



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

### **Supplementary questions**

Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts

**Transport (Haylen)**

Hearing: Tuesday 3 September 2024

**Answers due by: 5pm Tuesday 1 October 2024**

**Budget Estimates secretariat**

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

<b>Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC</b>
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**TRANSPORT**

**Intercity Trains**

- (1) Passengers experiencing delays on the Sydney - Central Coast Intercity line are often told that the delays are caused by “operational reasons” but not given any further detail. What does “operational reasons” mean?
- (2) Are Sydney Trains prioritised over Intercity Trains when there is gridlock around Central Station?

**Wheelchair Accessible Taxis**

- (3) Following the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi roundtable consultations, the Minister for Transport advised that a report would be published in Quarter 3 of this calendar year. It is now September, and we have heard no updates on the progress of this report.
  - (a) Will this report be published by the end of September as promised; and
  - (b) Will the actions from the report involve increased incentives for wheelchair accessible taxi drivers?
- (4) The Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Subsidy (WATDIS) payment that provides incentives for drivers who pick up wheelchair users has not been increased since 2016. Data from the central booking service for WATs shows only 30% of wheelchair bookings are being fulfilled.
  - (a) Is an increase to the WATDIS payment being considered to incentivise drivers to pick up passengers who use wheelchairs?

<b>Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)</b>
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**Cabinet Sub Committees**

- (5) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

**Training**

- (6) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?
- (a) If yes, what is the description of training?
- (b) If yes, how much?

### **Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports**

- (7) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?
- (8) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?
- (a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

### **ETU membership**

- (9) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?
- (a) If yes, when?

### **Parliamentary Secretary**

- (10) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
- (11) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
- (12) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

### **Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio**

- (13) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

### **Former Ministerial Employees**

- (14) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
- (a) If yes, how many?

### **Signal**

- (15) Are you on Signal?
- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

### **Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors**

- (16) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?
- (17) What local government(s) did they serve?

### **Union membership fees**

- (18) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:
- (a) 2022-23?
  - (b) 2023-24?
  - (c) 2024-25?

### **ETU meetings**

- (19) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

### **Workplace complaints**

- (20) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?
- (21) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

### **Paper shredder**

- (22) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

### **State Records Act**

- (23) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?
- (a) If yes, when?

### **Camera, video recorder and microphones**

- (24) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:
- (a) Handheld camera?
  - (b) Handheld video recorder?

(c) Microphone?

i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

### **Legal Costs**

(25) How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?

(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

(26) Are you a member of a union?

(a) If yes, what union?

### **Advertising**

(27) How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

(a) Facebook

(b) Instagram

(c) LinkedIn

(d) TikTok

(e) YouTube

(f) X (formerly known as Twitter)

### **Catering**

(28) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

(29) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

(a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

### **Senior Executive Drivers**

(30) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

### **CFMEU membership**

(31) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?

- (a) If yes, when?

### **Speeches**

- (32) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?
- (33) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

### **Hard hats and/or vests**

- (34) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?
- (a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

### **Efficiency dividends**

- (35) Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:
- (a) 2023-24?
- (b) 2024-25?
- i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
- ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

### **Gin**

- (36) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

### **Ministerial Advisers**

- (37) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?
- (38) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

### **Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office**

- (39) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

### **Stationery**

- (40) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?
- (41) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?

- (a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?
- (b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

### **GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office**

- (42) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?
  - (a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?
- (43) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

### **Police Commissioner Gin**

- (44) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

### **Qantas Chairman's Club**

- (45) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?
  - (a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
  - (b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
  - (c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?
  - (d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
  - (e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

### **E-Toll**

- (46) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?
  - (a) If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

### **Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register**

- (47) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?
  - (a) If yes, is it available online?
    - i. If yes, what is the URL?

## Ministerial visits

(48) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u):

1. What was the purpose of the visit(s)?
2. Did you make a funding announcement(s)?



## **Ministerial Code of Conduct**

(49) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

## **TikTok**

(50) Are you on TikTok?

(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

## **CFMEU meetings**

(51) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

## **Credit Cards**

(52) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?

(a) If yes, under what circumstance?

(b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?

(53) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:

(a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (Please provide a break-down of this information by grade)

(b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?

(c) What was each largest reported purchase for?

(d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period?

(e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?

(f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?

(g) What was the cost to replace them?

(h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?

- i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
  - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
- i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
  - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

**Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences**

(54) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

(55) As a driver since 28 March 2023:

- (a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?
- (b) Have you been fined for speeding?
- (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?
- (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?
- (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?
  - i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

**Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office**

(56) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

**Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)**

(57) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?
- (f) 2083?

- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified

### **Mobile phones**

- (58) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?
- (59) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

### **Consultants**

- (60) Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
  - (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?
  - (b) What is the purpose of each contract?
  - (c) Who was the contract with?
  - (d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

### **Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality**

- (61) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?
- (62) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
  - (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
  - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

### **Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel**

- (63) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?
  - (a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?
- (64) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (65) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
  - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
- (66) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
  - (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?
  - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
- (67) What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
  - (a) Taxi hire?
  - (b) Ridesharing services?
  - (c) Limousine/private car hire?
  - (d) Hire car rental?

### **Cabinet documents**

- (68) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

### **Website usage**

- (69) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (70) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

### **Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees**

- (71) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) 28 March 2023?
  - (b) 1 July 2023?
  - (c) 1 January 2024?
  - (d) 1 July 2024?
- (72) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?
- (73) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
    - ii. Voluntary?
    - iii. Forced?
  - (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

### **Media releases and statements**

- (74) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases?>
- (a) If no, why?

### **GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)**

- (75) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

<b>Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC</b>
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**Motorised mobility wheelchairs unladen weight limit**

- (76) According to the Minister for Roads in a Budget Estimates hearing on 6 September 2024, the Minister for Transport is currently undertaking some work in relation to looking into the NSW Road Rules unladen weight limit for motorised mobility wheelchairs, and the registration requirements of these devices. What work is the Minister for Transport doing in relation to this?
- (77) Does the NSW Government have an intention to review the NSW Road Rules in relation to allowing motorised wheelchairs to have unlimited weight limits for footpath use and scooters to have an unladen mass limit of 170kgs, in line with recommendations from Austroads, Standards Australia, the National Transport Commission and various disability representative organisations?

**Safe Accessible Transport program**

- (78) In the 2024-25 Budget, the expenditure over four years to 2027-28 is \$547.5 million. Please provide a breakdown of this expenditure, including how much is for the Commuter Car Park Program and how much for the Transport Access Program?
- (a) How much of this expenditure is funds rolled over from the 2023-24 Budget or previous?