

Questions

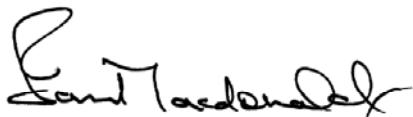
1. In relation to Departmental Liaison Officers of the Department of State and Regional Development:
 - a. How many Departmental Liaison Officers have been employed by the Department of State and Regional Development (FTE) for each financial year from 1995-1996 to date?
 - b. What were the total annual salaries paid for those staff in (1) for each financial year from 1995-1996 to date?
 - c. How many media staff have been employed by the Department of State and Regional Development (FTE) for each financial year from 1995-1996 to date?
 - d. What were the total annual salaries paid to those staff in (3) for each financial year from 1995-1996 to date?
2. Has the Department ever launched an internal investigation into the use of Departmental Credit cards used to pay for lunches of Departmental staff?
 - a. If so - when did this investigation occur, and what was the outcome?
3. Has the Department ever queried or questioned the amounts spent on lunches by the Departmental Liaison Officer(s)?
 - a. If so, when did this occur and what was the outcome?
4. What are the rules/protocols for credit card use by the Department?
5. Please provide the minutes of each DSRD committee and Advisory Panel for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.
6. Would the Minister please provide the food/beverage spend for each DSRD committee and Advisory Panel for financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10?
7. Why was Eastern Creek Raceway, deemed 'unsuitable' for Sydney's V8 Supercars event?
8. Were the businesses that have established themselves in Sydney Olympic Park post the 2000 Olympics consulted prior to the decision to host the V8 Supercars at Homebush?
9. Do you have any plans for Eastern Creek Raceway?
10. Why did your Government push ahead with the Sydney 500 event, despite the opposition from the Chairman of Events NSW John O'Neill and head of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Michael Knight?
11. What was your role in bringing the Sydney 500 to New South Wales?

12. What influence did the Chairman of News Limited John Hartigan and Commercial Director of Channel 7 Bruce McWilliam have in the lobbying of this event to your Government?
13. Were you present at any stage of discussions in any meeting with Mr Hartigan and or Mr McWilliam?
14. What consultations were there with the local communities prior to the announcement of this event?
15. World Rally Champion Sebastian Loeb stated that "...if it is a lot of people that are not happy to see us then I think we have to move somewhere else because we can understand that they don't like the rally." In light of this would you consider moving the event to another location in the state?
16. Keeping in mind that two stages of the event were cancelled due to protest action, do you consider the event a success?
17. How many times have private jets/helicopters have the Department utilised/hired since January 2007?
 - a. How many of these were used by the Minister?
 - b. What was the destination, purpose of visit and total cost of each individual flight?

Answers

1. This information was released to the leader of the NSW Nationals, under the Freedom of Information Act in February 2009.
2. No.
3. No.
4. Department credit card use is subject to the comprehensive policy developed in accordance with Department of Premier and Cabinet requirements.
5. I am advised the Minutes of a number of portfolio Committees have already been released this year to the leader of the NSW Nationals and the leader of the NSW Liberals under the Freedom of Information Act.
6. Money spent on catering is subject to the comprehensive policy developed in accordance with Department of Premier and Cabinet requirements.
7. Apart from transport issues and costs of upgrade, V8 Supercars had already determined it would not hold the event at Eastern Creek.
8. Yes.
9. No.
10. Cabinet decision.

11. I presented the proposal to Cabinet and the legislation to Parliament.
12. The decision was made by Cabinet.
13. I meet with many stakeholders about many issues relating to my portfolio responsibilities, including media stakeholders from time to time.
14. Event negotiations are commercial-in-confidence so details of the event could not be released prior to level of support being agreed and announced. Since the announcement by the Premier on 30 September 2008, there have been a number of meetings with the local communities by both the Minister for State Development and the Homebush Motor Racing Authority.
15. No, the event was considered to be an overall success and there was substantial positive support from the communities involved.
16. Yes. The Repco Rally event was considered a resounding success and was an economic and tourist boon to the Northern Rivers region.
17. None.
 - a. Not applicable
 - b. Not applicable

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Macdonald', written in a cursive style.

IAN MACDONALD MLC