



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

The Illawarra

Thursday 15 August 2013

Answers to be returned by: Tuesday 10 September 2013.

Budget Estimates Secretariat

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GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Supplementary questions: The Illawarra

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by: Tuesday 10 September 2013.

1. Can the Minister provide details of how many Public Housing properties are in the Illawarra?
2. Has the Minister visited any public housing estate in the Illawarra region since becoming Minister?
3. Are these properties meeting current demand?
4. Approximately how many people in the Illawarra are currently on the Housing NSW waiting list?
5. Given your own admission that there are a significant number of Illawarra families on the waiting list for Housing NSW, why did the O'Farrell Government cut \$22 million from the budget that would see new homes built?
6. I refer the Minister the Minister to the recent \$37 million cut in the Housing NSW budget for maintenance.
 - a. What proportion of these funds would have been allocated to Illawarra?
 - b. How will these cuts affect Illawarra residents living in Housing properties?
7. Is the Minister aware of waiting times for maintenance issues in the Illawarra area?
 - a. How could this waiting list have been improved if the \$37 million had not been cut from the maintenance budget?
8. How have communities such as Bowral, Moss Vale, Mittagong and Nowra had their economies negatively affected by the sale of Port Kembla?
9. Why have projects in these communities been shortlisted to receive funding from the proceeds of the Port Kembla sale?
10. Given the most adverse effects of the sale of Port Kembla will be felt by the People of Port Kembla, why have no projects been selected from the Port Kembla area?
11. Does the Minister believe Newcastle and the Illawarra have similar economic bases? If so, why was the Illawarra given only \$100 million?
12. Will you publicly release the full applications of each of the groups who were unsuccessful?
13. Will you publicly release the assessments of each of the shortlisted projects?

14. Can you specifically indicate what instrument the assessment panel will be using to evaluate the projects and in particular Benefit Cost Ratio and job creation?
15. Can you give details of the members of the selection panel and the process by which they chosen for this position?
16. What will be the process for auditing the various outcomes of the project such as job creation and economic impact as outlined by the proponents?
17. What if any processes will there be to support local firms, contractors and businesses in the construction of these projects where applicable?
18. How important are literacy and numeracy teachers in ensuring Illawarra students get the best possible start in life?
19. How many literacy and numeracy teachers did the O'Farrell Government promise for the Illawarra prior to the last election?
20. How many of these teachers have been delivered?
21. Does the Minister believe Campbelltown is part of the Illawarra?
22. How many of these literacy and numeracy teachers which have been delivered have been posted in Campbelltown?
23. If the Government values Education, why exactly have these teachers not been delivered within 2 and half years of the Government being sworn in?
24. When does the Minister expect the remainder of these 60 teachers will be delivered?
25. Are you aware of staff shortages affecting Case Workers in the Coniston office?
26. Is there, or has there previously been, a freeze on filling any caseworker positions?
27. Given the Illawarra has one of the highest rates of Cases per DOCS case worker, what is your government doing to address this?
28. Given the higher than average unemployment rate in Wollongong do you support the Regional Relocation Grant program which pays people \$7,000 to leave the Wollongong local government area?
29. What economic benefits are there to the Wollongong Local Government area from a Government program that has spent over \$1million to encourage people to leave the area?
30. Will you use your role as the Minister for the Illawarra to advocate to have the Regional Relocation Grant program scrapped?