

Tuesday, 14 October 2008
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008 – 2009
General Purpose Standing Committee No 1.

Questions on Notice to the Premier by Committee Members

Questions from Ms Rhiannon

1. *Can the Premier provide total figures for current NSW spending on nanotechnology research and development? Of this, how much is currently spent on:*
 - a. *basic research?*
 - b. *commercial development programs and assistance packages?*
 - c. *research into environment and health risks?*
 - d. *broader social and ethical implications?*
 - e. *supporting effective public participation in policy development?*

ANSWER: Since 2006, the NSW Government has committed \$15.7 million to support research teams and infrastructure of relevance to nanotechnology. These funds have been provided via the Department of State and Regional Development. More than \$10 million of this funding has supported research infrastructure enabling research toward various outcomes.

2. *Is the Premier aware that nanotechnology will present new challenges for many NSW regulations?*

ANSWER: The Government is aware that nanotechnology presents potential benefits to NSW economy and society, while also being aware that we need to better understand the potential adverse effects to health and the environment that may emerge from exposure to certain nanomaterials.

The former Minister for Science and Medical Research asked the Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development to undertake an inquiry into Nanotechnology in NSW, one of the Terms of Reference being to inquire and report on the appropriateness of the current regulatory frameworks in operation for the management of nanomaterials over their life-cycle. The NSW Government is the first Government in Australia to conduct such an inquiry.

During the Inquiry, the State Development Committee looked at issues of regulation, and handed down its report and recommendations on 29 October 2008. The Government will respond to the Inquiry recommendations over the coming months, as appropriate, with a response due by 29 April 2009.

3. *Is the Premier aware of the recent review of Australia's federal regulation of nanotechnology, published by a team of researchers at Monash University, which found 6 serious gaps in the capacity of existing regulations to manage the risks of nanomaterials in commercial use?*

ANSWER: The NSW Government is aware that the Commonwealth commissioned a review of nanotechnology regulations - "Review of Possible Impacts of Nanotechnology on Australia's Regulatory Framework", by K Ludlow, D Bowman and G Hodge from Monash University. It is understood that this review was commissioned through the Australian

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Office for Nanotechnology for the Commonwealth's Health Safety and Environmental Working Group, and was recently made publicly available.

4. *What steps will the Premier take to review the adequacy of NSW regulations to manage the new risks and challenges of nanotechnology?*

ANSWER: The Government will respond to the recommendations that have emerged from the State Development Committee's report on the Nanotechnology Review by 29 April 2009.

5. *What funding is currently being made available to conduct such a review?*

ANSWER: Funding is available within the current budget of the Department of State and Regional Development.

6. *The NSW State Development Committee Inquiry into Nanotechnology in NSW received much evidence of the novel risks posed by nanomaterials now used commercially in NSW. Since the hearings were conducted, further scientific studies have found that carbon nanotubes cause mesothelioma - an incurable cancer previously thought to be caused only by asbestos exposure. What steps will the Premier take to stop sales of nanoproducts and commercial manufacture of nanomaterials until they can be effectively regulated to ensure appropriate new testing and demonstration of safety?*

ANSWER: The Government is aware that nanotechnology and nanomaterials offer potential societal benefits, such as new ways to detect disease, and improved ability to generate renewable energy. The Government is also aware that there are potential risks from exposure to some nanomaterials.

In order that the Government can better understand these risks and benefits, and respond in an appropriate way, the Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development was asked to undertake an inquiry into Nanotechnology in NSW. These recommendations were handed down on 29 October 2008.

Following the receipt of advice from appropriately qualified entities, the Government will make its response to the Standing Committee by 29 April 2009.

7. *The NSW Government provides employer sponsored childcare facilities at Nanbaree Child Care Centre for NSW Public Sector Employees in Sydney. Does the NSW Government provide access to similar employee sponsored childcare facilities that provide the same tax advantages anywhere else in NSW?*

a. If not, are regional NSW public sector employees disadvantaged when compared to their Sydney based peers?

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b. What steps will be taken to provide access to employer sponsored childcare facilities to all NSW public sector employees?

ANSWER

7 and 7a.

Yes. In addition to Nanbaree, the NSW public sector has the following employer sponsored child care services:

- NSW Police Centre at Parramatta
- NSW Department of Corrective Services
- childcare centres for Area Health Service employees.

The tax advantage for employees in NSW Health is different to other public sector employees due to NSW Health's status as a Public Benevolent Institution.

7b. At this stage there is no intention to alter the current arrangements for the provision of employee sponsored childcare.

8. Does the provision of employer sponsored childcare facilities provide tax benefits to those NSW public sector employees in Sydney who use it?

ANSWER: Financial modelling undertaken by NSW Treasury showed little or no benefit for most employees, excluding those in NSW Health. This arises because the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate are not available if childcare fees are salary sacrificed.

Whether or not individual employees receive tax benefits by using the Nanbaree childcare centre depends on their individual financial circumstances (eg annual taxable income of family, individual taxable incomes and marginal tax rates) and care requirements (eg number of children in care and hours of care required each week).

9. What is the total number of people who have been provided a redundancy package?

ANSWER: 17 (10 DPC and 7 Ministerial staff).

10. What is the total value of redundancy packages provided in the last financial year?

ANSWER: \$1,176,905.

11. Please provide the names of people who were given redundancy packages.

12. Please provide a break down of the total value of the redundancy packages (please note, the packages do not need to be linked to the names of those who have received redundancy packages)

ANSWER (to 11&12): The breakdown of each of the 17 redundancy packages is as follows

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OFFICER	Termination Lump Sum (taxed component) \$	Termination Lump Sum (untaxed component) \$	Total redundancy package \$
A	36,728.72	49,152.00	85,880.72
B	1,133.40	91,284.00	92,417.40
C		23,113.94	23,113.94
D	8,622.29	7,020.00	15,642.29
E	44,424.73	66,707.00	111,131.73
F	5,000.00	67,559.75	72,559.75
G	25,795.85	45,641.00	71,436.85
H	28,162.87	105,328.00	133,490.87
I		20,986.06	20,986.06
J	9,630.24	42,130.00	51,760.24
K		99,201.22	99,201.22
L		56,798.27	56,798.27
M	26,118.16	31,597.00	57,715.16
N	59,030.59	42,130.00	101,160.59
O	5,000.00	49,152.00	54,152.00
P	20,950.72	31,597.00	52,547.72
Q	3,181.36	73,729.00	76,910.36
	273,778.93	903,126.24	1,176,905.17

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QUESTION

13. Please provide the total budget for Ministerial staff broken down by Minister, employee related costs, accommodation costs and other operating expenses (please see answers to Questions on Notice for Premier and Minister for Citizenship, 2007).

ANSWER

Budget allocations as at 1 July 2007 were:

Office	Employee Related	Accommodation	Other Operating	Total
Premier lemma	\$4,404,000	\$1,974,000	\$920,000	\$7,298,000
Watkins	\$1,492,000	\$505,000	\$290,000	\$2,287,000
Della Bosca	\$1,869,000	\$495,000	\$290,000	\$2,654,000
Costa	\$1,388,000	\$545,000	\$290,000	\$2,223,000
Hatzistergos	\$1,421,000	\$470,000	\$290,000	\$2,181,000
Sartor	\$1,520,000	\$438,000	\$290,000	\$2,248,000
Meagher	\$1,468,000	\$405,000	\$290,000	\$2,163,000
Campbell	\$1,469,000	\$531,000	\$290,000	\$2,290,000
Roosendaal	\$1,366,999	\$482,000	\$290,000	\$2,138,999
MacDonald	\$1,501,000	\$451,000	\$290,000	\$2,242,000
Kelly	\$1,408,000	\$421,000	\$290,000	\$2,119,000
Greene	\$1,272,000	\$451,000	\$260,000	\$1,983,000
Keneally	\$861,000	\$353,000	\$260,000	\$1,474,000
Rees	\$1,013,000	\$581,000	\$260,000	\$1,854,000
Firth	\$1,022,000	\$330,000	\$260,000	\$1,612,000
Tripodi	\$934,000	\$413,000	\$260,000	\$1,607,000
Brown	\$884,000	\$426,000	\$260,000	\$1,570,000
Burney	\$866,000	\$377,000	\$260,000	\$1,503,000
Lynch	\$955,000	\$304,000	\$260,000	\$1,519,000
West	\$900,000	\$385,000	\$260,000	\$1,545,000
Perry	\$820,000	\$374,000	\$260,000	\$1,454,000
Koperberg	\$1,401,999	\$435,000	\$290,000	\$2,126,999

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14. *With respect to each Department, Agency and Entity that the Minister is responsible for:*
- a. What was the total expenditure on in-house job-related training for FY 2007-08*
 - b. How many hours did staff spend on in-house job-related training for FY 2007-08*
 - c. What was the total budgeted expenditure on in-house job-related training for the FY 2007-08?*
 - d. What was the total expenditure on external job-related training FY 2007-08*
 - e. How many hours did staff spend on external job-related training for FY 2007-08*
 - f. What was the total budgeted expenditure on external job-related training for the FY2007-08?*

Independent Commission Against Corruption

- a. \$39,577.*
- b. 1415.5 hours.*
- c. & f. The Commission does not separate in-house and external training for budget purposes. Total budget was \$130,000.*
- d. \$117,220.*
- e. 1975.75 hours.*

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

- a. \$25,239.*
- b. 103 hours.*
- c. \$30,000.*
- d. \$99,772.*
- e. 1,843 hours.*
- f. \$126,000.*

Electoral Commission

- a. \$210,479.*
- b. 4,264 hours.*
- c. \$459,800.*
- d. \$15,000.*
- e. 210 hours.*
- f. \$14,700.*

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Department of Premier & Cabinet

a. \$213,250.

b. 1999 hours.

c. & f. The Department does not separate in-house and external training for budget purposes. Total budget was \$1,138,002.

d. \$246,468.

e. Not kept for external training.

Community Relations Commission

a. \$850.

b. 6.

c. & f. The Commission does not separate in-house and external training for budget purposes. Total budget was \$30,000.

d. \$24,222.

e. 192 hours.

Ombudsman

a. \$20,000.

b. 1,692 hours.

c. & f. The Ombudsman does not separate in-house and external training for budget purposes. Total budget was \$143,000.

d. \$150,000.

e. 3,171 hours.

Audit Office

a. \$188,605.

b. 4725 hours.

c. \$212,240.

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d. \$408,400.

e. 6300 hours.

f. \$558,072.

Natural Resources Commission

a. \$75,414.

b. & e. Accurate information in answer to this question is not available as specific records are not maintained.

c. \$75,000.

d. \$25,457.

f. \$23,000.

15. Please provide the total number of public servants in June of each year for 2000-2008 (Full time equivalent positions- FTE).

ANSWER

NSW Public Sector Workforce 2000-2008

Year	FTE at June
2000	270,688
2001	283,098
2002	282,897
2003	291,264
2004	291,701
2005	294,376
2006	303,534
2007	312,201
2008	Not available

Note: The 2001 figure is year average FTE.

Since 2002 a standard method of calculation has been applied throughout the sector, producing a more reliable calculation of FTE staffing figures and increasing the comparability across years from 2002 onwards.

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16. *Please provide the total number of NSW public sector employees (FTE) (at June of this year) broken down by:*

- a. Department;*
- b. Frontline, back office; and*
- c. SES / Non-SES.*

ANSWER: The 2008 Workforce Profile is expected to be completed by December 2008.

17. *How many employees are there in the Department of Premier and Cabinet?*

ANSWER: 786.01 FTE, comprising 527.76 FTE in DPC, 233.65 FTE in Ministers' offices and 24.60 FTE in the offices of the Leaders of the Opposition, former office holders and Office of the Inspector of the ICAC.

18. *What is the total number of Ministerial Staff?*

ANSWER: 233.65 (FTE).

19. *How many car spaces does the Department of Premier and Cabinet have set aside for them?*

ANSWER: 51.

20. *I refer to Budget Paper No. 3 – 2008-09, p 2-40: Would you please provide the names and positions of the individuals appointed to Government Boards and Committees including the names of the relevant Board or Committee to which they have been appointed?*

ANSWER: Government Boards and Committees, and their membership, are reported each year in agency annual reports.

21. *With respect to both the Department and the agencies constituted under it:*

- a. How many departmental employees were seconded/assigned to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries as at:
 - (i) 30 June 2007*
 - (ii) 30 June 2008**
- b. To what Minister or Parliamentary Secretary outlined in part i) were they assigned?*
- c. What was the total cost of seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries for FY 2007-08*
- d. What is the amount budgeted in FY2008-09 for seconding/assigning department employees to work in Offices of Ministers and of Parliamentary Secretaries?*

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ANSWERS:

a.(i) 42

a.(ii) 32

b. Ministers: M Costa, Iemma, Koperberg, Meagher, Sartor, Watkins, Campbell, Della Bosca, Greene, Kelly, Keneally, Lynch, Macdonald, Roozendaal, Tripodi and West

c. Salary costs for staff on temporary transfer to Ministers' offices are met from the respective Ministers' office budgets (see response to Question 13).

d. Budgets for Ministers' offices for 2008-09 will be finalised following the NSW mini-budget.

22. Has either Ian McFarlane or Bernie Fraser briefed the NSW Cabinet in their roles as expert economic advisors to the Government?

ANSWER: The Expert Advisers have briefed the Cabinet and continue to do so.

23. Will Mr McFarlane and Mr Fraser be available for public questions in relation to the NSW economy? Are their (sic.) any confidentiality clauses or restrictions on them in answering media questions?

ANSWER: The Expert Advisers are required to maintain the confidentiality of information provided in confidence to them by the Government. They are also expected to observe the usual conventions concerning Cabinet confidentiality.

24. Will Mr McFarlane and Mr Fraser be signing-off on the Mini-Budget?

ANSWER: Whilst advice from the Expert Advisers will be taken into account by the Government in its Mini-Budget, the Government will ultimately be responsible for 'signing-off' on it.