



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Supplementary Questions on Notice

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1

Finance and Services

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: Finance and Services

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

1. According to the 2011-12 annual report the GM of the Workers Compensation Insurance Division of WorkCover NSW, is paid \$445,150 – is this figure currently correct?
2. The position was “regraded” to SES7 in February 2012, why was this considered necessary? Are there any plans to regrade it once more?
3. According to the same report the CEO is on \$320, 651, is this still correct?
4. Why is the GM position considered such a comparatively high pay scale i.e. higher than the CEO?
5. No new statistics have been released regarding the dispute rate for workers compensation dispute rates since 2011, considering the significant changes to WorkPlace legislation last year, what is being done to ensure that access to these statistics is maintained?
6. What are the dispute rates?
7. Has any analysis been undertaken of the impact on changes to the insurance industry, particularly the increase in income protection insurance as a result of the changes to workers compensation?
8. What were the return to work rates for injured workers in:
 - a. 2009?
 - b. 2010?
 - c. 2011?
 - d. 2012?
 - e. 2013 to date?
9. Regarding the Tower Crane fire and partial collapse at UTS on Broadway we have been advised that WorkCover is carrying out an investigation into the incident – what has been the result of this investigation?
10. How many Tower Cranes are registered in NSW?
11. How many tower cranes have been inspected since this incident in late November 2012?
12. How many Tower Cranes were inspected in the year prior to this incident?
13. What has been the number of WorkCover staff in the following categories as at 30 June for this year and the preceding four Financial Years:
 - a. Permanent staff

- b. WorkCover Temporary Staff
- c. Agency Temporary staff
- d. Other staff

14. What categories of staff fall within the “other staff” category?
15. How many staff have received Voluntary Redundancies in the current Financial Year to date, and each of the preceding five Financial Years?
16. Are WorkCover managers permitted to direct an injured member of staff to perform duties contrary to their treating physician’s medical certificate?
17. What protections are there for any member of staff who feels they have been directed by their supervisor to perform duties contrary to their treating physician’s medical certificate?
18. Can the Chief Executive provide examples of WorkCover implementing the “behavioural safety approach, particularly with regards to workplace ergonomics” (reported in their annual report) that have taken place?
19. The 2011/12 WorkCover annual report notes that there has been a reduction in the number of workers compensation claims from WorkCover staff - Can the Chief Executive provide the claims data as an Incidence Rate (that is claims per 1000 employees) for each of the past five Financial Years?
20. Please identify claims by type such as psychological injury, and include the gross costs of claims.
21. How many claims for Workers Compensation were made where liability was ultimately declined in:
 - a. 2013 to date?
 - b. 2012?
 - c. 2011?
 - d. 2010?
22. How many people approached WIRO for assistance in:
 - a. 2013 to date?
 - b. 2012?
 - c. 2011?
 - d. 2010?
23. Will the new water plan for the Lower Hunter (Budget Paper number three, page 5-3 2013-14 Budget Highlights, Policy Reform) include Tillegra Dam, or a version thereof, as part of the proposed plan? Or has damming the Williams River been excluded as part of this plan?
24. What community consultation will take place as part of the new water plan for the Lower Hunter?
25. Will a review of the Water Industry Competition Act (Budget Paper number three, page 5-3 2013-14 Budget Highlights, Policy Reform) include a review of the activities of Australian Water

Holdings and any principles from that organisation (Arthur Sinodinos, Eddie Obied, Nicholas Di Girolamo)?

26. How much energy and revenue is generated from the wind turbines at Lake George for Sydney Water?
27. How much energy and revenue is generated from the sewerage methane plants for Sydney Water?
28. What has the government done to improve water efficiency rates in residential and commercial properties?
29. Is the review of the State Records Act complete?
 - a. What were the review's processes and consultations?
 - b. What were the review's findings?
 - c. If the findings are not yet public, when will they be made available?
30.
 - a. What justification was given for axing the funding for the digital archive repository project and only retaining the Open Government site?
 - b. What assurances are there that important information won't be lost given that the Open Government site is less comprehensive than the archive system that was originally intended?
31. The Bridge Street building has been flagged for sale by the government. Besides a one off budgetary boost the sell-off of the building seemingly provides little gain with the potential to actually cost the government more funds as it has to house the officers of the department somewhere else.
 - a. Can the Treasurer explain the projected benefits of the sale of the building versus the projected ongoing costs of housing NSWDEC staff in rented premises elsewhere?
 - b. Will NSWDEC staff continue to be located within the Sydney CBD?
 - c. Has the government considered any conditions for sale relating to the retention and protection of the historical significance of the Bridge Street building in establishing public education in NSW and Australia?
32. How many re-insurers are available to so called competitors in the Compulsory Third party insurance market?
33. Last year, premiums collected from employers for workers compensation were said to be \$2.5 billion. When former Minister Pearce announced the most recent Insurance Premium Orders he stated that no employer would receive a base increase in workers compensation premiums and employers overall would receive a premium reduction of, on average, 7.5 per cent: Legislative Council, *Hansard*, 2 May 2013. What was the exact amount collected in workers' compensation premiums for 2012-2013?
34. What is the estimated amount to be collected in workers' compensation premiums in 2013-2014?

35. For each category in the Insurance Premiums Order for 2013-2014, what is the accident and injury rate for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 financial years?
36. Evidence to last year's Joint Select Committee on Workers Compensation disclosed that 'price signals' in terms of premium prices were important in promoting better observance of work safety legislation by employers (i.e. poor OHS performance should lead to higher premiums for those employers not properly observing the law). By what percentage has the accident or injury rate in the IPO
 - a. Increased;
 - b. Decreased, or
 - c. Was unchangedfor each category in the Insurance Premiums Order for the 2012-13 year compared to the 2011-12 year?
37. By what percentage has the accident or injury rate
 - a. Increased;
 - b. Decreased, or
 - c. Was unchangedfor each category in the Insurance Premiums Order for the 2011-12 year compared to the 2010-11 year?
38. Evidence to last year's Joint Select Committee disclosed that delays in referral of injured workers to appropriate treatment had had a compounding, multiplier effect on costs to the scheme and that addressing this would substantially improve health outcomes for workers, and overall scheme performance. What action has been taken to ensure injured workers receive treatment earlier?
39. How does any action taken sit with s60(2A) of the Workers' Compensation Act 1987 that requires insurer pre-approval of medical expenses?
40. By what date will the WorkCover Guidelines for Claiming Compensation Benefits be amended to make clear that treatments and services that are the subject of a determination by the Workers' Compensation Commission fall within the prescribed exemptions under s60(2A)?
41. Further evidence to last year's Joint Select Committee disclosed that most employers do not want injured workers back in the workplace, and also that there is a very high rate of terminations of employment of injured workers by the employer. Relatedly, employers generally do not hire as a new employee a person they know to have been injured at work. What action has been taken to ensure employers actually take back into their workplaces injured workers?
42. What are the return-to-work rates for injured workers for each of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years? What is the target for the current financial year?
43. What percentage of injured workers have had their employment terminated in each of the 2011-12 and the 2012-13 financial years?
44. What action is being taken to reduce or prevent employers from terminating the employment of employees injured at work?

45. What action has been taken to address incidents of discrimination in hiring against persons who have been injured at work?
46. What was the actual expenditure for the Workcover Independent Review Office (WIRO) for 2012-2013?
47. What is the proposed budget for the WIRO for 2013-14?
48. What is the FTE staffing for the WIRO in 2013-14?
49. How many applications from injured workers for legal assistance were received by WIRO since its creation?
50. How many applications were granted?
51. In relation to applications for review of work capacity testing under s44(1)(c) of the Workers' Compensation Act 1987:
 - a. How many applications have been received by WIRO by or on behalf of injured workers?
 - b. How many reviews have been completed by WIRO?
 - c. How many reviews resulted in no change to the insurer decision under review?
 - d. How many reviews resulted in a more beneficial outcome for the injured worker?
52. It can take 6-8 months between the filing of an application in the Workers' Compensation Commission and the first teleconference to resolve a dispute. Do you agree that a 6-8 months wait for a first teleconference in a workers' compensation dispute is unacceptable and can seriously disadvantage injured workers?
53. What steps have you taken to ensure the Workers' Compensation Commission is adequately resourced to undertake its workload in a shorter timeframe?
54. What timeframe do you intend to be achieved for a first teleconference and by what point in time?
55. What timeframes or time standards currently exist for matters to be finalised in the Workers' Compensation Commission, from filing
 - a. to first teleconference;
 - b. to hearing;
 - c. to final decision by the Commission?
56. In 2010, former Minister Daley asked then Chief Executive Lisa Hunt to conduct or have conducted a report on bullying inside WorkCover. Where is that report?
57. Who conducted it?
58. Has it ever been released?

59. If not, will you release it?
60. Will it be provided to the Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry into allegations of bullying in WorkCover NSW?
61. How many field-based inspectors were there as at April 2011?
62. Where were they based, by location?
63. How many at today?
64. Where are they based, by location?
65. How many workplace visitations were undertaken by inspectors in each of the 2011-2012 and the 2012-13 years?
66. How many were proactive visits and how many were in response to incident notifications?
67. How many prosecutions under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* were initiated in each of 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-13?
68. How many prosecutions were initiated under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* in 2011-12 and 2012-13?
69. How many are expected to be initiated in 2013-14?
70. How many have been initiated in 2013-14 to date?
71. How many prosecutions have been finalised over the same periods in 35-38 above?
72. What plans are in place should the Court of Appeal decide the regulation vesting jurisdiction in the District Court in *Inspector Brock v Empire Waste* was invalid?
73. How many proceedings would be affected by this?
74. How many prosecutions have been adjourned, or otherwise affected, by the decision of the District Court in *Inspector Walsh v Built Pty Ltd*?

Services (Water)

Sydney Water Jobs

75. How many positions have been made redundant, outsourced, abolished, deleted, retrenched or restructured within Sydney Water since April 1, 2011?
 - a. Please provide a breakdown by department or division for 2011-12 of those jobs
 - b. Please provide a breakdown by department or division for 2012-13 of those jobs

76. How many positions does Sydney Water intend to make redundant, outsource, abolish, delete, retrench or restructure within Sydney Water in 2013-14?
- Please provide a breakdown by department or division for those proposed positions.
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Hunter Water Jobs

77. How many positions have been made redundant, outsourced, abolished, deleted, retrenched or restructured within Hunter Water since April 1, 2011?
- Please provide a breakdown by department or division for 2011-12 of those jobs
 - Please provide a breakdown by department or division for 2012-13 of those jobs
78. How many positions does Hunter Water intend to make redundant, outsource, abolish, delete, retrench or restructure within Hunter Water in 2013-14?
- Please provide a breakdown by department or division for those proposed positions.
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Sydney Water IT Review

79. At Estimates, the Minister confirmed that he had asked for an independent review of Sydney Water's \$56.7 million capital budget for information technology projects. What is the timetable for that review?
80. When did the review begin?
81. Who or what company is conducting that review?

Hunter Water IT Review

82. At Estimates, the Minister confirmed that he had asked for an independent review of Sydney Water's \$56.7 million capital budget for information technology projects. Did he undertake or instigate a similar review for Hunter Water?
- If yes, what is the timetable for that review?
 - If yes, when did the review begin?
 - If yes, who or what company is conducting that review?
-

Ministerial Staff of former Finance Minister

83. After the removal of the former Minister for Finance and Services, how many of his ministerial staff have you retained after your appointment?
84. If you did retain, please provide their names and/or positions as well as salary range
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Sydney Water Board appointments

85. On May 10, 2013, the O'Farrell Government placed advertisements in the Australian Financial Review for three board positions on Sydney Water including its chairman. Those positions expire on September 30, 2013. When will those positions be announced?
86. Will they be examined by the independent review panel?
-

Sale of bus depots and Chief Secretary's Building

87. What is the status of the Finance and Services review into the sale of air space at up to 13 bus depot locations?
- Please list the sites under consideration.
 - What is the timetable for that review?
 - How much does the Government expect to receive from the proposed sale of these sites?
88. Does the minister still intend to sell the Chief Secretary's Building as announced by the previous Minister for Finance and Services?
- If yes, what is the timetable for that sale?
 - If yes, will that sale go to public tender?
-

Warriewood Wastewater Treatment Plant

89. Since the former minister announced in State Parliament on May 2, 2013 that the O'Farrell Government had completed the upgrade of Sydney Water's Warriewood Wastewater Treatment Plant to "reduce the frequency of wet weather overflows", how many times has the plant been put on by-pass? (Beachwatch has reported that Warriewood Wastewater Treatment Plant was placed on by-pass on June 3, June 24 and July 1. Therefore, we know of at least three occasions)
- Please provide the dates and details of when the plant has been placed on bypass
 - Please provide the volume in litres of the materials released when it was on bypass.
-

Sydney Water – capital budget

90. What was the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2010-11?
91. What was the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2011-12?
92. What was the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2012-13?
93. What will be the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2014-15?
94. What was the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2015-16?
95. What was the capital budget for Sydney Water in 2016-17?
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Hunter Water – capital budget

96. What was the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2010-11?
 97. What was the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2011-12?
 98. What was the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2012-13?
 99. What will be the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2014-15?
 100. What was the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2015-16?
 101. What was the capital budget for Hunter Water in 2016-17?
-

Sydney Water – salary of the managing director

102. On March 22, 2013, the Canberra Times reported that the total remuneration package for Sydney Water's managing director, Kevin Young as \$618,000?
 - a. Is this correct?
 - b. If not, what is the total salary and remuneration package?
 103. What was his performance based bonus for the last financial year?
 104. When does Mr Young's term expire?
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Hunter Water – salary of the managing director

105. What is the total salary package for Mr Kim Wood?
 106. What is the scope for a performance-based bonus as part of his contract?
 107. When does Mr Wood's term expire?
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Cooks River

108. What is the timetable for the clean-up of Cooks River?
109. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2012-13.
110. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2013-14.
111. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2014-15.
112. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2014-15.

113. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2015-16.
 114. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2016-17.
 115. What is the projected completion date – meaning when it will be safe for families to use again?
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Ducks Creek

116. What is the timetable for the clean-up of Ducks Creek?
 117. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2012-13.
 118. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2013-14.
 119. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2014-15.
 120. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2014-15.
 121. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2015-16.
 122. Please provide proposed Sydney Water expenditure for 2016-17.
 123. What is the projected completion date – meaning when it will be safe for families to use again?
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Meter Replacement program

124. How many meters did Sydney Water replace through its meter replacement program in 2010-2011?
 - a. What was the expenditure?
 125. How many meters did Sydney Water replace through its meter replacement program in 2011-2012?
 - a. What was the expenditure?
 126. How many meters will Sydney Water replace through its meter replacement program in 2012-2013?
 - a. What was the expenditure?
 127. How many meters will Sydney Water replace through its meter replacement program in 2013-2014?
 - a. What was the expenditure?
-

Bill Estimations

128. How many households in Sydney Water's area have meters?

129. How many households received estimated bills in 2010-2011?
 130. How many households received estimated bills in 2011-2012?
 131. How many households received estimated bills in 2012-2013?
 132. How many households are expected to receive estimated bills in 2013-14?
-

Bill Estimations – Hunter Water

133. How many households in Hunter Water's area have meters?
 134. How many households received estimated bills in 2010-2011?
 135. How many households received estimated bills in 2011-2012?
 136. How many households received estimated bills in 2012-2013?
 137. How many households are expected to receive estimated bills in 2013-14?
-

General Questions

1. What is your relationship to Michael Photios?
2. How often do you speak with him?
3. Have you met with clients of PremierState?
4. On how many occasions and what dates did you meet with Michael Photios or representatives of PremierState?
5. What was discussed at these meetings?
6. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with Michael Photios or a client of PremierState?
7. Did you attend his wedding?
8. Did Michael Photios vote in your preselection?
9. Have you met with lobbyists other than PremierState?
10. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

11. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?
12. On how many occasions have you declined to meet with a lobbyist?
13. To deliver greater transparency and accountability, will you publish a monthly online diary of all meetings with lobbyists?
14. In order to deliver greater transparency and accountability, as promised by the Premier, will you commit to keeping a record of all lobbying activities and documentation and allow them to be subject to the Government Information (Public Access) Act?
15. Since becoming a Minister, have you taken any interstate or intrastate trips involving overnight accommodation or flights?
16. Will you provide a list to the committee of the details of all travel?
17. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend Liberal/National Party functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?
18. Have you taken any trips intrastate or interstate to attend lobbyists' functions? What are the details of the trips including dates and costs?
19. Were these trips paid for by the taxpayer?
20. Were these trips booked through the government travel management system?
21. Since becoming a Minister, have you paid back money to the state because you booked unauthorised travel with the government travel management system? How much? When did you travel? When did you pay back the money? How many occasions has this happened?
22. Have you had meetings scheduled interstate or intrastate on Fridays or weekends which involved you staying overnight?
23. Did you take your spouse/partner on these trips?
24. Have any members of your staff made complaints to or raised concerns with you, your Chief of Staff or the Department of Premier and Cabinet about bullying in your office?
25. If so, have any members of your staff resigned or been removed from their position after making such a complaint or raising such concerns?
26. How many blackberries or smart phones are assigned to your staff?
27. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2012/13 financial year?
28. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
29. What is the cost of replacing those phones?

30. How many iPads or tablet computers does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
31. How many iPads or tablet computers have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
32. How many iPhones or other smart phones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
33. How many iPhones or other smart phones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
34. How many iPhones or other smart phones have been lost in your office?
35. How many iPads or tablet computers have been lost in your office?
36. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads or tablet computers?
37. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
38. What is the forecast for 2013/14 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?
39. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
40. If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
41. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff
42. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
43. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
44. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2012-13?
45. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
46. If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
47. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2013/14?
48. How many political advisors are in your office?
49. How many administration staff?

50. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
51. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties
52. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
53. If so, in what capacities?
54. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?
55. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2012/13 financial year?
56. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
57. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
58. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
59. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
60. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
61. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2013/14?
62. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2012/13?
63. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2012/13?
64. What is your Department's catering budget?
65. What is your Department's stationary budget?
66. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
67. If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?
68. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
69. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?
70. In 2012/13 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?
71. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?

72. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?
73. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations? If yes,
- What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - On what date was the funding advanced?
 - What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - What is the indexation rate applied to non-recurrent grant funds in 2013/2013?
 - What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - Have any provisions been included in grant agreements to prohibit these organisations from criticising the Government or any of its policies?
74. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2013 and at what cost?
75. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
76. How has that changed since 1 July 2012?
77. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?
78. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;
- What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?