



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – REGIONAL NSW

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Regional NSW

**Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
(Moriarty)**

Hearing: Tuesday 25 February 2025

Answers due by: 5.00 pm Monday 24 March 2025

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

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| Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC |
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Australian National Baboon Colony

- (1) Is there 24 hourly onsite veterinary care at the Australian National Baboon Colony?
- (2) How many staff are employed at the colony and what are their positions?

RHDV1-K5 release program by LLS

- (3) Given that releasing rabbit haemorrhagic disease is an extremely cruel method of reducing wild rabbit populations, and that rabbits suffer for days before dying and can pass it on to domestic pet rabbits, what evidence does LLS have to inform its decision to use this method?
- (4) LLS announced this program to vets and the public just 1 month prior to commencement, to alert people to vaccinate their domestic pet rabbits. What is the reason for this short notice period?
 - (a) Is the government confident this is an adequate notice period for pet owners to organise vaccines for their rabbits?
 - (b) On this rabbit haemorrhagic disease release program, has the NSW government coordinated any public communication or community engagement directly with pet owners about vaccinating their pet rabbits?
 - i. Has the government ever done this, with previous rabbit haemorrhagic disease release programs?
 - (c) Has the NSW government given any funding to roll out any sort of education campaign or subsidised/free vaccinations during this rabbit haemorrhagic disease release program?
 - i. Has the government ever done this, with previous rabbit haemorrhagic disease release programs?
- (5) On average, how much does a calicivirus vaccine shot cost?
- (6) How many rabbit haemorrhagic disease programs have previously been undertaken by LLS? Please list all programs in the last 10 years, with the following details for each:

- (a) What strain was used?
 - (b) How many people or groups participated (private landholders, councils, etc)?
 - (c) What qualifications did those responsible for the release have?
 - (d) How long was the program?
 - (e) What date prior to commencement of the program did LLS announce it to the public?
 - (f) Approximately how many wild rabbits were killed by the virus?
 - (g) How was the program monitored?
- (7) What is the reason for LLS doing this release program now at this time?
- (8) Under this program, community and landholders are being invited to sign up and participate in releasing the virus. How is this managed?
- (a) What qualifications are required?
 - (b) How many people or organisations have signed up to participate?
 - (c) Are you confident that only trained professionals will be responsible for releasing the virus under this program?
 - (d) How will you monitor the release of the virus, to ensure it will not result in the death of domestic pet rabbits?

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs)

- (9) Do you have an update on the progress of the APVMA review into anticoagulant rodenticides?
- (10) Pending this review and its outcome, will you commit to advocate through the Commonwealth-States Agriculture Ministers' Meeting for a national ban on the retail sale of SGARs?
- (11) The APVMA's review of anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) has been delayed multiple times, with a regulatory decision now expected in April 2025 - more than three years after the review began. Given these delays, how is the NSW Government engaging with the APVMA to ensure progress on this critical issue?

Battery cages

- (12) The Cook Government in Western Australia was the first state to adopt the nationally agreed Poultry Standards, improving animal welfare for hens and aligning with consumer

expectations and the latest scientific evidence. As Australia's largest battery cage-egg producing state, how many hens are currently caged across New South Wales?

- (a) When will the NSW government provide funding to implement the National Poultry Standards, which outlines a phase-out of conventional cages for egg laying hens by 2036?
- (b) What date will the NSW government begin implementing the phase-out of cages?

Animal welfare reforms

- (13) The NSW Labor government committed to the introduction of a new animal welfare framework in NSW to replace the state's outdated animal welfare legislation. How is the review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 progressing?
- (14) When will the NSW government introduce its Independent Office of Animal Welfare Bill?

Biosecurity

- (15) Given the serious animal welfare implications and biosecurity risks, why is it that the NSW government is not aware of how many cattle feedlots, rabbit farms, emu farms, and camel dairies are in NSW?
 - (a) Why does the government not monitor these facilities?
- (16) In the event of a biosecurity incident, how would the NSW government control these facilities in these circumstances?
- (17) How many animal agribusinesses currently have biosecurity plans in place?
- (18) What is the final number of chickens who died or were killed as a result of including measures taken in response to bird flu outbreaks across NSW in the last year?
 - (a) Can you confirm where exactly they were disposed of?
 - (b) Was it a single pit (if so, where?) or on each infected property?
- (19) What is in place to ensure NSW's preparedness in the event of an outbreak of African Swine Fever Virus?
 - (a) In the event of such an outbreak, what is currently in place to ensure NSW pig producers and pig slaughterhouses have sufficient awareness?

Saleyards

- (20) When was the last time DPI audited NSW sale yards for compliance and adherence to animal welfare laws?
- (a) How many were audited?
 - (b) What was the outcome of these audits?

Puppy farm laws

- (21) With the passing of the new NSW puppy farm laws, how will the department monitor for any improvements to animal welfare and consumer awareness?
- (a) Will any related improvements be made public?
- (22) When will the applicable Code of Practice be reviewed?
- (a) Will it be reviewed with public input?

RSPCA NSW Puppy Farm squad

- (23) How much funding has the government allocated to the RSPCA NSW Puppy Farm squad, in the last three financial years?
- (24) Have there been any changes in the number of RSPCA NSW staff on this squad during the last three years?
- (a) Can you provide details about any of their current activities in NSW?

Rodeos

- (25) How many rodeos or bull riding events are held in NSW each year?
- (26) Is there a reason the recent review of the POCTA Regulations did not include any changes to these 'exempted' events?
- (27) When will the applicable Code of Practice be reviewed?
- (a) Will it be reviewed with public input?

Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC)

- (28) As a matter of good governance and public transparency, will you publish details about the AWAC meetings and the animal welfare matters they are considering? Please provide these details.

Bounties

- (29) Bounty systems have been scientifically proven to be counterproductive by various sources including the CSIRO. Given this, why is the government proposing to spend \$2 million on a discredited approach?
- (30) Is the government allocating any money toward humane and progressive strategies that don't risk exacerbating existing issues?

POCTA regulations review

- (31) How many submissions were made to DPI during the recent review?
- (a) Will these submissions be published in the interests of public transparency?
- (32) How many days precisely was allocated to reading and considering all the submissions?

Regional NSW portfolio

- (33) Many domestic and family violence services in regional rural and remote areas do not receive any additional funding or loading despite the additional costs they incur to deliver services across vast geographical areas. In your capacity as Minister for Regional NSW, will you advocate for the NSW Government to consider a regional loading for all funding streams that provide domestic and family violence specialist services?
- (34) In your capacity as Minister for Regional NSW, will you advocate for the NSW Government to work with Gender and Disaster Australia to incorporate the National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines into NSW disaster planning?

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| Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC <i>(on behalf of the Opposition)</i> |
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Agriculture

European Carp

- (35) In 2016, the Australian Government committed \$15.2 million in funding and began investing the use of carp virus to control carp numbers.
- (a) What is the hold-up in the release of the virus into closed catchments to test the effectiveness and impact of the virus?
- (b) What progress has been made on 7 priority research actions agreed to in 2023?

Native Vegetation Mapping

- (36) Can you update the mapping of Native Vegetation in NSW and what the process has involved?
- (37) How many complaints have been registered about incomplete mapping?
- (38) How many landholders have requested ground truthing on their properties to clarify alleged native vegetation areas?
- (39) How many of those properties have had that ground truthing completed?
- (40) Have any landholders been found in breach of native vegetation rules, according to the maps, and have any fines been issued?
 - (a) If so, how many?
 - (b) If so, what is the total monetary value of the fines?
 - (c) If so, how many landholders have appealed these alleged breaches?

Sustainable Communities Program

- (41) A Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water report into the Socio-economic considerations of the Restoring Our Rivers: 2024 Selected Catchment Open Tender purchasing program stated that an analysis on regional distribution of impacts would inform the Sustainable Communities Program funding, the total amount available was \$300 million.
 - (a) When will the guidelines for the program be available to impacted communities?
 - (b) What consultation methods will be done with affected communities to inform potential projects?
 - (c) Can you provide details regarding the 3-year program and what amount from the funding will be allocated to staff? There have been estimates that it will require \$16 million in funding for staff.
 - (d) How much of the \$160 million of Federal funding for the Sustainable Communities Program is earmarked to be spent in the nine currently eligible LGAs in 2025-2026?
 - (e) On Monday 24th of February the Federal Government announced a further 100 GL of buybacks in the Southern Basin. In Senate Estimates on 28 February, the Government couldn't be specific about where this round of buybacks would come

from. How much of the \$160 million dollars is available for support outside of the nine eligible LGAs?

- (f) Is the \$160 million allocated intended to cover structural adjustment related to all future water buybacks relating to the 450 GL target including those outside the nine LGAs, or do you anticipate further funding for structural adjustment from the Commonwealth?
- (g) What are the multiple streams of support for Basin communities, referred to on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development web site, to mitigate adverse socio-economic impacts from water recovery?
- (h) Can you provide examples of what types of things the money is being spent on?
- (i) Where will the program be administered and where will the resources reside?
- (j) How many additional staff will the Department employ to administer this program?
- (k) How many additional staff has the Department placed in the affected LGAs to implement the program?
- (l) How and when will monitoring and evaluation of the program be communicated?

Drought Infrastructure Fund

- (42) The former Coalition government allocated \$1 billion to the Farm Innovation Fund, which was renamed the Drought Infrastructure Fund. The program's website indicates that, as of February 1, 2025, a total of \$1,064,851,790 worth of applications has been approved. Why is this?
 - (a) As of February 26, 2025, how many applications have been approved through the fund?
 - (b) How many of these applications have been received since October 20, 2023?
 - (c) As of February 26, 2025, how much has been drawn down out of the fund?
 - (d) If the full approved amount is drawn down, does the government have a plan in place to find the additional funding?
 - i. If so, where will the funding come from?
 - (e) Given applications have closed, if the \$1 billion allocation isn't fully drawn down, will the government reopen the program to allow the full allocation to be exhausted?

Drought Ready and Resilient Fund

(43) How many applications have been approved through this fund?

(a) What is the total value of the approved applications?

(b) How much funding remains in this fund?

Hudson Pear

(44) In December 2022, the former government announced \$2.6 million in funding to assist with the control of Hudson Pear. How much of that funding has been spent thus far?

(a) Since March 25, 2023, has Hudson Pear been identified in any new areas, or has it been contained within the containment area that LLS identified when the announcement was made?

(b) Has any additional funding been sought by LLS for its Hudson Pear program?

i. If so, was any additional funding allocated?

Agriculture Commissioner

(45) Was the role of Agriculture Commissioner advertised?

(a) If so, was it advertised internally, externally, or both?

(b) How many internal applicants from within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development were received?

(c) How many external applicants were received?

i. Were any of the external applicants former members of the Legislative Assembly?

ii. Were any of the external applicants former members of the Legislative Council?

(d) Did Alison Stone submit an application for the role?

(e) How many applicants were successful in receiving an interview for the role?

i. Of these, how many of the applicants were internal?

ii. Of these, how many of the applicants were external?

(f) Was there a panel established to conduct interviews?

i. If so, who sat on that panel?

(g) On what date/s did interviews take place?

- (h) On what date was Alison Stone notified that she had received the role as Agriculture Commissioner?
 - (i) On what date did Alison Stone commence in the role of Agriculture Commissioner?
- (46) In the August 27, 2024, Budget Estimates hearing it was outlined that the Biosecurity Commissioner role was considered a three-day-per week role. Is the Agriculture Commissioner role considered a five-day-per-week role?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) On what band of pay is the Agriculture Commissioner role categorised?

Regional NSW

Regional Development Trust Fund

- (47) In November 2024, the government announced a \$15 million Rural and Remote Airstrips Program. What data was used to prioritise the three selected airstrips?
- (a) What is the financial allocation to Bourke Shire Council?
 - (b) What is the financial allocation to Central Darling Shire Council?
 - (c) What is the financial allocation to Edward River Council?
 - (d) Has work commenced on the Bourke Air Strip?
 - i. If so, when did work commence?
 - ii. If not, is there a scheduled date for work to commence?
 - (e) Has work commenced on the White Cliffs Air Strip?
 - i. If so, when did work commence?
 - ii. If not, is there a scheduled date for work to commence?
 - (f) Has work commenced on the Deniliquin Air Strip?
 - i. If so, when did work commence?
 - ii. If not, is there a scheduled date for work to commence?
 - (g) On what date did the Department initiate work on the concept of a Rural and Remote Airstrips Program?
 - (h) On what date did the Department commence work on its first draft of the media release announcing the Rural and Remote Airstrips Program?

- (i) On what date did the final version of the media release announcing the Rural and Remote Airstrips Program receive final approval?
 - (j) Will there be future rounds of the Rural and Remote Airstrips Program?
 - i. If so, which airstrips were identified in the statewide audit to receive priority for the next round?
- (48) Applications closed on February 20 for the \$50 million Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program. How many applications were received?
- (a) What is the total value of the applications received?
 - (b) Will the entire \$50 million allocation be exhausted?
 - (c) How many of the 93 councils in regional NSW submitted applications?
 - i. If not all of the 93 councils in regional NSW submitted applications, which councils did not submit an application?
 - (d) How many of the applications were lodged under the “sustainable regional communities” key focus area?
 - (e) How many of the applications were lodged under the “Aboriginal economic development and enterprise” key focus area?
 - (f) How many of the applications were lodged under the “community connection and capacity building” key focus area?
 - (g) How many applications were received under the “improving regional service delivery” key focus area?
 - (h) How many applications were for infrastructure projects?
 - (i) How many infrastructure applications were for the maximum amount of \$5 million?
 - (j) How many infrastructure applications were for the minimum amount of \$500,000?
 - (k) What is the average amount of applications received for infrastructure projects?
 - (l) How many applications were for services and program delivery?
 - (m) How many services and program delivery applications were for the maximum amount of \$1 million?

- (n) How many services and program delivery applications were for the minimum amount of \$250,000
 - (o) What is the average application amount of applications received for services and program delivery?
- (49) As of February 26, 2025, what is the balance in the Regional Development Trust Fund?
- (a) Does this figure account for the \$50 million that has been allocated to the Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program, given the successful applicants haven't been announced?

Diary Disclosures

- (50) In the February 25, 2025 Budget Estimates hearing, the Minister stated she met with the Land Council on a trip to Kempsey. Was she referring to a meeting with the Dunghutti Elders in October 2024, which was posted on her Facebook page on October 13, 2024?
- (a) If so, why was this meeting not listed in her meeting disclosures for the October-December reporting period?
 - (b) Have the Dunghutti Elders received funding from the NSW government, through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, since March 25, 2023?
 - i. If so, how much funding have the Dunghutti Elders received?
 - (c) Did the Minister meet with any other groups that have received NSW Government funding, without those meetings being listed in the October-December disclosures?
 - i. If so, which groups did she meet with?
 - ii. If so, why were these meetings not listed in her disclosures?
 - (d) Of the 30 meetings listed in the Minister's disclosures for the October-December reporting period, how many of these meetings occurred while the Minister was located in Sydney?
 - i. Can you provide a list of the meetings that took place while the Minister was located in Sydney
 - ii. How many of these meetings took place while the Minister was located in Local Government Areas defined as being included in the Regional NSW portfolio?

- iii. Can you provide a list of the meetings that took place while the Minister was located in Local Government Areas defined as being included in the Regional NSW portfolio?
- iv. Of the meetings that took place while the Minister was located in Local Government areas defined as being included in the Regional NSW portfolio, how many of these were while she was located in Queanbeyan?
- v. Can you provide a list of the meetings that took place while the Minister was located in Queanbeyan?
- vi. How many of the 30 disclosed meetings took place face-to-face?
- vii. How many of these meetings took place online?

Dubbo Sports Hub

- (51) Prior to March 25, 2023, how much funding had been allocated to the Dubbo Sports Hub project?
 - (a) How much was allocated to the project after March 25, 2023?
- (52) On what date did the Minister receive the variation request from PCYC seeking to move the location of the Dubbo Sports Hub from Charles Sturt University to Dubbo Sports World?
 - (a) On what date did the Minister sign off on her decision to reject the variation request?
- (53) The Minister met with Dubbo Regional Council and PCYC on November 27, 2024. Were these separate meetings?
 - (a) Did the Minister inform Dubbo Regional Council at these meetings that she would not be approving the variation request?
 - (b) Did the Minister inform PCYC at these meetings that she would not be approving the variation request?
 - (c) Did these meetings take place face-to-face or online?
 - (d) Who were the attendees from PCYC at the meeting?
 - (e) Who were the attendees from Dubbo Regional Council at the meeting?
 - (f) Did the Minister, or her staff, meet with representatives from Charles Sturt University in relation to the variation request or the brief that outlined that no tenders for the project should be accepted?

- i. If so, on what date?
 - (g) Did any representatives from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development meet with representatives from Charles Sturt University in relation to the variation request or the brief that outlined that no tenders for the project should be accepted?
 - i. If so, on what date?
- (54) On what date did the Department commence work on the first draft of the media statement announcing that the project was “no longer viable”?
 - (a) On what date was the final version of the statement approved?
 - (b) Was the media statement sent to the office of the Premier prior to final approval?
 - i. If so, on what date?
 - (c) Was the media statement sent to the office of the Minister for Sport prior to final approval?
 - i. If so, on what date?
 - (d) Was the media statement sent to the office of the Minister for Police prior to final approval?
 - i. If so, on what date?
 - (e) Was the approved version of the media statement sent to PCYC prior to distribution?
 - i. If so, on what date?
 - (f) Was the approved version of the media statement sent to Dubbo Regional Council prior to distribution?
 - i. If so, on what date?
 - (g) Was the final version of the media statement sent to Charles Sturt University prior to distribution?
 - i. If so, on what date?
- (55) Between December 18, 2024 and February 26, 2025, has the Department commenced work on any briefs relating to planned visits to Dubbo that haven’t eventuated?
 - (a) If so, on what date was the visit planned?
 - (b) If so, why did the planned visit not eventuate?

- (56) On February 19, 2025, a delegation of people attended NSW Parliament to meet with politicians and discuss the project. Did the Minister receive an invitation to meet with the delegation?
- (a) Did the Minister have a meeting with that delegation on that date?
 - i. If not, why did the Minister not meet with the delegation?
- (57) In the December 18 media statement, the Minister outlined that the allocated funding from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, which totals \$33.3 million, would be better used for alternative, deliverable projects. Can you provide a list of these “alternative, deliverable projects”?
- (a) Has any of the \$33.3 million already been allocated to an “alternative, deliverable project” as outlined in the media statement
 - i. If so, what project/s has the funding, or a portion thereof, been allocated to, and how much has been allocated?

Regional Media Fund

- (58) Round one of the Regional Media Fund was announced as being worth \$3 million. How many applications were received for this round of the program?
- (a) How many of those applications were successful?
 - (b) What was the value of the unsuccessful applications?
 - (c) In the February 26, 2025, Budget Estimates hearing, it was revealed that there was \$750,000 not allocated in round one. Why wasn't the \$3 million fully exhausted?
 - (d) In the February 26, 2025 Budget Estimates Hearing, it was stated that round two of the Regional Media Fund is worth \$3.75 million, with the unallocated \$750,000 from round one rolling over. However the government's website states round two is worth \$3 million. Will you commit to exhausting the full \$3.75 million in round two to take the total value of the two rounds to \$6 million, being the total combined value of the two rounds as stated in the February 26, 2025 Budget Estimates hearing?

Western NSW

Walgett Pool

(59) In 2023, the NSW Government provided a one-off grant of \$375,000 for temporary repair works to the Walgett Pool. Has the government been working with Walgett Shire Council on a long-term solution?

(a) If so, has Walgett Shire Council applied for funding?

Lightning Ridge Opal Museum

(60) Of the \$34.2 million allocated to the project, how much was contributed by the proponent?

(a) How much was contributed by the Federal Government?

(b) How much was contributed by the NSW Government?

i. What was the value of the funding allocated by the NSW Government in 2022?

(c) How many companies tendered for the contract to construct the facility?

(d) If more than one company tendered for the contract, how many of those companies were based in NSW?

(e) As of February 26, 2025, are there any businesses that have supplied materials or labour to the project that remain unpaid?

i. If there are businesses that have supplied materials or labour to the project that remain unpaid, what will you do to rectify this situation?

Defined Western NSW Portfolio

(61) As of February 26, 2025, how many local government areas make up the defined Western NSW Portfolio?

(a) Can you provide a list of all of the local government areas as defined in the Western NSW Portfolio?

General questions

Senior Executives

(62) As of February 26, 2025, how many senior executives within your department are categorised as Band 4?

(a) How many are categorised as Band 3?

(b) How many are categorised as Band 2?

(c) How many are categorised as Band 1?

CFMEU meetings

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

ETU meetings

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

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

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

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

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

(a) Of these redundancies, how many were:

i. Voluntary?

ii. Forced?

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

(c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(67) On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?

(68) Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed?

(a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?

(69) Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft?

(a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?

(70) In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

(71) Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency?

State Records Act

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

(a) If yes, when?

Advertising

39) On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?

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

(73) 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 website URL?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

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

(a) If yes, what is the website URL?

(75) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?

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

(b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

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

(a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

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

(a) If yes, under what circumstance?

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

(78) Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?

(79) If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?

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

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

Senior Executive Drivers

(81) As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

GIPA Applications – Ministerial Office

(82) Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?

(a) If yes, how many?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?

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

(83) 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)?

GIPA Act – Disclosure Log Website URL

(84) What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

TikTok

(85) Are you on TikTok?

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

Signal

(86) Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal?

(a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device?

(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

Training

(87) 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?

Cabinet documents

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

Parliamentary Secretary

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

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

(91) Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?

Media releases and statements

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

(a) If no, why?

Overseas Travel

(93) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

Data Breaches

(94) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?

(95) If yes to 38, what is the website?

Discretionary Fund

(96) As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?

(a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

Qantas Chairman's Lounge

(97) Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

Local Government Councillors

(98) How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?

Varroa Mite

(99) How much money was committed, in-kind or otherwise, for compliance and enforcement by NSW to the National Varroa Mite Destructor Plan between February 2024 and February 2026?

(a) How much of that money has been spent?

(b) How has that money been spent?

cHow many biosecurity directions were issued in relation to this funding?

(c) How many PINs were issued in relation to this funding?

ForestryCorp Biosecurity

(100) How much did Forestry Corporation spend on biosecurity operations in the financial year 2023-24?

(a) Could you provide a breakdown of how that money was spent?

(b) Including a breakdown of what weeds/pests the money went towards controlling?

(101) How much did the Forestry Corporation spend on biosecurity operations in the financial year 2022-2023?

(a) Could you provide a breakdown of how that money was spent?

(b) Including a breakdown of what weeds/pests the money went towards controlling?

Dog Fence

(102) How much of the \$37.5 million dollars has been spent to fix the 32km priority section of the dog fence?

(a) What is the estimated cost per kilometre of fence for the new priority section that is nearing completion?

(b) How much funding from the original \$37.5 million will be available for the remainder of the dog fence?

- (c) What learnings have been gained from the priority section and how will they be fixed when attention turns to the rest of the fence?
- (d) How many more gaps in the fence or stretches that require attention have been identified outside of the 32km priority area of the dog fence?

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| Questions from Hon Mark Banasiak MLC |
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Mummaga Lake and Professional Fishers Returning

- (103) Why are professional fishers who accepted buyouts now allowed to fish in Mummaga Lake under cultural fishing exemptions?
- (104) Are there any plans to review regulations to ensure recreational fishing havens remain exclusive?

Mullocky Stocking

- (105) What is the NSW Government's long-term strategy for mullocky restocking?
- (106) Can you confirm whether new regulations around minimum size and bag limits have been effective?
- (107) How is the government ensuring that conservation efforts for mullocky do not harm other marine species?

Blue Groper Study and Ban

- (108) Was the study on blue groper commissioned for policy decisions, or was it broader research?
- (109) How reliable is the data from Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) and Underwater Visual Census (UVC) methods?
- (110) If fishing pressure is minimal, why is a total ban necessary?
- (111) Why was the blue groper report received in July 2024 but only published in February 2025?

NSW Forestry Corporation & Timber Industry

- (112) Why was the contract for harvesting Redgum in Balranald/Euston suspended without prior notice?
- (113) Has the government conducted a full cost-benefit analysis on converting State Forests into a national park?

(114) If native timber harvesting is banned, how will the government compensate for the loss of local timber supply?

Koala National Park Proposal

(115) What evidence supports the claim that tourism can totally replace the economic contribution of native timber?

(116) Why is the government prioritizing expanding national parks over sustainable forestry?

(117) Will the Minister commit to basing the final decision on socioeconomic, environmental, and scientific assessments?

Fire Management in National Parks vs. State Forests

(118) What role did Forestry Corporation play in managing the 2019/2020 bushfires?

(119) How does the government plan to manage fire risks in forests if native forestry is banned?

Trout Hatchery Closures & Management

Visitor Access & Transparency

(120) Why are both the Gaden and Dutton trout hatcheries currently closed to visitors?

(121) When will the public and stakeholders be given access to these facilities again?

(122) Is the government conducting any reviews or restructuring that justifies the lack of transparency?

Staffing & Production

(123) How many positions are currently vacant at:

(a) Gaden Trout Hatchery?

(b) Dutton Trout Hatchery?

(124) What are the specific roles and responsibilities of each vacant position?

(125) How long has each of these positions been vacant?

(126) How many of these vacant positions are currently being backfilled?

(127) For the positions that are backfilled, are they temporary or permanent arrangements?

(128) How many vacant positions at each hatchery are actively being advertised?

(129) Where are these positions being advertised, and what efforts have been made to attract applicants?

(130) On what date was each vacant position first advertised?

(131) Has the government made any internal decisions or plans to permanently reduce staff at these hatcheries?

Budget & Fingerling Distribution

(132) Is it true that there is no budget allocated for transporting fingerlings across the state?

(133) If so, how does the government plan to maintain fish stocking programs, which are crucial for both recreational fishing and environmental management?

(134) How does this align with commitments to regional communities that rely on stocked fisheries for tourism and local economies?

Long-Term Plan & Government Priorities

(135) What is the long-term plan for the Gaden and Dutton hatcheries?

(136) Is the government considering privatisation or other cost-cutting measures that would impact their operation?

(137) What assurances can the Minister provide that these closures and reductions won't lead to a permanent decline in trout stocking programs in NSW?