

Questions on Notice – Minister Kamper

Page 7 - QON 1 – Racing NSW as Crownland manager

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: As for your confidence in Racing NSW, the due diligence document does show a concern about a conflict of interest as the regulator. I am quoting from the department's document. It states, "With Racing NSW as the regulator of horse racing in New South Wales, existing Crown land managers may be concerned about consequences if they were to refuse a request to relinquish their current role." Racing NSW could deregister all these clubs if they refused to hand over their racetrack. Doesn't that point to the basic wrongness in making them a Crown land manager? They are the regulator of the track and now, in these five instances, they are regulating themselves.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: In terms of the operations of Racing NSW, I think you're best to ask those questions to the relevant Minister about its operations and the fact that it is also the regulator. That is how it has been forever and a day.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Can you take on notice if David Harris ever approved this? I think it's outside the Thoroughbred Racing Act that the regulator is now running a racetrack.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Order! Time has expired.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Can you take that on notice and find out if Harris ever approved it?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

I am advised:

Please refer to the response provided by Ms Fishburn at page 49 of the transcript.

Page 9 - QON 2 – Carnarvon Golf Course

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Minister, have you met with the operators of Carnarvon golf course?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I've met with Golfing New South Wales. I'll take that on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: But the operators of Carnarvon golf course—

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't recall whether there was—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I think there was some media commentary that Golf NSW suggested to Carnarvon golf course they meet with you following their meeting where they had serious concerns for the future of Carnarvon golf course. I believe that Carnarvon golf course have sought a meeting. Have you met with them?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'm not sure if any of my staff or officers have. I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

Meetings with stakeholders are recorded in the Minister's Diary Disclosures, which are published on The Cabinet Office website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>

Page 11 - QON 3 – Dubbo Sports Hub

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, I'll ask for the third time now. Since 2023, when Labor came to power, how much money has the Labor Minns Government committed to the Dubbo sports hub?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Following the execution of the funding agreement, \$9.3 million was paid into PCYC NSW in 2023. I'm advised that the original proposal at Charles Sturt—

The Hon. WES FANG: What date in 2023 was that, Minister?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'm not sure. It's probably on record somewhere.

The Hon. WES FANG: Were you in government at the time?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take it on notice for you, Mr Fang.

The Hon. WES FANG: Thank you, Minister. When did you get advised that the PCYC's variation request to move the Dubbo sports hub from the CSU site to the Dubbo Sports World site—when were you advised about that?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I couldn't give you a date on that.

The Hon. WES FANG: Take it on notice?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Take it on notice.

I am advised:

The payment to PCYC was made on 29 June 2023.

The Minister was advised of the variation request from Office of Sport on 30 August 2024.

Page 13 - QON 4 – Penrith City Council indoor multi-sports facility

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you very much, Minister. Turning now to another indoor sports facility, Penrith, has the Crown land required for Penrith City Council indoor multi-sports facilities been transferred to Penrith council?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Are you referring to the stadium?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: This is the multi-indoor sports facility.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice, actually.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Sorry, we might have to take that on notice.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So you don't know if the Government has entered into any land transfer agreements with Penrith council in relation to this project?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Not off the top of my head. The land is under Minister Scully.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll have to take that on notice, and we can come back to you on Tuesday, Mr Farlow.

I am advised:

As per the transcript, this is a matter for Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Page 15 - QON 5 – Sport Grants to Football Associations

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: There were only two local sporting groups that gave money to the Labor Party, one being Southern Districts Soccer Football Association, the other being Macarthur Football Club that gave \$4,460 to NSW Labor. Did the Office of Sport give any grants to Macarthur Football Club or southern districts that you're aware of?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: We hand out and administer so many grants through the Office of Sport.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Any big infrastructure announcements for them, Minister?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take it on notice.

I am advised:

Macarthur Football Club has received total funding of \$2,000 from the Office of Sport since 2020/21.

Southern Districts Soccer Football Association has received total funding of \$4,949,475 from the Office of Sport since 2013/14'.

Please see below response in Q.6 in relation to a 2023 Election Commitment regarding Macarthur Football Club.

Page 15 - QON 6 – Sport Grants to Football Associations

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Do you know that in September 2023 they gave \$14.5 million to Macarthur Football Club?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That's quite an investment.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: That's a big investment. Do you know about that? I think you were the Minister in September 2023.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: What type of grant was it?

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Football in schools.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Was it all to Macarthur? I can't remember.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: I think it was shared between Macarthur and Western Sydney.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: That's right. That was the program.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Labor also announced in the pre-election that they would give \$8 million to Macarthur. I'm not sure of the proportion that Macarthur got of that \$14.5 million. Maybe you could take that on notice and let me know how much Macarthur got.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: You are asking about specific grants. As I said, we administer hundreds of grants.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Can you also take on notice how much the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association received in grant funding from the Office of Sport? If you can't answer that, can you let me know how much funding they might have received?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'm not going to have any of these in my head. I know Mr Fang would expect me to.

I am advised:

Southern Districts Soccer Football Association has received total funding of \$4,949,475 from the Office of Sport since 2015/16.

The four-year \$14.5m Football in Schools Program was an election commitment of the NSW Government to partner with A-League clubs Western Sydney Wanderers and Macarthur Football Club to provide football, education, and wellbeing programs in local schools. Following the announcement of the program in September 2023, delivery of the program and administration of the funding was transferred to NSW Department of Education. Questions about the status of the program and program delivery should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

Pages 16-17 - QON 7 – Sport Grants to Football Associations

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: There are two different donations. Macarthur Football Club gave a donation to the Labor Party and also the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association. It seems like they might share a director.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'm happy to look at what you're referring to, Ms Mihailuk.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: I want to know what funding the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association received from your office—the Office of Sport—and I want to know about the Macarthur Football Club. We know they received funding. I want to know whether you, as a Minister, or your office were notified prior to actually giving the \$14.5 million over or whether you were aware or whether you even asked those questions. There should be a due diligence check.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: You are asking me to comment on whether there has been any funding. I'd like to establish that first and then we can review it.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: You've got the Office of Sport representative here. They can bring it back for me in the afternoon and we can get some information back today. Can you make that commitment, Minister? Can you take that on notice for this afternoon?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: We'll take that on notice, yes.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: It is a concern to me that I could only see two football clubs that have done this for the Labor Party. It's a huge amount of money. It's odd to give money to candidates as well. At the same time, they are receiving this level of funding. What I want to know, apart from just taking it on notice, is whether you would also look into whether there should be an actual directive about whether it's appropriate for not-for-profit sporting organisations to give that kind of money.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: They are not prohibited donors, I don't believe.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: They are not prohibited donors but I'm asking you to consider looking at that and whether it's appropriate, because the parents are paying predominantly the full cost of how these clubs are run. They rely on council-run facilities, but you and I know that they basically exist because of the registration fees. The admin levy or fee, or whatever you want to call it, is how these clubs and associations survive. Would you accept that?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes, I accept that clubs—I'd rather have a look at the detail that you are presenting to me and then go through that.

I am advised:

The four-year \$14.5m Football in Schools Program was an election commitment of the NSW Government to partner with A-League clubs Western Sydney Wanderers and Macarthur Football Club to provide football, education, and wellbeing programs in local schools. Following the announcement of the program in September 2023, delivery of the program and administration of the funding was transferred to NSW Department of Education. Questions about the status of the program and program delivery should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

Page 17 - QON 8 – Greyhound Racing NSW as Crown land manager

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Wonderful. That's good news. Do you know if Greyhound Racing NSW is currently the Crown land manager in respect to any other land in New South Wales? Perhaps you can take that on notice, if it's not something you've got front of mind.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I will take that on notice, yes. I've got about 3,000 or 4,000 Crown land managers.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: If you could take that on notice, that would be great. Have you had any recent discussions with the Minister for Gaming and Racing in regards to the extension of the lease for Wentworth Park?

I am advised:

Greyhound Racing NSW is not a Crown land manager for any Crown reserve.

Page 17 - QON 9 – Wentworth Park

The Hon. EMMA HURST: The concern here is that the 8,000 homes and 46,000 jobs are predicated on the space of Wentworth Park being returned to the community for those homes to be built for those jobs. That is for both the strategies. That's for the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy and the Ultimo Pyrmont place strategy. Given that we have a cost-of-living crisis and given that there is also a major housing shortage at the moment, I would assume that that would be something that would be really front of mind for this decision. This morning in the other session you were saying that there is no rush on this decision and that you are really going to take your time. One of the other concerns with the community is that on the line are 8,000 homes and 46,000 jobs if this was to be signed over to the greyhound racing industry.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I don't think I said I'm really going to take my time. I said we haven't made a decision as yet and I will get back to you when that decision is made. We can talk about all of the potential on the site. We can sit here all day. Actually, I wouldn't mind doing that and taking up all the question time. But the truth is that I did say earlier on that the greater utilisation of that site and better utilisation of that site is something that is front and centre on our mind.

This is not a question on notice.

Page 18 - QON 10 – Racing NSW as Crown land manager

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Minister, I've seen an internal risk assessment conducted by Crown Lands produced under the Legislative Council call for papers. It raised concerns about the conflict of interest in Racing NSW both acting as regulator of the racing industry and the Crown land manager of racecourse properties. In the light of this obvious conflict, why was Racing NSW still appointed as the Crown land manager for those racecourse properties?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I think I discussed this earlier when Mr Latham was asking the exact same question.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I understand he was asking some other questions about it. I'm asking specifically now about the internal risk assessment.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: The fact of the matter remains that Racing is both the regulator and the operator. It is a unique setting. But there is also confidence that the investment in the Crown land facility potentially would be better suited through the presence of Racing. I'll take on notice—

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Do you want—

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes, if you could assist me there.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I might come back to the department this afternoon. Minister, maybe you misunderstood the question. I want to specifically ask about the internal risk assessment. There was an internal risk assessment that came up in my SO 52 that Mr Latham was asking about earlier. The internal risk assessment highlighted an obvious conflict. In your answer just now, you said that you have confidence that Racing NSW should be appointed as the Crown land manager despite the advice that you've received that there is actually an obvious conflict of interest. I'm wondering how you, as Minister, dealt with that conflict of interest. I'm keen to hear from the department this afternoon, but I want to hear specifically from you, Minister, about what sort of consideration you had given to that internal document around that risk assessment and the conflict of interest, as the Minister.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take on notice what process was—I can't recall specifically the last meeting I had in relation to that. As I said to you earlier, there are thousands and thousands of managers out there and a lot of times we struggle with the ability to manage particular facilities. Obviously with the presence of Racing—their balance sheet and their ability to maintain a facility would definitely be relevant to this. The fact that both parties were consenting to that management arrangement—it sat within Crown Lands for—

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Sorry, the concern that has come up is that both parties weren't necessarily consenting and that's one of the huge problems there.

I am advised:

Please refer to the response provided by Ms Fishburn at page 49 of the transcript.

Page 20 - QON 11 – Parramatta North

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: You're here to play; that's good to hear, Minister. With respect, Dr Charlton said that he was blindsided by the decision. Did you have any conversations with Dr Charlton before commencing the Parramatta North rezoning?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: His office was emailed for a briefing.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Did they take that up?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Eventually but probably a day or two before the announcement. I think maybe it was the holiday period or whatever.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What were the dates when you offered him a briefing and when did the briefing occur?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I haven't got that date in front of me.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Will you take it on notice, Minister?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes, I will take it on notice.

I am advised:

The Parramatta North Public Exhibition opened on 13 January 2025.

Both Donna Davis and Andrew Charlton provided feedback during the development of the proposal. On 2 May 2024, PDNSW met with Dr Charlton in his offices where the matter was discussed.

An email was sent to both Donna Davis and Dr Andrew Charlton on 16 December 2024, advising that the Parramatta North Public Exhibition was scheduled for 13 January 2025. Donna Davis received a full briefing on 10 January 4.00pm, Dr Charlton received a full departmental briefing on 13 January 1.00pm.

Pages 21 and 22 - QON 12 – Reflections Holiday Parks Board

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, what role did Reflections Holiday Parks CEO Nick Baker have in relation to the Holiday Parks reserve trust board members?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'd have to check. There's a process in place for the selection of board members.

The Hon. WES FANG: So you're saying that he did have a role?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I don't know. I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

Please refer to the response provided by Ms Fishburn on page 49 of the transcript.

Pages 21 and 22 - QON 13 – Reflections Holiday Parks Board

The Hon. WES FANG: Has the Reflections Holiday Parks net profit ratio as a percentage of revenue changed over the past three years?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: As a percentage, I will take that on notice.

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, why was the decision made to exclude projects with a value below \$100,000 from the 2024-25 round of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund grants?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

As a statutory land manager, the NSW Crown Holiday Parks Land Manager (trading as Reflections Holidays) is required to reinvest all its operating surplus back into the management and upkeep of the more than 50 Crown reserves under its management.

I am advised that Reflections Holidays' operating surplus as a percentage of revenue over the past three years is as follows:

- FY ending June 2022 – 4.9%
- FY ending June 2023 – 18.3%
- FY ending June 2024 – 18.3%

Note: The lower figure in FY 2022 is due predominantly to COVID lockdowns impacting revenues from July to December 2021.

Pages 21 and 22 - QON 14 – Reflections Holiday Parks Board

The Hon. WES FANG: Minister, why was the decision made to exclude projects with a value below \$100,000 from the 2024-25 round of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund grants?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

Criteria for previous years' grants rounds tended to emphasise general asset maintenance and public safety, resulting in the funding of numerous, disparate, small projects. The criteria for 2024-25 grants have been amended with the aim of considering more impactful projects, alongside other criteria.

Page 24 - QON 15 – Land Audit - 301 Samantha Riley Drive

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Turning to another one of those sites with unique attributes, 301 Samantha Riley Drive at Kellyville, are there any development constraints for the site that has been selected from the land audit at 301 Samantha Riley Drive at Kellyville, half of which are intended to be social housing?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I think we'll have to take that on notice. You're getting into Planning questions, Mr Farlow.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: We'll come back to that this afternoon, potentially. Minister, with respect to central Barangaroo, another grand announcement that the Government has made, are you concerned at all that under your low- and mid-rise plans there will be taller buildings in Belmont than there will be at Barangaroo?

I am advised:

The Kellyville Station Structure Plan prepared by the Department of Planning notes areas of high and low flood risk within the site, and a site-specific Development Control Plan contains stormwater management provisions to ensure that future development does not increase flooding.

Further investigations into the impact of flooding, including an updated flood assessment, will be required prior to redevelopment, and will be factored into site development concept plans accordingly.

A drainage reservation containing both Elizabeth Macarthur Creek and Caddies Creek surrounds the northern, eastern, and western boundaries of the site, zoned SP2 Drainage. These parts of the site are not being considered for the delivery of housing.

Homes NSW are aware of these issues and are working to develop the site accordingly. Constraints or risks will vary depending on the final form of the development. Questions on the development plans for this specific site are best put to the Minister for Housing.

Pages 24 and 25 - QON 16 – Coopers Island Access

The CHAIR: I will ask a couple of quick questions before I hand to Government members, if they want to ask questions. Minister, on Coopers Island access, I know your office has been working with mine and I thank you on that. Just on the alternative access points, have any of them been assessed for viability beyond doing a desktop review? I know there have been some proposed sites, but from what I can see, I don't think they've been assessed as to whether they're viable or not. It seems like it's just a bit of a desktop review. I'm just wondering whether there is going to be any work done to assess their viability as legitimate alternative access points.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Eurobodalla Shire Council, New South Wales police and Crown Lands are working together to resolve the conflict over the access and use of Coopers Island causeway by recreational fishers and a landowner who uses the causeway for vehicles and stock access. Detailed historical status investigations determined the causeway is not Crown land. In September 2024 Crown Lands wrote to the key stakeholders, including the landholder, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, council and New South Wales police to inform

them that the causeway is not Crown land. The causeway is freehold land owned by the Kirranda Pastoral Company.

A survey commissioned by Crown Lands confirmed there is no public access to Bowns Creek and from the public road known as Coopers Island Road. Crown Lands is working with the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and council to investigate alternative land-based access opportunities within Tuross Lake and the surrounding areas. Coopers Island Road is a public road managed by council. It dissects private land and terminates where it meets the Crown waterway and adjoins a rock causeway and wooden bridge, providing access to a private dwelling and rural property at lot 2A DP12290.

The CHAIR: Can you take on notice as to the alternative sites? That brief that you read doesn't address the alternative sites. I know there are three or four sites that have been flagged with Recreational Fishing Alliance as potential alternatives, but it seems like it's a bit of a desktop review.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'll take that on notice.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: We can come back with some further information in the afternoon. We are definitely in discussion with recreational fishers and with the council.

I am advised:

The Department has investigated potential alternate fishing sites, noting there are limited areas of Crown land around Tuross Lake and there are very few areas that can be accessed for land-based fishing opportunities.

In terms of Crown land, Departmental officers with local on ground knowledge of the area have identified two Crown reserves within Tuross Lake-one Department managed and one Council managed and three Crown reserves at Coila Lake - two are Department managed, and one is Council managed.

Alternatively, the most viable alternate location is a long strip of Council public land that fronts the Tuross River, to the south of Coopers Island Crossing. Lot 4 DP771649 is owned by Eurobodalla Shire Council (Council). It is easily accessible from the highway, provides parking and has an established boat ramp where recreational users can launch kayaks.

This information has been provided to Mr Stan Konstantaras (President, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW) and included detailed aerial images showing the reserves location, opportunities, constraints, and management responsibility.

Eurobodalla Shire Council is the point of contact for Council managed reserves and Lot 4 DP771649. Mr Konstantaras has been provided with contacts for Council staff.

Mr Konstantaras contacted the Department on 24 February 2025 requesting further information about some of the locations.

The Department responded to Mr Konstantaras on 27 February 2025 with detailed information and included an offer to meet on site to discuss the opportunities and constraints of the Crown managed locations.

The Department received further correspondence from Mr Konstantaras on 3 March 2025. A response is being prepared.

Mr Konstantaras has not taken up the offer to meet Departmental officers on site at this time.

Page 27 - QON 17 – Racing NSW as Crown land Manager

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: You're welcome. In the SO 52 document that Ms Hurst brought forward, there is mention that initially Racing NSW was looking at eight or nine tracks over which to become the Crown land manager. Is it possible to identify the three or four extra that didn't eventuate, please?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes, we're looking at that. The five that were identified were sitting in the system. The request there, as I said to you earlier, was in the system prior to my becoming Minister for Lands and Property. Since you've asked for the additional sites, I'm sure we will take that on notice.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: It precedes you as Minister—I think it goes back to Kevin Anderson—but the original bid was eight or nine. That's mentioned different times in the documentation. I'm keen to find out which ones they are. Minister, wearing your Small Business hat, in regard to due diligence, was there an awareness that Racing NSW was a notorious bad payer? I'll give one example of a racetrack that you passed on to Crown land management. They promised Coffs Harbour track a major upgrade of irrigation costing \$250,000. Coffs Harbour got the contractor to do the work and then said to the contractor, "You have to get paid by Racing NSW. They didn't give us the grant, but if you bill Racing NSW, that's how it's going to be handled."

Eighteen months later, the contractor hasn't been paid. I assure you that if you talk to people in the racing industry around New South Wales, Racing NSW is a bad payer. Mr V'landys, although it's not strictly his money, is going to die with his first dollar. They never spend anything; they are a bad payer. Aren't you concerned, as small business Minister, that around the State small businesses don't get paid by Racing NSW, and they were never going to live up to their promise of sound financial management of these racetracks or anywhere else?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Thanks for that information, Mr Latham. That's the first I've heard of them being a bad payer. I'm not someone who really hangs around the racetracks or the racing industry.

I am advised:

Please refer to the response provided by Ms Fishburn at page 50 of transcript.

The Department was advised by Racing NSW on 3 March 2025 that the contractor for the irrigation works at Coffs Harbour Racecourse has been paid in full.

Page 29 - QON 18 – Sydney International Equestrian Centre

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Thank you. Just one final thing, again on racing at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. In the proposal from the Australian Turf Club for the training facility there—Office of Sport is in charge of this—are the woodlands safe? Are the woodlands from the Western Sydney Parklands safe? The map I saw, from the ATC, indicated they were going to take and bulldoze the woodlands for that training facility at the southern end of SIEC. I'm an urban environmentalist. It's not really recognised around the place. The Greens haven't got on to this, but I am almost single-handedly protecting the woodlands.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Latham's love of woodlands.

The Hon. WES FANG: Compost Toilet Latham.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: While I'm appropriately not a party to the unsolicited proposal process through which the New South Wales Government is considering this—

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Mr Wang, settle down.

The CHAIR: Continue.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Shall I start again? It eats up Mr Wang's time. It's good.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Had to get the Wang-ometer in at some stage.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: He's done it.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: There's a big crowd waiting for this.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: The boss will be replaying this one as well.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Sorry, Wes.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Sorry, Minister.

The CHAIR: Plough on. You were provoked, Minister Kamper.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: What's the story, Minister?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: While I'm appropriately not a party to the unsolicited proposal process through which the New South Wales Government is considering this, it is a matter of public record that an unsolicited proposal was received and was of sufficient interest to warrant further development and progression to a more defined project. I further understand the proposal does include relocating a number of horse-training elements of Rosehill Gardens to Sydney International Equestrian Centre at Horsley Park. I do not expect the

Office of Sport to become increasingly engaged in this proposal as the process moves forward, and I look forward to providing updates to the House at the appropriate time.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: The House? That's our House, I suppose.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: To you, yes.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: Can you take on notice about the woodlands please?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes. We'll take that on notice.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: That would be a question for Greater Sydney Parklands. I can take that on notice.

I am advised:

Greater Sydney Parklands is the responsibility of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Page 31 - QON 19 – Minister Diary Disclosures

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Thank you, Minister, in November the Australian Information Commissioner found two companies were in breach of that Privacy Act. These companies were Master Wealth Control and Property Lovers. Despite these findings, Property Lovers are still advertising a platform for finding distressed home owners. And people who sign up are encouraged to target potential motivated sellers, such as people going through family law proceedings or facing repossession of their homes. There are some really serious concerns that that information is still being sold in the first place and getting into the public domain, where it can still be, obviously, misused. And it seems that that is an ongoing issue, given what's happened here. Have you given further consideration to these issues or had further advice, given this very recent case in November?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I agree with you in relation to the seriousness of those situations with those two companies. I will take it on notice in terms of what further work has been done within my department in relation to it.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Thank you. I am just going back to your diary disclosures. On 28 August last year you met with the Hon. Robert Borsak and the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia. Do you recall what that meeting was about?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Not off my head. I will take that on notice.

I am advised:

Meetings with stakeholders are recorded in the Minister's Diary Disclosures, which are published on The Cabinet Office website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>

Pages 31 and 32 - QON 20 – Ministerial Meetings

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I'd also like to ask you about a meeting you had on 28 November with the NSW Farmers Association, together with the department of planning. Do you recall what that meeting was about?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It was a Crown land issue in terms of licensing or renewable. I've got a vague, vague, vague memory of that. There could have been a number of issues, though, Ms Hurst, so I can't give you those details.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Could I get some more details on that on notice, please?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Yes.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: On 1 July you had a meeting with the Hon. Mark Banasiak and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW. Do you recall what that meeting was about and which portfolio of yours it related to?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Most likely Crown Lands. Most likely the issue that he asked me questions about earlier in relation to the recreational fishing.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Most likely or you don't recall?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can't be certain. I'll take it on notice.

I am advised:

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<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>

Page 37 - QON 21 – Safe Places of Worship Grants

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Ms La Posta, I do respect and appreciate you and your answers to this inquiry but we have limited time with the Minister. I am sure we will come back to you this afternoon and we can get some of your insights on that. Minister, it is a concern to all of us in terms of the attacks on places of worship. In November last year there was an announcement from the Government and from yourself with respect to the safe places of worship grants. That was a \$5 million announcement. I'm just seeking clarification as to whether that \$5 million is in addition to the \$15 million you previously announced or whether it is part of that \$15 million that you previously announced.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It's a part of the \$15 million.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So it isn't an additional \$5 million? So that is not a \$20 million program? That's still a \$15 million program?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: No, it was an additional amount that we're releasing.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Mr Farlow, we brought forward some of those funds to this year to help with the current tensions that are there. They were phased over the estimates but we brought forward, I think, an additional \$2 million to supplement the program.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: So that funding round that ran from November to December last year—how much was available in that funding round? Was it the full \$5 million?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Correct.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Which organisations received funding in that round?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: We can give you the full list on notice.

I am advised:

The NSW Government committed \$15 million over four years to support the safety and security of places of worship and other places where faith communities gather regularly.

\$5 million of this funding was awarded in the 2023-24 grants program round. The list of successful applicants under this round is available in the Multicultural NSW Annual Report 2023-24.

\$5 million is available in the 2024-25 grants program round. The list of successful applicants under this round will become available in the Multicultural NSW Annual Report 2024-25.

Pages 47 and 48 - QON 22 – Multicultural Media

The Hon. WES FANG: I've got a few more questions that I want to put to the Minister. In December 2023 the New South Wales Government approved and updated its Multicultural and Aboriginal Advertising Policy Guidance to increase expenditure from 7.5 per cent to 9 per cent of the total advertising campaign budget. That policy was implemented last July. Can you advise if the 9 per cent target has been reached?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I'd ask you to direct that question to Minister Dib when he's here.

The Hon. WES FANG: Are you not aware?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: It's not my responsibility.

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you know what the spend has been since July?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: No, I don't have that in my head.

The Hon. WES FANG: Of the percentage that was spent, are you able to take on notice how much was provided specifically to independent multicultural media outlets?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I don't have that in front of me, no.

The Hon. WES FANG: Can you take that on notice? Is that all right?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I can take it on notice, yes.

I am advised:

NSW Government advertising is the responsibility of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

Pages 49 and 50 - QON 23 – DPHI - Responses to Previous Questions on Notice

The CHAIR: Welcome back after that brief lunch break. Before I invite one of the crossbench members to take some questions, I just might invite Ms Fishburn to come back to us with some of the items that might have been taken on notice this morning.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Thank you very much, Chair. We had a question about Reflections, which was: What involvement did Reflections CEO Nick Baker have with the process for recruiting board members for NSW Crown Holiday Parks Land Manager? The answer is that Nick Baker had no role in the recruitment process, other than providing input into proposed questions for candidates, at the panel's request—just to clear up that question.

We did have a number of questions in relation to Racing NSW as Crown land manager. The question that came up a number of times was around the Minister's awareness of the risk assessment that contained information about potential conflict of interest relating to Racing NSW's role as regulator. I just wanted to check the briefing notes so I could be sure of the content there. A risk assessment was attached to the briefing note which was provided to the Minister in May 2024, containing the department's recommendation for the appointment of Racing NSW as Crown land manager. It is very common practice in our briefing notes for us to identify risks and also to identify risk mitigations.

In the risk assessment, we did identify that potential conflict of interest in the role between regulator and Crown land manager. To mitigate the risk, the appointment instrument, which is obviously, essentially, the contract between Crown Lands and Racing NSW, required that Racing NSW develop policies that detail how Racing NSW will address the conflict of interest. Racing NSW has advised that it has prepared its conflict of interest policy, which is awaiting endorsement. So it's in process. Should we become aware of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, they will be handled in accordance with the department's complaints management framework.

In relation to the consultation with the five previous racecourse managers, it was the Minister who requested that the department consulted with them and sought letters of agreement. It's not actually a requirement for us to do that, legally. However, the Minister requested that we did so. And of course we undertook that direction as well. As the Minister detailed, we're currently undertaking a review in relation to the Queanbeyan appointment. That will be finished within about a month, so I'm anticipating it being finalised by the end of March. That review output, which is being done by the Government's area of DPHI more broadly, will come to both myself and the Minister. It will come directly to us.

We had a question as to whether Minister Harris approved the appointment of Racing NSW as Crown land manager. There's no statutory requirement for the Minister for Gaming and Racing to concur with or approve that. So it didn't go to Minister Harris. We had some questions in relation to rents at Queanbeyan Racecourse. Crown Lands at present is monitoring Racing NSW's performance in meeting its obligation. As I detailed, management issues have recently been brought to the department's attention, and we will be undertaking that review. I think we answered fairly extensively—or the Minister did—on capital works that were being undertaken at racecourses. We have provided, through the Minister, more response to this, in response to a question on notice.

LC 3270, so I will refer the Committee to that one as well. And we continue to engage with Racing NSW on its ongoing capital works program.

There was a question, if I recall correctly, from Mr Latham, in relation to the additional sites that Racing NSW were interested in, that were not put to the Minister. They were the Albury Racing Club, the Ballina Jockey Club, Bathurst Turf Club, Clarence River Jockey Club, Manning Valley Race Club, Mudgee Race Club and Murrumbidgee Turf Club, but they did not go through as a recommendation from the department to the Minister. I think that clears the questions that we were asked.

The CHAIR: Thank you, Ms Fishburn. I'll pass to Ms Higginson.

This is not a question on notice.

Page 51 - QON 24 – Coffs Jetty Proposal

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Has there been further input from agencies about the different proposal?

LEON WALKER: Since the last round of public consultation, which I think was in late 2022, that generated the version of the master plan that remains publicly accessible on the website. We've been working to finalise the planning proposal. That involves extensive expert advice. The reports that have been produced from that have then been through circulation, as is the ordinary course with a planning proposal. That has received feedback. The responses to that are being updated. Then we'll put forward a proposal that goes on public exhibition which, of course, is subject to the approval of Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Ms Higginson, just to add to that, earlier this year Mr Walker and myself both met with the council to discuss where the process was and to provide them with some of the assurance that I'm providing you that it will go back on public exhibition. We also met with the local Aboriginal land council, who have land interests in that area.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: I was just about to ask you about that.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: It was a very productive meeting. I think it's fair to say, Leon. We really want to work collaboratively to understand what their particular interest is. Ideally, our aspiration is to enter into an MOU so that they're able to utilise their land as effectively as they wish to and get economic outcome from it.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Has there been a whole-of-Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment done now?

LEON WALKER: I will take it on notice in terms of—what was the particular—

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: It's an ACHA.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Yes, an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of that site and area.

LEON WALKER: There's a report that has been distributed, prepared on our behalf by Murawin, which goes through the consultation that has been undertaken. I will just take it on notice in respect of that specific report.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: It obviously is a planning consideration.

Ms SUE HIGGINSON: Yes, it is. I get that.

I am advised:

PDNSW has engaged Artefact Heritage to conduct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Precinct. DPHI accepted the staged submission of the ACHAR to allow the appropriate time required for community consideration. Consultation is ongoing, and the draft ACHAR has been submitted to Planning.

Page 52 - QON 25 – Football In Schools Program

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: I did ask a couple of questions this morning that I also put on notice for this afternoon. Answers may not be ready. Mr Berry, are you intending on answering those?

ADAM BERRY: Yes, I can. Can I take it that your question is in relation to the \$14.5 million football—

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Yes, I had several questions. I can go through them and remind you of them.

ADAM BERRY: Yes, I'll address that one first and then perhaps on the others.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Sure.

ADAM BERRY: That \$14.5 million Football in Schools program was an election commitment. It's a partnership between the Government and Western Sydney Wanderers and Macarthur FC, the two clubs, to provide football education and wellbeing programs. It is, however—

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Sorry, it was an election commitment just to have that program, or specifically with Macarthur?

ADAM BERRY: I believe it's to deliver the program with the two clubs, but I will take the details of the election commitment on notice.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Yes, because there was an announcement that Macarthur had a pre-election commitment of \$8 million. There was an announcement that Macarthur would receive \$8 million.

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice. The program, however, and the administration of the funding is actually managed by the Department of Education because it is a schools-based program. It's not managed by us at the Office of Sport.

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Did the Minister sign off on this, or did the education Minister sign off on it?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice. I'm not aware. The second association was Southern Districts Soccer Football Association. I understand we have two grants current with Southern Districts Soccer Football Association. One grant is for the upgrade of Ernie Smith Reserve. It was funded as a 2019 election commitment, a grant of \$4.5 million. That project is still significantly underway. The other project currently being funded through the office of the southern districts football association is Knight Park, Fairfield, a lighting upgrade—although we understand that project was substantially completed shortly before Christmas, and we're just awaiting a financial acquittal on that project. In relation to both organisations, I understand—

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: How much was that worth, the Fairfield one?

ADAM BERRY: Knight Park, Fairfield—\$350,000 total project cost. In relation to—

The Hon. TANIA MIHAILUK: Is that a council application, though? Is that council grounds?

ADAM BERRY: I don't have that in front of me. I'd have to take it on notice, I'm sorry. In relation to both grants—and there were specific questions about donations—the New South Wales Government grants guide and the Office of Sport's own grants policy both require the declaration of any conflict of interest, but they do not specifically require declarations of political donations. In terms of what funds under any of our grant programs can be spent on, there are very rigorous grant guidelines, and funds are tied very strongly towards specific outcomes listed in the guidelines and listed in specific grant applications.

I am advised:

The four-year \$14.5m Football in Schools Program was an election commitment of the NSW Government to partner with A-League clubs Western Sydney Wanderers and Macarthur Football Club to provide football, education, and wellbeing programs in local schools. Following the announcement of the program in September 2023, delivery of the program and administration of the funding was transferred to NSW Department of Education. Questions about the status of the program and program delivery should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

In relation to the project at Knight Park, Yennora, a grant of \$350,000 was provided to Southern Districts Soccer Football Association to upgrade lighting. The total project cost was \$350,000. Southern Districts Soccer Football Association were the applicant and funding recipient for this project. Fairfield City Council are the landowner of Knight Park, Yennora.

Pages 53 - QON 26 – Play Her Way Strategy

The Hon. EMMA HURST: I am particularly interested in the part of the Play Her Way strategy around creating safe sporting environments and addressing gendered and domestic violence. Can you explain a bit further some of the work the Office of Sport will be doing around this as part of that strategy?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take most of the detail on notice, I'm sorry, Ms Hurst. But what I do know is that one of the major barriers to female participation is typically facilities and so there is a lot of focus on facilities, but also in terms of providing pathways for coaching. That is why that is a significant funded portion of the strategy. In terms of the specifics of that, I'm sorry, I'd have to take that on notice.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: You might need to take this one on notice as well, but I noticed that the strategy discusses a few of the specific initiatives around grants for sporting organisations to create those safe environments. I was just wanting to get a bit more detail around what those grants will look like and how they will link back to creating that safer environment. Again, if you need to take that on notice that's fine.

ADAM BERRY: Yes, we'll have to take it on notice.

I am advised:

The Office of Sport has executed a memorandum of understanding to progress four key initiatives under the Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028.

These initiatives include:

- Sporting organisations coalition
- Build the evidence base for primary prevention in sport
- Multi-year delivery partnerships (grant program) with sporting organisations
- Aboriginal-led prevention through sport

The Grant Program will establish, scale up, strengthen, and learn from successful evidence-based primary prevention activities in sport. The Grant Program is currently being developed, and further details will be announced ahead of the Program opening in 2025/26.

Pages 53 and 54 - QON 27 – Play Her Way Strategy

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Another one of the strategies, as you mentioned, is to implement board gender equality targets for State sporting organisations. I'm just wondering what the timeline around this is and when organisations will be, potentially, required to reach gender parity on their boards.

ADAM BERRY: I'll take the detail on notice. My understanding is that we have required all the organisations to have plans that show their intent to change and then, through the course of the funding program, we will actually be holding them to account on delivering the intent. At this stage, it's clear plans and intent to implement on different time frames. I will take on notice exactly what those time frames are.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Will there be consequences if those targets aren't met? How will that be dealt with, if boards are not complying with that?

ADAM BERRY: The intent is that the ongoing funding is connected to those outcomes, as are all the outcomes that we require of the State sporting organisations through the funding program.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: So the consequence could be that either further funding could be rejected or the funding could be retracted?

ADAM BERRY: To a certain degree there could be funding consequences, but we're quite hopeful that a significant number of the State sporting organisations will be able to and will deliver the required changes. We're hopeful that's how it's going. We certainly feel like it is tracking that way.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Of course, nobody wants to have to come in with a stick, but I'm just more curious if there was an outlier that wasn't interested in being part of that. How is the strategy for achieving gender equality reflected in other grants programs operated by the Office of Sport? Do you have statistics around how much, for example, of the \$800,000 Safe Shooting Program grants scheme that recently closed will benefit female shooters?

ADAM BERRY: I don't have statistics in front of me. What I can say is that, when we are operating infrastructure grant programs, it is very common for us to require inclusivity to be designed into infrastructure projects. Inclusivity, typically, in the form of sports becomes female-friendly facilities and gender-friendly facilities as well as lighting to create a safer environment. That's typically one of the key levers that we've had, that requirement for inclusivity in infrastructure.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Is that requirement across the board for all of the grants or is it just for a selection of them?

ADAM BERRY: I will have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

In line with the National Gender Equity in Sports Governance Policy, the Office of Sport is requiring all recognised State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (SSODs) to achieve Gender Equity on their Boards by 1 July 2027.

Progress towards Gender Equity in Governance is a requirement of SSOs/SSODs to maintain funding through the Organisation Support Program (OSP).

Each funded SSO & SSOD is required to develop a Gender Equity in Governance Action Plan for 2024/25 as a milestone for funding and will report data at the end of the financial year to demonstrate progress.

Pages 54 - QON 28 – Play Her Way Strategy

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Will there be consequences if those targets aren't met? How will that be dealt with, if boards are not complying with that?

ADAM BERRY: The intent is that the ongoing funding is connected to those outcomes, as are all the outcomes that we require of the State sporting organisations through the funding program.

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The Hon. EMMA HURST: Is that requirement across the board for all of the grants or is it just for a selection of them?

ADAM BERRY: I will have to take that on notice.

I am advised:

Three out of the 25 successful projects for the 2024/25 Safe Shooting Grant Program specifically listed women and girls as either primary or secondary beneficiaries of the project.

It is a requirement for all Office of Sport grant programs to include a higher weighting to projects that particularly benefit women and girls, people with disability, First Nations peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and LGBTQIA+ people. If this requirement is not included, the approval must include a justification why this is not included.

Page 55 - QON 29 – NSW Land Valuation system

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to the costs of the New South Wales land valuation system, as you said, it is a different system compared to other States. How does that compare to the cost of valuation systems in other States?

STEWART McLACHLAN: That would be a question that would be almost impossible to answer, noting that everyone has different legislative responsibilities. What I can say is the answers that I gave this morning about how we have changed our delivery model and improved competition—we have stabilised that cost space rather than what would be otherwise the more than almost certain scenario of an escalating cost base over the forwards. For the areas we are doing internally, we've stabilised it from the costs that it would otherwise have been last year.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: For instance, if we are to look at a New South Wales versus a Victorian comparison, New South Wales ICT costs are projected to reach \$8.2 million per year, which is nearly double Victoria's at \$4½ million. What is the extra value that New South Wales ratepayers, land tax payers and the general community are receiving as a result of that additional cost?

STEWART McLACHLAN: I'm not sure what costs you are quoting in Victoria, Mr Farlow. I'm happy to take that on notice to make sure we're comparing apples with apples, because it is a very difficult question to answer. Particularly in an ICT space, I do want to make sure that we get the right response back.

I am advised:

Value NSW (VNSW) has been unable to find information on Victoria's ICT costs and therefore cannot draw comparisons. Irrespective, it is difficult to compare ICT costs across jurisdictions as each valuation system has individual legislative requirements, operating environments, organisational structures, and cost allocation methods.

VNSW's projected ICT costs are based on the number of full-time employees and include corporate ICT support (including enterprise applications and support) and miscellaneous ICT expenses (including software and non-capitalised hardware).

The projected costs also include licensing and hosting costs associated for Val IQ, VNSW's new software and technology platform. Val IQ will replace the 20-year-old Valnet system, delivering a new customer portal with improved self-service capabilities and sophisticated workflow management for valuation processes, and the maintenance of the NSW Register of Land Values.

Page 61 - QON 30 – Privacy and Data Provision in Valuations

STEWART McLACHLAN: I don't think so. We observed minor administrative things around how licences are distributed by those data resellers and whether or not it appropriately attributes the data to the Valuer General in New South Wales and those types of things, but nothing in terms of privacy protections. The Minister took a question on notice this morning about response, if any, to the findings in the Federal outcome.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Yes, the joint committee.

STEWART McLACHLAN: The important point there is it was a Federal observation; they're looking across seven States and Territories. I think the important point, from what we've found, is that in that it is two companies, from my understanding, that are operating illegally. They are scraping data from multiple sources. It is not the provision of property sales data in its sole form. It is scraping court lists and scraping other information on publicly available websites in an illegal way—that is how I understand it—as opposed to, "There is an issue with the data provision that we are providing in New South Wales under strict licence conditions."

This is not a question on notice.

Page 62 - QON 31 – VNSW – Complaints Portal

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Last time we spoke about ensuring that what was clear on the Valuations NSW website was where people could make a complaint if they had concerns that personal information had been misused in breach of the licence agreement or other privacy breach. I wasn't able to find any information about that on the website other than a very general complaints page. Is there anything on the website that I've missed? Can you point me to any part of the website which specifically addresses that, or is it more that people would have to use that very general complaints page?

STEWART McLACHLAN: I'll need to take that on notice. What I can say is that in the past year we have transformed that website and reduced the pages significantly. We removed 800 documents, some dating from over 40 years ago, which were probably not well visited, if at all. We have tried to streamline it in terms of best practice, working with the Department of Customer Service on their whole-of-government approach to OneGov, I think it is. Whether or not that was in line with that in terms of having a single complaints portal as opposed to a specific privacy one, I'll need to take on notice whether it's one or the other or both.

The Hon. EMMA HURST: Fantastic. If you could also take on notice if that's the avenue or if there was some sort of other avenue and now it has gone down into that, that would be fantastic.

STEWART McLACHLAN: Sure, I would be happy to.

I am advised:

There is not a specific complaints page on privacy on the Valuer General's website.

However, the "Contact us" page of the website offers clear guidance on how to contact Value NSW (VNSW) directly to submit feedback or general enquiries, or to make a complaint. It also provides detailed information on data and privacy policies, information access protocols and the complaint handling process.

Complaints are managed by VNSW's dedicated customer service team and escalated to the appropriate subject matter experts where appropriate.

In addition, the website includes information on how to contact:

- the Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure's Privacy and Information Access Unit for more information about privacy and information access, and
- the Department of Customer Service, who host the Valuer General's website, for privacy concerns related to the nsw.gov.au web portal.

Page 64 - QON 32 – Active Small Business in NSW

The Hon. WES FANG: I'd be curious to know if you've got the data around the number of small businesses that opened or started in the previous financial year, that are still going in this financial year or currently. You said that, in the last set of recorded figures, there was a 3,000 number increase, but I think you said 84,000 started. Was that about right?

CASSANDRA GIBBENS: Eighty-nine thousand started.

The Hon. WES FANG: So 86,000 businesses started the previous 12 months before that. How many of those 86,000 are still operating? Do you have that data?

CASSANDRA GIBBENS: I don't have that data. I can take that on notice. But we know that last year just over 4,000 went insolvent.

I am advised:

ASIC data does not allow this level of interrogation.

Page 64 - QON 33 – Assistance for Startup Businesses

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you have a figure as to any assistance that's available to a startup business? You might be looking to start a new business. It might be a hospitality business, a cafe, a fish and chip shop or something in an area. Is there any financial assistance available from the New South Wales Government to that business?

CASSANDRA GIBBENS: There are a number of different grants available for different industries. There is also the SafeWork rebate available to all businesses.

The Hon. WES FANG: Was that the \$1,000 for safety?

CASSANDRA GIBBENS: A thousand dollars for safe work improvements. If you've got a specific startup question, I can take that on notice for you, to get a list.

The Hon. WES FANG: I guess I'm just curious as to, if we have got increasing insolvencies in small businesses as we are moving forward—and certainly the numbers would appear that that's the case—whether it's more likely that a business that's been operating for a number of years, that is in financial difficulty now is more likely to continue operating if it was provided assistance in the intermediate period right now so that it can get through the bounce, shall we say, and move forward, as opposed to providing those grants to a new business that then is folding in 12 months, because it would seem from the questions that I've asked that there is no real financial assistance that's available to struggling hospitality businesses and tourism businesses at the moment. We are seeing record insolvencies in that sector, yet there is no assistance, and we are providing assistance to new businesses, which may or may not be still in existence in 12 months. Would that seem a reasonable proposition?

I am advised:

The Service NSW Business Bureau provides free navigational and advisory support services to NSW small businesses across NSW in all sectors, including construction and hospitality, helping them address current economic challenges including high operating costs, ensuring they are aware of growth opportunities (e.g. tendering to government, export programs), referred to relevant supports on staffing and training and provided with tailored advice on financial and business planning, marketing, communications and digital literacy capability uplift.

Business can see what grants and funding they are available for through the NSW Business Grants and Funding Finder. More information can be found here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>

The NSW Government also has provided the following targeted financial support:

- SafeWork small business rebate (\$1000) for small business owners and sole traders to purchase safety-related items
- Active and Creative Kids voucher program which provides two \$50 vouchers for eligible families with school-aged children for sport, recreational, creative, or cultural activities, redeemed through small business providers. Businesses can use the Bureau's Mobile App to redeem vouchers.
- Toll Relief program providing 40% cash back for eligible sole traders with a personal, business, or mixed toll account who spend more than \$402 a year for tolls accrued from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Eligible sole traders can claim up to \$1,605, claims need to be submitted prior to 30 June 2025.

- Business Connect Advice program providing business owners with 8 hours of free tailored advice from an independent business advisor on a range of specialised topics such as marketing, bookkeeping, online growth, and procurement tendering
- Disaster support for Maitland, Port Stephens, and Snowy Valleys Local Government Areas affected by severe weather and storms from 15 January 2025. NSW residents experiencing a power outage longer than 12 hours in the storm eligible for up to \$250 from Ausgrid to cover food spoilage, electrical appliance damage, damage to property
- Business recovery support for Far West NSW, \$200 for individuals, \$400 for small and medium businesses directly impacted by the electrical power outages
- Disaster support for individuals and families impacted by Cyclone Alfred, with \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for families.

Page 65 - QON 34 – Crown Reserves Improvement Fund

The Hon. WES FANG: Thank you. I'm going to move now back to Crown Lands. So, Ms Fishburn, I imagine that I'll put the questions to you, and you might be able to direct them as appropriate. Have any details of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund strategic emergency grants been finalised yet?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: No. We are in the process of assessing the CRIF grants. The emergency grants are, obviously, for emergency circumstances, but the major CRIF grants are under assessment.

The Hon. WES FANG: Have you got any details around how the application processes and criteria are being looked at?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: In terms of how are they being received by people?

The Hon. WES FANG: Yes. How are they being considered?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: The department is undertaking an assessment, and we will make recommendations to the Minister in due course.

The Hon. WES FANG: Can you provide some examples as to the type of project or expenditure that would be considered for a strategic emergency in the Crown reserve space?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll have to take that on notice, and I'll come back with some examples.

I am advised:

Regarding the question on whether any details of the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund strategic emergency grants had been finalised yet:

- Please refer to response provided by Ms Fishburn on page 65 of the transcript.

Regarding the question on whether any details of whether any details around how the application processes and criteria are being considered:

- Please refer to response provided by Ms Fishburn on page 65 of the transcript.

Regarding the question on whether some examples could be provided as to the type of project or expenditure that would be considered for a strategic emergency in the Crown reserve space:

- Please refer to response provided in response to Supplementary Question 115.

Pages 65 and 66 - QON 35 – Crown road enclosure permit fees

The Hon. WES FANG: Crown road enclosure permit fees—I'm foreshadowing the topic so we can turn to the right page. Since the progressive removal of the concessions for Crown road enclosure permit fees—that's a mouthful—beginning on 1 July 2024, has been an increase in the number of landholders who have relinquished or decided not to renew their permits?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'm sorry. I'll have to take that on notice for you.

The Hon. WES FANG: That's fair. I couldn't even read the question out myself. If there are, can you quantify this in the number of landholders, number of enclosures or in revenue terms? I imagine that it'll be taken on notice.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: We will definitely have to take that on notice, yes.

The Hon. WES FANG: Has there been an increase in the number of landholders converting enclosure permits to freehold titles since the removal of concessions began? I imagine that would also be—

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Correct.

I am advised:

Please refer to Q. 119 in Supplementary Questions.

Page 66 - QON 36 – Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW staff

The Hon. WES FANG: Ms Hickey, welcome to the table. As at budget estimates on 28 August 2024, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW staff consisted of 14 FTEs, plus three temps and at a full capacity would reach 23 FTE. What is the current staffing?

JENNIFER HICKEY: Nineteen.

The Hon. WES FANG: Are you able to indicate where the staff are located?

JENNIFER HICKEY: Do you mean if they are in regions or not?

The Hon. WES FANG: Just in general.

JENNIFER HICKEY: Generally Parramatta, and three in the regions.

The Hon. WES FANG: Do you have those regional locations? You better say Wagga. You really better say Wagga.

JENNIFER HICKEY: I can't say Wagga, sorry. Dubbo, Orange and Forster.

The Hon. WES FANG: The question is not here, but I'm going to say shouldn't you consider Wagga—no. From 1 July 2024 the interment services levy was extended to cemetery operators outside the metropolitan areas, and it was anticipated this would increase Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW revenue by \$5.05 million and \$5.15 million in its first and second years, respectively. What additional compliance and education and training activities have occurred outside of metropolitan areas since 1 July 2024, and where?

JENNIFER HICKEY: I might have to take some of that on notice. But I can tell you that in terms of the engagement with operators generally, we've issued 52 newsletters with information in there to operators.

The Hon. WES FANG: One a week?

JENNIFER HICKEY: Pretty much, yes. This is in the last year—since March last year. We've had seven locations for our roadshow; six of them were in the regions. I'm just trying to remember: Maitland, Orange, Dubbo, Wagga, Armidale and Coffs Harbour, I think.

The Hon. WES FANG: I stopped listening after Wagga.

JENNIFER HICKEY: Okay, there you go. And Sydney. We've had 36 webinars for operators and invited funeral directors to that as well. We've undertaken 17 clinics with operators who've wanted to deep dive into some of the trickier conditions that they didn't understand—a lot of them local councils. And we've undertaken 11 document reviews in terms of things that they wanted us to check for them before the compliance work started.

I am advised:

Regional roadshows were delivered in April/May 2024, and are being planned for later in 2025. In the April/May 2024 period we held sessions in Wagga, Nowra, Maitland, Dubbo, Coffs Harbour, Armidale as well as Sydney.

Since 1 July 2024, the majority of our education activities have been provided online. The vast majority of participants have been regional cemetery operators, particularly regional Councils.

Three regional compliance visits have occurred since 1 July 2024, all in the Bathurst region as well as one operator clinic in the Wollondilly area.

Of the education activities mentioned during the budget estimates session, those delivered since 1 July 2024 were:

- 17 operator newsletters
- 28 operator webinars

- 10 clinics with operators to explain new regulatory requirements
- 13 document reviews to support operator compliance, in particular with the new requirement for a consumer contract.

Page 67 - QON 37 – Independent Review into statutory framework for small-scale titles

The Hon. WES FANG: Ms Fishburn, do you have any information on the independent review into statutory framework for small-scale titles?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: For the towers?

The Hon. WES FANG: For the small-scale titles around Lightning Ridge in relation to opal mining and the like.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: You'll have to excuse me. I don't generally take the Crown lands questions.

The Hon. WES FANG: I don't normally ask the Crown lands questions.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Can I have your questions, and I'll just quickly get one of my staff to find the right page for me.

The Hon. WES FANG: I understand there was an independent review into the statutory framework for small-scale titles in New South Wales, which was reported on in June 2024.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: We might have to take this on notice. We're just having a look for you.

The Hon. WES FANG: I appreciate that. Maybe someone can get an answer by the end of the day. In relation to recommendation 11.4 of that review, what additional work has been undertaken by the Lightning Ridge area opal reserve manager to improve safety within the preserved fields at Lightning Ridge?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Even if I did have a paper on that, I would be taking that one on notice. It's quite a specific question.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: My wife is from Lightning Ridge—I can help—the real regional areas.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: It doesn't mean that we'll dismiss you earlier.

The Hon. WES FANG: It's the first time today. That would be great. I appreciate it.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Joe is always happy to help.

The Hon. WES FANG: He's always to help. Will this result in any increase in the environmental levy paid by mineral claims holders?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I don't have a note on that, so I'm going to have to take these questions on notice. I'm sorry.

The Hon. WES FANG: In relation to recommendation 15.4 of that report, what additional income streams has or is the Lightning Ridge area opal reserve manager implementing to reduce reliance on landholder compensation payments?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll take that one on notice. We will try to get something in the break for you. I literally don't have a single thing on this.

The Hon. WES FANG: Understood. I just put the question anyway.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: That's fine. We're always happy to take your question.

I am advised:

The Independent Review into the Statutory Framework for Small Scale Titles in NSW and subsequent report is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources.

Page 68 - QON 38 – Crown Roads issues

The CHAIR: Welcome back to this afternoon's session. I believe, Ms Fishburn, before we go back into questions, you have some things that have been taken on notice.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Yes, thank you, Chair. It's actually one of the questions that you asked us in relation to which other sites Crown Lands has been working through with the recreational fishers association as alternatives to Coopers Island. The department has identified two potential areas: sites fronting Coila Lake, at Coila, and another location fronting Tuross Lake, at Turlinjah. This information has been provided to the president of the Recreational Fishing Alliance NSW. As I said, we are working through.

The CHAIR: I think it is my turn for questions. I might stay with you, Ms Fishburn. This is a Crown Lands road issue as well. Feel free to take it on notice. For a bit of background, there is a road down in Tumut called Cockatoo Road and there is some dispute over who is responsible for maintenance of this road. My understanding is that HumeLink are increasing their use of this road as part of their work, and then there is the question of who is responsible for this road. My first question is does Crown Lands currently maintain any section of this Cockatoo Road in Tumut or have they ever been responsible for Cockatoo Road?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll have to take that one on notice.

The CHAIR: My understanding is one of the landholders has been paying nominal fees to Crown Lands for access. I'm just wondering whether that means that you are actually responsible for road maintenance. It's strange that one out of eight residents would pay a fee but the other seven wouldn't. Could we maybe get some confirmation as to why that resident is paying a fee for the road?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: That's quite a detailed question, so I'll have to take it on notice. I think you understand that, as a general principle, the responsibility of the department or Crown Lands as the road authority is about the administration of legal access to the road, and we are not a road maintenance authority. I'll put that out as a general statement and then I'll take the particulars of Cockatoo Road on notice.

I am advised:

The formed section of Cockatoo Road at Killimicat near Tumut is the responsibility of Snowy Valleys Council as a managed Council public road.

Any fees for access to the formed section of Cockatoo Road are a matter for Snowy Valleys Council and are not the responsibility of Crown Lands.

The unformed extension of Cockatoo Road is a Crown road held under an enclosure permit by the adjoining landholder. This landholder pays an annual fee to retain the enclosure permit.

The enclosure permit entitles the landholder to have that part of the road enclosed with their property.

Page 69 - QON 39 – Sydney Fish Markets

The CHAIR: I think that probably will do us for the moment on that issue, until we get some more information back. Mr Gellibrand, I might ask you some questions on the Fish Market. Are we any closer to a completion date? I know the roof is on. That's always a good sign when you are building something, when the roof goes on.

TOM GELLIBRAND: We are happy to say that progress is going well on the Fish Market and we will have the building complete this year.

The CHAIR: Anything narrower than that?

TOM GELLIBRAND: In terms of a specific date, not at this stage.

The CHAIR: Latter half of the year?

TOM GELLIBRAND: Definitely second half of the year. We are working closely with Place Management NSW, who will be the building owner, as well as Sydney Fish Market. They will obviously have to be involved in testing, commissioning and familiarisation with the new building as well.

The CHAIR: Have all the disputes around release of documents been resolved?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I think the NCAT proceedings might still be on foot for a couple of things. But there were 40-odd boxes of documents released. There is only a relatively small number of those that were in dispute, and they related to commercial matters, I believe.

The CHAIR: I know I put questions to you at last estimates around numbers of variations and total costs of those variations and you came back citing the NCAT proceedings. I'm just wondering whether, perhaps on notice, you can come back and see whether you can answer any of those questions with any more clarity.

TOM GELLIBRAND: I'm aware that there are 154 documents that are before NCAT in terms of assessing whether or not they can be released. The reason they are being considered by NCAT is because the claim is that they are commercial in confidence and legal professional privilege has been put over the documents, as well as that some of them include personal information.

The CHAIR: Can you take on notice those specific questions I asked about total number of variations across the life of the project and what that total cost of variations is?

TOM GELLIBRAND: I should be able to take that question on notice, but I should try and get clarity. Is it variations that the Sydney Fish Market has sought?

The CHAIR: I want a broad total of how many. I imagine there would be variations on behalf of the developer as well as Sydney Fish Market. If you are able to delineate between what the developer has asked to be varied and what the Fish Market has, I'm happy. But, if you can't, I'm just happy with a total figure if possible.

TOM GELLIBRAND: I'll definitely take that on notice.

I am advised:

As these matters remain part of the NCAT proceedings, Infrastructure NSW is unable to release this information at this time

Pages 69 and 70 - QON 40– Local Sports Defibrillator Grant Program

The CHAIR: The Minister announced at the end of January the new reiteration of the defibrillator grant scheme. Are we still going to do that by postcode arrangement? I know there was some criticism of certain postcodes missing out versus others.

ADAM BERRY: Thank you for the question. I understand that there is still a postcode requirement. However, there has been a change made to the program eligibility and there is also the ability for applicants to demonstrate financial hardship in other ways, regardless of postcode location.

The CHAIR: Are we taking a look at what postcodes were eligible last iteration and trying to mix it up and look at postcodes that still might fit under that bracket of having low socio-economic performance, for want of a better term, and then maybe targeting them? I'll give you the example of my local area. Towradgi, down on the South Coast, was eligible, but one street over you were classed as Corrimal and you weren't. Both would have very similar socio-economic indicators.

TOM GELLIBRAND: I'll have to confirm—the question being, have the postcodes changed this year from last year?

The CHAIR: Are we still targeting low socio-economic areas, but are we now looking at, "Okay, we hit these postcodes, but now see whether we can hit these ones over here."

TOM GELLIBRAND: I'll take it on notice whether they have changed. To go to your example, the postcode outside would be able to demonstrate potential financial hardship and therefore eligibility another way.

I am advised:

The eligible postcodes have not changed since the 2023/24 Local Sport Defibrillator Program, however an additional eligibility criteria was included following feedback from the community. In 2024/25 applicants were eligible if their primary clubhouse/facilities or sporting/recreational activities or the majority of participants are located in an eligible postcode.

An additional eligibility criteria was included where applicants could demonstrate they are experiencing financial hardship to be eligible for funding.

The eligible postcodes for the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program 2023/24 and 2024/25 were based on the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The eligible postcodes are the lowest five deciles of the SEIFA indexes derived from the 2021 Census.

Page 70 - QON 41 – Aboriginal Land Agreements

The CHAIR: Sorry, Ms Fishburn, I have to go back to another Crown Lands question. It's to do with a parcel of land being returned to the Aboriginal community at Port Stephens around Tilligerry Creek. Have you got any notes?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'm just having a look for you. I don't believe I do.

The CHAIR: I might put some of the questions to you and you can take them on notice and come back to me.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Yes, sorry, it's not in my list.

The CHAIR: That's fine. This is a transfer of a 10.69-hectare plot which has potential to impact existing public access to that creek. I've had representations from people that would use this area for recreational activities—fishing, boating, kayaking et cetera—and they are concerned about whether this land transfer will restrict their access or alter their current access points to that waterway. Are you able to come back and give any advice as to whether it would?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll take that on notice. I don't think I'd be able to get you that information today. I would need to look into that and come back.

The CHAIR: What will be the impact on existing facilities such as boat ramps, pontoons, walking trails—all this is public infrastructure? Will the transfer of land have any effect on that public infrastructure in terms of maintenance upgrades or accessibility?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: I'll have to look at the nature of the land claim, what is under claim and how that potentially would impact, and also whether an ALA is being negotiated in relation to that as well because that could materially change the answer, so I have to come back to you.

The CHAIR: If the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council chose to develop that land, how would that then impact that usability and maintenance of the existing public assets in the vicinity? That might be tied up in that ALA.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: That might be tied up. It also may be a little bit of a hypothetical. I'd have to look at what the underlying land zoning is as well.

The CHAIR: Finally, whether there was any consultation undertaken with the local community outside of the local Aboriginal community, the broader community that use these facilities for recreation—whether they were consulted on this land transfer at all.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Land claims aren't really a matter of consultation. They're a matter of what was the underlying use at the time.

The CHAIR: Consultation is probably the wrong word. Were they notified that this land claim was on foot and that there may be future impacts of that?

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Sure. Obviously we need to engage with local government at the first instance in relation to these matters and I can assure you that definitely would have been done. Anything beyond that I'll need to get some information for you.

I am advised:

The area granted does not adjoin the waterway and does not limit access to the water. Access to the water can still be obtained via Oyster Farm Road and via Daniel Crescent.

There is no impact to the management and access to existing facilities in the area, such as boat ramps and pontoons, as the section of land that was granted does not contain any public infrastructure. The claimable part of Lot 7 DP 1138957 (now identified as Lot 85 DP 1314185) was reserved for future public requirements. Any walking trails through the granted land were not authorised. No evidence was provided by key stakeholders, including Port Stephens Council, to demonstrate the need for an essential public purpose.

Should Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) decide to develop the land, they are required, as any landowner, to comply with all local and state development and planning approval processes.

Consultation with stakeholders was completed. This included Port Stephens Council which represents the Port Stephens community.

Page 71 - QON 42 – Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Or locked open. Turning back to the Local Sport Defibrillator Program, it was stated, I believe, in the media release that there were nearly 200 successful applicants. How many were there exactly?

ADAM BERRY: I'd have to take that on notice, Mr Farlow. I don't have the numbers in front of me.

I am advised:

There were 193 successful applications in the 2024/25 Local Sport Defibrillator Program.

Page 71 - QON 43 – Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If you could, that would be good. You mentioned before, in terms of those applicants who could apply if they were able to demonstrate financial hardship if they were outside of one of the eligible postcodes—could you indicate how many of the 200 or thereabouts met that criteria?

ADAM BERRY: I will take that one on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How is this financial hardship measured or assessed?

ADAM BERRY: I would also like to take that on notice.

I am advised:

Three of the 193 successful applications were deemed eligible on the basis of demonstrating financial hardship.

Financial hardship applications were required to provide clear evidence that they are unable to meet core club expenses or other existing financial obligations as they fall due. This could be evidenced by providing a statement by an independent qualified accountant, statutory declaration, profit and loss from an annual report, or any other evidence deemed appropriate.

Page 71 - QON 44 – Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How many applications also were received in the last round of the defibrillator program?

ADAM BERRY: I don't have the details of that individual grant program in front of me.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: On notice? I might put the rest on notice there as well. While we're in sport, we'll continue in sport just to continue on the theme. The Dunc Gray Velodrome—how many indoor velodromes are there in New South Wales?

I am advised:

There were 283 applications received in the Local Sport Defibrillator Program 2024/25.

Page 72 - QON 45 – Learn To Swim Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Yesterday there was the new learn-to-swim program and I believe in the media release it was stated that people born overseas and those living in the most disadvantaged areas of New South Wales are at the highest risk of drowning. How is it then that disadvantaged areas like Moree and an area like Bayside Council, which has 48.1 per cent of people born overseas in the 2021 census and is coastal, didn't qualify for the program?

ADAM BERRY: I don't know that it's a case they didn't qualify. We sought expressions of interest from learn-to-swim providers to provide it across the State. It was very much a market-led process. The best, most successful proponents or the best proposals were awarded funds—obviously finite funds. But all of the best proponents that could provide the best value and the most at-risk communities were successful.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: How many proposals were received?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take that on notice. It was very well responded to by the market.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What was the criteria for assessing those proposals?

ADAM BERRY: I would have to take the full criteria on notice. It was quite detailed.

I am advised:

25 tenders were received. The assessment criteria was in two parts: Non-price, which had a weighting of 65%, and price, which had a weighting of 35%.

Non-price was broken down into Capacity and Capability, Approach and Methodology, and Contract Management.

Capacity and Capability had a weighting of 35%, and included Child Protection and Working with Children, as well as general ability to deliver. Approach and Methodology had a weighting of 35% and included program delivery and timeframes. Contract Management had a weighting of 30% and included KPIs, reporting, issues management, and invoicing and payment processes.

Page 73 - QON 46 – Breaches of the motor vehicle racing grounds licence

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That's fine. I won't pursue the question. Have there been any warnings issued by the Office of Sport with respect to any breaches of the motor vehicle racing grounds licence by Sydney International Speedway over the past 12 months?

ADAM BERRY: I'm not aware that we have, but I'll confirm that for the Committee.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If you can take that on notice, that would be appreciated. So you're stating that the motor vehicle racing ground licence at present you believe to still be in operation but be up for renewal, but it hasn't been renewed. Is that correct?

ADAM BERRY: It hasn't been renewed at this stage. If there was information provided to the Office of Sport as part of our consideration into the renewals, we would be happy to take that information.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Has an application been received to renew that licence as of yet?

ADAM BERRY: I can't answer the details about whether or not the application has been lodged at this point in time, sorry.

I am advised:

Sydney International Speedway was not issued any warnings in the 2024/2025 licence period.

An application has been received, and the licence has been issued on Thursday 13 March 2025, with additional conditions placed on the licence.

Pages 73 and 74 - QON 47 – Local Sport Grant Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to the Local Sport Grant Program, have there been any changes to the funding for sporting organisations in the 2024-25 Local Sport Grant Program?

ADAM BERRY: The program is actually being reviewed at the moment. We haven't actually reviewed that Local Sport Grant Program in a number of years. We are about to undertake a review of the criteria just as part of the due process and due governance, and our expectation is that later on in the year we will go out with the latest round with the same funding amount that has been available in previous years.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Typically, that funding round would be open around about now. From that answer, are you suggesting that the funding might be in the next financial year?

ADAM BERRY: It's our intention to complete the review and call for the next round before the end of the financial year, but the point of the review is to see if we can improve the program at all, and so from a due diligence perspective we need to make sure we can complete the review before we issue it. But the intent is to have that done by the end of the financial year.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to that, you've outlined that your view is that that will be a consistent funding amount and that it will stay at \$50,000 in each electorate?

ADAM BERRY: The exact number at each electorate I would have to take on notice. I understand there's not a current intent to change it.

I am advised:

In recent years, the Local Sport Grant Program has had a total budget of \$4.65m, with up to \$50,000 of funding available to projects in each NSW electorate. The design of the next round of the program will be informed by the outcomes of the evaluation currently being undertaken.

Page 75 - QON 48 – Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation - Synthetic athletics track

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Manly Warringah Little Athletics wrote to the CEO of the Office of Sport on 12 June 2024—or your predecessor, who's now acting up, I suggest, at Destination NSW—requesting an onsite meeting be facilitated with iCare and posing alternatives. Has any onsite meeting taken place, either with the former CEO or yourself?

ADAM BERRY: There has been a number of onsite meetings with the athletics stakeholders, attended by both Karen and I, actually. The most recent of those was around a week before Christmas. At that time we conducted a workshop where we engaged with the athletics users and our sports consultant on their wants and aspirations for the reinstated track. There were a number of technical considerations into the athletics facility: the timing system, the drainage, shade structure and that type of thing. That was the most recent of—I'd have to take on notice the number, but at least three stakeholder forums that we had to provide updates on the progress of the situation. Obviously it's very disruptive to the athletics community. We also provide them with email updates every three to four weeks or as some new information comes to light in the process.

I am advised:

Five onsite forums have been held to date with stakeholders, including local members.

These meetings included discussions around alternatives and have been followed up. These include opportunities with Northern Beaches Council, The Sydney International Japanese School, and the Department of Education.

Appropriate advice and updates from iCare were passed on to stakeholders at relevant briefing meetings.

In addition, eight formal updates to stakeholder groups and local members have been provided via email (as at 31 January 2025).

Numerous informal emails and question responses have also been sent and replied to.

The Office of Sport website is updated regularly with both operational and progress messaging.

Page 76 - QON 49 – Faith Affairs Council Meetings

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr La Posta, we spoke previously about social cohesion in New South Wales and the work that your department is doing and the Minister is doing. How many times has the Faith Affairs Council met since the start of 2025?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: That's interesting. They've had one formal meeting on 6 February at Parliament House that the Minister attended. They've had a number of engagements with briefings on changes to—or the Government considering some changes to legislation where they've had involvement.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Were all members present for that meeting on 6 February?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I can take the specifics on notice. If you give me until the end of today, I will have an answer for you, because I looked at the attendance list yesterday.

I am advised:

Since the start of 2025, the NSW Faith Affairs Council has met once on Thursday 6 February 2025.

All NSW Faith Affairs Council members were present at the 6 February 2025 meeting, except for one member who was represented by a nominated proxy.

Pages 77 and 78 - QON 50 – Faith Affairs Council consultation on hate speech bills

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Before you alluded to the Faith Affairs Council being briefed about the Government's legislative suite that they brought in following instances of antisemitism and racial hatred. When was the Faith Affairs Council consulted on those bills?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'd need to take the specifics of that on notice, but I know that they have been consulted around the essence of the three new pieces of legislation.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Were they consulted on all the bills?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: One was the proximity of protests to places of worship, the second was the introduction of 93ZA—I'd need to take the specifics on notice—and I'm not aware if they were briefed on the sentencing requirements, or whether that was a part of it. I'm happy to take that on notice and give you a thorough and comprehensive answer.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Was that briefing conducted by the Attorney General?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It was conducted by colleagues in the Department of Communities and Justice. Whether there were staff from the AGO on that forum, I don't know.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: But not the Attorney General himself?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It was at the direction of the Attorney General, in consultation with the experts from the Department of Communities and Justice that were providing the recommendations and advice to Cabinet and to Government.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: When did those consultations occur?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I would need to come back to you on that—the same as your earlier question.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: When you come back to me, can you also provide how long members of the Faith Affairs Council were given to provide their commentary on the bill subsequent to being briefed on the matter?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Certainly.

I am advised:

A 2025 statement of activities by the NSW Faith Affairs Council will be published in the 2025 Community Relations Report, to be tabled in Parliament in the first half of 2026.

The Attorney General is responsible for matters relating to that legislation.

Page 78 - QON 51 – Multicultural NSW and Faith Affairs Council consultation on hate speech bills

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr La Posta, were you, Multicultural NSW or the Faith Affairs Council consulted by the Premier before he alluded publicly via media that he was seeking to make an amendment to 93Z?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'll need to take that on notice.

I am unable to answer this question without the specifics of the media appearance referred to in the question.

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Page 81 - QON 52 – Multicultural NSW Google Reviews

The CHAIR: What a great point of order to rule on at quarter to five in the afternoon. I appreciate what you are saying, Mr Donnelly. I don't know how Mr Farlow or anyone, for that matter, would be able to verify whether it was done by human, AI or just someone randomly wanting to stir up trouble. But I do suspect that Mr La Posta would be able to handle this question with the grace and poise that he handles all questions put to him.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: Or take it on notice.

The CHAIR: Or take it on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr La Posta, without going through each and every one of the reviews, the tenor is not good on there. I'm looking at them at the moment. Mr Donnelly may be able to assist me in verifying that each of these people are real people. But let's take it that they are. You can probably verify through maybe who you provided services to on Google reviews, but are some of these comments and these criticisms from users of your service of concern to you?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Of course. Feedback is a gift. So I'm not going to walk away from—if there is people that are disgruntled or dissatisfied with the level of service or the price of service, I'm happy to look at it. Three hundred dollars feels high, to be honest. Also, a lot of the translations, if they are talking about those specifics—and I don't know the exact date, because you haven't tabled the document that we're referring to, so we're almost having a hypothetical conversation—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: To be fair, I am happy to email you. But you can look at it on Google.

This is not a question on notice.

Page 81 - QON 53 – Multicultural NSW Services

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: If I can just put the question. They often have specific comments about the service, largely regarding translation services. Don't you think that is of concern?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: We don't have a shopfront for translation services. All of our translation services are done through Service NSW, but I'm happy to take the question on notice and come back to you with a more substantial answer.

The Hon. WES FANG: Does Service NSW put a margin on top of the fee that you charge?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: In terms of the exact business modelling on that, Mr Fang, I'm happy to look at that as well.

The Hon. WES FANG: Is that potentially something that's occurring?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: It's largely a cost recovery model. You're not looking to profit off someone trying to get a birth certificate, a wedding certificate, a death certificate or any of those things. It's largely a cost recovery model. Depending on the complexities of the language and also the length of the document, we'll guide the costs associated with it. It might be very straightforward for some certificates because they're easily transferable and those sorts of things. It might be more complicated for other documents because of the length of the document. But I'm happy to take the premise of the question on notice.

I am advised:

Multicultural NSW advises that:

- Service NSW do not charge a margin on top of the service costs.
- the pricing from Service NSW is largely based on cost recovery only and is already included in Multicultural NSW's pricing.

Page 82 - QON 54 – Responses from Multicultural NSW

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Can I just provide two quick updates? No margins on the service. The second thing: The service rating we use, which isn't necessarily one-star reviews on Google, albeit I've taken it on notice, is that 97 per cent customer satisfaction rating through Service NSW when we ask for feedback on the service through the formal channels.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you, Mr La Posta.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Also, \$80 for a licence and \$105 for an urgent licence. So I'm not sure where the \$300 comes from, and that probably echoes Mr Donnelly's point before around giving too much credibility to ad hoc posts online.

This is not a question on notice.

Page 82 - QON 55 – Multilingual NSW Academy

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr La Posta, on 10 October 2024 the Minister announced \$7½ million for the new Multilingual NSW Academy. How many people are enrolled in the academy?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Bear with me. Sorry, Mr Farlow.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That's all right.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I'm happy to take the specifics on notice, but I know I did ask for that to be a part of the briefing.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That's fine. You can take that on notice. While you're taking that on notice and any other specifics, are you able to take on notice as well the languages that are available for the academy?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Sure.

I am advised:

The Multilingual NSW Academy is available to all Multicultural NSW interpreters and translators, of which there are over 1,000. These interpreters and translators enable Multicultural NSW to provide language services in more than 100 languages.

The Academy provides these interpreters and translators with access to training designed by leading education institutions and experts. As of 12 March 2025, there were 1,719 individual enrolments in different training through the Multilingual NSW Academy.

**Page 83 - QON 56 – Provision of Multicultural NSW services to Service NSW
Business Bureau**

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you. I'll put these questions on notice, but you may be able to assist me as to whether they're best to put on notice to you or to Small Business. With respect to Service NSW's Business Bureau's free in-language support, is that something that is being supplied by Multicultural NSW?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Can I take that on notice? I would be surprised if it's not.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I'll put the questions on notice to the Minister, and they can be directed by whoever.

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Easy. Sure.

I am advised:

Questions relating to Service NSW's free in-language support service should be directed to the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government.

Page 83 - QON 57 – COMPACT Program

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Thank you. In an answer to questions on notice last year, the Committee was advised that \$800,000 has been committed to the renewal of this program. Is Multicultural NSW looking to seek an increase on the commitment in the next budget?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: I can take the specifics of that on notice, as to whether it's part of our programmatic budget bid.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Has an evaluation been completed on the quantitative metrics of things like social media reach and the qualitative metrics for the development of critical thinking skills?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: There are evaluations that are happening concurrently around the COMPACT Program and also this campaign, but I'll need to take the specifics of that on notice.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Who conducted that evaluation?

JOSEPH LA POSTA: Again, I'll take that on notice.

I am advised:

The 2025 NSW Budget will be announced by the NSW Government in due course.

Multicultural NSW commissioned Urbis Pty Ltd to evaluate the second four-year (2021–2024) iteration of the COMPACT Program. The final report was delivered in October 2024 and is published on the Multicultural NSW website.

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Page 84 - QON 58 – Land Audit – 301 Samantha Riley Drive

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Mr Walker, I mentioned to the Minister 301 Samantha Riley Drive in Kellyville and any development constraints that exist on that site. Do you have any further information with respect to that?

LEON WALKER: Yes, let me find it again. I think you asked about this last time we met.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Maybe. I'm sure there were different questions I asked about that site, but yes.

LEON WALKER: I'm sure there were, but it was about the site. Only a portion of the site is developable and it requires subdivision. It is one title at the moment, I understand, so it needs to be subdivided from the bulk of the site.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Have you done any assessments in terms of the flood maps that are overlaid across that area?

LEON WALKER: I will take it on notice. I do recall from the last time that only a portion of the site is subject to inundation. My recollection is that it does remain a developable portion of land.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Could you outline for us what you think that developable portion of the land is with respect to the flooding issues that surround the site and if any of that site has been identified previously as trunk drainage land by Sydney Water?

LEON WALKER: I can do that.

I am advised:

The Kellyville Station Structure Plan prepared by the Department of Planning notes areas of high and low flood risk within the site, and a site-specific Development Control Plan contains stormwater management provisions to ensure that future development does not increase flooding.

Further investigations into the impact of flooding, including an updated flood assessment, will be required prior to redevelopment, and will be factored into site development concept plans accordingly.

Page 85 - QON 59 – Dubbo Workplace Hub

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to some of the precincts and revitalisations that are being undertaken by Property and Development NSW and the Dubbo Workplace Hub development, the original plan was for construction to start in mid-2023 and be completed by late 2024. I believe that completion date has now been revised to 2026. Is that correct?

LEON WALKER: Let me just confirm. That sounds right. I am pleased to say that we are hoping, as soon as this month, to have the development approval granted by the council. They have already approved the refurbishment and some improvements to the heritage building that adjoins the main building. Yes, we are very hopeful that within the next two to three weeks we should be able to confirm that we're starting on that project.

I am advised:

The head contractor tender has closed. PDNSW are currently completing the tender evaluation process and expect to award the contract in early April 2025.

Page 85 - QON 60 – Land Audit – Brisbane Street and Carrington Avenue

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Does that development approval include both the development application for Brisbane Street and also Carrington Avenue?

LEON WALKER: Yes, we have Brisbane Street and we are hoping for Carrington Avenue shortly.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: But you are expecting both? The Carrington one is to be approved this month and you have already got the approval on Brisbane Street. It's indicated that, as part of it, the local tradespeople and businesses will be prioritised for contracts. Is that something the Government is still pursuing? What steps are you taking to ensure that that is part of this redevelopment?

LEON WALKER: I'll have to take on notice what our specific requirements are in the contract. But we do always make a point of making sure there are minimum requirements in respect of local spend and engagement of Aboriginal businesses, suppliers and labour. We usually have gender requirements as well. I'll take that on notice and confirm with you.

I am advised:

The Brisbane St Development Application was approved on 18 September 2024. The Carrington St Development Application has been submitted and is expected to be approved in early 2025.

The construction contract includes the requirement as part of the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program to utilise a minimum of 20% local businesses with local employees of the total trades used for the project.

Property and Development NSW tender evaluations include a requirement to outline the Head Contractor's strategy and details of local trade usage as part of their delivery methodology.

Page 86 - QON 61 – Macquarie Street East Precinct Development

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: With respect to the other forecourt you were talking about, is that still retaining the title of Queen Elizabeth II Place?

LEON WALKER: We are seeking funding for the embellishment of that space. There's no funding at the moment to improve it beyond its current state or condition. I would have to take it on notice in terms of the work the team has done in terms of formalising the name and the acknowledgement of Her Majesty, because that's obviously controlled by the royal family. I can take that on notice and come back to you.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Has any communication been had with Buckingham Palace as to the use of the name or the design of the place?

LEON WALKER: Yes, but I'll take it on notice and confirm.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: What's the total budget now in terms of the Macquarie Street East Precinct?

LEON WALKER: Can I take that on notice, please?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Yes. Also could you take on notice the exact funding, which I think you've already done but there is no additional, specifically for the development of Queen Elizabeth II Place.

I am advised:

Questions regarding communication with Buckingham Palace about Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Place should be directed to the Premier's Department.

Page 86 - QON 62 – Macquarie Street East Precinct Development

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Are you doing any work with respect to the traffic and transport considerations into the realignment of Sir John Young Crescent and Hospital Road?

LEON WALKER: No. That might be a question for—

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: Transport?

LEON WALKER: Can we just take it on notice? I just need to find the right person to respond to you on that one. It's not our work.

I am advised:

In October 2024, Property and Development NSW (PDNSW) lodged a Development Application with the City of Sydney proposing significant landscape works in the forecourt area of the State Library of NSW. This includes realignment work at the intersection of Sir John Young Crescent and Hospital Road. PDNSW has been working closely with Transport for NSW on the traffic and transport considerations of the proposed project.

Page 87 - QON 63 – DPHI Responses – Aboriginal Land Agreements

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: Chair, can I just round out with a little bit of information from one of the questions that you asked?

The CHAIR: Yes.

KIERSTEN FISHBURN: We don't have all of it, but just so we've given you what we've got—it's in relation to the Tilligerry Creek Oyster Farm Road. As you identified, there was a recent determination with 10.69 hectares of claimable land. Consultation with stakeholders was completed. The area granted does not adjoin the waterway and does not limit access to the water. Access to the water can still be obtained via Oyster Farm Road and via Daniel Crescent. I know you've asked a few more questions there, but I think that covers off the thrust of your query.

This is not a question on notice.