

Minister the Hon. Courtney Houssos MLC

Budget Estimates 2024/25 – Portfolio Committee 1

5 September 2024

Supplementary Questions

1: Number of COVID-19 fines remaining unpaid/outstanding

As of 19th September 2024, 9,068 fines remain unpaid/outstanding.

2: Total value of remaining COVID-19 fines unpaid/outstanding

As of 19th September 2024, \$6.2 million remains unpaid/outstanding.

3: Breakdown of the number of fines issued by offence description of the unpaid/outstanding COVID-19 fines.

There are 9,068 unpaid/outstanding COVID-19 fines across 47 offence descriptions.

4: How many COVID-19 fines are currently part-paid?

765 COVID-19 fines are currently part paid.

5: How many COVID-19 fines are attached to a current payment plan?

2,494 COVID-19 fines are attached to a payment plan.

6: How many enforcement orders are currently in place for COVID-19 fines?

8,703 Enforcement Orders are currently in place for COVID-19 fines.

7a: How are fine amounts set for children?

7b: Has the age at which children may earn an income been considered to determine the age at which children can be issued fines?

7c: Will you commit to a system that will see the capping of fine amounts for children?

7d: 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?

I am advised:

Fines amounts for children are set out in the legislation under which a penalty is issued. This legislation is administered by the relevant Ministers and agencies who are responsible for it.

Some legislation, for example the Passenger Transport (General) Regulation 2017 imposes lower penalties for young persons travelling on trains without a valid ticket, however it should be noted that not all legislation has specific provisions related to the amounts of penalties issued to persons aged under 18.

The NSW Government is committed to making the fines system fairer and more transparent for all.

8: 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”. What has the government “made clear to proponents of coal mines” about this review?

8a: How has the Government communicated this to proponents of coal mines

Please refer to my statements in Budget Estimates on the Coal Statement at page 34:

We've certainly begun the preparations to start reviewing the former Government's strategic statement on coal exploration and mining. The first tranche of that work is really about mapping the coal industry's current and future states. We released that as part of the future jobs and investment consultation paper. For the first time, we mapped those planning approvals for coalmines just to give us a sense of what are the future

expectations. Now we obviously need to map those against the IEA's projections about what's going to happen to global demand. But we are certainly going to do this carefully and make sure that it's a data-informed approach.

9: Do you have Terms of Reference for the review? If yes, what are the TOR?

Please refer to the response to Question 8.

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

Please refer to the response to Question 8.

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?

Questions in relation to emissions are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

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?

Questions in relation to emissions are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

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?

Questions in relation to emissions are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

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

Santos is progressing appraisal activities in the Narrabri Gas Project area in accordance with current petroleum prospecting authorities, including pilot wells in the Bibblewindi East, Bibblewindi West, Dewhurst South and Tintsville areas.

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?

Questions in relation to Wilga Power Station are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

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?

Questions in relation to Wilga Power Station are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

The Geological Survey considers a Coal Seam Gas (CSG) well to be appraised where the seam has been depressurised by extracting water to flow gas from the well.

17: 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? 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)?

Questions in relation to Wilga Power Station are best directed to the Minister for Energy.

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?

The review of the Future of Gas Statement will consider the most recent data and research.

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?

Petroleum exploration licence applications are subject to the NSW Government's stringent regulatory framework.

I am advised that in 2022 renewals were assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991, the Petroleum (Onshore) Regulation 2016 and against the Minimum standards and Merit Assessment Procedures.

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?

I am advised that NSW Resources' assessment is based on the initial reserve. A project approval allows an area within which the lease holder can extract a maximum amount of mineral.

The actual amount extracted will depend on technical and commercial viability which is often not known until mining commences.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 20.

22: How is Ulan Coal Mine seen to be achieving efficient and optimised resource outcomes under the current approval?

Please refer to the response to question 20.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 20.

Approval was sought to extend operations for a further 10 years, which would result in the continuation of economic benefits, including employment of the existing workforce.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 20.

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?

Questions in relation to approvals of projects are best directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 20.

McPhillamys

**27a: How many local FTE jobs would this project provide: During construction?
27b: Over the life of the mine?**

The economic benefits of the McPhillamys Gold Mine (including job forecasts) are outlined in the Independent Planning Commission's *McPhillamys Gold Project Statement of Reasons for Decision*:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2022/11/mcphillamys-gold-project/determination/230330--mcphillamys-gold-project--statement-of-reasons-for-decision.pdf>

28: How many times has the Resource Regulator inspected drilling sites for impacts on surrounding agricultural land and waterways?

EL5920 was inspected in July 2020 in relation to impacts on agricultural land and waterways as part of a full compliance audit. The last assessment on EL5920 occurred on 26 September 2022 for a safety inspection.

29: When was the last inspection of exploration sites by the Resource Regulator for EL5920?

EL5920 was inspected in July 2020 in relation to impacts on agricultural land and waterways as part of a full compliance audit. The last assessment on EL5920 occurred on 26 September 2022 for a safety inspection.

30: How many notices have Bowdens received for non-compliance in relation to rehabilitation requirements?

Nil

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?

31a: What strategic land planning was undertaken in relation to the Resource Regulators assessment of the mine site and subsequent change in support?

This statement is incorrect. The Resources Regulator provided technical advice to the Department of Planning on the Bowdens Mine (SSD5765) proposal which was limited to final void management, post mining land use and rehabilitation strategy and obligations, and general work health and safety matters.

(a) Not applicable.

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?

32a: Have those calculations factored in the possibility of mitigation strategies for lead dust being unsuccessful?

The Resources Regulator’s input to conditions for the Bowdens mine focused on rehabilitation obligations and work health and safety.

Dust management outside the mine site is a matter for the Environment Protection Authority.

(a) Not applicable.

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?

33a: Is this analysis public?

NSW refers to critical minerals and high-tech metals as minerals that will have a significant role in modern applications.

Silver is included within that definition.

34: The Federal Government published submissions for its Critical Minerals list consultation. Are the submissions published for the NSW consultation?

34a: If so, where can they be found?

34b: If not, why not?

Submissions to the Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy consultation process have not been published. Consultation outcomes will be reflected in the new Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy.

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?

All Assessable Prospecting Operations (APOs) and associated REFs that have been approved since 26 March 2024 are available online.

Any APO approvals prior to this date are available on request.

APO0001805, approved on 6 September 2024 (Bara Creek) is published on the website.

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.

36a: Are notices regularly checked for compliance?

36b: What is done if notices fail to comply?

There are strict requirements to ensure notices are compliant. In accordance with the 'Secretary requirements and general guidance for applicants' in relation to exploration licence applications any 'errors in the text and diagram may affect the validity of the notice and require the advertisements to be re-advertised at the cost of the applicant'.

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?

Questions related to The Hunter pipelines are best directed to the Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

38a: 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.

When was the internal review requested by the third party?

38b: What was the internal review decision?

38c: On what basis does that third party now have another 40 days to review the internal review decision?

The GIPA Act contains clear requirements regarding the content of the notices of determination, third party consultation process and timeframes for handling GIPA requests including timeframes for exercising review rights.

39: Given silver is not on the Federal Governments Critical Minerals list what analysis did NSW undertake to place it on their list?

39a: Has this analysis been released?

39b: Where are the submissions published for any NSW consultation on the Critical Minerals Strategy?

NSW refers to critical minerals and high-tech metals as minerals that will have a significant role in modern applications. Submissions to the Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy consultation process have not been published. Consultation outcomes will be reflected in the new Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy.

40: Why are there currently no experts with medical or WHS knowledge on the Mine Safety Advisory Council?

When appointing independent members to MSAC the NSW Government carefully considers the skills mix in identifying members who have expertise to fulfill the council's objectives.

41: When was Professor Yates and Ms Julie Armour taken off the panel?

Professor Deborah Yates' and Ms Julie Armour's terms on the Mine Safety Advisory Council expired on 20 June 2024.

42: Who is the current chair of the committee?

Hon. George Souris AM

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?

Yes

https://www.coalservices.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/20240902_Respiratory-Health-Standard_appendices.pdf

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'?

44a: Has Minister Houssos met with Mr Stephen Galilee about the Bowdens

lead/zinc silver project since the court of appeal rejected its EIS?

44b: If so, when?

All Ministerial diary disclosures are available on the Cabinet Office website at:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures/2024>

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 7 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.

45a: What evidence-based strategic land planning occurred to change the resource regulators conclusions about the area?

45b: When did the last strategic land planning for the Lue area occur?

The recommendation made in October 2021 related to coal exploration only. The recommendation was made by the Advisory Body for Strategic Release after an assessment of the area for future coal mining.

Questions in relation to strategic land planning is a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

46: When was the last inspection by of exploration sites by the resources regulator for EL5920?

Please refer to the response to question 28.

47: How many notices have Bowden’s received for non-compliance to rehabilitation requirements?

Nil

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?

48a: Will the Minister require these calculations to be part of any new assessments for the mine?

48b: If not, why not?

Please refer to the response to question 32.

Questions in relation planning assessments are best directed to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

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.

49a: Why are non-complying advertisements allowed?

Please refer to the response to question 36.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 35.

51a: How many people were granted a 50% reduction in fines in 2021-22

51b: How many people were granted a 50% reduction in fines in 2022-23

51c: How many people were granted a 50% reduction in fines in 2023-24

In 2021 a total of 301 fines were approved for a 50% reduction.

In 2022, a total of 225 fines were approved for a 50% reduction.

In 2023, a total of 227 fines were approved for a 50% reduction.

52a: How many people were on Work and Development Orders in 2021-22

52b: How many people were on Work and Development Orders in 2022-23

52c: How many people were on Work and Development Orders in 2023-24

Approval Year (FY)	Volume of WDOs
2021/22	25,328
2022/23	27,252
2023/24	28,725

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?

Please refer to the response to Legislative Council question on notice 2323.

2323 - Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement - EXPENDITURE ON CONSULTANTS

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?

54a: If not, what is the base number you are using?

Please refer to the response to Legislative Council question on notice 2491.

2491 - Finance - REDUCTION IN SENIOR EXECUTIVE STAFF

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?

Please refer to the response to Legislative Council question on notice 2490.

2490 - Finance - CONTRACTORS, LEGAL EXPENSES, AND TRAVEL

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?

Please refer to the response to Legislative Council question on notice 2490.

2490 - Finance - CONTRACTORS, LEGAL EXPENSES, AND 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?

Please refer to the response to Legislative Council question on notice 2490.

2490 - Finance - CONTRACTORS, LEGAL EXPENSES, AND TRAVEL

58: How many small businesses have been forced to repay funds provided through the JobSaver or Micro-Business grant?

Questions in relation to the repayment of JobSaver and Micro-Business Grant Audits are best directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

59: What is the total value that has been recouped by Revenue NSW from these programs?

As at 31 August 2024, the total value that has been resolved is \$184.2 million.

60: How many of these small businesses have had a quality assurance process applied to ensure that the debt recovery notices are accurate?

Questions related to any quality assurance processes undertaken prior to referring debt to Revenue NSW is a matter for the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

61: How many debt recovery notices have been issued?

I am advised that 2,383 Debt Recovery Orders have been issued by Revenue NSW.

62: How many debt recovery notices have been overturned?

Questions in relation to the overturning of JobSaver and Micro-Business grant debts should be directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

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?

I have received representations on a broad range of matters including but not limited to JobSaver and Micro-Business grants.

64: If the small business wasn't eligible for JobSaver, was it then retrospectively assessed and deemed eligible for the Micro Business grant?

Questions in relation to eligibility for the JobSaver and Micro-Business Grant are best directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

65: Please list the 48 Councils the Minister wrote to in March that issue ticketless fines.

Please refer to the media release dated 10th March 2024, titled *TICKETLESS PARKING FINES MUST MEET COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS, NSW GOVERNMENT STOPS NEW COUNCILS SIGNING UP*.

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?

66a: Please confirm which 18 councils still issue ticketless fines.

66b: Which councils are unwilling to make changes unless compelled through legislative change?

66bi: What reasons have these councils provided for their unwillingness?

The overwhelming majority of councils that have implemented ticketless parking fine systems have recognised significant issues with the system, introduced by the Liberal-National Government. Furthermore, the majority of councils (both ticketed and ticketless) demonstrated a genuine commitment to constructively participate in consultations undertaken earlier this year.

67: Since March 2024, how many ticketless fines have been issued by each Local Government Area?

In March 2024, the NSW Government proactively released data on the number and value of ticketless fines issued broken down by councils in 2023. In August 2024, the NSW Government proactively released data in a media release titled, *TICKETLESS PARKING FINES SURGE 49% AS COUNCILS DOUBLE-DOWN ON CONTROVERSIAL SYSTEM*. This data showed the explosion in the number and value of ticketless parking fines issued by councils in 2023-24 financial year using the former Government's system.

68: What was the total monetary value of these ticketless fines statewide by each Local Government Area?

In March 2024, the NSW Government proactively released data on the number and value of ticketless fines issued broken down by councils in 2023. In August 2024, the NSW Government proactively released data in a media release titled, *TICKETLESS PARKING FINES SURGE 49% AS COUNCILS DOUBLE-DOWN ON CONTROVERSIAL SYSTEM*. This data showed the explosion in the number and value of ticketless parking fines issued by councils in 2023-24 financial year using the former Government's system.

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?

7.6% of ticketless parking fines were overturned upon review.
6.4% of paper parking fines were overturned upon review during the 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?

7.5% of ticketless parking fines were overturned upon review.
7% of paper parking fines were overturned upon review during the same period.

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?

71a: (a) What is the overall figure?

71b: (b) What is the forecasted figure for metropolitan clinics?

71c: (c) What is the forecasted figure for regional clinics?

71d: (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?

Figures in respect of forecasted payroll tax revenue are available in the 2024-25 Budget Papers.

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?

72a: If modelling was done, how much would the average visit to the GP cost?

72b: How many GP Practices are expected to take part in the Bulk Billing Support Initiative?

72bi: If available by state electorate.

72bii: If available by Local Government area.

72biii: If available by Local Health District.

72biv: If available by postcode.

For the last five years, medical peak bodies have been warning that failure to address the issue could see GPs charge patients as much as an additional \$20 per appointment.

The Bulk-Billing Support Initiative will benefit GP clinics and their patients across the whole of NSW.

The initiative has:

- Introduced a new ongoing payroll tax rebate for contractor GPs at clinics that meet bulk-billing thresholds
- Waived past unpaid payroll tax liability for contractor GP wages to 4 September 2024.

This initiative will protect bulk-billing rates by reducing financial pressures on GP practices.

73: How many GP practices are expected to be audited for the 2024/2025 financial years?

73a: (a) How many practices have been audited since April 2023?

Please refer to the Revenue NSW website for further information about how Revenue NSW selects businesses for audit.

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?

74a: (a) If so, what is the expected revenue to be generated from freezing the land tax threshold?

74b: (b) If so, how many additional properties are expected be the subject of a land tax assessment for the first time in 2025?

According to the 2024-25 Budget, the freeze is expected to generate \$222 million in 2025 (the 2024-25 financial year). This revenue will come from both existing properties and additional properties.

75: What is the number of properties that have been subject to the foreign surcharge levy for each of the following financial years?

75a: (a) 2019/2020

75b: (b) 2020/2021

75c: (c) 2021/2022

75d: (d) 2022/2023

75e: (e) 2023/2024

Please refer to the Revenue NSW website for data in relation to foreign surcharge land tax.

76: What is the amount of revenue that has been raised from the foreign surcharge levy for each of the following financial years?

76a: (a) 2019/2020

76b: (b) 2020/2021

76b: (c) 2021/2022

76d: (d) 2022/2023

76e: (e) 2023/2024

Please refer to the Revenue NSW website for data in relation to foreign surcharge land tax.

77: Regarding hotel quarantine bills outstanding, how much is owed to New South Wales by other states and territories?

77a: (a) Please provide a total figure.

77b: (b) Please provide a break down by each state and territory.

State of residence	Amounts outstanding (\$)
QLD	105,787,387
WA	26,627,911
ACT	7,409,840
SA	6,441,661
NT	6,661,406

78: Regarding hotel quarantine bills outstanding, how much is owed by New South Wales residents?

States and territories invoiced one another for fees related to quarantining residents. Approximately \$1 million is owed by individuals whose current residential address is in NSW.

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].

Proceedings regarding Thomas and Naaz commenced under the former Government. Agency legal expenditure is reported in agency annual reports. Matters are also funded out of the Attorney General's Legal Fund.

80: In relation to employment agency payroll tax cases:

80a: (a) How many are currently before the Courts?

80b: (b) how many staff of Revenue NSW are involved in these Court cases?

80c: (c) how many staff of Revenue NSW are engaged in conducting these audits?

Businesses that pay payroll tax have a statutory right of review to challenge a payroll tax assessment. The resources dedicated to responding to these proceedings vary based on the nature and complexity of those proceedings.

81: Has the Minister for Finance had any briefings from Revenue NSW on the new Court interpretation being enforced by Revenue NSW?

81a: (a) If so, what was this advice?

This question is incomplete/imprecise. Revenue NSW routinely brief the Office of the Minister for Finance on a range of matters.

82: When will procurement expenditure figures for 2023-24 be available?

The previous Liberal-National Government failed to put in place sufficient data collection mechanisms to track procurement expenditure. NSW Treasury are currently taking a series of steps to reform data collection.

83: How much was spent by the NSW Government on domestic manufacturing of goods and services in 2023-24?

83a.i: Of this how much was spent with small and medium enterprises?

83a.ii: Of this how much was spent with regional suppliers?

83a.iii: Of this how much was spent with local NSW suppliers?

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding our domestic manufacturing industry. In the 2024/25 NSW Budget the NSW Government announced a series of measures including \$447 million to extend the life of the Tangara trains and build the next generation here. [Please refer to the NSW Government's media release for more information.](#)

The NSW Government is introducing a series of new measures to support NSW jobs and businesses and encourage the development of local industries, removing barriers to local growth.

The previous Liberal-National Government failed to put in place sufficient data collection mechanisms to track procurement spend. NSW Treasury are currently taking a series of steps to reform data collection.

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?

84a: Is the Minister aware of the impact this will have on manufacturing jobs, particularly in the Murray Electorate?

Questions in relation to this report are best directed to the Minister Water and the Minister for Environment.

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?

85a: In relation to the declaration, did Minister Plibersek contact Minister Houssos by phone or text prior to the announcement?

85b: Did Minister Plibersek send formal written correspondence to Minister Houssos, or her department, prior to the announcement being made?

Please refer to the response in the Legislative Council during Question Time on 17 September 2024:

It is correct that the environment Minister has exercised her particular powers, and the Premier and I have made no secret of our disappointment in that decision. But what our Government is absolutely committed to doing is finding practical solutions as a way forward for this project. That is why I have engaged with the industry on a range of occasions. I have met directly with the company; indeed, I spoke to the CEO again on Friday. Ultimately, the questions for the next steps are in the hands of the company, but the Premier, the New South Wales Government and a range of senior Ministers have made it clear that we are ready to engage with it and assist in any way we can. In addition to that, I wrote to the environment Minister after she made her determination and

explained the importance of critical minerals projects generally, but specifically this project.

I have also raised the issue with my Federal counterpart, Minister for Resources Madeleine King. I raised the issue when State and Federal Ministers met two or three weeks ago in Perth. We have had discussions and we continue to attempt to resolve the issue. But ultimately, the question of whether to exercise that power or not is one for the Federal environment Minister. Our Government is absolutely committed to finding practical solutions and a way forward. I make the point that this is not the only critical minerals project out there. Last week I opened a new mine in Cobar that will produce gold, copper, lead, zinc and silver. There are other opportunities in New South Wales and we are absolutely open for business.

86: On what date did Minister Houssos become aware that Minister Plibersek would be making the Section 10 declaration in relation to McPhillamys Gold Mine?

86a: 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?

86b: 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?

Please refer to the response to question 85.

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?

87a: If Ms Beattie was aware of the decision prior to its announcement, how did she become aware of the decision?

The federal Government issued the declaration on Friday 16 August 2024

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?

88a: If Mr Orr was aware of the decision prior to its announcement, how did he become aware of the decision?

The federal Government issued the declaration on Friday 16 August 2024

89: As of September 10, 2024, what is the current balance of the Royalties For Rejuvenation Fund?

Under current arrangements, funding through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund cannot be accessed until 2028–29, or until the fund reaches \$250 million. The fund has not reached the \$250 million maturity amount.

90: Since March 25, 2023, how much interest has been accrued by fund?

The fund does not accrue interest but does receive an investment return.

91: If interest has been accrued, has it remained within the fund or been distributed elsewhere?

Please refer to the response to question 90.

92: If interest has been accrued and distributed elsewhere, where has it been distributed?

Please refer to the response to question 90.

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”?

93a: If so, on what date was this correspondence received by the Minister or the Department?

93b: If so, did the Minister or the Department send formal correspondence in reply to this recommendation?

93c: If formal correspondence was sent in reply, on what date was this sent to the chairs of the expert panels?

93d: If formal correspondence was sent in reply, did that reply stipulate that funding through the program was unable to be accessed?

The NSW Government is committed to prudent management of the fund and ensuring that any expenditure presents value for money, and it undertaken at the appropriate time to maximise return for coal-reliant communities.

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?

Please refer to the response to question 89. This was a decision of the previous government.

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?

95a: If so, when was this directive issued?

95b: If so, was formal correspondence sent to the expert panels outlining this directive?

95c: If formal correspondence was sent to the expert panels, on what date was this issued?

Please refer to the response to question 89. This was a decision of the previous government.

96: As of September 10, 2024, how much have members of the expert panels been paid in remuneration since March 25, 2023?

96a: Of this amount, how much has been paid since August 1, 2023?

96b: Are these figures inclusive or exclusive of superannuation entitlements?

The remuneration for the expert panels is \$10,000 a year for the chairperson and \$5,000 a year for members.

97: When was the last time the Minister met personally with the expert panels?

The Minister for Natural Resources has undertaken extensive consultation (including roundtables and other events) in the Hunter, Illawarra, Northwest and Central West. These consultations included engagement with members of the expert panels, industry, unions, local government and other stakeholders.

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?

98a: Is the Minister also aware that once consent has been given, it is irrevocable?

98b: Would the Minister be ok with mining exploration and a subsequent mining lease being undertaken with 200m of her home?

98c: Would the Minister agree that once this consent is given, you are essentially agreeing to devalue your home?

98d: Would the Minister purchase a home knowing there was irrevocable approval to mine within 200m of the home?

The health and safety of individuals and communities in NSW is paramount. NSW has robust health and environmental regulations, evidenced by the strong oversight role played by the EPA, Resources Regulator and NSW Health.

99: What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

I am advised:

Details of individual Cabinet committee members and the work of Cabinet committees are not generally made public. This reflects the longstanding Cabinet conventions of confidentiality and collective Ministerial responsibility, which are central to the Westminster system of government.

The NSW Cabinet Practice Manual is publicly available on the NSW Government website (www.nsw.gov.au) and provides information on operation of Cabinet and committees in NSW.

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?

I am advised:

Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training.

Ministers have undertaken Respectful Workplace Policy Training.

Members of Parliament are provided with a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination.

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

I am advised;

The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 and Treasurer's Direction 23-11.

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?

I am advised;

As per the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements TPG23-10, agencies in the portfolio will be providing two printed copies of the annual report (via in house printing) for tabling in both houses of Parliament.

Parliamentary Counsel Office has budgeted \$200 for printing.

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

103 a: If yes, when?

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

I am advised:

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources. The Handbook can be found here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2023-12/Ministers-Office-Handbook.pdf>

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

I am advised:

The Cabinet Office publishes a Governance Arrangements Chart containing information about Ministers, NSW Government agencies established under Schedule 1 to the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* and State owned corporations established under Schedule 5 to the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989*. The Governance Arrangements Chart outlines the agencies in the Premiers Department portfolio.

The Governance Arrangements Chart may be accessed via The Cabinet Office's website at www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2024-08/20240807-Governance-Arrangements-Chart.pdf.

The *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*, and Administrative Arrangements Orders made under Part 7 of the *Constitution Act 1902*, are available on the NSW Legislation website (www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

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?

I am advised;

The employment of former Ministerial office staff is not tracked.

Under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013, the Secretary of a Department exercises the employer functions of the Government in relation to departmental

employees. The Secretary is not subject to the direction or control of a Minister in the exercise of those functions. Similarly, the head of a Public Service agency exercises the employer functions of the Government in relation to non-Public Service senior executives of the agency. A head of a Public Service agency is not subject to the direction or control of a Minister in the exercise of those functions.

All NSW government sector employees must comply with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW government sector employees. Employees must also have regard to their relevant agency's code of conduct.

Ministerial office staff must comply with their ethical obligations under the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including after the cessation of the employment.

109: Are you on Signal?

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

I am advised:

Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.

I comply with the State Records Act 1998 and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

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

I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 (Act).

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

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

I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 (Act).

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

112 a: What was the expenditure for you to join a union in: (a) 2022-23?

112 b: (b) 2023-24?

112 c: (c) 2024-25?

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament. Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union. Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members

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?

I am advised;

In accordance with Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>).

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

I am advised:

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

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?

I am advised:

Any complaint or disclosure made under the Respectful Workplace Policy is confidential. The Respectful Workplace Policy applies to all Ministerial Offices and staff. As noted in the Goward review, a key aspect of effective workplace complaint policies is confidentiality in the complaint and investigation process. Confidentiality ensures that staff feel safe about raising concerns and confident that action will be taken in response.

116: Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

I am advised;

When the NSW Government was elected in 2023, shredders used by the former Liberal and National Government were left in Ministerial and Parliament offices.

Office equipment is purchased in line with NSW Government procurement rules.

117 a: 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?

117: (a) If yes, when?

I am advised;

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to these obligations to assist each Minister's office.

The Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for all Ministers' offices.

All Ministers' offices are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

118: Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:

(a) Handheld camera?

(b) Handheld video recorder?

(c) Microphone?

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

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs form part of the Premier's Department Annual Report.

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

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

I am advised:

Legal costs are included in the Other Operating Expenses of an agency's financial statement and further categorised in the note to Other Operating Expenses in accordance with the guidance in TPG24-05 Policy and Guidelines: Financial Reporting Code for NSW General Government Sector Agencies.

120: (120) Are you a member of a union?

120 a: (a) If yes, what union?

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

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))

I am advised:

Department and agency expenditure is published in Annual Reports and on OpenGov NSW and data.nsw.gov.au.

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

I am advised:

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.

Catering costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Premier's Department Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes

123: Was catering used for external stakeholders?

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

I am advised:

Catering provided for official purposes may be funded from the Ministerial office budget.

As Members of Parliament, Ministers have credit facilities extended to them for dining and hospitality at Parliament House. The facilities may be used for business or private purposes

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

I am advised no senior executive employed in Department's within my portfolios have a driver.

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

(a) If yes, when?

125 a: (a) If yes, when?

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (the Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

Clause 13 of the Regulation relevantly requires the disclosure of the name of each trade union and each professional or business association 'in which he or she held any position' as at specified dates. The Regulation does not require Members to disclose membership of a trade union.

Membership of Unions can be disclosed on a discretionary basis. The Clerk of the Parliaments has confirmed that this view is consistent with guidance provided to Members.

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

I am advised:

Department and agency staff may contribute to factual information for speaking notes as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments.

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

I am advised:

Department and agency staff may contribute to factual information for speaking notes as part of their duties in line with longstanding practices in place under successive governments.

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

I am advised:

Ministers are to comply with the appropriate use of personal protective equipment as per Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources. State resources are not to be subject to wasteful or extravagant use.

129 a: 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?**

I am advised;

The budget papers include detailed information on budgeted expenses, revenue and capital expenditure. This includes detailed financial statements for individual agencies as well as for government as a whole. The budget papers also outline the financial impact of measures in the budget on individual portfolios as well as for government as a whole.

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

I am advised:

The NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, which is Attachment B to the Ministers' Office Handbook, provides that all office holder staff must use State resources for the effective conduct of public business in a proper manner. Office holder staff must be economical and efficient in the use and management of public resources.

The Handbook can be found here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2023-12/Ministers-Office-Handbook.pdf>.

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

I am advised:

Ministerial Staffing numbers are proactively published on the NSW website - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

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

I am advised:

Ministerial Staffing information is proactively published on the NSW website - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-staff-numbers>.

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

I am advised:

The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office.

I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.

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

I am advised:

Spending on office stationery is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs of stationery are contained within the Premier's Department Annual Report.

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)?

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook outlines that the decision to present a gift is at the discretion of the Minister, having regard to both appropriateness and economy. Gifts may be appropriate, for example, where given as a memento of an official visit or as a small token of appreciation. However, gifts should not be given with the purpose, or in circumstances where they could be perceived as having the purpose, of inducing favourable treatment.

Gifts may be purchased as needed on an occasional basis or purchased and stored for future use. Gifts need to be purchased in accordance with NSW Government procurement policy.

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?

I am advised;

The Cabinet Office provides training for Ministerial staff on their obligations under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) and the requirements for responding to orders for papers under Standing Order 52 of the Legislative Council.

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

I am advised:

Information concerning the obligations of a Minister's office as an agency under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the Act) is required to be submitted to the Attorney General in accordance with section 125(2) of the Act.

The information is included in the annual report of the Department of Communities and Justice in accordance with sections 125(3) and (5) of the Act.

138: Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

No.

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?

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

“Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel, and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation.”

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not.

Relevant disclosures have been made to the Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

140: Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll? If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

I am advised:

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders, and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers. All costs associated with these vehicles need to be paid from the relevant approved budget.

Costs for e-tolls form part of the Premier's Department Annual Report.

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?

I am advised that a gifts and benefits register is mandatory for all government agencies.

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?

142: i. If yes to (a) to (u): 1. What was the purpose of the visit(s)?

142: 2. Did you make a funding announcement(s)?

I am advised:

Ministers' diary disclosures are publicly available. Premier's and Ministers' domestic travel information is published on the Premier's Department's website at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premier-and-ministers-domestic-travel>.

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

143: (a) If yes, what was the breach?

I am advised:

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.

The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance.

Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:

- disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier
- seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests')
- identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest
- disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.

A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988*.

144: Are you on TikTok?**144 a: (a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?**

I am advised:

The Circular DCS-2023-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Protecting NSW Government information on government-issued devices sets out how NSW Government agencies are to manage the risk of using TikTok.

More information is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/public%3A//2023-05/TikTok%20Ban%20-%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20%282%29.pdf>

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?

I am advised;

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2015-05, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>.

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

146 a: (a) If yes, under what circumstance?

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

I am advised:

Ministers and Ministerial Staff are not eligible to receive Departmental credit cards except in the case of overseas travel. In cases of overseas travel short-term cards will be issued and returned at the completion of official travel together with a travel diary for fringe benefit tax purposes.

Where an NSW Government-issued credit card is provided the credit card must only be used for official overseas business trips and official business purposes, this includes for transport to/from the airport when departing/returning from the trip. NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed. Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes.

Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.

147 a: 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)

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

147 c: (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?

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

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

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

147 g: (g) What was the cost to replace them?

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

147 h i.: 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?

147 h ii.: ii. Were all those amounts repaid?

147 (i): (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?

147 (i) i.: i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?

147 (i) ii.: ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

I am advised:

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government. In addition, individual agencies have policies and procedures to manage the use of purchasing (credit cards) cards.

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

I am advised:

Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, other nominated public office holders, and certain former office holders are provided with official cars and drivers.

Office holders may drive themselves whenever they choose. Cars should be driven only by the office holder, officially employed drivers, the office holder's spouse or approved relative and any other person authorised by the office holder in those circumstances considered to be appropriate.

149 a: As a driver since 28 March 2023:

(a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?

149 b: (b) Have you been fined for speeding?

149 c: (c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?

149 d: (d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?

149 e: (e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?

149 e (i): i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

I am advised:

Ministers, like all members of the community are subject to the laws of New South Wales, including Road Rules 2014.

Where a fine is incurred, the payment of the fine is the responsibility of the driver of the vehicle.

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

I am advised:

I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place and NSW Parliament.

When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.

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

151 a: (a) 2077?

151 b: (b) 2079?

151 c: (c) 2080?

151 d: (d) 2081? 151 e: (e) 2082?

151 f: (f) 2083?

151 g: (g) 2117?

151 h: (h) 2118?

151 i: (i) 2119?

151 j: (j) 2120?

151 k: (k) 2121?

151 l: (l) 2125?

151 m: (m) 2126?

151 n: (n) 2151?

151 o: (o) 2154?

151 p: (p) 2156?

151q: (q) 2157?

151 r: (r) 2158?

151 s: (s) 2159?

151 t: (t) 2756?

151 u: (u) 2775?

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

I am advised:

- The NSW Government has been conducting an audit of government land to identify surplus sites that are suitable for social, affordable or market housing.
- The locations of an initial set of 44 sites identified by the audit will be made public over the coming weeks and months as they are transferred to housing delivery agencies or brought to market.

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

I am advised:

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below.

Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls

Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly. Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs form part of the Premier's Department Annual report.

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

I am advised;

Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Communication Devices Policy provides guidance on the use, loss, theft, and return of communication devices provided for business purposes.

Minister's staff may use mobile telephones for business and (reasonable use) private purposes.

Under the current mobile plans all local and Australia-wide calls to land lines/mobiles and texts are included in the plan. Premium service calls, international calls and global roaming services are outside of the plan and may be still chargeable based on the principles below.

Ministers' staff mobile phone charges are paid from the Ministers' office budget except for the items listed below, which need to be paid as a private expense:

- Personal international calls from within Australia
- Personal travel related global roaming charges
- Personal premium number service calls

Any personal calls which are outside the plan need to be declared and paid for monthly. Declarations are not required otherwise.

The purchasing of technology items is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements.

The costs for form part of the Premier's Department Annual report.

154: Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

I am advised:

Consultancy expenditure, including details of consulting engagements over \$50,000, are included in the annual reports of agencies and departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.

154 a: (a) What was the individual amount of each contract?

154 b: (b) What is the purpose of each contract?

154 c: (c) Who was the contract with?

154 d: (d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

I am advised:

Consultancy expenditure, including details of consulting engagements over \$50,000, are included in the annual reports of agencies and departments in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 - Annual Reporting Requirements.

Details for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2022-23.

Details for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department/ Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

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

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff attached to the Ministers' Office Handbook and available on the NSW Government website.

156: Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

156 a: (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?

156 b: (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

157: As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?

157 a: (a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

I am advised:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money.

Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel.

Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here:

<https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>.

NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements (TPG-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports. Information for the period prior to 30 June 2023 is available in agencies' 2022-23 annual reports. Information for the period between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 will be available in agencies' 2023-24 annual reports

158: Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

I am advised:

Domestic travel is contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

Official travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy.

159: Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

159 a: (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

I am advised:

Domestic travel is contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report. This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

Official travel is taken in accordance with the NSW government travel policy.

160: Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

160 a: (a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

160 b: (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

I am advised:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for all NSW Government travelling employees and covers all official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: <https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>.

The travel costs for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

161 a: What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) Taxi hire?

161 b: (b) Ridesharing services?

161 c: (c) Limousine/private car hire?

161 d: (d) Hire car rental?

I am advised:

The items are contained within the travel costs category in the Other Operating Expenses note of the audited financial statements within the Department / Agency's Annual Report.

This is in accordance with the Treasury Direction TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

The travel costs for the period prior to 30 June 2023 form part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet / Agency Annual Report 2022-23.

Travel costs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 will form part of the Department / Agency Annual Report 2023-24.

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

Not applicable

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?

I am advised:

All acceptable use of IT services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

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?

I am advised:

All acceptable use of IT services must be lawful, appropriate, and ethical.

The Ministers' Staff Acceptable Use of Network Services Policy is available in the Ministers' Office Handbook.

165 a: How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) 28 March 2023?

165 b: (b) 1 July 2023?

165 c: (c) 1 January 2024?

165 d: (d) 1 July 2024?

I am advised:

The number of senior executives is publicly reported within Annual Reports.

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

I am advised:

The remuneration of public service senior executives is published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports.

167: How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

167 a (i): (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary?

167 a (ii): ii. Forced?

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

I am advised:

Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.

168: Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?

168 a: (a) If no, why?

I am advised:

The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.

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)?

I am advised:

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 provides that agencies are not subject to the direction or control of any Minister in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application under the Act (subsection 9(2)). The Act also contains offences prohibiting agency officers from acting unlawfully, and prohibiting persons from directing agencies to make an unlawful decision in relation to an access application (sections 116 and 117 of the Act).

It is, however, generally appropriate for agencies to inform the responsible Minister where documents are to be released under the Act, for the Minister's information.

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

170a: Is it an obligation that the NSW Government be a model litigant?

Please refer to the *Model Litigant Policy for Civil Litigation* which provides principles for maintaining proper standards in litigation and the provision of legal services in NSW.

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

171a: What responsibilities does a model litigant have in legal proceedings?

Please refer to the *Model Litigant Policy for Civil Litigation* which provides principles for maintaining proper standards in litigation and the provision of legal services in NSW.

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?

172a: What documentary evidence will the NSW Government be putting forward?

172b: Will any evidence put forward by the NSW Government address the impact of new gas supplies from the Narrabri Gas Project on climate change?

172bi: Will it address whether this impact is in the public interest?

172bii: What will this evidence be?

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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 Updatesw” as evidence to the Native Title Tribunal?

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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?
174a: Is this publicly available?**

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

174ai: Will it be shared with the Native Title Tribunal?

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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?

175a: 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?

175b: Will this evidence include the finding that demand for natural gas will need to reduce by as much as 62% by 2050?

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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?

176a: 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?

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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

As the proceedings are currently ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment.

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