

#	Questions on Notice	Response
1	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> First of all, I thank everyone for being here, particularly the department staff and staff on the ground that have been helping with ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. It really is appreciated, thank you. How many full-time staff specialist psychiatrists held permanent positions in NSW Health as of 28 December 2024, and how many are currently employed?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might ask Susan to confirm that the numbers that I have are accurate. I have the workforce headcount. To be clear, there is a difference between headcount and FTE. Many of these people do not work full-time. I have the workforce headcount at 443. As I said, that is not FTE positions; that is headcount. I don't have a breakdown of who is working full-time, part-time and what the structures are. That is what I have the headcount as. Sorry, what was the—</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> What is the headcount as of today?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> The headcount as of today—Susan, if you have that number—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> I'm so sorry, Minister, but the 443—when's that from?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> That is my understanding of the headcount that is funded by NSW Health to work across the district. That hasn't changed. We fund a headcount of that. But, as I said, those positions are not all filled at the moment, and they're certainly not filled full-time.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> As of 28 December, how many of those positions were filled?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Susan, do you have that as of 28 December?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> Not as of 28 December. We'd have to take that on notice and come back to you. We can try and do that in the session today.</p> <p>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Do you have any date similar around that in December?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> Not on me at the present time, no.</p>	<p>I am advised: In December 2024, of the 278.6 FTE of Psychiatrist Staff Specialists, 264.4 FTE were engaged on a permanent employment contract.</p> <p>In February 2025, there were 229.8 FTE of Psychiatrist Staff Specialists, with 212.8 FTE engaged on a permanent employment contract.</p>
2	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Do you know how many are employed as of today?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> I'll take it on notice, given that obviously we have had some resignations since that date. We can take that on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Question on Notice 1.</p>
3	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Minister, do you have the breakdown? Specialists, VMOs, locums, do you have that breakdown?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> As of today?</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Not at my fingertips, but we can see if that particular information is something that you—I do, for example, know that we have people who have</p>	<p>I am advised: The breakdown of Staff Specialist Psychiatrists and VMOs (including locum VMOs) is constantly changing as Psychiatrists' engagements to provide services alter.</p>

	<p>transferred to VMO roles, people who are working as locums, separations that have been finalised, people who have deferred their resignation. That broad information is something that we are constantly being updated on, but within the cohort of people who are currently delivering care today across the LHDs, we can try and get that breakdown.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Minister, do you think it's acceptable that you come to budget estimates and you're not fully prepared? You said you receive updates, you have an entire room full of officials and yet you can't answer simple questions of exactly how many people are currently employed.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> As I said, the reason that is a somewhat difficult question to answer is because we are right in the middle of a well-known situation in which those numbers are changing.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Hence our questions.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We are able to get the information that we need to provide the confidence that we need to have that the care is being delivered as best it can be. But in terms of a breakdown across the districts, across the different hospitals, it's a situation that changes every day.</p>	<p>As at February 2025, there was a headcount of 343 Staff Specialist Psychiatrists (215 FTE). This is a point in time number and FTE is a different metric to headcount.</p>
4	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> When was the last time you met and put an offer on the table?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I can take that on notice, although I think it was a few weeks ago. I don't have the date; I can check that. It was within the last few weeks.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2015-05, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)</li> <li>- Meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political</li> <li>- Social or public functions or events</li> <li>- Meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with</li> <li>- Regulation 6(1)(b) of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018</i> and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and</li> <li>- Matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-toinformation/ministers-diary-disclosures">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-toinformation/ministers-diary-disclosures</a>).</li> </ul>

5	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Secondly—and I'm happy for you to take it on notice. But, of those 72, how much are you paying and what are the overall costs to the State?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> We can take that on notice for a point in time, but I'll restate the point that I made earlier.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 169.</p>
6	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> What is the cost of the virtual hubs that have been set up?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Do we have a cost of that?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> We can take that on notice. We already had virtual arrangements in place, so I'd make the point—again, to be very clear about the care of mental health patients in this State, we do not seek to single out mental health patients in the way we arrange our budget. We have virtual services right across the State for all manner of things, including children, adults et cetera. Whilst we can seek to understand the proportion associated with the virtual hub, what I would say to you is that those technologies, which became very important to us during the pandemic, have continued to evolve across the State and will continue to evolve.</p>	<p>I am advised: The Virtual Psychiatry Hubs have been established initially for 12 weeks using a locum psychiatry workforce. Locum psychiatrists have been engaged at a rate of \$3,050 per 24-hour period.</p>
7	<p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> You also know that the water sharing plans for regulated valleys in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan have recently been amended to give effect to the plan. Given the importance of the limits in managing water extractions, why have all volumetric limits been removed from the amended water sharing plans—every one except the Namoi, I understand?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might ask Ms Jones to clarify. We have a quite significant piece of work that the water group is undertaking to move towards finalising those volumetric limits, but it is not straightforward, particularly on the long-term average extraction, the LTAAELs. It is not straightforward. It is a significant piece of work, and rightfully informed by updated science on climate change and all of those things.</p>	<p>I am advised: Numeric Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limits were removed to simplify the water sharing plans based on advice from Parliamentary Counsel's Office to reflect latest drafting standards.</p> <p>Limits are not a set volume – they are a description of what the LTAAEL is - same for the Sustainable Diversion Limits. We model this every year to determine an annual volume. A number is being reinstated in regulated water sharing plans for transparency, and we need to explain that volumetric estimates of the limits change through time as the annual climate varies. The number included in the plan will be valid at a point in time. The volume is included as a note.</p>
8	<p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> Who removed the volumetric limits? Why were they removed? The Natural Resources Commissioner isn't happy about it.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> I'm not understanding the exact question.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> My understanding, Ms Faehrmann—and we are happy to take this on notice—is that there are not volumetric limits in the plans, and there never were. In terms of LTAAELs, the commitment we have given over time is to introduce them, and certainly the Natural Resources Commission have signalled that that is what they would</p>	<p>I am advised: Numeric Long Term Average Annual Extraction Limits were removed to simplify the water sharing plans based on advice from Parliamentary Counsel's Office to reflect latest drafting standards.</p> <p>Limits are not a set volume – they are a description of what the LTAAEL is – same for the Sustainable Diversion Limits. We model</p>

	<p>desire us to do. But no volumetric limits, in the way you have described, were removed from the plans. That's not my understanding.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> If this is in regard to the inland unregulated plans, it is that up to now, there has been a description of the limit; there hasn't been a volume. That's because these are areas where there is very low metering and very low extraction, actually, of water.</p> <p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> These are regulated rivers.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We may have to take that on notice, Ms Faehrmann. As I said, I am aware that there is a desire from the Natural Resources Commission for us to move towards more clear volumetric limits in relation to some of those extraction thresholds.</p>	<p>this every year to determine an annual volume. A number is being reinstated in regulated water sharing plans for transparency, and we need to explain that volumetric estimates of the limits change through time as the annual climate varies. The number included in the water sharing plan will be valid at a point in time. The volume is included as a note.</p>
9	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Minister, we're aware of this. We've heard. Can you take on notice when you first met with them following that piece of correspondence from October 2023 to discuss this issue—not broad meetings, but to discuss this specific issue—and when you began to put offers on the table?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I will take that on notice. I also indicate that in 2023 the Government delivered a 4.5 per cent pay rise to all public servants, which was the largest pay rise—</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Minister, we are asking about this particular crisis—</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> —that staff specialist psychiatrists had received in over a decade.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> —which you've known about—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> It's clearly not working.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We were signalling from that point in that year our willingness to do more to support our public servants. But yes, I'll take on notice the exact meeting date.</p>	<p>I am advised: The first of a series of meetings with all parties was held on 9 February 2024.</p> <p>On 19 May 2024, the NSW Government made a baseline remuneration offer and a cost-of-living adjustment for three years. This offer was made to all staff specialists and not in response to the psychiatrist workforce issues.</p> <p>On 23 February 2025, the Health Secretary directed an interim increase of 3% based on the NSW Government's wages offer and the 10% onerous duties allowance be paid to those staff specialist psychiatrists who remained in the system, including where a resignation was rescinded or suspended, until the outcome from the Industrial Relations Commission is handed down.</p>
10	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Have you spoken to the local member for Clarence at all?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I did. I have been in touch with Richie.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Really?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Yes, I sent him a message to check in with him early on in the event.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Can you take on notice when that was, if you don't mind?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Sure.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to the answer provided on page 20 &amp; 21 of the transcript.</p>
11	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> That's good, because that's what I wanted to take you to. Obviously, there have been announcements for hardship payments for a number of communities and LGAs, but there are many impacted communities, particularly in the Clarence and Richmond valleys, in places like Coraki, Broadwater, Woodburn and areas around Grafton and Maclean—there are many others; that's not an exhaustive list—who</p>	<p>I am advised: This question should be referred to the Minister responsible for Reconstruction Authority or Emergency Services.</p>

	<p>have been heavily impacted but who have not had that Disaster Recovery Payment extended to them. Why is that, Minister?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I have to say, my understanding of the personal hardship grants that the New South Wales Government was funding alongside the Commonwealth is that it did extend to all of the LGAs—in fact, down to Armidale. But I will take on notice if my understanding is incorrect.</p>	
12	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> It didn't include the Clarence. Richie Williamson, as the local member, has been quite vocal in his support for his communities. You may not be aware but the Federal emergency Minister, Jenny McAllister, reached out to Richie and said, "We're happy to look at support for your impacted communities, but the State Government has not provided us the data yet." Why is that the case?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I have to say, I'll follow that up with Minister Dib. I'm not familiar with the fact that that data—</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> You did not know that was an issue—that areas had missed out on payments?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> As I said, my understanding is that LGAs that were covered by those personal hardship grants did extend all the way down to Armidale. But as I say, I'll take—</p>	<p>I am advised: This question should be referred to the Minister responsible for Reconstruction Authority or Emergency Services.</p>
13	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> The problem is, Minister, you've missed communities. There are select towns within the Clarence LGA, but there are many others that didn't. Like I said, that list that I read out was not exhaustive. There are other communities who have been impacted but are not getting the support, and that is a problem.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Yes, I accept it's a problem. I'm not trying to argue that. My understanding is that the provision of that support is by LGA. My understanding is that the LGAs to which you were referring are included and, in fact, all of the LGAs in the North Coast, Northern Rivers and down to Armidale are included. I'm not familiar with this issue that you have raised about different towns.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Richie Williamson is the local member. I'm sure you will take him at his word.</p>	<p>I am advised: This question should be referred to the Minister responsible for Reconstruction Authority or Emergency Services.</p>

	<p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I have to say, I'm not familiar. I have not been informed that part of the barrier, potentially, to the provision of that support is that data from the State is required. It may be, Ms Mitchell, that that data is the SES impact assessment work that they are currently undertaking. I don't know. It may be that that is what needs to occur. All I can say, if indeed that is the case, is that the SES is working very diligently to do that work right now, and that will be available. But I don't know. I will take on notice what that data gap might be.</p>	
14	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> In areas where staff specialist psychiatrists who were primarily responsible for supervision of a registrar have resigned and they've either left or been re-engaged as a VMO or a locum—so they're now on, for example, a part-time arrangement or an ad hoc arrangement—is it your view that it's sufficient for registrars to be supervised by a different person each shift or each week, and how are you actually ensuring that they have a long-term relationship with a senior staff member?</p> <p><b>MURRAY WRIGHT:</b> For starts, I think that we've been very clear from the outset that, if someone has been working as, for instance, a 0.6 FTE staff specialist, we are very comfortable with that person coming back as a 0.6 VMO. The idea that that person is not available to provide the supervision, that's not true. For those psychiatrists—and I'm so grateful to those psychiatrists who feel strongly about this issue and have returned as a VMO to help support our system—there should be no disruption in the continuity of supervision. When that does occur and we do have to cobble together cover and supervision from a range of psychiatrists, if that causes concerns about the quality of the supervision, then of course we respond to that. But when we lose fractional—</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Specifically, Dr Wright, what does that responding to those concerns look like? As I'm sure you can appreciate, those concerns have been raised with me. That's why I am asking the question.</p> <p><b>MURRAY WRIGHT:</b> I'll give you the example. There were concerns raised in Sydney LHD a couple of weeks ago and the service general manager sat down with representatives of the trainees, went through what the concerns were and dealt with them one by one. That's the response. It's at a local level.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> And dealt with them in what way? What was the resolution to the issue in Sydney?</p> <p><b>MURRAY WRIGHT:</b> My understanding is that they dealt with them to the satisfaction of everybody.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We can potentially take on notice some of the specifics but, for example, as you know, Dr Cohn, when you look at the supervision requirements, they're</p>	<p>I am advised: All concerns have been addressed in full. This included proactive engagement with trainees to confirm they have access to the level of supervision as set out in the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists accreditation standards and clarify that no trainee should feel they are being pressured to make decisions against their clinical judgement and without the support of a senior medical officer.</p>

	<p>actually incredibly detailed: two practitioners on at this time and this many hours. They are incredibly detailed requirements, as they should be. What Dr Wright is saying is that there was a huddle where they sit down and talk through every single element and say, "How can we do this better and differently or improve that or meet requirements on that?" That is, in fact, what has been happening. If there are particular circumstances where, at a district level or at a hospital level, you have received information that that hasn't occurred or if you are worried about gaps there, we are happy to take that on notice. I don't think we necessarily have every single line of issues that may have arisen and how they've been resolved at our fingertips, but we're happy to get that information for you.</p>	
15	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> In that same government response you committed to considering five-year funding cycles for community-managed organisations in mental health. Where is that work up to?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Absolutely. That's a commitment that we've given across the board. We have talked about how we might move to that. Health, unfortunately, has really been operating on a lot of 12-month budgetary cycles, in some areas. We're trying to move towards longer term contracts. Susan, do you have anything to add, just in terms of, specifically, the renegotiation of some of those contracts?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> Not at the moment.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We'll have to take that on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: NSW Health is working in partnership with the Department of Communities and Justice to consider the implications of implementing the Secure Jobs and Funding Certainty Roadmap for NSW Health-funded agreements with NGO providers</p>
16	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Thank you. I appreciate that clarification. I want to take you now to the Cobar pipeline and the decision to effectively not proceed with that project. Considering the construction of the first 30 kilometres of the Nyngan to Cobar pipeline cost \$9 million back in 2017, how do you account for the remaining 90 kilometres now costing more than \$300 million?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> On that project, obviously we are proceeding with stage one, which is fully funded by the New South Wales Government and the Commonwealth Government—that being the pumping stations. It is a very important project. All I can say on stage two is that the project isn't cancelled; it's paused. The reason that it's paused is because the final business case was done—obviously, I don't write those documents; they are done by expert people who put together that information so the Government can make sensible investment decisions—and that document has indicated that the cost of that project has escalated considerably to over \$300 million. At present, we're not in a position to make that kind of investment decision for a project of that scale.</p> <p>I do want to indicate that my understanding is that there are two pipelines that service the Bogan shire and Cobar. One of them is older, but the other one, which was constructed in the 1980s, has a functional life that extends some decades into the future. Of course, it was</p>	<p>I am advised: The reasons for the cost escalation are rising construction costs, and a much greater scope and complexity of work than was undertaken for the first 30km of pipeline replacement.</p> <p>In 2018, CWB replaced the 30km section (Ch0.00 to Ch30.00 approx.) near Nyngan for a contract value estimated at \$9m (CWB data). The replaced section was pipe laying only - it did not include valves and connections for servicing and maintenance. The initial 30km of pipeline was replaced in favourable geotechnical conditions.</p> <p>The Department is unclear but assumes that this was the Contract price and excludes any owner's costs.</p> <p>The remaining 100km of pipeline to be replaced is between Nyngan and Cobar and an additional 2 sections of 10km pipeline</p>

important to me, when pausing that project, to have that confidence that the pipeline was functional and will continue to be functional. That is a confidence that I have. In terms of the cost escalations, all I can say is that's information that was provided to me by the final business case.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Just on the final business case, will you publicly release that?

**The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:** At the moment, that has not been finally considered by the ERC and, therefore, is a Cabinet-in-confidence document. But it is always my view to try to ensure that as much information is publicly available as possible. I have committed to doing what I can to explore how much of that business case we can release without cutting across Cabinet-in-confidence provisions.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Minister, you said that business case informed the decision to—and I will use your word—pause that project. You're also now saying that you can't release it because it's still with the ERC. How has a decision been made if you haven't been through an ERC process?

**The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:** I've made a decision in terms of the—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Then why can't you just release the business case that informed your decision?

**The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:** As I have indicated, I am working to try to find how much of that business case we can release. Routinely, government does not release final business cases. I recall this being a source of much contention and many SO 52s under the previous Government. Business cases were not released. They were always considered Cabinet-in-confidence documents. I've always tried—and it's always been my position to try—to ensure that as much information that can be released is released. We're not just—

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** Will you give that commitment today in relation to this particular project?

**The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:** To the extent that I am able to make decisions about how much information is released, I absolutely give that commitment. I reiterate that those decisions, in relation to what information is considered Cabinet in confidence and therefore capable of being released, are not decisions that I make on my own. They are decisions that are informed by the Cabinet Office and INSW, which has ownership of some of those business cases.

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:** But for the community's benefit and to have some sort of understanding—because, as you would appreciate, it's quite an escalation in costs for the first 30 kilometres versus the remaining 90 kilometres. To go from \$9 million to \$300 million is a significant increase, and I think the community would rightly expect to know exactly what was involved in that cost escalation. I appreciate what you've said about a

sections between Cobar's Water Treatment Plant and the Cobar water storages – one supply and one return – a total of 120km. The scope also includes a new pump station at the Cobar water storages.

The replacement of pump stations and balance tanks throughout the network, and the installation of telemetry and control, is a significant scope increase compared to only replacing a section of pipeline.

The geological conditions closer to Cobar are not as favourable which further reduces the production rates based on information resulting from testing. Constructing works in the Cobar town carries a higher degree of management and the production rates are much lower than within a rail corridor. These matters have been taken into account in the latest estimate.

For information, using the est. unit rates in the 2018 work vs the N2C stage 2 estimate (2023), 375mm DICL pipe supply and lay direct construction rates have increased ~30%. Since 2018 there have been significant escalations in construction costs across all infrastructure in NSW and in Australia. Using the estimated unit rates in the 2018 work vs the N2C Stage 2 estimate (2023), 375mm DICL pipe supply and lay direct construction rates have increased by over 30%.

	<p>business case, but if you could perhaps take on notice what you can supply to the Committee? That would be great.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I will do that.</p>	
17	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> You just talked about the size of investments. On the same day, Friday 21 February, that the Cobar pipeline project was put on hold, it was reported in the Macarthur Chronicle that WaterNSW was investing \$301 million on Warragamba Dam upgrades for environmental flows. Is there a business case for that project?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I'm going to ask Andrew from WaterNSW to talk about that project.</p> <p><b>ANDREW GEORGE:</b> Yes, there is. There is a strategic business case that has been put to Infrastructure NSW under the investor framework.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Are there any publicly available documents detailing the proposal? We haven't been able to find any, but if there are—</p> <p><b>ANDREW GEORGE:</b> Yes. There was detailed information provided as part of our pricing submission to IPART recently last year. That information is available on IPART's website.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Is there anything on the WaterNSW or Planning websites about it though?</p> <p><b>ANDREW GEORGE:</b> No, not at this stage.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Could you maybe take it on notice and provide any of those documents to us that you're able to in terms of what's been in the public domain about that particular business case?</p> <p><b>ANDREW GEORGE:</b> Yes, absolutely. I'm happy to provide that.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In terms of public information, there is information available on the NSW DPHI Planning Portal (<a href="https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/warragamba-dam-environmental-flows">https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/warragamba-dam-environmental-flows</a>). This consists of a scoping report that would inform the extent of an environmental assessment that would be required for the project to proceed.</p> <p>There is also information on the project in Attachment 7 of the WaterNSW pricing proposal for Prices from 1 July 2025, available at: <a href="https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/review/water-metro-pricing/prices-waternsw-greater-sydney-1-july-2025">https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/review/water-metro-pricing/prices-waternsw-greater-sydney-1-july-2025</a>. Information on the project is also available on WaterNSW's website.</p> <p>WaterNSW have completed a Strategic Business Case and a Final Business Case which have been used to inform the IPART Submission.</p>
18	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> I might come back this afternoon with more specific questions to Ms Jones in relation to that. I just want to turn back to your North Coast portfolio quickly. Are you able to tell me exactly which LGAs you cover as the Minister for the North Coast? Where is your remit?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I think there are 11 LGAs, and it is going to test me to list them all off the top of my head.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> That's all right. Do you want to just provide it on notice?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Yes, but it does go, I can tell you, from Port Macquarie to the border. There are 11 LGAs within that area.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>12 Local Government Areas (plus Lord Howe Island)</p> <p>Ballina: Mayor Sharon Cadwallader</p> <p>Bellingen: Mayor Steve Allan</p> <p>Byron: Mayor Sarah Ndiaye</p> <p>Clarence Valley: Mayor Ray Smith</p> <p>Coffs Harbour: Mayor Nikki Williams</p> <p>Kempsey: Mayor Kinne Ring</p> <p>Kyogle: Mayor Danielle Mulholland</p> <p>Lismore: Mayor Steve Krieg</p> <p>Nambucca: Mayor Gary Lee</p> <p>Port Macquarie-Hastings: Mayor Adam Roberts</p> <p>Richmond Valley: Mayor Robert Mustow</p> <p>Tweed: Mayor Chris Cherry</p>

19	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> You would obviously be aware, I would assume, that regional crime is a massive issue, including in the North Coast. How many meetings have you had in relation to crime in LGAs specifically in your portfolio area since you became Minister?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I can't put a number on that. I'm happy to try and take it on notice. I accept that when I meet with, particularly, local government representatives from those LGAs, which I do individually and through various peak forums such as Country Mayors, or Local Government NSW or Regional Cities, that they do raise the issue of regional crime.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum 2015-05, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals. Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)</li> <li>- Meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political</li> <li>- Social or public functions or events</li> <li>- Meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with</li> <li>- Regulation 6(1)(b) of the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018</i> and Attachment B to the Memorandum), and</li> <li>- Matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-toinformation/ministers-diary-disclosures">https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinetoffice/access-toinformation/ministers-diary-disclosures</a>).</li> </ul>
20	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> The statutory review of the Mental Health Commission was due to be tabled with yourself in August last year. Why has it not yet been made public?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Because we're just finalising our response to it. I have received a copy of that report. It makes a number of recommendations. We are finalising our response to those recommendations and they will be made public alongside the report.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> When will they be made public?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I hope that that will be able to be done soon, but I can't be definitive and I'll take on notice whether or not we are able to provide you with a specific date. But that is in its final stages.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The Government is preparing a response to be tabled with the report, which will occur later in 2025.</p>
21	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> In particular, I want to note the Special Inquiry into Children and Young People in Alternative Care Arrangements, which the office of the Advocate undertook, which was the first inquiry under that provision of the Act. I'm sure you would agree that it was an extraordinary piece of work. It obviously led to a change in Government policy and will significantly impact young people. What was the level of resourcing required to enable that kind of independent special inquiry to take place?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>See attachment 'Question on Notice 21'.</p>

	<p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might ask the Advocate to comment on that. I'm not aware of any requests that came through me for specialist resourcing, although the Advocate did inform me that she had been working with Minister Washington in relation to the development of that inquiry, and I was extremely supportive of it. Did you want to comment about that, Zoë?</p> <p><b>ZOË ROBINSON:</b> I'm happy to talk about the funding that was attached to it. We specifically did not request funding from the Government because we wanted it to remain independent and always have the perception of remaining independent. That was a conscious decision of the office to ensure that. The total cost in relation to the special inquiry was \$132,000. That doesn't include the in kind that was given to us through a consulting firm, Deloitte, who provided contributions. A majority of that cost, as you would appreciate, had things to do with ensuring we had a co-chair who was a young person with lived experience. They received payment for their participation in that. We also had a social worker who sat alongside that—and I can give the full breakdown of these numbers as well—and travelled to every inquiry meeting so that they had that support in those meetings. So travel was attached to it. We also had to make sure that we were doing things in line with the Act in terms of giving notice, and there was a requirement to advertise in papers and all of that, so that cost some money. We also had a law firm that sat alongside it and special counsel, who reviewed every transcript to make sure that none of the questions were leading and that we did all of the things that we said that we could do, and so that they could provide an audit over the whole process to say we did all of the things that we said we could do. In terms of the team, we had to just reprioritise some of the work that the team were focusing on. A senior policy advisor and I were the key people in terms of running all of the interviews with the young people, and we drafted the final report. Then we had members of our participation team who engaged with organisations and young people to assist them in participating in that. But most of that continued with BAU, and there was no additional staffing that came into the office for that.</p>	
22	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I'll come back to mental health. In response to a question on notice, I was advised that as of 17 February no fees had been paid to private locum or recruitment agencies for the placement of locum psychiatrists. It's my understanding that, generally, those agencies charge a minimum of 10 to 15 per cent fees for placements. How is it that no fees have been paid at this stage? Is it because they're being lumped? Is it because they're being accounted for differently? Can you explain that answer?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might ask Ms Pearce or one of the officials. I should note, in relation to questions that were asked earlier—for example, with VMOs, one of the reasons that we don't have definitive costs associated with that is that they invoice monthly. In fact,</p>	I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 165.

	<p>a number of the invoices in relation to the work that they have done—and I'm very upfront that they are doing work—we've simply not received yet. That's one of the reasons why I'm not able to provide definitive information about the costs of those VMOs; we simply do not have that information from them yet. It may be that this is a similar issue, in that the invoice cadence is such that they have not yet landed. I don't know if anyone yet has any other information on that.</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> We'll take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> We're happy to take that on notice.</p>	
23	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Which is why I'm asking what is now. You have had the innovation fund. I think rounds one and two have rolled out. So what's your average wait time now?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> The average time in TA—do we have that? It is still 26 nights. But, as I said—</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Is that as of last year when that report was put up?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> That's as of December 2024.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Could I get the updated—</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Yes, we are happy to take on notice if there is an updated March figure. But we are literally committing money, project by project, to build supported temporary accommodation solutions. Just last week I was up in Tweed announcing another one. We've announced one in Lismore. They are already rolling out across the State. The direct purpose of that investment is to build more supported temporary accommodation to address the fact that—look, temporary accommodation is not an ideal solution. Of course, it's better than an experience of homelessness, but we want to ensure that people have got supported emergency accommodation outcomes. That is the entire purpose of the \$100 million Homelessness Innovation Fund, and there are projects that are already committed and on line.</p>	<p>I am advised: The average length of stay per household in temporary accommodation is 27.2 nights as at 28 February 2025 (2024/25 financial year to date).</p>
24	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, the number of people with disability on the social housing waitlist has increased by almost 1,000. A question on notice was put to you last year asking for details about the number of people with disability in social and community housing waiting for home modifications, of which there weren't any answers forthcoming. Are you able to provide the Committee with an answer today on that?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might ask Rebecca whether she has the specific information about the number of current tenants of social housing who have requested a modification because of disability. I don't have that at my fingertips. Ms Pinkstone may be able to look it up. I do have information that an average of 2,243 properties have been modified for</p>	<p>I am advised: Homes NSW does not hold specific data on how many people are waiting for disability modifications. A tenant can call the Maintenance Hub and request modifications. Simple modifications are completed in five days. Complex modifications such as bathroom modifications, ramps, etc, will be assessed and the Housing Services team assists the tenant in obtaining all necessary documentation. Homes NSW completes an average of 2,243 disability modifications each year.</p>

	disability modifications every year. Ms Pinkstone may be able, with the team, to see whether that figure that you have requested is available.	
25	<p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> No, this is about a safety issue. Minister, if you would just have a look at the documents the secretariat is giving to you, you can see there that one is looking at the reservoir status and risk classification. It appears from those documents that Thornleigh Reservoir is operating outside of the safety threshold. In the event of reservoir or dam failure, it has on that document that 147 people would be at risk of death. Minister, in your response to my letter dated 17 January and your response 20 February, you acknowledge that Sydney Water considers Thornleigh Reservoir to be out of risk tolerance due to missing geotechnical information. However, these documents show that the reservoir is operating outside the safety threshold, a classification which indicates a serious structural risk. Can you confirm whether Thornleigh Reservoir is currently operating above the safety threshold?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Where's Mr Cheroux? Despite having so many officials here, we do not, in fact, have representatives from dam safety. So perhaps another one to add to the list.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> Minister, does the document in front of you concern you?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> Any suggestion that one of our many dam assets is operating outside the safety threshold concerns me. I'm not in a position, just based on this, Ms Higginson, to give a definitive answer as to whether, as of today, that is accurate information. I don't know whether Mr Cheroux or Ms Jones may have that information; otherwise we'll have to take it on notice in terms of a definitive answer, today, on what is the status.</p> <p><b>Ms SUE HIGGINSON:</b> I'm happy for you to take them on notice.</p> <p><b>ROCH CHEROUX:</b> I can probably bring some information about the four new reservoirs. This is coming from the fact that there was a study done back in 2024 where the geotechnical survey information was actually missing. It goes back to the construction of the reservoir many years ago. The reservoir, from memory, was built in the 1950s.</p>	<p>I am advised: The structural integrity of the reservoir is sound, and community safety is not at risk. A 2023 desktop assessment resulted in Thornleigh Reservoir risk rating being assessed above the safety threshold due to a lack of geotechnical information and a conservative modelling assumption. This assumed the reservoir could be impacted by natural flood events, which is not possible. A preliminary 2024 review has reduced the risk level from Extreme to High A. The bank is operating normally with only natural soil moisture movement over the last four years. Once the information gap is filled by the geotechnical assessments, which impacted the earlier report, a revised safety threshold will be verified and confirmed via an independent engineering report. This is expected by the end of 2025 and the figure is anticipated to be below the threshold limit.</p>
26	<p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> The pipe in terms of Bakers Lagoon—there are various PFAS contamination sources. Somebody from the area has said to me that, for at least the last six years, there's a pipe that hasn't been blocked off in terms of Bakers Lagoon. Is that correct?</p> <p><b>ROCH CHEROUX:</b> I need to take that on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: The pipe referred to is not owned or operated by Sydney Water.</p>
27	<p><b>Ms CATE FAEHRMANN:</b> What methods for measuring those low flows in the unregulated water sources are being considered prior to the installation of gauging stations? I understand there are some places that don't have pump metering requirements, for</p>	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government is committed to ensuring the vast majority (more than 95%) of water take is accurately and reliability</p>

	<p>example. Is anything being done for that?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I'm happy to take on notice any specific areas. Obviously, we are committed to a proper, comprehensive rollout of pump metering. I recognise that that has been not nearly as comprehensive and rapid as both you and I would have hoped. We've done a range of pieces of work. Mr Barnes is here and you can ask him now or this afternoon in terms of NRAR's engagement. Suffice to say, my expectation is that all pumps above a certain size—obviously, the very small ones continue to be exempt, but the ones that we would be worried about should be metered.</p>	<p>metered using tamper evident equipment by December 2026.</p> <p>A review of the hydrometric network in the NSW Murray Darling Basin was undertaken in 2021, and a Hydrometric Improvement Plan was developed as a result. Through this plan, and supported by funding from the Australian Government, 20 new or upgraded gauges were installed in the NSW Northern Murray Darling Basin.</p> <p>Where low flows are not measured by a gauging station or pump metering, including in unregulated water sources, they can sometimes be modelled or estimated for management purposes, including for estimating inflow volumes and accounting for water.</p> <p>For managing take, with or without pump metering, water sharing plans and licence conditions consider the level of risk presented by water extraction. Where risks are high, gauges are typically present, and minimum flow thresholds are specified. In low-risk areas where there are no gauges, a cease to pump threshold for flow that is greater than the "visible flow" is specified.</p>
28	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Minister, you outlined the number of bedrooms and the like, but one of issues that was flagged as part of the 2021 LAHC Coffs Harbour LGA analysis identified that there was a large supply of three-bedroom social housing cottages that exceeded the current demand for families on the waiting list and, particularly, that there was a need for two-bedroom dwellings. Is that still the case in the Coffs Harbour LGA?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I don't have information to hand about the current demand profile in the Coffs Harbour LGA, but I'm happy to take on notice whether the information that you just provided remains accurate.</p>	<p>I am advised: 85% of current demand is for Studio/1 bedroom and 2 bedroom properties but these only make up 54% of supply stock. See attachment 'Question on Notice 28'.</p>
29	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Minister, last year I asked in budget estimates about 14-year-olds presenting to specialist homelessness services alone. You advised: In the Client Information Management System, the pop-up alert warns the user that the support period being created is for a child under 14 years on their own. This alert is not stored and therefore data is not captured.</p> <p>I'm sure the staff are aware that the child presenting to an SHS is a minor. I asked you then about data collection, and you indicated that the HIF could be used to improve data development. I would like to know how much has been allocated out of the innovation</p>	<p>I am advised: There are 19 Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) providers contracted to support children and young people 12 - 15 years of age through the Homeless Youth Assistance Program (HYAP), so the SHS data will include children in this age group, where they present for support.</p> <p>There are known issues with the data for children and young</p>

	<p>fund specifically to capture data around young people—and these are 14 and under—presenting to SHSs.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I might have to take that on notice, unless Ms Pinkstone has that to hand. The HIF relies on applications being made, so we would need our partner organisations who run specialist homelessness services to be willing to put forward applications under that, although, as I indicated, we would absolutely consider them. I do know that some—</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> You are basically saying it is their job when, in fact, you are the Minister. You have children under 14 presenting alone, and the only thing that is available is a popup alert to tell them what they pretty much clearly know.</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> You sort of suggest there is some arms-length—our NGO partners deliver specialist homelessness services. We work with them, but they are organisations that we don't run and control. They are non-government service delivery organisations. We love them and value them but, no, we don't tell them how to make applications to the Homelessness Innovation Fund. That's a decision that they make, and I welcome that. But, as I said, I'm happy to take on notice the specifics in relation to whether any applications have been made or approved along the lines you suggested.</p>	<p>people under 15 years identified as presenting alone in the SHS data collection, even where they are accompanied by a parent/carer.</p> <p>In July 2024, Homes NSW completed a review of around 200 records for children under 12 years identified as presenting alone with 10 providers who had recorded higher numbers of clients in this age bracket. All providers responded to note that they were the result of administrative errors and the children did not present alone.</p> <p>Homes NSW will undertake a similar review of children under 15 years reported as presenting alone with providers on a quarterly basis from January to March 2025. Regular alerts are now added to the CIMS system about correctly recording accompanying children.</p> <p>No proposals on data collection or reporting improvement have been received through the HIF, but the NSW Government would welcome such proposals.</p>
30	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Do you have an understanding of the rates currently being paid to the hospitals and to the private psychiatrists for care of public patients?</p> <p><b>The Hon. ROSE JACKSON:</b> I don't have that on hand. I do have information that suggests that there are currently 17 patients being cared for under those provisions—obviously, as you mentioned, in a voluntary capacity. I don't have those rates. We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I have asked this as a question on notice. The answer that I got was that the cost per patient per day is determined by the contract between the private hospital and the LHD; the daily rate would vary depending on the contract and the operator. From your perspective as a Minister with statewide oversight, is there an approved range for those contracts? Is there a cap on those contracts? I appreciate there are some variation, but can we get a sense of the quantum?</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> We can further deal with that on notice for you, Dr Cohn. What I would say is that we've worked a lot with private facilities over the past number of years. We have sought to have arrangements where we have some consistency in the rates that we're being charged for the use of any private services. I'm sure we'll be able to provide you something on that, so long as it's not a commercial-in-confidence arrangement.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>From time to time, NSW Health enters into contracts with private providers to purchase services, including mental health. Contracts are a local agreement between local health districts and providers. The terms of these agreements are commercial in confidence.</p>

31	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> And then another project: the Malpas Dam wall. Detailed design and tender documents were expected by the end of last year. Do you know if they've been completed as well?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> No, I'm not aware of the Malpas Dam project. I can take that on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: Malpas Dam and Oaky River Dam are both owned by Armidale Council. The timing and staging of any works is a matter for Council. \$1.9 million is being provided under the Safe and Secure Water Program to assist Council with the initial development of the Armidale Water Security Project which includes planning for raising Malpas Dam spillway, repairing and enlarging Oaky River Dam and the pipeline from Oaky River Dam to Armidale water treatment plant and pumping to Malpas Dam.</p> <p>Detailed design and tender documents for the pumping and pipeline have recently been finalised and this phase of the project is almost complete.</p> <p>The NSW Government has not committed any funds to the construction stage.</p>
32	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> This question may come back to Ms Jones. In the February estimates last year, we asked about the prospect of raising the storage at Burrendong Dam. I'm sorry I am jumping all over the place geographically. I have a list that I am trying to get through during my time. I think it was about lifting the proposed storage to 120 per cent of the current full supply level. I know that it's something that the western councils have been raising with the Minister and with the Government. Is there any plan to look at that project?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> I think that's a change in the water sharing plan to lift the availability for water to take up the mitigation space. That's not determined. It's still under consideration as an option.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Okay. Is there any sort of modelling that indicates, without significant or consistent in-flows, how long it takes for Burrendong to get to the high levels of capacity? Is there any work in that space?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> I'm sure that we do have modelling on different rain event forecasts and different assumptions about the impacts of that option. I can't bring them to mind right now, but if you want us to take that on notice, we can provide that.</p>	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government is developing a Final Business Case for the Macquarie-Wambuu Water Security Scheme which will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A regional pipeline connecting Dubbo to Nyngan and other towns</li> <li>- Using some of Burrendong Dam's flood mitigation zone to increase water supply</li> <li>- The future of the Gin Gin Weir, between Warren and Narromine</li> <li>- A limited number of other options, including non-infrastructure options, identified through the Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The Department has not specifically modelled nor published modelling analysis that indicates how long it takes for Burrendong Dam to get to high levels of capacity. The Department has however published relevant modelled and observed storage levels and inflows information in the General Purpose Water Accounting Report Macquarie and Cudgegong Catchments and in the Macquarie Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy Report, which may be informative.</p>

		Please refer to attachment 'Question on Notice 32'.
33	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Yes, that would be good. The other side of the question is that at the moment, I think Burrendong is listed as being at 52 per cent capacity. From a departmental perspective, is there a figure that you use when you start to consider Burrendong to be low and when you start to get concerned about water supply? I guess that's the opposite side of the coin. Any information you can provide on that would be useful.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> Can do. Andrew, do you want to make any comment?</p> <p><b>ANDREW GEORGE:</b> We do have drought response plans for all of the valleys in regional New South Wales and Greater Sydney. In those regional drought response plans, there are triggers for implementing actions, which relate to other regulatory instruments within the water management framework more broadly.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> We have the Extreme Events Policy. Obviously, when drought is declared in a catchment, the priority in the water sharing plan flips basically to towns.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> If you can provide something around the modelling on notice, that would be fantastic.</p>	<p>I am advised: The department published an assessment on 12 March 2025 when Burrendong was 53% and Windamere was 90%. The assessment concluded that water supply was secure with no resource deficit. During the last drought, the access to water by general security users was partially restricted when Burrendong depleted to 25% and Windamere to 40% (September 2018). However, every drought is different and the actual response to next drought will be guided by the NSW Extreme Events Policy.</p> <p>In general, the department assesses resources against demand at least monthly and secures all higher priority needs at the onset of every water year on 1st July. Sufficient volume has been reserved behind Burrendong and Windamere to enable full allocation to all higher priorities on 1/7/25.</p>
34	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> I appreciate that the Government decided not to proceed with the managing contractor, but do you have—and I'm happy if you need to take it on notice—a costing for what that tender process was? Not actually the cost of the tender, but presumably there was some cost involved in running that process before a decision was made to change approach.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> Those costs are only internal management costs. We didn't pay tenderers any costs. Yes, I'm happy to take it on notice</p>	<p>I am advised: The cost for running the Managing Contractor tender process was ~\$1.4m, of that ~\$800k was for procurement and commercial support, legal and probity providers with the remainder for internal staff costs.</p>
35	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Do you have a breakdown of those 300 jobs and how many will be located in which regions?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> Not here.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Possibly on notice?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> We can provide some estimates.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> I am interested in the Riverina, Murray and other regions where the work will be undertaken.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> As best as you can, and if there's a breakdown that would be good.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> That's why we have done the industry engagements in the regional centres.</p>	<p>I am advised: An estimated 300 construction jobs will be generated due to the resource requirements to deliver the SDLAM Acceleration Program. DCCEEW is engaging with local industry, contractors and suppliers to deliver the projects.</p> <p>Of the 300 construction jobs all will be based in the Murray (NSW) electorate in the Berrigan, Edward River, Murrumbidgee, Hay, Murray River, Balranald and Wentworth shires. An approximate breakdown of expected jobs across these locations by project.</p>

		Please see attachment 'Question on Notice 35'.
36	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> The information that's publicly available about both and either is actually unclear about what the distinction is between those two things. There is a lot of information provided about virtual hubs that were not for clinical care around January, if I recall correctly. Please correct me if I'm wrong. I understand that there are also hospitals being provided virtual psychiatry services. One of my questions was whether or not this is even a clinical care model, so I think your question is actually getting to answering that.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I'm happy to answer that. NSW Health has a lot of virtual models across general health and across mental health, and has had for many years. Perhaps what has been mentioned in the media is specifically the virtual psychiatry hubs that have been stood up specifically in response to the issues with the psychiatric workforce late last year and early this year. I'm happy to describe that and, if it's not answering, please let me know. The issue is the potential lack of senior clinical decision-makers, particularly in metropolitan areas, should this resignation action eventuate in more actual resignations or places now where there is a relative diminishing in the number of consultant psychiatrists and where that has not been able to be filled by locums. There are some districts that have signed on to this model. The model, the way that it works is it's hosted by both Western New South Wales and Hunter New England local health districts, which were chosen because they've really got a lot of experience and expertise in delivering virtual mental health assessments and decision-making across large parts of the State. They also have the technical infrastructure set up to be able to do it. This hub and those two districts as a part of it host a statewide model. I'd have to take on notice the exact number, but I believe it has employed somewhere between six to eight VMOs who, I understand, are all locums—sorry, are all VMOs who have not previously worked in New South Wales. When I say "locum", they're on a VMO determination as I understand it.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to page 45 of the transcript.</p>
37	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I've also got some follow-up questions. We had a discussion this morning around the impact of the resignation on psychiatric registrars in particular. I've got some questions where the answers are going to be numbers, so I appreciate they may need to be taken on notice. I'm interested in the number of advanced trainees who have completed their fellowship in the last few years and how many of those were successfully recruited into staff specialist positions. I think we'd all agree there's a goal to retain these people in the public health system.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> We definitely would agree.</p> <p>The CHAIR: How many of them are still here?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I'd agree with you—that's a goal. I'm not sure if you've got any different</p>	<p>I am advised: A total of 198 Registrars have been employed in Staff Specialist positions over the last 3 years; 107 (54%) still have contracts today.</p>

	<p>information, Murray, but I suspect we'd need to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> To clarify, I'm interested in the number of recent fellows, say, in the past three years, that were subsequently recruited as staff specialists and how many of those are still here working for NSW Health.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Yes, that's fine.</p>	
38	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I've also got some more questions coming out of the community mental health inquiry that this Committee undertook last year. There was a recommendation around data collection and information sharing, and in the Government's response it said that NSW Health was finalising technical work for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to support the regular sharing of aggregated State and national mental health services data.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Can you give an update on what has been done?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I would have to take that on notice because the data management falls outside of the mental health branch. But we're very happy to get back to you around that.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Regular sharing of aggregated state and national mental health services data has been implemented. Working with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Government, NSW regularly provides data on mental health-related activity in community, emergency department and hospital services, and on suspected suicides.</p> <p>This data is used in national reporting, including in national suicide and self-harm monitoring (Suicide registers – AIHW) and regional service profiles (Regional profiles of mental health service activity – Mental health – AIHW).</p> <p>NSW Health also receives regular data on national helpline calls, psychiatric medication prescribing and mental health services funded by Medicare or provided by primary health networks. This is included in regular reporting to mental health services.</p>
39	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I have a follow-up question that I imagine will be sent to the same person. Particularly with the question of data, there's public data that would be held by NSW Health in terms of mental health but also a significant amount of data from community managed organisations, because they're providing a large quantity of care in New South Wales. I understand that their databases generally don't interface with other systems, including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data. The second question is whether there's any work underway to ensure that data from those community managed organisations can be unified in whatever work is being done.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I do recall—and you can correct me if I'm wrong—the Mental Health Coordinating Council giving evidence to that effect at the inquiry and concerns around non-government data sharing. I would have to take that on notice and am very happy to get back to the Committee around progress against that recommendation.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I've got a couple more questions that I anticipate you won't be able to answer off the top of your head, so please feel free to take them on notice. Are you collecting or</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>The diverse range of community managed organisation (CMO) service types, provider organisations, contractual arrangements and information systems means there is no single solution for integration with NSW or national information systems.</p> <p>Some examples of established data sharing and integration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular collection and reporting of data on the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative and Community Living Supports</li> <li>- Implementation of community experience measurement via the CMO version of the Your Experience of Service survey</li> <li>- Sharing of activity data by many CMO services contracted by</li> </ul>

	<p>aggregating any data around length of stay in ED for psychiatric patients?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Yes, we have live real-time data on length of stay for all patients who present to an emergency department. That includes people who are either initially or subsequently, during their stay in emergency, found to have a what would be primarily determined as a mental health presentation, noting that sometimes that's, as you know, unclear initially. We do collect length-of-stay data. Again, I'm not sure if it's pertinent to your question, but one of the things we are very interested in, in the middle of the contingencies that NSW Health has had to stand up, is whether or not there's any indication of data performance dropping off. We have not seen that statewide, which has been heartening.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Are you able to provide that data to the Committee?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I would be able to provide that on notice, yes.</p>	<p>local health districts or NSW Health</p> <p>- Inclusion of non-government services contracted by primary health networks in the national minimum dataset for primary mental health care services.</p> <p>These initiatives continue, along with work by national committees, to support implementation of a mental health establishments collection for non-government services.</p> <p>Information about Emergency Department Length of Stay is not publicly reported. Internal NSW Health data indicates that between December 2024 and March 2025, the average length of stay in the emergency department for mental health related presentations was about 8 hours 45 minutes.</p> <p>Time in emergency departments may include initial assessment, triage, assessment by specialist mental health teams, medical stabilisation where appropriate, and arrangement of inpatient or follow-up community care as necessary.</p>
40	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> We'll finish with Water and come back to Housing now. Ms Pinkstone, with respect to the budget allocations when it comes to social housing in New South Wales, the Department of Communities and Justice or Homes NSW was allocated \$1 billion for this financial year in the budget. I'm just wondering, to the mid-year point—saying we're at mid-year estimates—how much of that has been spent to that point?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I'll take the exact number on notice. That budget is for homelessness projects, new supply and also upgrades to our properties. It's the full suite. I can take the exact budget allocation from, say, December, and I can get that number back for you.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Of the \$1 billion allocated to DCJ for 2024/25, there has been no spend to date. The expenditure was dependent on DCJ acquisitions of land and homes to facilitate development works from 2025/26 onwards. Legislative amendments to the Housing Act were required to enable the acquisitions. The amendments came in force in early March 2025, and the acquisitions will occur within the last two months of this financial year.</p>
41	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> As close as you can to the present, what's the current number of social homes in New South Wales?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I've got that data for you. The 2023-24 figure was 155,905, and that includes public and community housing and Aboriginal housing.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Do you have figures on how much of that total is currently inhabited?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Not at the social housing level across all of those categories. For those that are public housing—let me just look at that for you.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> What is the public housing number?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to page 61 of the transcript.</p>

	<p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I have it here somewhere. Our occupancy rate at the moment is 97.2 per cent, and I can get you the exact numbers on notice.</p>	
42	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> That would be great. What's the status of that 2.8 per cent? Do you have a breakdown in terms of how much of that is being repaired, being refurbished or being identified to be demolished, for instance?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that breakdown for you.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> That would be good—and otherwise vacant, of course. The budget announcement is that there is \$5.1 billion to provide 8,400 new social homes. That still remains the number?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Yes.</p>	Please refer to Question on Notice 41.
43	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> At the end of that period, what's the projected number of social homes in New South Wales? I imagine that some of that figure will be replacing stock as well.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that as a proportion of our entire portfolio. The main issue at the moment is that we will be going out to tender for those sites. The breakdown between community housing versus public housing—I'll have to take that on notice. It would be a modelled number; it wouldn't be a reality number. But I can certainly get that for you on the model.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>At the end of 2030/31, Homes NSW projected number of social homes is 139,900.</p>
44	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> In terms of that profile—I know the Minister made mention in terms of the Argyll Estate and reduction of bedrooms and the like. Have you got any modelling in terms of the number of bedrooms we currently have, and how many there will be at the completion of that period?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> We will preference smaller dwellings. A number of those sites that we've earmarked for redevelopment take ageing stock and larger properties, and then we're creating residential flat buildings on those. I can get that for you at a broad number of what we're aiming for.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Community consultation will commence in mid-2025 to inform redevelopment needs and opportunities across the Argyle estate.</p>
45	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> How many development applications have been submitted for new social housing properties since 1 September 2024?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that for you. Some of those, as you're aware, we have self-approval powers, so I can get that breakdown.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Since 1 September 2024, there have been development approvals for 30 projects comprising 290 social housing properties including a subdivision.</p> <p>Refer to page 61 of the transcript.</p>
46	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> That was going to be another question. Since you've had those self-approval powers, how many properties have you approved using those powers?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that for you.</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Please refer to Question on Notice 45.</p>

47	<p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Across that area, there are 148 homes in the Wade Street towers. We are looking to get them online as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Do you have a target date in terms of when you will be able to welcome tenants back in?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> At the moment, we are looking at the end of this year—as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> How much is budgeted in terms of the renovations there?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that for you on notice.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to page 61 of the transcript.</p>
48	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> What was the figure for the last financial year?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that for you on notice. Sorry, I can't find it here.</p>	<p>I am advised: In 2023/24, 849 social homes were delivered comprising 134 Aboriginal properties, 298 public housing properties under Homes NSW management and 417 social housing properties under CHP management.</p> <p>In 2024/25, 824 social homes are forecast to be delivered comprising 165 Aboriginal properties, 468 public housing properties under Homes NSW management and 191 social housing properties under CHP management.</p>
49	<p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Of the 824 for all housing, what is the breakdown for public and other housing—for want of a better word? I am happy for you to enlighten me as to what it should be.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Public housing is right. I'll take that on notice. At the moment, the target within that for Aboriginal housing is 165 homes.</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Question on Notice 48.</p>
50	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Before I come back to the Advocate for Children and Young People, I had one more question for Dr Wright and Dr Flynn. In our last discussion, you mentioned the pilot of redesigning after-hours work for staff specialists. I understand that the staff specialist psychiatry pilot was part of an offer that was made by the Government in the negotiations with ASMOF and the college of psychiatrists. Were there other aspects of that pilot that have proceeded?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Thanks for the question. All of the aspects that were related and are related to reducing on-call burden are very reliant on a piece of work called the Psychiatry Workforce Plan. It's now four to five years old, and it has been refreshed last year. That is being developed with input from the college; with input, from memory, from ASMOF; and certainly with input from multiple psychiatrists. I'd have to go back and take on notice what may have been part of the Government's position for an efficiency package. I certainly</p>	<p>I am advised: A short-term NSW Health Psychiatry Medical Workforce Action Plan was initiated in September 2024 as an interim measure until work commences on the 2026-2031 NSW Health Mental Health Workforce Plan later this year. The Psychiatry Workforce Action Plan work is progressing.</p> <p>There are 15 recommendations encompassing 25 actions that are being progressed, including:</p> <p>Recommendation 3: Clinical support 3.1 LHD/SNs to consider the review departmental structures in relation to clinical support roles.</p>

	<p>would say that we are very interested in making that role, separate to whatever happens at the IRC, a much more attractive role to improve recruitment and improve retention.</p>	<p>3.2 Dictation systems / administrative support for clinics.</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Optimising the resource of the on-call psychiatrist</p> <p>10.1 Develop models that reduce the impact of the on-call volume for psychiatrists.</p> <p>10.2 Encourage piloting innovative extended hours senior medical officer presence.</p> <p>Recommendation 13. Optimising Work Practice</p> <p>13.1 Facilitating practice by mental health clinicians of all disciplines which optimises their scope and avoid duplication of tasks.</p>
51	<p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Separate to the wage negotiations, there are multiple things that we are looking at. We have had to look at contingency plans. We didn't ask the psychiatrists involved to leave. I understand many, many psychiatrists in New South Wales have had to make difficult decisions—difficult decisions to leave or difficult decisions to stay—and we recognise that and we acknowledge that. But we emphasise that there are things we want to do to improve the role itself to make it more attractive, and that's a separate issue to the IRC because, as many of our colleagues involved in this action would say, it's not about money. That's often said, and if that's the case, what it really becomes about is designing a role that optimises our services and gives the community the care that they need and deserve.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Are you able to get back to us on notice with some of the detail of that?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Around what, sorry?</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> Around some of the detail of that.</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> Yes, certainly I can. Around anything that was offered in terms of an efficiency pilot?</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>A short-term NSW Health Psychiatry Medical Workforce Action Plan was initiated in September 2024 as an interim measure until work commences on the 2026-2031 NSW Health Mental Health Workforce Plan later this year. The Psychiatry Workforce Action Plan work is progressing.</p> <p>There are 15 recommendations and 25 actions that are being worked on, including:</p> <p>Recommendation 3: Clinical support</p> <p>3.1 LHD/SNs to consider the review departmental structures in relation to clinical support roles.</p> <p>3.2 Dictation systems / administrative support for clinics.</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Optimising the resource of the on-call psychiatrist</p> <p>10.1 Develop models that reduce the impact of the on-call volume for psychiatrists.</p> <p>10.2 Encourage piloting innovative extended hours senior medical officer presence.</p>

		<p>Recommendation 13. Optimising work practice 13.1 Facilitating practice by mental health clinicians of all disciplines which optimises their scope and avoid duplication of tasks.</p> <p>The Agency for Clinical Innovation and Critical Intelligence Unit is leading a rapid redesign approach to identify and assess current, promising and innovative models of care that can contribute to mental health service reform in NSW.</p>
52	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I'm interested to understand, since the ban on social media for young people, what kind of avenues are being looked at. How is that public health messaging being targeted to try to meet its audience? Is your nodding taking that on notice? <b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> Yes, thank you. Sorry, I've become non-verbal as the day has gone on.</p>	<p>I am advised: Changes to national legislation restricting social media access will limit the ability of campaigns to reach 14–15-year-olds across social media channels. To support ongoing targeting of this age group, NSW Health will work with an external media agency to invest in other existing channels unaffected by the legislation, such as online video, cinema, audio, mobile, search, digital display, outdoor advertising. Campaign audiences aged 16-24 years will not be affected by the legislation changes.</p> <p>Pave, a vaping cessation app, was launched on 11 February 2025 to provide people aged 14 to 24 years with a tool to help quit vaping and access support on their quit journey. The legislation limiting social media use for people under 16 allows for the exclusion of apps that support the health and education of users.</p> <p>Young people provided input into the development and design of the behaviour change campaign and the vaping cessation app to ensure they were appropriate and effective among the target audience.</p>
53	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> It does, and I'm interested in your views on what the alternative frameworks would be. <b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> There's an alternative framework, and I know the acronym—I'll have to take the full understanding of the acronym on notice—DESDE, which comes from Canberra. There's some excellent work done in Canberra around national mental health planning. That's an alternative model. It has benefits and, I guess, limitations, like all of these models. One of the things that we have heard from partners is that people would like to see more</p>	<p>I am advised: The DESDE acronym stands for Description and Evaluation of Services and DirectoriEs (DESDE) (Salvador-Carulla et al, 2013).</p> <p>DESDE maps care provision in a local area, for any target health condition or for social services for a defined target population. DESDE uses international comparisons as the primary measure of</p>

	<p>lived experience and carer and consumer voices in all of those tools. Just an observation, but I'm not sure that that's the case, as much as people would like, in any of them, to be honest. There's a narrative around what's useful about them and what the limitations are for all of those.</p>	<p>benchmarking. International provision needs to be assessed in the context of different political, funding, policy and cultural contexts, all of which may meaningfully alter how services are provided. Comparisons to other jurisdictions in Australia would be more relevant, as would comparisons to an optimal standard, which DESDE does not provide. The National Mental Health Service Planning Framework (NMHSPF) does provide the tool to make those comparisons. The NMHSPF is also generally aligned with the way services are structured and delivered in NSW.</p>
<p>54</p>	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> In relation to the 8,400 social homes over four years, I think 50 per cent would be allocated to women and children escaping domestic and family violence. I just wanted to get an idea of numbers and how that's tracking to date and forward planning.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I'll take on notice for the new supply 824 and come back to you with that.</p>	<p>I am advised: As part of the 2024/25 budget, the NSW Government committed at least 50 per cent of the 6,200 new social homes (8,400 total, including 2,200 replacements) to be prioritised for “women leaving domestic violence” and “victim-survivors of domestic and family violence”.</p> <p>Homes NSW aims to house an additional 3,100 women-led households experiencing or likely to be experiencing DFV over the next seven years across our whole portfolio. While the budget commitment is over the next four years, it will take seven years to build the new supply.</p> <p>New supply funding will be directed at right-sizing the portfolio, with a focus on delivering 1 and 2-bedroom dwellings. This reflects the currently priority need on the NSW Housing Register.</p> <p>New, smaller homes will enable relocations of smaller and older households. This will make more family-sized homes available, including for victim-survivor families.</p> <p>Homes NSW will continue to monitor and report on our commitment to ensure the NSW Government are on track to meet our target.</p> <p>Numbers for 2024/25 full year will be made available in the second quarter of the 2025/26 FY.</p>

55	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> In relation to disability homes, you'd be aware that there are around, I think, 804 disability—they're managed by DCJ through disability services. I'm interested whether you've had any discussions around transfer of any of those homes that are currently used by disability providers.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I haven't. That's actually managed by a different part of DCJ, through Strategy, Policy and Commissioning. I can take that on notice for you.</p>	<p>I am advised: As at 31 December 2024 the disability portfolio has 804 properties, including 3 large residential centres, 3 small residential centres, 46 respite facilities, 20 day program facilities, 8 undeveloped sites and 724 disability group homes.</p> <p>DCJ has undertaken initial consultation with current Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) and Supported Independent Living (SIL) providers in relation to the portfolio of disability group homes. The consultation focused on current opportunities and barriers for SDA providers to deliver new homes that meet the needs of current residents and considerations for any transition arrangements and needs for Participants.</p> <p>DCJ is in regular discussions with providers of other facilities within the portfolio to support asset planning.</p>
56	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> In regard to the Mindarie Street social housing development in Lane Cove—are you familiar with that?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> No, I'm not. Is that the one that is being undertaken by Link Wentworth?</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> It could be.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I don't know the specifics of it, but I know that there is a development underway with Link Wentworth.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> I'm happy for you to take on notice whether or not commercial premises at that site has been considered. My understanding is Homes NSW has had dealings in relation to 86 apartments that have been built.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Let me take that on notice for you, in terms of the commercial arrangements.</p>	<p>I am advised: Homes NSW has lodged a State Significant Development application with Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for 86 social and affordable apartments at 618 - 624 Mowbray Road &amp; 25 - 29 Mindarie Street, Lane Cove North in October 2024. The public exhibition period has closed and is currently in assessment by DPHI. The site is located close to existing shops and services. The inclusion of shops on site was not adopted at this location as this would reduce the opportunity to provide quality social and affordable homes for people in need.</p>
57	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> And whether any discussions have been held or if it was considered to have any commercial development on the site. In relation to Homes NSW and also DCJ's implementation of the domestic and family violence New South Wales common approach to risk assessment and safety, when it comes to housing and homelessness services has any work been done in your area?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Not at the moment. We're part of a response across DCJ. We're doing some work at the moment to review our domestic violence policy within Homes NSW for public housing, and that's obviously taking into account the work that's underway</p>	<p>I am advised: As part of ongoing policy improvement, Homes NSW has commenced work to review its domestic and family violence policy within public housing. This work is underway and anticipated to be completed by late 2025.</p>

	<p>more broadly in government.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Is there a time frame for that?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I can get that for you. I think it's before June this year—so, absolutely.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Is that forming part of the Homelessness Strategy?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> It's not forming part of the Homelessness Strategy. We've got a major review of all of the major policies and procedures that have been raised by housing and homelessness peaks directly with us, through our governance, and a priority forward for those policies to be reviewed—so not specifically the Homelessness Strategy, but more around governance for the whole system.</p>	
58	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> In relation to trauma-informed training provided to Homes NSW staff, is there actually training provided?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> We do trauma-informed training—both online training and staff can also seek to have that face to face as well.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Does that also cover specific training for dealing with young people under 18?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I'll have to take that on notice for you.</p>	<p>I am advised: Housing Services delivers trauma-informed training to frontline staff —both online training, as well as face to face.</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young people as one of several vulnerable groups.</li> <li>- Stress in childhood, and</li> <li>- Cycle of disadvantage.</li> </ul> <p>The issues of complexities, physiological impacts, adaptive communication, disguised compliance, and emotional intelligence are also covered.</p>
59	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Also, the protocol around engaging with a young person—specifically if a young person presents who has said that they're experiencing domestic or family violence—what are the protocols about contacting parents or guardians?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> Can I take that one on notice in terms of the procedure?</p>	<p>I am advised: Where unaccompanied children under 16 present as homeless, Homes NSW will report this to the Child Protection Helpline. Where unaccompanied young people aged 16 and 17 present as homeless, Homes NSW staff will complete the Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG), to determine whether a mandatory report should be made and whether any other actions should be taken. Staff may attempt to refer the young person to more appropriate accommodation options, particularly relevant Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS). As a last resort, young people may be provided Temporary Accommodation (TA) with appropriate supports in place. Staff will also make other referrals (such as to NSW Police) where required.</p>

60	<p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> Yes. Could you explain to me what it means when it's described as "closed for temporary accommodation access due to disengagement". What does that mean?</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I don't know—where have you—</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> It has been raised with me that some Homes NSW staff will actually advise clients that are reaching out that the accommodation is closed due to disengagement.</p> <p><b>REBECCA PINKSTONE:</b> I'll take that on notice. I haven't heard of that.</p> <p><b>The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:</b> And also, if that is an option, what are the factors that make someone choose to advise a client of that?</p>	<p>I am advised: Please refer to Supplementary Question 459.</p>
61	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Just back very quickly to the Nyngan to Cobar pipeline, I appreciate what you said earlier about the complexity of stage two of the project and also that the Minister endeavoured to provide what she could on notice in terms of the business case. But just following on from that, is it possible— and I'm happy if you need to take it on notice—to get some sort of indicative breakdown of that \$300 million estimate? How much of it is engineering costs in terms of material, construction, labour versus regulatory and compliance, planning and admin costs?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> As the Minister mentioned, the Minister has asked us to look at what we can release, and that's what we're endeavouring to establish. So, of the estimated cost, how could we present that information?</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> That would be great.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> I should mention that stage one of the work, which is currently in progress and is about \$48 million or \$49 million, is about replacing the pumping stations and the electrics that support those pumping stations.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> That was going to be my next question.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> That work, together with the assessment we've done of the two existing pipelines— there are two parallel pipelines—confirms that there's at least 10 to 50 years of life, if you like, in those two pipelines. Our first focus was making sure that Cobar's water supply was secure. Stage one we're confident does that.</p>	<p>I am advised: The project cost estimate comprises of ~\$220M in capital works (finalising design, construction, project management, bio-diversity offsets), ~\$70M of contingency and ~\$40M of escalation for a total, risk-adjusted estimate of \$330M.</p>
62	<p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> With the two pump stations, will they be operating below capacity because there won't be the new pipeline or will there be an impact there?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> No. They will operate with some capacity. They're being designed such that they can deliver the demand that is the current demand and a little more. They'll be fit for purpose.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> And I think you just said but, just for clarity, you're not anticipating any implications on other sort of upstream projects.</p>	<p>I am advised: The difference in the number of wetlands shown on the draft maps released for public exhibition in November 2024 and the revised maps released in March 2025 are: please see attachment 'Question on Notice 62'.</p>

	<p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> The demand of the mines as well as the demands of Cobar will be absolutely supported by the new pumping station capacity.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> What about the Dubbo to Nyngan pipeline or the Lake Rowlands to Carcoar Dam pipeline? Is there any sort of implication there?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> No.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> The draft water sharing plans and prescribed wetlands, which I know the Minister I think last week put out an updated media release in relation to that work, are you able to just tell me how many proposed prescribed wetlands have been removed from water sharing plans across the State?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> What we're talking about are water sharing plans that are still draft and on display. What we have done is extended the consultation period, identifying that a data layer that was first published in the first consultation period had errors in it. There have been a significant number of wetlands taken away from the new maps that were published recently. We had a webinar just this week, and the consultation on the new maps that have been published runs to 23 March. I could tell you, catchment by catchment, the difference in maps.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> Do you want to take that on notice? That might be better.</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> Yes, but I just do have that information here if you want to know.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL:</b> One of the concerns that has been raised with us is from a landholder perspective, in terms of making sure that everyone is aware of the proposed prescribed wetlands. I know you just said that the consultation process will be extended, but are you confident that all landholders will have the information they need as part of the process?</p> <p><b>AMANDA JONES:</b> I'm confident that the revised maps that we've published—they're interactive maps. You can go in and you can check exactly what wetlands are being included. The categories of wetlands that we're proposing to include in these new draft water sharing plans are Ramsar wetlands, the wetlands in the Wetland Atlas, significant wetlands that have been identified through public consultation through the floodplain management plans that we have been doing—Murrumbidgee in particular—and if a wetland was previously identified in that water sharing plan. They're the categories of wetlands that are now in the new maps that are on public display.</p>	
63	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I might ask two questions about mental health again. As you may or may not be aware, the Ramsay Clinic in Thirroul that used to operate the specialised trauma service for women is no longer a specialised trauma service. It's my understanding that there used to be one bed made available for a public patient at that facility. Since that change was</p>	<p>I am advised: The NSW Government is committed to providing therapeutic and safe environments for all mental health consumers.</p>

	<p>made, has the Minister asked you to do any work looking at a centre of excellence for trauma-sensitive care in New South Wales, or finding a replacement for people who might require inpatient care specifically for trauma?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I think the answer is no. I can certainly double-check and for anything else we could come back on notice, but I'm not aware of any requests around that.</p>	<p>This includes providing training to ensure people who receives support in a public health facility is cared for in the most appropriate and trauma-informed way.</p>
64	<p><b>The CHAIR:</b> My final question is about the Nolan House inpatient unit in Albury-Wodonga. Albury Wodonga Health is operationally considered a Victorian health service but, of course, it's still a gazetted mental health facility under the New South Wales Mental Health Act and it's physically in New South Wales. I had significant difficulty getting documents from Albury Wodonga Health, including through the powers of the Legislative Council to compel documents. In particular, I had sought service policy reviews that had been recommended by a coronial inquest.</p> <p>In response to that order for documents, rather than being told that they were confidential, privileged or Cabinet in confidence et cetera, I was actually told that there were no documents in the possession of NSW Health. Since then, the Minister's office has assisted in obtaining some of the requested documents, but not all of them. But it raises an interesting oversight question. This is a gazetted facility under the New South Wales Mental Health Act that is physically in New South Wales. How is it possible that documents relating to the governance of that mental health unit are not in the possession of NSW Health?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I am aware of the requests that were made. I can't speak for any documents that the Minister may have been able to provide through their office. I do recollect that the Ministry of Health did— under an SO 52 request I think it was, from memory—explore what documents we had, and we had a nil response. I can understand the nature of your question. I'm also conscious that, operationally, it's a Victorian service under the MOU. I guess that's as much as I can answer. But I was aware of the request and I can't speak for what the Minister's office separately may have been able to obtain or to forward to you.</p> <p><b>The CHAIR:</b> I'm really pleased with the Minister's cooperation in obtaining some of those documents. I suppose it raises some questions about the MOU itself if, as a result of that MOU, NSW Health is not in the possession of—some of these were very basic policy and procedure documents for the mental health unit, which operates under the New South Wales Mental Health Act. Have you been tasked with any work to actually look at how well that MOU is working and your level of oversight of Nolan House?</p> <p><b>BRENDAN FLYNN:</b> I might take that on notice and, if there's any further information, we can get back to you around that.</p> <p><b>SUSAN PEARCE:</b> Happy to come back. The MOU does require them to follow NSW Health</p>	<p>I am advised:</p> <p>Since 2009, Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) has operated as a cross-border Victorian public health service managed under Victorian legislation. AWH is the second largest regional health service in Victoria. Mental health and community health services were incorporated in 2014.</p> <p>The responsibilities of each state are outlined in the intergovernmental agreement, and the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the provision of mental health services (signed in 2019).</p> <p>Under the intergovernmental agreement, Victoria is the system manager for AWH and responsible for performance management. NSW engages with Victoria to monitor it in its role as performance manager of AWH. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, all AWH mental health services provided in NSW, including Nolan House, will adhere to all applicable NSW policies. NSW expects to commence a review of the Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria during 2025.</p>

	policy, so we can certainly come back on it around the oversight function, if that's what you're seeking, Dr Cohn.	
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