

**QUESTION (Page 3)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** If the police have expressed concerns in relation to the visa process, would that be of concern to you?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** They haven't expressed it directly to me. They may have done it through the security agencies, but I wouldn't be and I am not going to ventilate that right now in front of the Committee. That's a matter between interagency dialogue.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** So you're not aware whether the police have expressed a concern in relation to—

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** They haven't done it directly with me. They may have done it through the agencies. I'd have to take it on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The visa process is a Commonwealth responsibility and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) undertakes relevant security assessments.

The NSW Police Force and ASIO are regularly in contact.

Further details were provided by Deputy Commissioner Hudson in his evidence to Portfolio Committee No.5 on 30 August 2024 (at p 73).

**QUESTION (Page 9-10)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Premier, just talking about hunting and pest management and control in New South Wales—I know you've got a pretty detailed understanding of what goes on in this space. In 2022 the total gross economic contribution of cultural conservation hunting in New South Wales was calculated by the Department of Primary Industries at \$508.9 million in gross State product, generating 4,109 full-time equivalent jobs. What's the value now? Do you know that? I haven't been able to get that yet.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I don't but perhaps we could take that on notice. Mr Draper, would you know the economic value?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I don't know it.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The 2022 figures are the latest available, and are sourced from the 2023 Economic contribution of recreational hunting in NSW report:

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/1490033/economic-contribution-2021-22.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1490033/economic-contribution-2021-22.pdf)

**QUESTION (Page 10)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Let us turn now to wild horse management in Kosciuszko National Park. Where are you up to or where is your Government up to in relation to controlling wild horse numbers in the park? What's the recent count of the number of wild horses in the park? There's been a fair bit of toing and froing in relation to this stuff and I think the program of culling has paused over winter. It might be an idea to tell me when you think it will start as well again.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'm just getting some help with the numbers here, Mr Borsak. So I'm advised that the total horses removed under the plan between 24 November 2021 and 2 August 2024 was 8,944. Aerial shooting accounted for 5,963 of those destroyed horses. And the rest were done, I presume, by—well, not the traditional way—the way preceding the change in policy that would allow aerial shooting. I toured Kosciuszko National Park with National Parks and the Minister and saw the baiting program and the penning program, which involved luring horses into big pens and then destroying them or sending them to knackeries or other—but it's very distressing for the horse and obviously prolongs suffering. The Government made a decision in relation to it. We felt that there was no other way of controlling the estimated number of wild horses in the park and that, in fact, the number of wild horses would rapidly escalate if there wasn't a change in the policy.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** When do you think another re-count will be completed?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I don't know. I'll take that on notice and come back to you.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The next population survey will be conducted in October 2024.

**QUESTION (Page 10-11)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Maybe you can't answer this question, but are you confident that the firearms they are using, such as the .308 calibre Winchester, are adequate and that the animals are not being killed or suffering in a cruel and unnecessary way?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'm very glib about guns and bullets. I don't know what the calibre is. Is that considered to be not lethal enough?

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** There has been quite a lot of discussion in the Animal Welfare Committee in relation to this and all around it, that's all. I thought you may have had an opinion on it, but that's okay.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I don't, but I'm happy to find out whether there have been any suggestions that the horses have been suffering as a result.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** I think that committee is pretty full on in relation to all of that. I think we have come to the end of that part of it.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The aerial shooting of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park has been implemented in accordance with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) developed with input from independent vets and the RSPCA (NSW).

There have been no adverse welfare impacts in the implementation of the aerial shooting SOP. The Government refers to the comprehensive information about firearms used in the wild horse control program in Kosciuszko National Park that has been provided to, and published by, the Animal Welfare Committee of the NSW Legislative Council.

That includes information provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in response to questions arising from public hearings of the Committee on 18 December 2023 found on [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/18948/NSW%20Government%20-%20AQoN%20-%20received%2024%20January%202024.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/18948/NSW%20Government%20-%20AQoN%20-%20received%2024%20January%202024.pdf) and 23 May 2024 found on [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19811/AQoN%20-%20NSW%20National%20Parks%20and%20Wildlife%20Service%20-%20Received%2018%20June%202024.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/19811/AQoN%20-%20NSW%20National%20Parks%20and%20Wildlife%20Service%20-%20Received%2018%20June%202024.pdf)

**QUESTION (Page 11)**

**The CHAIR:** Premier, Glencore are one of the largest miners in this State. Have you ever met with them?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Not to my knowledge, but I may have. I would have to check my diary, but I don't recall a meeting.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

I have not attended any substantive meetings with Glencore but I am advised representatives of Glencore attended a fundraiser that I also attended last year.

**QUESTION (Page 12)**

**The CHAIR:** Their principal concern, which relates to what you just said, is that over the 12 years of the Coalition Government, the merits appeals process for these major projects, in particular for major coalmines, was removed from the community through the Independent Planning Commission and the public hearing process. Would you commit to ensure that, for these massive coalmine projects that have implications for the local community and for climate, the merits appeals process in that planning process is restored?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I can't commit to that specifically today, although all of the policy issues around mines, mine extensions and how it operates in New South Wales are hotly contested. Obviously, the New South Wales Government's looking at the approval process and the role of coal in the New South Wales economy in the years ahead. In fact, the Minister responsible is in the midst of rewriting the coal statement for New South Wales. We've made that clear to the IPC. We've made that clear to proponents of coalmines in New South Wales. The existing regime, the Barilaro statement, will be replaced by the incoming Government's view.

**The CHAIR:** When will that happen?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** They're in the process of working on it now. I'd have to take on notice when it would be released. But I've said this quite a few times, Chair, and I think it's important. Coal's our single biggest export, and one-third of it goes to a single market, which is Japan. Putting aside the very significant, I accept, community concern about the impact on the planet, that is a very concentrated export market for the prosperity of the people in New South Wales: our single biggest export going to one particular market. Particularly when you take into consideration the volatility of technology and changes to global patterns of energy consumption, it's a risk for the New South Wales economy in the future, being so reliant on a single piece of export-led resource.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Minister for Natural Resources is reviewing the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining to ensure it is fit for purpose. Further information, including on timing, will become available as this work progresses.

**QUESTION (Page 13)**

**The CHAIR:** Australian medicinal cannabis is of very high quality, and it is an export opportunity. Some of the companies are exporting to Germany, a big flourishing market. Some other countries, like Canada, don't allow it. Is that something the Government would be interested in assisting those companies to do—access foreign markets?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'd probably say in the first place, given there's a deficit in terms of Australian firms meeting the domestic market for medicinal cannabis, that's where we would begin. If it's a better quality, it would give a lot of people more medicinal benefit as a result of having access to Australian grown and made. That's probably where we would start, but I'd take the other part of it on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Government has several programs to assist NSW business to export, and access international markets.

Export advisors provide NSW businesses with free export advisory services and access to state and federal export support.

NSW's international network provides on the ground, in market assistance, real-time market insights, navigation of local supply chain issues and connections to customers and buyers.

**QUESTION (Page 16)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Who was suggesting that there would be 25,000 units on the site? Who made that suggestion? Or residences?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** No, I haven't made that suggestion.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** You did, with respect, Premier.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** The policy point here is important, and that is that my understanding is under the previous Government the proposal was to have between 3,000 and 5,000 apartments around the periphery of the track and maybe more housing at Camellia, which is adjacent to the metro line, but you'd keep the track in place. The point about density is that the benefit for the Government and the benefit for the State in a housing crisis is that it wouldn't just be 3,000. It would be substantially more than that, and maybe approaching 25,000. But I suspect the land economists and those who are proposing the potential sale and presenting that to the members will have to make a decision about what and how many.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** It was contained in your press release, wasn't it, that it was up to 25,000?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'd have to look at it, but substantially more than 3,000. And the reason for that was really straightforward and that was because I didn't want the people of New South Wales to believe that—we wanted to be up-front about it. This would mean more density on the site. This wouldn't just be a gigantic park, which some people have proposed—just closing down the racetrack and turning it into a public park—but that there would be housing on the site. We wanted to be transparent about that, and there would be significant density on the site.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In its media release dated 7 December 2023, the Australian Turf Club stated that “at least 25,000 homes” could be built at Rosehill Gardens (see

<https://www.australianurfclub.com.au/atc-to-invest-5-billion-to-future-proof-racing-industry/>).



**QUESTION (Page 21)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Premier, in relation to the Powerhouse Museum, will your Powerhouse Ultimo project meet its actual projected cost?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** The money set aside for the rebuild of the existing Powerhouse at Ultimo—I haven't heard to the contrary. I think it's a couple of hundred million dollars. It's quite a substantial remediation project at Ultimo, but I could take advice on it and come back.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The total capital budget for the revitalisation of Powerhouse Ultimo is \$300 million. The NSW Government has committed \$250 million, and the Powerhouse will raise \$50 million through a philanthropic campaign.

**QUESTION (Page 21)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** That was going to be my next question: Do you know what a final figure is? In these projects, as you can appreciate, they just keep escalating. No-one really knows where we're at in terms of what the current figure might be.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** That's true. The revitalisation project is \$300 million at Ultimo. It's a huge sum of money but necessary. It's an important piece of cultural infrastructure for the State. That's \$250 million from New South Wales taxpayers and \$50 million in philanthropic capital from donations. We would expect it to be on time and on budget. This is a perennial problem across the Government. We've been left with a whole bunch of infrastructure projects that have wildly blown out, and there are opportunity costs that come with it, but we recognise that we've got to manage these things very closely.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Can you put a date on when you're expecting completion?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I think I can, but it's not front of mind, Mr Borsak.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Can you take that on notice, please.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Sure.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Powerhouse Museum Ultimo closed on 5 February 2024. Timing for construction commencement and completion is subject to the outcomes of the planning and procurement processes, which are currently underway. It is expected these works will take up to three years.

**DURING THE HEARING:**

The Secretary of the Premier's Department answered: (Page 76)

SIMON DRAPER: Chair, do you mind if I just do one thing? Mr Borsak is not here, but there was some evidence given [at page 21-22]—he was asking a question this morning about the completion of the Powerhouse in Ultimo. I think the evidence might have been it was 2025. That's the Powerhouse Parramatta—is 2025. Ultimo is 2027.

**QUESTION (Page 21-22)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** You mentioned \$50 million in philanthropic donations. Can we find out who actually made those donations?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I don't know.

**KATE BOYD:** We can take it on notice.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I've just read it in my note here that we expect it to be completed the middle of next year.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** The middle of 2025?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Yes.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Powerhouse Ultimo Capital Campaign will raise at least \$50 million towards the capital cost of the heritage revitalisation of the site, including its fit-out and first year of programming. This campaign is yet to formally commence but has secured a \$10 million donation from the University of Technology Sydney who will be the Foundation University Partner of Powerhouse Ultimo.

**DURING THE HEARING:**

The Secretary of the Premier's Department answered: (Page 41)

**SIMON DRAPER:** ...In terms of the donations, \$10 million of the \$50 million has been pledged so far but the campaign for the other philanthropic fundraising will commence when the main works contract has been awarded. It hasn't been awarded yet, and that's in line with what we did at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Parramatta Powerhouse as well.

**QUESTION (Page 22)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Are we going to see the live steam exhibition restored?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I think you'd have to direct that question to the curators at the Powerhouse themselves, the museum of applied arts and sciences.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Can you take that on notice and get an answer for me?

**SIMON DRAPER:** I'll take that on notice, yes. I'll try to answer it this afternoon if I can, but otherwise I think that it's going to be—

**ANSWER:**

The steam engine, the Catalina, the Boulton and Watt engine, they will be returned to the Ultimo Museum when that's completed.

(Answered during the hearing - transcript page 41)

**QUESTION (Page 32)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** The facts speak for themselves and they know. Can you tell me what the initial intended network capacity target was for the Central-West Orana REZ?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I can't tell you that.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Do you know what the current intended network capacity for it is?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Simon, have you got any information about that?

**SIMON DRAPER:** No, I don't have it with me.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Can you take it on notice?

**SIMON DRAPER:** We can get that for you today, yes.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- The initial intended network capacity for the Central West Orana REZ was 3 gigawatts. The Minister for Energy increased this to 6 gigawatts in December 2023.
- It will initially provide 4.5 gigawatts of network capacity in Stage 1 (2028).

**QUESTION (Page 32)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Do you know, Premier, where the Central-West Orana REZ is currently sitting in terms of network capacity when you add up all the projects that have been approved?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'm happy to take it on notice and come back to the Committee.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- The Central West Orana REZ will unlock 4.5 gigawatts of new network capacity in Stage 1 (2028).
- This new 4.5 gigawatt network capacity can support approximately 7.7 gigawatts of generation projects. This is because wind, solar and battery projects can operate at different times of the day and don't all export energy at exactly the same time.
- Projects that will connect to this new network are in varying stages of development/planning approval.

**QUESTION (Page 32-33)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** The concern coming from a lot of the regional communities around this, Premier, is that the original intended network capacity was three gigawatts. We're now looking, when you combine—according to data provided by the relevant councils in that area, the total renewable generation comes in at 12.52 gigawatts. The problem that you've got is that EnergyCo is saying that the Central-West Orana REZ will be at least 4½ and local councils are saying it will be more than 12 gigawatts. Can you clarify which figure is correct?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'll have to come back to the Committee and report, which I'm happy to do. But in relation to the Central-West Orana REZ, the Government was faced with the situation where we were originally told that the estimated cost of the project for consumers—this isn't going to be borne by the New South Wales Government balance sheet, but it will be borne by consumers in this State—was \$650 million. We were then told—I presume this was presented to you, Mr Tudehope, in government—that the actual cost was \$3.2 billion, an astronomical increase, more than 300 per cent. None of that information was presented to the public. None of it was presented by the National Party or the Liberal Party to the people of New South Wales during the election campaign. None of it was communicated as part of the challenges facing energy production and distribution in New South Wales.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** In any event, the capacity of the site is directly relevant to the cost that will be borne by the consumers. To suggest otherwise, which is what the National Party seems to be implying today, is ridiculous. The information that I've got now is that it will be 4.5 gigawatts by 2028, but if there's updated information I'll report it to the Committee.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

- The Central West Orana REZ will initially provide 4.5 gigawatts of new network capacity in Stage 1 (2028). This new capacity can support approximately 7.7 gigawatts of generation projects. This is because wind, solar and battery projects can operate at different times of the day and don't all export energy at exactly the same time.
- There are also many projects under development in the Central West Orana region that may connect to existing network infrastructure.
- In total in the planning system, there are currently 29 projects (10.7 gigawatts) in the Central West Orana region. This includes projects that have Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued (the terms of reference for an Environmental Impact

Statement), projects that are under assessment but not approved, and projects that have been approved. These 29 projects are a mix of projects that connect to existing network infrastructure and projects that will connect to the new Central West Orana REZ transmission line.

- For various reasons, not all projects seeking, or with planning approval, will get built. Similarly, not all projects with Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued will lodge an application.



**QUESTION (Page 34)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Premier, there was an announcement today of about 125 paramedics in regional New South Wales. Could you confirm for the Committee how many of those 125 paramedics are intensive care or extended care paramedics?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I couldn't do that off the top of my head, but I'm happy to take it on notice.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Are you aware that your election commitment of those 500 additional ones was that they would all be intensive care and extended care paramedics? Are they all—those 125 that you announced today?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I can't answer that. I said I would take it on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Our regional paramedics commitment was for boosting the workforce by 500.

We are delivering this commitment and have already rolled out the first tranche of 125 regional paramedics.

In addition to this commitment, we are also boosting the number of Intensive care paramedics (ICP) and Extended Care Paramedics (ECP).

Since March 2023 we have trained an additional 60 regional Intensive Care Paramedics and we have trained an additional 5 regional Extended Care Paramedics.

**QUESTION (Page 35)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Is it possible that that's a broken election commitment if they're not— all 125?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Give me an opportunity to examine the information.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** You spruiked it on social media but you don't know the detail.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Would you like the information if I can collect it?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Yes. I thought you'd know it. It's all over your social media.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I could not tell you whether it was the designation in relation to paramedics.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Do your staff know? Someone might be able to pass you a note.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'm happy to collect the information.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** That would be great.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** When you have my job, you are in a position to ask the Health Minister or staff members. I don't think it's unreasonable to suggest that I do that.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Premier, it was on your social media. I noticed it today; I thought you might know. If you can get me the answer, that would be great.

**The CHAIR:** The question has been taken on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Our regional paramedics commitment was for boosting the workforce by 500.

We are delivering this commitment and have already rolled out the first tranche of 125 regional paramedics.

In addition to this commitment, we are also boosting the number of Intensive care paramedics (ICP) and Extended Care Paramedics (ECP).

Since March 2023 we have trained an additional 60 regional Intensive Care Paramedics and we have trained an additional 5 regional Extended Care Paramedics.

**QUESTION (Page 35-36)**

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Can you tell me what the four focus areas are for funding in regional New South Wales under your Government?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** What document are you referring to?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** You made an announcement when you were out in Orange. I think that was as far west as you went when you had that cabinet out there. There were four key areas of funding that you'll be rolling out under that regional fund. Can you tell me what they are?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** What's the name of the regional fund?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** You have the Regional Development Trust Fund before the House at the moment. You made an announcement; you were there at the press conference. There were four focus areas for funding. I want to know if you know what they are.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** These are the specifics and priorities of the individual trust. I am happy to get that for you. But in terms of the priorities for regional New South Wales, they are world-class service delivery, economic opportunity and a chance for everybody, no matter where they live in the State, to meet their full potential.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** There were four areas identified, and I appreciate that you've taken that on notice. Can you tell me how those four focus areas were identified?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** You'd have to direct that to the Minister.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** But, with respect, Premier, it's under your department. You're the Premier of the State. You stood up and did the press conference. Can you tell me how those four areas were identified?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I'm happy to take it on notice, but I think it's best that you direct it to the Minister.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** If you could provide it on notice, that would be great.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Regional Development Trust Fund will be invested in regional and rural communities through four initial Key Focus Areas:

1. Sustainable regional industries
2. Aboriginal economic development and enterprise

3. Community connection and capacity building
4. Improving regional service delivery.

To inform the scope of the Regional Development Trust Fund, the Government undertook an extensive community consultation process, led by the current Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). This process was undertaken from November 2023 to July 2024.

As part of this community engagement, the Minister for Regional NSW and DPIRD:

- Conducted a series of roundtables with communities across regional NSW
- Published an issues paper soliciting feedback from stakeholders, and
- Supplemented public feedback with advice from the Regional Development Advisory Council.

This feedback has helped to inform the initial focus areas for the Regional Development Trust Fund.

**QUESTION (Page 40)**

**The CHAIR:** I understand that, Premier, but will the Government do something specifically around this emerging crisis—as some have put it—around nitazene?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Mr Chair, I'm sure that we will. I don't have the details of it. This is obviously an emerging threat to the community. The only point I'm making is that the government has a long history of public awareness campaigns that have been run by the Ministry for Health and that have been more successful than if they weren't in place, and I'm sure the health Minister is looking at it. But I will commit to you to return to the Committee and you personally about the Government's program to minimise the number of deaths from this toxic substance.

**The CHAIR:** That'd be very much appreciated

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In response to the emergence of nitazene and other synthetic opioids, the NSW Government is expanding access to Naloxone, a safe medicine that reverses the effects of opioid overdoses.

In recognition of its public health benefit, the NSW Government provides naloxone free of charge to people at risk of witnessing or experiencing an opioid overdose, including carers. Naloxone is available over the counter at community pharmacies.

In 2024, the NSW Take Home Naloxone Program and strategy is being expanded into Emergency Departments and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

NSW Health is also expanding the Naloxone access strategy to enable a broader range of workers to supply and administer it.

The Commonwealth Government also administers the National Take Home Naloxone Program. Services registered under the Program can distribute naloxone, including community pharmacists, dispensing doctors and hospital pharmacists, free of charge. Naloxone may also be available through Authorised Alternative Suppliers such as outreach services.

In response to the emergence of nitazenes, NSW Health is now advising these services to offer additional Naloxone to patients in need.

**QUESTION (Page 50)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Have you reduced industrial action by the fire employees union?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Are they still engaging?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** What was that?

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Have you reduced industrial activity by that union, the fire brigade?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** Yes. I am not aware of bans that are in place at the moment.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Did they have an impact on the opening of the metro?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I would have to refresh my memory on the reasons for the delay, but my understanding was that it wasn't directly related to the industrial action that was put on, but I stand to be corrected.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** But there was some impact that they had on the opening of the metro, wasn't there?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** No, I am not prepared to concede that. I would have to check. There was a whole range of reasons why the metro was delayed.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The Chatswood-Sydenham section of the Metro opened on 19 August 2024 after the Government received the necessary approvals from the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

The Fire Brigade Employees Union (FBEU) raised safety concerns regarding the Sydney Metro City section via a 'Code Red' campaign on 11 July 2024. The FBEU subsequently revoked their Sydney Metro 'Code Red' on 29 July 2024.

**QUESTION (Page 50)**

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Premier, your Government has made a lot out of the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and the delivery of the renewable energy zones. You have also made an agreement with Origin Energy to operate the Eraring Power Station until 2027. What was the detail of that deal, where it sits now especially?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I would have to take the specifics on notice, just because it is quite detailed. But, in general, the deal was that if there were to be profits as a result of the running of it, they would be shared to an extent, and that if the Government or the State was required to step in, as a result of the operation of it, we would bear that cost. But all things being equal—and it may not be the case—the cost to the taxpayer may well be zero, whilst at the same time having some kind of redundancy or safety in the system while we attempt to get the renewable energy road map back on track after it was, by common consent, a disaster under the previous Government.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

On 23 May 2024, the NSW Government announced Origin had agreed to operate Eraring until August 2027 in return for Government underwriting against a share of its potential financial loss. If Origin accepts the underwrite, it is also required to pay a share of any profit to the Government.

A summary of the agreement is available here:

<https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-05/NSW-202405-Public-summary-of-Generator-Engagement-Project-Agreement.pdf>

On 4 June 2024, the Minister tabled the agreement with Origin in Parliament:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/tp/files/188681/Document.pdf>

**QUESTION (Page 51)**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I have just been given more information, Mr Borsak. Origin must choose to opt into the underwriting arrangement each year. If it opts in and makes a loss, the State will pay Origin 80 per cent of the losses at a cap of \$225 million. The agreement has been tabled.

**The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK:** Is there any level of operation—in other words, does it have to be 50 per cent available, 75 per cent available, 100 per cent available all the time? Is there anything in that scale in your agreement?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I would have to take that on notice. The agreement is in the public domain, but my assumption is that it would be based on demand in the marketplace. They would be happy to sell as much as they can into the network.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

Origin will operate Eraring to provide at least 6 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity a year, compared to the 14.3 TWh it produced in 2023-24.

Origin may operate Eraring to provide more than 6 TWh of electricity a year, but the government underwrite adjusts so that it does not cover this additional generation.



**QUESTION (Page 53-54)**

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** Good morning, Premier. Earlier this year you made an apology to people who'd been impacted by the criminalisation of homosexuality before 1984, which was an extremely moving day that many people are really grateful for. You were also the first Premier of New South Wales to ever march in the Sydney Mardi Gras parade. These gestures are really important and have huge value. They've also given people across New South Wales hope that those gestures would be followed up with legislative change. In New South Wales the Anti-Discrimination Act doesn't protect a whole range of people—people who are non-binary, people who are asexual, and people who are bisexual, like me. Do you support changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act to provide those protections?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** We have made legislative changes since being elected to office. We've made legislative changes in relation to conversion therapy in this State, which was a promise prior to the election campaign and one that we fulfilled. We've pursued other changes to the law as well. Anti-Discrimination Act changes, I can't give a blanket answer that we will change it in line with what some activists insist is necessary. There are many reasons for that. My understanding is that the Anti-Discrimination Act is being reviewed. I expect the result of that review to be presented to the Government, and therefore to Parliament, in the time ahead. I'll have to come back to you and take on notice when that would be. But they are not straightforward changes to the legislation.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

In June 2023, the Attorney General referred the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 to the NSW Law Reform Commission for comprehensive review, which fulfilled an election commitment. Preliminary submissions to the review were open until 29 September 2023, and are now published on the Commission's website. On its website, the Commission notes that it is currently reviewing these submissions and expects to release a consultation paper in the coming months.

As is convention with Law Reform Commission reviews, there is no due date or specific timeframe for the finalisation of the review.

**QUESTION (Page 57-58)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** The GST agreement that you negotiated—has that been legislated?

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** I don't think it requires legislation—

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** It does.

**Mr CHRIS MINNS:** —but I can take it on notice.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised:

The original GST No Worse Off Guarantee is legislated under the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Every State and Territory Gets Their Fair Share of GST) Act 2018.

The Act sets out the calculation of the Guarantee and ensures it remains in place during the transition from the old GST arrangements to the new GST arrangements, to the end of 2026-27.

On 6 December 2023, National Cabinet agreed to extend the Guarantee for three years from 2027-28. The extension is not legislated.

**QUESTION (Page 58)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Great photographs. Ms Boyd, did the Secretary of the Department of Education seek your advice in relation to the SO 52 and the production of documents relating to school funding?

**KATE BOYD:** Not my personal advice, although the Cabinet Office's advice may have been sought. I'll have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

Yes. The Cabinet Office provides advice to all agencies and Ministerial offices regarding Standing Order 52 as the agency responsible for coordinating returns under Standing Order 52.

**QUESTION (Page 59-60)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** I think what you're suggesting is that the software attached to it would potentially need—have you been able to identify the software which would give the requisite level of privacy and security?

**KATE BOYD:** I can take that on notice. I don't think it's one single bit of software; I think it's the whole infrastructure around cybersecurity that we would really be looking at. There are some objective standards for that that we have shared with the Clerk's office over the years as to what we would look for before the Government would entertain electronic production.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Memorandum M2015-05, relating to the publication of ministerial diaries and release of overseas travel information, is still in force, is it not?

**KATE BOYD:** It is.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** There are a couple of things about that. That's a mandatory compliance document, is it not?

**KATE BOYD:** That's correct.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** I noticed that it was issued on 30 September 2015. Were you involved at that time with the production of this memorandum?

**KATE BOYD:** Yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** It was due for review on 30 July 2024.

**KATE BOYD:** Yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Is that currently taking place?

**KATE BOYD:** I don't know that it was due for review, but I think—

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** It says, "Review date: 30 July 2024".

**KATE BOYD:** I would have to double-check that. I don't know that that's accurate in terms of the government review. I think on the ARP system there is always a notional review date for the internal business unit that's responsible for the memo to check that it's still relevant and valid. It's not like a government review of the issue.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** I accept that. Has the internal review—

**KATE BOYD:** I can take that on notice and check, but it is generally the practice after an election that we would present all of the current memoranda to the Premier and seek the current Government's endorsement of the existing administrative requirements.

**ANSWER:**

The Cabinet Office has reviewed the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 *Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information* and confirmed that it is still current and relevant.

The Government is carefully considering the Independent Commission Against Corruption's recommendations in the Operation Eclipse report, which included recommendations relating to Ministerial diary disclosures.

**QUESTION (Page 64)**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Ms Boyd, what was the circumstance by which William Murphy, the acting head of the Cabinet Office, developed this position paper on 6 November, the Project Wattle transaction options analysis?

**KATE BOYD:** I think you'd have to ask him that. I can't speak to that.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** You're not familiar with that?

**KATE BOYD:** No.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Could you take it on notice as head of the Cabinet Office to find out how the Cabinet Office produced this document and where it came from?

**KATE BOYD:** Yes.

**ANSWER:**

The 6 November 2023 document titled "Project Wattle Transaction Options Analysis" referred to was developed by the then Department of Enterprise Investment and Trade to support its advice to The Cabinet Office on the most appropriate pathway for a proposal of this nature.

**QUESTION (Page 65)**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Mr Draper or Ms Boyd, are you aware of any legal advice that has been produced for the Premier regarding the probity risk that Mr Murphy identified?

**KATE BOYD:** I'll have to take that on notice but there is a probity adviser under the guidelines.

**ANSWER:**

An independent probity adviser is supporting the process to ensure that any identified probity risks are appropriately managed.

**QUESTION (Page 66)**

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** I'll keep an eye on that. Minister Jackson announced an agency for youth, and I understand some work has been done. Are you able to give us an update of where that is in terms of it being a kind of machinery of government change?

**KATE BOYD:** I think I'll have to take that on notice. It might be a better question for the Minister for Youth at this stage, but we can take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

The Minister for Youth, the Hon. Rose Jackson MLC announced in February 2024 that work is underway on options to establish a whole of government approach to bringing the voice of young people into policy decision making.

No decisions have yet been taken on the nature or structure of this approach. Decisions will be made in due course and will be informed by consultation with young people across NSW, including:

- A public survey 'Your Voice Our Future (open until 31 December 2024); and
- A Youth Summit scheduled for 18 November 2024.



**QUESTION (Page 71)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** New homes. Under the agreement with the Commonwealth, what is the agreed metric to determine how many new homes will be delivered by each State?

**KATE BOYD:** Do you mean in terms of, is it completions?

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Yes.

**KATE BOYD:** Yes, I think it's completions. Is that right, Marcus?

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes, it's completions.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Does that metric then apply to publicly available information such as dwelling units completed which are tracked by the ABS?

**KATE BOYD:** Yes, I think—

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes, it's ABS data.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** That's the data which will be used for the purposes of New South Wales's compliance.

**MARCUS RAY:** All States and Territories, yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** And that will include, I take it, all private market, affordable and social housing?

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes. A broad range of housing, yes.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** And non-private, including student housing?

**MARCUS RAY:** I might have to take that aspect on notice. I think there might be some particular rules around—

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** There are some components relating to that. Does it include boarding houses, seniors housing and co-living dwellings? If you can take all those four aspects on, whether it includes that.

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes, I will take all those.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** A room in a boarding house, for example, will it be classified as a home for the purposes of 377,000?

**MARCUS RAY:** I'll have to take that one on notice.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Are there guidelines relating to that in the agreement with the Commonwealth, about what they say is going to be—

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes, there would be, but I don't have them with me.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** I suppose on a similar basis, a room for student accommodation?

**MARCUS RAY:** As we have already said, Mr Tudehope, I'd have to take that on notice for those more detailed ones—about those less normal forms of housing.

**ANSWER:**

The National Housing Accord target will be measured using ABS data on new residential building completions. This aligns with the approach taken by the Commonwealth Government. The ABS dwelling count includes residential dwellings intended for the provision of long-term accommodation as defined by the ABS Functional Classification of buildings.

- **Student housing and aged care facilities (seniors housing)** are classed as non-residential buildings so will not be counted.
- **Boarding houses and co-living** housing in NSW provides compact rental accommodation for a range of occupants, with minimum tenancies of 3 months. Boarding houses, co-living and other dwellings are currently not counted under the Accord

**QUESTION (Page 72)**

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** The New South Wales Government hasn't received any funding as yet under the \$500 million new housing accelerator. There seem to be new funds for everything. Have we received any funding under that package?

**MARCUS RAY:** There was some funding that was committed from the Commonwealth the year before last—it was \$600 million in social housing accelerator funding. But I'm not actually fully aware of what the

\$500 million aspect of the new home bonus is that you are referring to.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Has any application been made under that program for funds?

**KATE BOYD:** That's the HAF, isn't it?

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Yes, the HAF.

**KATE BOYD:** I'm pretty sure there have been applications. We can take that on notice as to what.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Have you received any funding as yet under the \$150 million Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program as part of the agreement with the Commonwealth?

**MARCUS RAY:** I'm going to have to take that one on notice.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** That's fine.

**MARCUS RAY:** I'm not aware.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** My second question was, if you haven't received the funding, have you made any application for the funding?

**MARCUS RAY:** I'll get you that information.

**The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** In respect of the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program, same question: There's a \$400 million program; have you received any funding under it? If no, have you made any application? Again, I assume you want to take that question on notice?

**MARCUS RAY:** Yes, in relation to those Commonwealth funding proposals I'll have to take that on notice.

**ANSWER:**

- Successful projects under Stream 1 of the \$1.5 billion Housing Support Program were announced on 5 July 2024. \$50 million was made available under Stream 1 of the Housing Support Program which focuses on boosting planning capability, to accelerate housing delivery. \$27.1 million was approved by the Commonwealth Government for 31 projects across 26 local government areas in NSW. The NSW Government is working with the Commonwealth to enable the transfer of funds to councils to commence project delivery. NSW has also received \$304.3 million under the Housing Support Program's Priority Works Stream to meet the upfront costs needed to bring forward new housing supply including social housing.
- Both the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) and the urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP) are administered by the Federal Government.
- Successful applicants from the first block of the rPPP was announced on 16 May 2024 by the Hon. Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. This did not include any projects in NSW. Assessment of further batches of rPPP applications is underway.
- Successful applications for the uPPP are yet to be announced. It is anticipated that the first tranches of successful programs will be announced in late 2024.
- NSW Government does not centrally administer or have visibility of all applications made by eligible applicants across NSW. However, the NSW Government is aware of the following applications made to the rPPP:
  - Homes NSW applied for \$37,847,657 for a precinct Masterplan in Moree and delivery of Stage 1.
  - Transport for NSW (TfNSW) in partnership with Port Macquarie Hastings Council applied for \$5m from the rPPP for the 'Health and Education Precinct (HEP) Port Macquarie – Transport Uplift Program'.
- TfNSW has also provided letters of support for two applications that Clarence Valley Council made to the rPPP for 'Yamba Integrated Transport Plan' and 'Grafton CBD Redevelopment'.

**QUESTION (Page 77)**

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Ms Boyd, on 21 November Cecilia Ngu, the acting deputy legal counsel at DEIT, recorded her concerns and those of Rowan Fisher at the probity of the Rosehill USP process, writing of how Mr Fisher: Caught up with Katie, uncomfortable with the process. KK— I assume that's Katie Knight— was thinking about it, need to remember that upstairs (The Cabinet Office) — your office— is not our concern ... We've told them the process if they lodge a proposal, we keep our nose clean. Don't worry about the other stuff they are doing. Are you aware of these concerns that she's outlined—

**KATE BOYD:** No.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** —and investigated what, in fact, the Cabinet Office was doing that caused such concern?

**KATE BOYD:** No.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Will you do that now in speaking to Cecilia Ngu, the legal counsel at DEIT?

**KATE BOYD:** No.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** You won't?

**KATE BOYD:** No, I don't—

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** You're not worried that they needed to keep their nose clean and not worry about the other stuff that was happening in the office you now head?

**KATE BOYD:** If those officials have concerns, I'm sure they'll raise them with me. But I'm not aware of them and no-one has approached me with that.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** Well, I have a concern based on their concerns. Isn't that enough to act on talking to her at least as to what went on?

**KATE BOYD:** I'm happy to take that on if you would like us to do that.

**The Hon. MARK LATHAM:** On notice?

**KATE BOYD:** Yes.

**SIMON DRAPER:** Just to be clear, Mr Latham, DEIT as it was is now a new department. It was deeply involved in running the stage one assessment of the unsolicited proposal.

**ANSWER:**

I have made enquiries with relevant staff within Investment NSW, Premier's Department. I am satisfied that no further action is required to be taken.

I note that on 4 September 2024 I wrote to the Clerk of the Parliaments in relation to the document referred to by the Hon Mark Latham MLC during the hearing of the inquiry conducted by Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance on 28 August 2024. As I mentioned in that letter, I am advised that:

- the document was returned to the Legislative Council by the former Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (DEIT) pursuant to an order for papers under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council concerning Racecourse housing development proposals
- the document was returned by DEIT subject to a claim for legal professional privilege.

Under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council, privileged documents are provided in a separate return and Members may dispute the validity of any claim of privilege. Privileged documents are not to be published except by an order of the House.