
- (a) If no, are there any plans to allow Members and Staff to access this rooftop in future, as an open space for fresh air?
- (b) If yes, how can Members and Staff access this rooftop?

### **Tabling of Documents**

(18) Did the Table Office, Clerks of the Parliament, or the President's Office provide any advice to the Minister for Local Government or Office of Local Government regarding the interim report for the Section 430 investigation into Liverpool City Council?

(a) If so, what was the advice provided?

(19) Do the Table Office, Clerks of the Parliament, or the President's Office provide advice when a document is refused for tabling?

### **Acknowledgement of Country Sculpture**

(20) What was the total cost of the Acknowledgement of Country Sculpture and its unveiling on the 21st of August?