



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

**Finance, Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, Natural
Resources (Houssos)**

Hearing: Thursday 5 September 2024

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Thursday 3 October 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC

COVID-19 FINES

- (1) How many COVID-19 fines remain unpaid/outstanding?
- (2) What is the total value of the remaining unpaid/outstanding COVID-19 fines?
- (3) A breakdown of the number of fines issued by offence description of the unpaid/outstanding COVID-19 fines.
- (4) How many COVID-19 fines are currently part-paid?
- (5) How many COVID-19 fines are attached to a current payment plan?
- (6) How many enforcement orders are currently in place for COVID-19 fines?

Children and fines

- (7)
 - (a) How are fine amounts set for children?
 - (b) Has the age at which children may earn an income been considered to determine the age at which children can be issued fines?
 - (c) Will you commit to a system that will see the capping of fine amounts for children?
 - (d) The Revenue NSW fines dashboard shows that for 2023/24, the top fines issued to children were rail-related/Transport fines, a total of 8,330 as of 12 August 2024. Will the government consider issuing free Opal cards to children?

Strategic Statement on Coal

On Wednesday - 28 August - the Premier said that the NSW Government is “in the midst of rewriting the coal statement” and that this has been made “clear to proponents of coal mines” and that “the Barilaro statement will be replaced by the incoming Government's view”.

- (8) What has the government “made clear to proponents of coal mines” about this review?
 - (a) How has the Government communicated this to proponents of coal mines?
- (9) Do you have Terms of Reference for the review? If yes, what are the TOR?

- (10) Will a draft of your revised statement on coal / coal policy be released for public consultation? If yes, when? If not, why not?

Port Kembla Energy Terminal

- (11) Given the requirement that the NT Tribunal specifically consider whether it's in the public interest for new gas supply from Narrabri to go ahead, have you or your Department sought advice from DCCEEW's Net Zero Emissions modelling team about Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG intensity of new and additional gas supply from Port Kembla Energy Terminal vs new supply from the Narrabri Gas Project?
- (12) On 4 September 2024, Squadron Energy / PKET boss Rob Wheals told the ABC that on "an average, typical peak day in NSW, this facility can supply the full requirements for NSW, almost on an annual basis." On 14 June 2024, Minister Sharpe's answer to 2186 - Energy - COAL AND GAS DATA stated that this gas from PKET could be supplied with 10,000 to 40,000 t CO₂-e in Scope 1 and 2 emissions being emitted here in NSW. This compares to 300,000 to 560,000 t CO₂-e in Scope 1 and 2 emissions modelled annually by NZEM for a much smaller QTY of gas that would be supplied by the NGP (noting that the Santos EIS for this Project predicted much higher Scope 1 and 2 emissions than those modelled by NZEM).

Given that NSW is not on track to meet legislated 2030 and 2035 GHG targets in NSW, is it in the public interest to supply gas from PKET with low Scope 1 and 2 emissions, or from the NGP with high Scope 1 and 2 emissions?

- (13) DCCEEW's NZEM team has modelled emissions from the NGP all the way out to FY2050 because, should Santos make an FID to go ahead with this Project, their intention would be to operate the Project for 25 years. Currently all of these emissions would accrue to the NSW GHG inventory as Santos has said that 100% of supply would be for NSW. In contrast, supply from PKET and pipeline imports from interstate is flexible and can diminish or cease when demand dramatically reduces to meet NSW's climate targets. Does the NSW Government consider that flexible supply that can reduce in line with a fossil gas phase is in the public interest?

Narrabri Gas Project

- (14) Does the Government accept that Santos is no longer appraising the gas wells in the Narrabri Gas Project area?

- (15) Is the Government aware of how much gas has been used at Wilga Park power station from its commissioning to now? If so, how many terrajoules?
- (16) How many coal seam gas wells have supplied gas to the Wilga Park power station? How many coal seam gas wells in total have been appraised?
- (17) Is the Government reviewing the benefits and compensation provided to community members affected by gas pipeline infrastructure to ensure those impacted are fairly remunerated (as per the Future of Gas Statement)?
- (18) The world's largest insurance company, Allianz, has ruled out covering Australian property owners homes and public liability for any damage or claim as a result of coal seam gas infrastructure, activities, or transport. Will this be taken into account during the revision of the Future of Gas statement?
- (19) Will the government review the renewal of Petroleum Exploration Licences 1,12 and 427 made by the previous government in April/May 2022 as the previous government failed to implement existing policy?

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

NATURAL RESOURCES

Ulan Coal Mine Modification 6

- (20) Why is MEG relying on Glencore's resource and reserve estimations under the JORC Code for Ulan Coal Mine modification 6 proposal when the mine is currently producing little over half, 11.3 Mt of its approved annual production rate of 20mtpa?
- (21) How can the production of an additional 16 Mt be justified with a 2 year extension of mining until 2035 when the public benefit and estimated royalties for the existing project are not being achieved?
- (22) How is Ulan Coal Mine seen to be achieving efficient and optimised resource outcomes under the current approval?

Moolarben Open Cut 3 Extension

- (23) How can MEG justify supporting the amended Moolarben Open Cut 3 extension proposal to produce 30 Mt coal when this will not provide additional employment and will occur under approved production rates without extending the life of the mine.?

- (24) Isn't this a demonstration and admission that the current mine, as approved on public benefit, has failed to achieve efficient and optimised resource outcomes, as required?
- (25) How can a coal mine approved to produce 22 mtpa until 2038 be justified in disturbing additional high biodiversity value landscape to produce another 30 Mt coal when current annual production rates have just reached 14.2 mtpa in 2023?
- (26) How can MEG consider that the amended Moolarben Open Cut 3 extension proposal will produce \$343 m in royalties when the Moolarben Mining Complex is not producing the predicted volume of coal and royalties under the current approval?

McPhillamys Mine

- (27) How many local FTE jobs would this project provide:
 - (a) During construction; and
 - (b) Over the life of the mine?

Bowdens Mine

- (28) How many times has the Resource Regulator inspected drilling sites for impacts on surrounding agricultural land and waterways?
- (29) When was the last inspection of exploration sites by the Resource Regulator for EL5920?
- (30) How many notices have Bowdens received for non-compliance in relation to rehabilitation requirements?
- (31) In 2021, the Resource Regulator rejected the site for the Bowdens Mine as being unsuitable because of “commercial, logistical and social constraints”. On what basis did the Resource Regulator change its mind and subsequently voice support for the mine to the Independent Planning Commission in December 2022?
 - (a) What strategic land planning was undertaken in relation to the Resource Regulators assessment of the mine site and subsequent change in support?
- (32) What calculations has the Resource Regulator undertaken as to the risk and economic cost of lead exposure from Bowdens mine to tourism, agriculture and critically endangered plant communities?
 - (a) Have those calculations factored in the possibility of mitigation strategies for lead dust being unsuccessful?

- (33) Silver is not on the Federal Government's Critical Minerals list, nor for the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom. What analysis did NSW undertake to put it on their list?
- (a) Is this analysis public?
- (34) The Federal Government published submissions for its Critical Minerals list consultation. Are the submissions published for the NSW consultation?
- (a) If so, where can they be found?
- (b) If not, why not?
- (35) Bowdens has been given \$150,000 in funding through the New Frontiers Exploration Program. Where are the REF's for the Bowden's exploration drilling program for the Coomber, Bara Creek Prospect and Barabolar Project given the Government said in response to questions on notice in the last estimates they will all be published in the interests of transparency?
- (36) Multiple Exploration Licence Applications, for example ELA 6797 which covers the town of Mudgee, advertised on 26 August 2024 in The Land, do not comply with the requirements for advertising a notice for an exploration licence.
- (a) Are notices regularly checked for compliance?
- (b) What is done if notices fail to comply?

Hunter Valley Pipeline

- (37) The current proposal for the Hunter Valley Pipeline goes straight through the Mooki Thrust Fault Line. This is the fault line that has triggered recent major earthquake activity in the Hunter. What is the Department doing to assess the impact of the recent earthquake activity on the project?

GIPA 24-124

- (38) GIPA 24-124 to the Resources Regulator was submitted on 6 June 2024. On 16 July, Ms Reynolds, the applicant, was advised that some information would be released pending a 20 day review period. Ms Reynolds was told on 30 August, after the expiration of that 20 day period, that an internal review had been received.
- (a) When was the internal review requested by the third party?
- (b) What was the internal review decision?

- (c) On what basis does that third party now have another 40 days to review the internal review decision?

NSW Critical Minerals Strategy

- (39) Given silver is not on the Federal Governments Critical Minerals list what analysis did NSW undertake to place it on their list?
 - (a) Has this analysis been released?
 - (b) Where are the submissions published for any NSW consultation on the Critical Minerals Strategy?

Mine Safety Advisory Council

- (40) Why are there currently no experts with medical or WHS knowledge on the Mine Safety Advisory Council?
- (41) When was Professor Yates and Ms Julie Armour taken off the panel?
- (42) Who is the current chair of the committee?
- (43) Were new respiratory thresholds for the Coal Health Surveillance Scheme (CIHSS) implemented from 1 July 2025 as indicated in the minutes of the Mine Safety Advisory Council?

Bowdens lead,zinc, silver mine

- (44) On 16 August the NSW Court of Appeal rejected Bowdens Silver EIS as null and void on the basis that the proponent had failed to assess ‘an integral part of the mine’s operation’ – the transmission lines. Justice White stated that ‘an error cannot be excused because the respondent chose not to provide the necessary information for the impacts to be assessed’. Does Minister Houssos support NSW Minerals Council CEO Galilee’s claim on ABC’s Country Hour that the rejection of the mine ‘was not the fault of the company itself’?
 - (a) Has Minister Houssos met with Mr Stephen Galilee about the Bowdens lead/zinc silver project since the court of appeal rejected its EIS?
 - (b) If so, when?

Strategic Planning and Bowdens Mine

- (45) In October 2021 the NSW Government’s Resource Regulator under their “Strategic Release Framework” rejected the Hawkins/Rumker area where Bowdens lead/silver/zinc is

proposed as suitable for mining because of “commercial, logistical and social constraints’ pointing to greater public benefit from tourism and agriculture that relies on protection of rural and natural values of the region.

- (a) What evidence-based strategic land planning occurred to change the resource regulators conclusions about the area?
- (b) When did the last strategic land planning for the Lue area occur?

Bowdens Exploration Licence 5920

- (46) When was the last inspection by of exploration sites by the resources regulator for EL5920?
- (47) How many notices have Bowden’s received for non-compliance to rehabilitation requirements?

Risk of lead dust exposure from Bowdens mine

- (48) For previous assessments for Bowdens mine, what calculations did the Resource Regulator undertake as to the economic cost of lead exposure from Bowdens lead/zinc/silver mine to tourism, agriculture and critically endangered plant communities if mitigation strategies for lead dust are not successful, as has occurred at Cadia?
 - (a) Will the Minister require these calculations to be part of any new assessments for the mine?
 - (b) If not, why not?

Mudgee Exploration Licenses

- (49) Multiple Exploration Licence Applications for example ELA 6797 covering the town of Mudgee, advertised on 26 August 2024 in The Land do not comply with the requirements for advertising a notice for an exploration license.
 - (a) Why are non-complying advertisements allowed?

REF for new exploration areas for Bowdens Silver

- (50) Given Bowdens Silver has been given \$150,000 in funding through the New Frontiers Exploration Program where are the Review of Environmental Factors for the Bowden’s exploration drilling program for the Coomber, Bara Creek Prospect and Barabolar Project?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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FINANCE

(51) How many people were granted a 50% reduction in fines in:

- (a) 2021-22
- (b) 2022-23
- (c) 2023-24?

(52) How many people were on Work and Development Orders in:

- (a) 2021-22
- (b) 2022-23
- (c) 2023-24?

Consultants

(53) In relation to the election commitment to reduce expenditure on consultants by \$35 million per year, what figure for expenditure on consultants in 2022-23 are you using as the base to measure progress on fulfilling this commitment?

Senior executives

(54) According to the Workforce Profile Report 2023 the number of full-time equivalent senior executives in the total Government sector as at 22 June 2023 was 4,265. Could you confirm that this the number you are using as a base to measure progress on implementing Labor's election commitment to cut the number of senior executive staff by 15 per cent through natural attrition?

- (a) If not, what is the base number you are using?

Contractors

(55) In relation to the election commitment to reduce expenditure on agency hire contractors by 25 per cent, what figure for expenditure on agency hire contractors in 2022-2023 are you using as the base to measure progress on fulfilling this commitment?

Legal contractors

- (56) In relation to the election commitment to reduce expenditure on external legal contracts by \$20 million per year, what figure for expenditure on external legal contracts in 2022-2023 are you using as the base to measure progress on fulfilling this commitment?

Travel

- (57) In relation to the election commitment to reduce expenditure on Government sector travel by \$40 million per year, what figure for expenditure on Government sector travel in 2022-2023 are you using as the base to measure progress on fulfilling this commitment?

JobSaver & Micro-business Grant Audits

- (58) How many small businesses have been forced to repay funds provided through the JobSaver or Micro-Business grant?
- (59) What is the total value that has been recouped by Revenue NSW from these programs?
- (60) How many of these small businesses have had a quality assurance process applied to ensure that the debt recovery notices are accurate?
- (61) How many debt recovery notices have been issued?
- (62) How many debt recovery notices have been overturned?
- (63) How many representations have you received from businesses or business groups that have been asked to repay either JobSaver or Micro-Business grant money, asking for assistance on this issue or reviews of their situation?
- (64) If the small business wasn't eligible for JobSaver, was it then retrospectively assessed and deemed eligible for the Micro Business grant?

Parking Fines

- (65) Please list the 48 Councils the Minister wrote to in March that issue ticketless fines.
- (66) Minister Houssos' media release dated 7 August 2024, stated that "Thirty councils across NSW have indicated to Revenue NSW or stated publicly they have already, or plan to, change adjust their operations to leave an instant, on-the-spot notification to drivers". Which are the 30 councils?
- (a) Please confirm which 18 councils still issue ticketless fines.
- (b) Which councils are unwilling to make changes unless compelled through legislative change?

- i. What reasons have these councils provided for their unwillingness?
- (67) Since March 2024, how many ticketless fines have been issued by each Local Government Area?
- (68) What was the total monetary value of these ticketless fines statewide by each Local Government Area?
- (69) Of the ticketless fines issued in the 2022/23 financial year, what percentage were overturned upon review and what is the percentage of paper fines that were overturned upon review during that same period?
- (70) Of the ticketless fines issued in the 2023/24 financial year, what percentage were overturned upon review and what is the percentage of paper fines that were overturned upon review during that same period?

Bulk Billing Support Initiative

- (71) What is the forecasted revenue from payroll tax from medical centres for the 2024/2025 financial year and any subsequent years for which data is available?
- (a) What is the overall figure?
 - (b) What is the forecasted figure for metropolitan clinics?
 - (c) What is the forecasted figure for regional clinics?
 - (d) What is the forecasted figure overall as well as for metropolitan and regional clinic separately, should the Bulk Billing Support Initiative not have been introduced?
- (72) Has modelling been undertaken that shows how the impact the Bulk Billing Support Initiative will have on the cost of seeing a General Practitioner in New South Wales?
- (a) If modelling was done, how much would the average visit to the GP cost?
 - (b) How many GP Practices are expected to take part in the Bulk Billing Support Initiative?
 - i. If available by state electorate.
 - ii. If available by Local Government area.
 - iii. If available by Local Health District.
 - iv. If available by postcode.
- (73) How many GP practices are expected to be audited for the 2024/2025 financial years?

- (a) How many practices have been audited since April 2023?

Land Tax Threshold Freezing

- (74) Has modelling been done to assess how many additional properties will be the subject of a land tax assessment for the first time in 2025 when the land tax assessments are issued?
 - (a) If so, what is the expected revenue to be generated from freezing the land tax threshold?
 - (b) If so, how many additional properties are expected be the subject of a land tax assessment for the first time in 2025?

Foreign Owned Properties

- (75) What is the number of properties that have been subject to the foreign surcharge levy for each of the following financial years?
 - (a) 2019/2020
 - (b) 2020/2021
 - (c) 2021/2022
 - (d) 2022/2023
 - (e) 2023/2024
- (76) What is the amount of revenue that has been raised from the foreign surcharge levy for each of the following financial years?
 - (a) 2019/2020
 - (b) 2020/2021
 - (c) 2021/2022
 - (d) 2022/2023
 - (e) 2023/2024

Hotel Quarantine:

- (77) Regarding hotel quarantine bills outstanding, how much is owed to New South Wales by other states and territories?
 - (a) Please provide a total figure.

- (b) Please provide a break down by each state and territory.
- (78) Regarding hotel quarantine bills outstanding, how much is owed by New South Wales residents?

Payroll Tax Ruling

- (79) What are the costs that have been incurred by the NSW Government including Government staff, and of external solicitors and barristers to date on defending and seeking the enforcement of PTA 041 Payroll Tax Act, following the ruling of *Thomas and Naaz Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2023].
- (80) In relation to employment agency payroll tax cases:
- (a) How many are currently before the Courts?
 - (b) how many staff of Revenue NSW are involved in these Court cases?
 - (c) how many staff of Revenue NSW are engaged in conducting these audits?
- (81) Has the Minister for Finance had any briefings from Revenue NSW on the new Court interpretation being enforced by Revenue NSW?
- (a) If so, what was this advice?

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING & GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Procurement Spend

- (82) When will procurement expenditure figures for 2023-24 be available?
- (83) How much was spent by the NSW Government on domestic manufacturing of goods and services in 2023-24?
- (a) Of this how much was spent with:
 - i. small and medium enterprises?
 - ii. regional suppliers?
 - iii. local NSW suppliers?

Buybacks and Manufacturing

- (84) Is the Minister aware that a report prepared by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water identifies that the irrigated production of rice will be the hardest

hit under the buybacks and the worst areas impacted will be the Murrumbidgee and the Murray above the Barmah Choke?

- (a) Is the Minister aware of the impact this will have on manufacturing jobs, particularly in the Murray Electorate?

NATURAL RESOURCES

McPhillamys Gold Mine

- (85) On what date did Minister Houssos become aware that Minister Plibersek would be making the Section 10 declaration in relation to McPhillamys Gold Mine?
 - (a) In relation to the declaration, did Minister Plibersek contact Minister Houssos by phone or text prior to the announcement?
 - (b) Did Minister Plibersek send formal written correspondence to Minister Houssos, or her department, prior to the announcement being made?
- (86) If Minister Houssos had knowledge of Minister Plibersek's decision prior to its announcement, did she relay this information via phone call, text message, email or formal written correspondence to the Premier?
 - (a) If Minister Houssos had knowledge of Minister Plibersek's decision prior to its announcement, did she relay this information via phone call, text message, email or formal written correspondence to Minister Moriarty, in her capacity as Minister for Regional NSW?
 - (b) If Minister Houssos had knowledge of Minister Plibersek's decision prior to its announcement, did she relay this information via phone call, text message, email or formal written correspondence to The Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC, in his capacity as Duty MLC?
- (87) On what date did Ms Georgina Beattie become aware that Minister Plibersek would be making the Section 10 declaration in relation to McPhillamys Gold Mine?
 - (a) If Ms Beattie was aware of the decision prior to its announcement, how did she become aware of the decision?
- (88) On what date did Mr Steve Orr become aware that Minister Plibersek would be making the Section 10 declaration in relation to McPhillamys Gold Mine?

- (a) If Mr Orr was aware of the decision prior to its announcement, how did he become aware of the decision?

Royalties For Rejuvenation

- (89) As of September 10, 2024, what is the current balance of the Royalties For Rejuvenation Fund?
- (90) Since March 25, 2023, how much interest has been accrued by fund?
- (91) If interest has been accrued, has it remained within the fund or been distributed elsewhere?
- (92) If interest has been accrued and distributed elsewhere, where has it been distributed?
- (93) Is it true that in August 2023, the collective chairs of the expert panels provided a recommendation that the government “consider opening an initial round of the fund for applications”?
 - (a) If so, on what date was this correspondence received by the Minister or the Department?
 - (b) If so, did the Minister or the Department send formal correspondence in reply to this recommendation?
 - (c) If formal correspondence was sent in reply, on what date was this sent to the chairs of the expert panels?
 - (d) If formal correspondence was sent in reply, did that reply stipulate that funding through the program was unable to be accessed?
- (94) Does the Mining Act 1992 specifically stipulate that funding from the Royalties For Rejuvenation fund cannot be utilised until the 2028/29 Financial Year or until the fund reaches \$250 million?
- (95) It is previously been claimed that the Royalties For Rejuvenation Fund cannot be accessed until 2028/29 or until the fund reaches \$250 million. Do you stand by this claim?
 - (a) If so, when was this directive issued?
 - (b) If so, was formal correspondence sent to the expert panels outlining this directive?
 - (c) If formal correspondence was sent to the expert panels, on what date was this issued?
- (96) As of September 10, 2024, how much have members of the expert panels been paid in remuneration since March 25, 2023?

- (a) Of this amount, how much has been paid since August 1, 2023?
 - (b) Are these figures inclusive or exclusive of superannuation entitlements?
- (97) When was the last time the Minister met personally with the expert panels?

Mining Act

- (98) Under the Mining Act 1992, a licence holder, whether it be an exploration licence, an assessment lease or a mining lease must not exercise any rights under that licence unless they obtain consent from a person whose principal place of residence is within the ‘prescribed distance’. Is the Minister aware that the prescribed distance is 200m?
- (a) Is the Minister also aware that once consent has been given, it is irrevocable?
 - (b) Would the Minister be ok with mining exploration and a subsequent mining lease being undertaken with 200m of her home?
 - (c) Would the Minister agree that once this consent is given, you are essentially agreeing to devalue your home?
 - (d) Would the Minister purchase a home knowing there was irrevocable approval to mine within 200m of the home?

Cabinet Sub Committees

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

Training

- (100) 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

- (101) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?
- (102) 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

(103) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?

(a) If yes, when?

Parliamentary Secretary

(104) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(105) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

(106) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

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

Former Ministerial Employees

(108) 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

(109) Are you on Signal?

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

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

(110) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?

(111) What local government(s) did they serve?

Union membership fees

(112) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:

(a) 2022-23?

(b) 2023-24?

(c) 2024-25?

ETU meetings

(113) 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

(114) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

(115) 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

(116) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

State Records Act

(117) 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

(118) 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

(119) 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?

(120) Are you a member of a union?

(a) If yes, what union?

Advertising

(121) 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

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

(123) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

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

Senior Executive Drivers

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

CFMEU membership

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

- (a) If yes, when?

Speeches

(126) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?

(127) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Hard hats and/or vests

(128) 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

(129) 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

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

Ministerial Advisers

(131) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

(132) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

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

Stationery

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

(135) 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

(136) 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?

(137) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Police Commissioner Gin

(138) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Qantas Chairman's Club

(139) 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

(140) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?

If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

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

(141) 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

(142) 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

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

- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

TikTok

(144) Are you on TikTok?

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

CFMEU meetings

(145) 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

(146) 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?

(147) 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

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

(149) 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

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

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(151) 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

(152) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

(153) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Consultants

(154) 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

(155) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?

(156) 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

(157) 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?

- (158) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
- (159) 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?
- (160) 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?
- (161) 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

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

Website usage

- (163) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (164) 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

- (165) 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?

(166) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

(167) 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:

i. Voluntary?

ii. Forced?

(b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Media releases and statements

(168) 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)

(169) 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)?

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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NATURAL RESOURCES

Santos v Gomeroi - Native Title Tribunal

(170) Does the NSW Government seek to be a model litigant in legal proceedings to which it is a party?

(a) Is it an obligation that the NSW Government be a model litigant?

(171) How does the NSW Government define being a model litigant in legal proceedings?

(a) What responsibilities does a model litigant have in legal proceedings?

- (172) Will the NSW Government be putting forward new documentary evidence to the Native Title Tribunal in the case of *Gomeroi People v Santos NSW Pty Ltd and Santos NSW (Narrabri Gas) Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2024] FCAFC 49?
- (a) What documentary evidence will the NSW Government be putting forward?
 - (b) Will any evidence put forward by the NSW Government address the impact of new gas supplies from the Narrabri Gas Project on climate change?
 - i. Will it address whether this impact is in the public interest?
 - ii. What will this evidence be?
- (173) Will the NSW Government be putting forward the Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Climate Change, dated 20 May 2024, “Updates regarding Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 and previous Implementation Updates” as evidence to the Native Title Tribunal?
- (174) Is the Minister or the Department in possession of any modelling or evidence that proves or credibly argues that NSW can meet legislated 2030 and 2035 climate targets under any scenario that includes the Narrabri Gas Project going ahead?
- (a) Is this publicly available?
 - i. Will it be shared with the Native Title Tribunal?
- (175) Will the NSW Government be putting forward evidence to the Native Title Tribunal that includes evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or the International Energy Agency?
- (a) Will this evidence include the findings that new fossil fuel projects are incompatible with achieving the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C, and that global demand for fossil fuels will need to significantly decline over the period to 2050?
 - (b) Will this evidence include the finding that demand for natural gas will need to reduce by as much as 62% by 2050?
- (176) Has the NSW Government modelled and compared the economic, community development and employment opportunities of a rapid transition from fossil gas, for First Nations people and communities in NSW?
- (a) Will this information be part of the new evidence put forward by the NSW Government to help the Tribunal determine the public interest in this vs locking in another 25 years of gas supply?

(177) Will the NSW Government be advocating for a further Oral Hearing?