



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

**Agriculture, Regional New South Wales, Western New South Wales
(Moriarty)**

Hearing: Tuesday 27 August 2024

Answers due by: 5pm, Tuesday 24 September 2024

Budget Estimates secretariat

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BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions from Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC
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Agriculture Commissioner

- (1) In December 2023, the Government announced that tenders were open to engage an Independent Agriculture Commissioner. Tenders closed on 29 January 2024
- (a) When will the Agriculture Commissioner be appointed?

Funding for Research Facilities

- (2) The Government has announced an investment of \$60 million to upgrade research facilities and emergency response sites across NSW
- (a) What was the process for determining which research facilities received the upgrades?
- (b) Why have research facilities in the Murray Electorate, which produces most of the country's agricultural commodities, missed funding upgrades?

Agriculture Industry Action Plan

- (3) The NSW Government launched the Agriculture Industry Action Plan in July 2013, delivering a report to drive continued growth of our primary industries sector and support growth of jobs in rural and regional areas. The report sets out 40 agreed actions over the next 10 years
- (a) What number of the 40 actions have been completed?
- (b) Can the Government give an update on the actions in the report?

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Animal agriculture emissions

- (4) How many hectares of land was cleared across NSW to make way for livestock, in the last five years?
- (a) How many hectares was cleared for cattle livestock?
- (5) According to the most recent data from DCCEEW, livestock is responsible for the majority of NSW's agricultural emissions, with enteric methane from ruminant livestock being the

largest source at 71%. What actions is the Department currently taking to reduce emissions from animal agriculture to meet NSW's net zero targets?

Animal rescue funding

- (6) What kind of sustainable funding models for animal rescue, rehabilitation, release and rehoming organisations is the Department considering?

Mulesing

- (7) In order for NSW to eventually reach the point where we can see a full ban on mulesing, we must have government support for a gradual transition, including allocating funding to the NSW wool sector for selective breeding of plain-bodied sheep that are resistant to flystrike, and creating a strategic plan to phase out mulesing practices. Is DPI conducting any research or work into the viability of this?

Chicken culling at Hawkesbury farms

- (8) In relation to chickens at two poultry farms in the Hawkesbury area recently infected by avian influenza and consequently depopulated through carbon dioxide gassing confirmed on 19 June 2024 and 22 June 2024, how was the process documented?
- (a) How long did the carbon dioxide gassing process take, for chickens depopulated at each farm?
- (b) How many chickens were gassed together, for chickens depopulated at each farm?
- (9) According to the Minister for Agriculture in answers to questions on notice 2496, "mortality of birds prior to depopulation varied from shed to shed and ranged from 10%-40%. At the first property a total of 120,000 birds died between first identification of clinical signs and the completion of depopulation." How many days did the 10%-40% of these sick birds suffer prior to being gassed by carbon dioxide?

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs)

- (10) Please provide details on the use of SGARs by NSW Government's departments, agencies, and authorities, specifically in relation to the management of rodents at government-owned or operated buildings and infrastructure?
- (11) Additionally, what measures are being taken to mitigate the environmental and wildlife impacts associated with these chemicals, and are there any plans to transition to more humane and environmentally-friendly alternatives?

- (12) Has there been any research conducted in relation to the impacts of SGARs on native species?
- (13) Given the widespread accessibility of SGARs, particularly via major and online retailers, what actions is the NSW Government taking to address the apparent lack of stringent regulations governing their accessibility and use?
- (14) How does the Government plan to prevent primary and secondary poisoning of non-target species, and are there any proposals to restrict the availability of SGARs to certified professionals only?

Biosecurity and intensive animal agriculture

- (15) How many intensive animal agribusinesses, by species type, are currently in operation in NSW including cattle feedlots, piggeries, broiler farms, duck farms, egg farms, turkey farms, rabbit farms, emu farms and any other facilities considered to be intensive animal agribusinesses?
 - (a) Of these, what is the volume of animals involved, in the last year?
 - (b) What is the volume of slaughters, in the last year?
- (16) How many inspections of animal agribusinesses have been conducted in the last year?
 - (a) Were there any adverse reports (either animal welfare or environmental) as a result of these inspections?

RSPCA NSW's Intensive Breeding Taskforce (IBTF)

- (17) Has the NSW Government provided any funding for the RSPCA NSW's Intensive Breeding Taskforce (IBTF)?
- (18) Does the NSW Government have oversight of the results of audits undertaken by the IBTF since 2020, including the number of facilities inspected and the number of infringements or cruelty charges that have been laid each year?

Animal tourism businesses

- (19) How many animal tourism businesses are currently operating in NSW?
- (20) How are animal tourism businesses monitored to ensure adherence to animal welfare laws?

Domestic violence

- (21) Domestic and family violence services in regional rural and remote areas do not receive any additional funding or loading despite the additional costs they incur to deliver services across vast geographical areas. Will the NSW Government consider a regional loading in funding models for domestic and family violence specialist services?
- (a) If not, why not?
- (22) To prepare for future floods and fires, will the NSW Government work with Gender and Disaster Australia to incorporate the National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines in NSW disaster planning?
- (a) If not, why not?

Australian National Baboon Colony

- (23) How many audits have been conducted by the Department of Primary Industries of the Australian National Baboon Colony (Sydney) in the period January 2014 to January 2024?
- (24) How much funding has been allocated by the NSW Government to fund the Australian National Baboon Colony operational costs in the period January 2014 to January 2024?
- (25) Does the Australian National Baboon Colony have a retirement policy in place for primates post their use in research?
- (a) If yes, is this publicly available?

Questions from Hon Mark Banasiak MLC

Posidonia Australis removal permit

- (26) Has DPI Fisheries issued any permits for detached *Posidonia australis* shoots removed from or found in or around Botany Bay to be relocated elsewhere within the last 3 years
- (27) Has *Posidonia australis* from Botany Bay been planted in Sydney Harbour within the last 3 years?
- (28) When will the public be engaged in a Citizen Science project in and around Botany Bay to collect *Posidonia australis* shoots, as advertised on the Operation Posidonia website <https://www.operationposidonia.com/storm-squad-1>

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

Marine Estate Management Strategy Projects 2022-2024

- (29) Please provide a full breakdown of all grants allocated as part of the Marine Estate Management Strategy Projects for 2022-2024 by Local Government Area (set out in the below linked document) by:

https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1441260/MEMS-Projects.pdf

- (a) year allocated
 - (b) for what period
 - (c) to which organisation
 - (d) how much and
 - (e) for what purpose
- (30) According to the Department's website, the last time the estuary general fishery observer program provided a final report was in 2015, see: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/657382/OUTPUT-11056-Macbeth-and-Gray-Observer-based-study-of-commercial-line-fishing-in-waters-off-New-South-Wales-FINAL.pdf
- (a) Please provide all reports and/or data from the observer program for all years since 2015
- (31) According to the Department's website, there is an observer program in Ocean Trap and Line Fishery, see: <https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/projects/estuary-general-fishery-observer-survey>
- (a) Please provide all reports and/or data from the observer program for all years since 2015

Total Allowable Fishing Committee

- (32) Is the Total Allowable Fishing Committee (TAFC) independent of the Department?
- (a) What is the current makeup of the TAFC?
 - (b) What is the role of the TAFC?

- (c) What is the TAFC's statutory obligations?

Agricultural Runoff

- (33) What is the Department doing about agricultural runoff in the Coffs Harbour/Nambucca region, particularly from the blueberry industry?
- (a) Are studies of pesticides in Hearn's Lake Catchment being carried out?
 - (b) Are studies of pesticides in the marine park being carried out?
 - (c) Is there a strategy in place to prevent agricultural runoff?
 - (d) Is there a strategy in place to clean up any pesticides found and stop it from entering the ocean?
- (34) Has the Department carried out any testing of blueberries from the Coffs Harbour/Nambucca region?
- (a) If so, what are the results of that testing?

Questions from Ms Sue Higginson MLC
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AGRICULTURE

Forestry

- (35) Has the StollzNow Research conducted on behalf of the North East Regional Forestry Hub into Forestry's social licence to operate, or any part of it, ever been used by the Department or any agency or Government entity for the purposes of ministerial briefs, or external or internal communications?
- (a) Does the StollzNow research constitute public consultation?
 - (b) Is the Department or any agency or Government entity aware of any other public consultation on the public popularity or public support for native forest logging?
 - i. What are the other public consultations that the Department, any agency or Government Entity is aware of relating to native forest logging?
 - (c) Was any assessment of the consultation method, including questions asked, undertaken in relation to the StollzNow research before it was provided in answers to supplementary questions from the hearings held on 21 February 2024?

- (d) Has the Department ever engaged StollzNow to complete public consultation?
 - i. What were the issues and dates for any occasion where StollzNow was engaged by the Department, any agency, or any other Government entity?
- (36) What are the names of the three Forestry Hub reports that have been used to project the 2.2 million hectares of land in NSW that is technically suitable for potential plantation establishment?
 - (a) How many Forestry Hubs are there in NSW?
 - i. What are the names of each of the Forestry Hubs in NSW?
 - ii. What oversight of the Forestry Hubs does the Government have?
 - (b) What is the role of the Forestry Hubs in relation to the work of the Department, any agency, or any Government entity?
 - i. What projects, plans or policies have used data or reports produced by any of the Forestry Hubs?
 - (c) Are any of the Forestry Hubs currently undertaking work that will be used by the NSW Government?
 - i. Which Hubs?
 - ii. What is the scope of any of the work being undertaken by the Hubs that will be used by the NSW Government?
- (37) How many hectares of land were purchased by the Forestry Corporation in the 2020-21 financial year of existing plantation or land that was suitable for plantation establishment?
 - (a) How much was established hardwood plantation?
 - (b) How much was suitable for hardwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (c) How much was established softwood plantation?
 - (d) How much was suitable for softwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (e) How much was suitable for either softwood or hardwood plantation?
- (38) How many hectares of land were purchased by the Forestry Corporation in the 2021-22 financial year of existing plantation or land that was suitable for plantation establishment?
 - (a) How much was established hardwood plantation?
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- (c) How much was established softwood plantation?
 - (d) How much was suitable for softwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (e) How much was suitable for either softwood or hardwood plantation?
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 - (d) How much was suitable for softwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (e) How much was suitable for either softwood or hardwood plantation?
- (41) How many hectares of land have been purchased by the Forestry Corporation in the 2024-25 financial year of existing plantation or land that was suitable for plantation establishment?
- (a) How much was established hardwood plantation?
 - (b) How much was suitable for hardwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (c) How much was established softwood plantation?
 - (d) How much was suitable for softwood plantation but was not forested?
 - (e) How much was suitable for either softwood or hardwood plantation?
- (42) What entities or stakeholders were consulted with in relation to the Forestry Industry Action Plan?
- (a) When did the development of the plan commence?

- (b) When did consultation with entities commence?
 - (c) Will the scope of the Forestry Industry Action Plan change over time depending on:
 - i. The results of public consultation?
 - ii. Advice from the Independent Forestry Panel?
- (43) What entities were consulted with in relation to the Independent Forestry Panel?
- (a) When did the development of the panel commence?
 - (b) When did consultation with entities commence?
 - (c) What role did the Department, any agency or any Government entity have in the selection of the panel members?
 - i. Were any names for potential panel members submitted by the Department and who were they?
 - (d) What role did the Forestry Corporation have in the selection of the panel members?
 - i. Were any names for potential panel members submitted by the Forestry Corporation and who were they?
 - (e) Is it possible for the membership of the panel to change over time?
 - i. How will changes to the panel be considered and who is the decision making authority in relation to the panel membership?
- (44) What volume of softwood was produced in NSW in the:
- (a) 2019-20 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (b) 2020-21 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (c) 2021-22 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?

- (d) 2022-23 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (e) 2023-24 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
- (45) 11. What volume of softwood produced in NSW was exported in the:
- (a) 2019-20 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (b) 2020-21 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (c) 2021-22 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (d) 2022-23 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (e) 2023-24 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
- (46) What volume of hardwood was produced in NSW in the:
- (a) 2019-20 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (b) 2020-21 financial year?

- i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (c) 2021-22 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (d) 2022-23 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (e) 2023-24 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
- (47) What volume of hardwood produced in NSW was exported in the:
- (a) 2019-20 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (b) 2020-21 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (c) 2021-22 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (d) 2022-23 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?
 - (e) 2023-24 financial year?
 - i. What volume was sawn timber of any variety?
 - ii. What volume was pulp log of any variety?

- (48) What volume of softwood is expected to be produced in NSW in the:
- (a) 2024-25 financial year?
 - (b) 2025-26 financial year?
 - (c) 2026-27 financial year?
 - (d) 2027-28 financial year?
 - (e) 2028-29 financial year?
- (49) What volume of softwood produced in NSW is expected to be exported in the:
- (a) 2024-25 financial year?
 - (b) 2025-26 financial year?
 - (c) 2026-27 financial year?
 - (d) 2027-28 financial year?
 - (e) 2028-29 financial year?
- (50) What volume of hardwood is expected to be produced in NSW in the:
- (a) 2024-25 financial year?
 - (b) 2025-26 financial year?
 - (c) 2026-27 financial year?
 - (d) 2027-28 financial year?
 - (e) 2028-29 financial year?
- (51) What volume of hardwood produced in NSW is expected to be exported in the:
- (a) 2024-25 financial year?
 - (b) 2025-26 financial year?
 - (c) 2026-27 financial year?
 - (d) 2027-28 financial year?
 - (e) 2028-29 financial year?
- (52) How many native forest hardwood logging operations were subject to either voluntary or mandatory stop work orders in the 2023-24 Financial year?
- (a) What forests were the operations in, for each order?

- i. What was the reason for each order?
 - ii. What was the estimated costs associated with worker costs for each order?
 - iii. How many workers were impacted by each order?
 - iv. What was the estimated volume of wood that was not harvested as a result of each order?
 - v. What was the outcome of each order?
- (53) How many native forest hardwood logging operations were subject to either voluntary or mandatory stop work orders in the 2022-23 Financial year?
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 - v. What was the outcome of each order?
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 - (a) What forests were the operations in, for each order?
 - i. What was the reason for each order?
 - ii. What was the estimated costs associated with worker costs for each order?
 - iii. How many workers were impacted by each order?
 - iv. What was the estimated volume of wood that was not harvested as a result of each order?
 - v. What was the outcome of each order?
- (57) What was the minimum or shortest return cycle out of all approved native forest logging operations in NSW in the Financial year:
 - (a) 2013-14?
 - (b) 2014-15?
 - (c) 2015-16?
 - (d) 2016-17?
 - (e) 2017-18?
 - (f) 2018-19?
 - (g) 2019-20?
 - (h) 2020-21?
 - (i) 2021-22?
 - (j) 2022-23?
 - (k) 2023-24?

(58) What was the maximum or longest return cycle out of all approved native forest logging operations in NSW in the Financial year:

- (a) 2013-14?
- (b) 2014-15?
- (c) 2015-16?
- (d) 2016-17?
- (e) 2017-18?
- (f) 2018-19?
- (g) 2019-20?
- (h) 2020-21?
- (i) 2021-22?
- (j) 2022-23?
- (k) 2023-24?

(59) What area of forests was approved to be logged in the financial year:

- (a) 2013-14?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (b) 2014-15?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (c) 2015-16?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (d) 2016-17?

- i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (e) 2017-18?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (f) 2018-19?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (g) 2019-20?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (h) 2020-21?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (i) 2021-22?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (j) 2022-23?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?

- (k) 2023-24?
 - i. What area of this was softwood plantation?
 - ii. What area of this was hardwood plantation?
 - iii. What area of this was non-plantation hardwood?
- (60) What surveying has been undertaken by the Department or Forestry Corporation to assess the health and density of koala populations that does not rely on the acoustic records?
- (61) What is the amount of money in the 2023-24 budget was spent on fines payable by the Department or the Forestry Corporation?
 - (a) What amount of money was spent on court fees?
- (62) What is the amount of money in the 2024-25 budget that is allocated to fines payable by the Department or the Forestry Corporation?
 - (a) What amount of money is expected to be spent on court fees?

Biosecurity

- (63) What was the date of the first Departmental brief prepared on the issue of the H5-N1 bird flu that is expected to arrive in Australia with migratory birds in spring 2024?
 - (a) Did this briefing address the impacts on wild bird species and native bird populations?
 - (b) Did this briefing address the impacts on other native species?
 - (c) When was the Minister first provided with a briefing on H5-N1 bird flu?
- (64) How many briefings have been prepared by the Department on the issue of H5-N1 bird flu since March 2023?
 - (a) How many of these are cross Departmental briefings?
 - (b) What role does the Department have in protecting native and wild species from the biosecurity risks posed by H5-N1 bird flu?

Questions from Hon Chris Rath MLC (on behalf of the Opposition)
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REGIONAL NSW

Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services

- (65) On what date did the role of Acting Executive Director in the Office of the Secretary, which was filled by Dr Adam Tyndall, become available?
- (a) On what date was Dr Adam Tyndall offered the role of Acting Executive Director in the Office of the Secretary?
 - (b) On what date did Dr Adam Tyndall officially commence in the role of Acting Executive Director in the Office of the Secretary?
- (66) On what date was Dr Adam Tyndall offered the full-time role of Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services in the Office of the Secretary?
- (a) On what date did Dr Adam Tyndall officially commence in the full-time role of Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services in the Office of the Secretary?
 - (b) Was the role of Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services advertised publicly?
 - (c) If so, on what date did applications open and on what date did applications close?
 - (d) If so, how many applications were received from the public advertising of the role?
 - (e) Was the role of Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services advertised internally?
 - (f) If so, on what date did applications open and on what date did applications close?
 - (g) If so, how many applications were received from the internal advertising of the role?
 - (h) Did Dr Adam Tyndall undertake a formal interview for the full-time role of Executive Director – Media, Strategy and Ministerial Services in the Office of the Secretary?
 - (i) If so, on what date did this formal interview take place?
 - (j) If so, who was on the formal interview panel?
 - (k) If so, how many candidates were interviewed for the role?
- (67) On what date was Dr Adam Tyndall issued with a pass that enabled access to Minister Moriarty's offices in 52 Martin Place and Parliament House?
- (a) Who authorised the issuing of the pass that enabled Dr Adam Tyndall to access Minister Moriarty's offices in 52 Martin Place and Parliament House?

- (b) By the end of April 2023, how many departmental staff had been issued with passes that enabled access to Minister Moriarty's offices in 52 Martin Place and Parliament House?
- (c) By the end of April 2023, which departmental staff had been issued passes that enabled access to Minister Moriarty's offices in 52 Martin Place and Parliament House?
- (68) Between March 25, 2023, and June 30, 2023, was there any formal communication, via internal memo or email, to staff within the Department of Regional NSW identifying Mr Tyndall as a point-of-contact in Minister Moriarty's office?
- (69) If so, who sent the internal memo and/or email/s?
- (70) Between March 25, 2023 and June 30, 2023, did Dr Adam Tyndall undertake any travel with Minister Moriarty?
 - (a) If so, when and to where?
 - (b) If so, did Dr Adam Tyndall accompany Minister Moriarty in a Ministerial vehicle?
 - (c) If so, did Dr Adam Tyndall ever stay overnight at accommodation utilising the travel budget from within the Minister's office?
 - (d) If so, who authorised the travel that was undertaken by Dr Adam Tyndall?

Regional Funding

- (71) How much funding was allocated to the Regional Development Trust Fund on the date it was first announced?
 - (a) As of August 30, 2024, how much funding remains in the Regional Development Trust Fund?
 - (b) Which projects and/or programs have been funded utilising the Regional Development Trust Fund?
- (72) Has the Minister sent any official correspondence to the Treasurer to seek the release of funds from the Working Regions Fund?
 - (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If not, given this funding was part of the former government's Regional Growth Fund, will she seek to have funding released from the program for the betterment of the regions?

- (73) Does your government have any programs that provide a guaranteed allocation of funding to every Local Government Area in regional NSW?
- (a) If not, why not?
 - (b) If so, what are the specific funds and how much is allocated to each Local Government Area?
- (74) In May 2024, you announced funding for a rural and remote airstrips program?
- (a) When did the Department of Regional NSW commence work on this program?
 - (b) On what date was this program presented to the Regional Development Trust for approval?
 - (c) On what date was this program approved by the Regional Development Trust?
 - (d) On what date was approval granted for this announcement to proceed?
 - (e) Which Local Government Areas can access funding through this program?
 - (f) In the announcement, it was indicated that a rollout schedule for this program would be completed by September 2024. Has this rollout schedule been completed?

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Funding

- (75) As of August 30, 2024, how much funding is available in the Drought Infrastructure Fund?
- (a) What was the figure on March 25, 2023?
 - (b) How many applications have been received for this program since its inception?
 - (c) How many applications have been received since March 25, 2023?
- (76) As of August 30, 2024, how much funding is available in the Drought Ready and Resilient Fund?
- (a) How many applications have been received for this program since its inception
- (77) The former Coalition Government provided more than \$12 million in 2022/23 for the Weeds Action Program (WAP). How much is being funded to the WAP in 2024/25?

Biosecurity

- (78) In 2022 the former Coalition government held a biosecurity conference in Dubbo. Will the Labor government be hosting a follow-up conference?
- (a) If so, when will the conference be held?
 - (b) If not, why not?
- (79) How much additional funding has been included in the 2024/25 budget, separate to the funding announced in 2023/24, to address the issue of Red Imported Fire Ants?
- (80) How much additional funding has been included in the 2024/25 budget, separate to the funding announced in 2023/24, for the rollout of electronic identification in sheep and goats?
- (81) How much funding has been allocated in the budget for electronic tag rebates?
- (a) How many tags will this funding cover?
- (82) As of August 30, 2024, how much of the \$2.6 million allocation announced in December 2022 to counter Hudson Pear is remaining?
- (a) How much of this allocation was spent between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024?
 - (b) How much of this allocation is budgeted to be spent in the 2024/25 financial year?
 - (c) Between March 25, 2023 and August 30, 2024, how many cochineal have been bred in the Rearing Facility in Lightning Ridge?

Research Stations

- (83) How many research stations are there in NSW?
- (a) As of August 30, 2024, how many of these research stations has the Minister visited since March 25, 2023?
 - (b) As of August 30, 2024, how many staff are employed at research stations across NSW?
 - (c) What was this figure on March 25, 2023?
 - (d) Who has drafted the terms of reference of the review into research stations?

Biosecurity Commissioner

- (84) On what date did applications open for the role of Biosecurity Commissioner?
- (a) On what date did applications close?

- (b) How many applications were received?
- (c) Who put together the interview panel of Mr Sean Sloan, Mr Steve Orr and Dr Marion Healy?
- (d) On what date did the interview panel conduct interviews?
- (e) How many candidates were interviewed on this date?
- (f) How many candidates were shortlisted and put forward to the Minister?
- (g) On what date did the Minister formally reject the shortlisted candidates?
- (h) On what date was Rimfire engaged to conduct a recruitment process for the role?
- (i) How many applications were received by Rimfire?
- (j) How many applicants were approached by Rimfire?
- (k) Did Dr Marion Healy apply for the role? Or did Rimfire approach Dr Healy?
- (l) Did Dr Marion Healy undertake an interview for the role?
 - i. If so, on what date did this interview occur?
 - ii. If not, why not?
- (m) How many candidates were formally interviewed for the role by Rimfire?
- (n) On what date was Dr Marion Healy formally offered the role of Biosecurity Commissioner?
- (o) On what date did Dr Marion Healy officially start in the role of Biosecurity Commissioner?

WESTERN NSW

Western NSW LGA funding

- (85) Through the Department of Regional NSW, how much funding has been allocated to the Local Government Areas included in the Western NSW portfolio since March 25, 2023?
 - (a) Of this, how much has been allocated to Dubbo Regional Council?
 - (b) Of this, how much has been allocated to Gilgandra Shire Council?
 - (c) Of this, how much has been allocated to Warrumbungle Shire Council?
 - (d) Of this, how much has been allocated to Coonamble Shire Council?

- (e) Of this, how much has been allocated to Walgett Shire Council?
 - (f) Of this, how much has been allocated to Brewarrina Shire Council?
 - (g) Of this, how much has been allocated to Bourke Shire Council?
 - (h) Of this, how much has been allocated to Cobar Shire Council?
 - (i) Of this, how much has been allocated to Bogan Shire Council?
 - (j) Of this, how much has been allocated to Warren Shire Council?
 - (k) Of this, how much has been allocated to Narromine Shire Council?
 - (l) Of this, how much has been allocated to Lachlan Shire Council?
 - (m) Of this, how much has been allocated to Central Darling Shire Council?
 - (n) Of this, how much has been allocated to Broken Hill City Council?
 - (o) Of this, how much has been allocated to Wentworth Shire Council?
 - (p) Of this, how much has been allocated to Hay Shire Council?
 - (q) Of this, how much has been allocated to Balranald Shire Council?
 - (r) Of this, how much has been allocated to Carrathool Shire Council?
- (86) Broken Hill City Council needs to upgrade the runway of its airport. Which funding program/s is/are available for the council to seek assistance towards this project?
- (87) Broken Hill City Council has had to pause plans for a project aimed at upgrading a sporting facility to cater for more sports, due lack of certainty over funding.
- (a) What funding program/s is/are available for the council seek funding towards this project?
- (88) How many meetings of the Alliance of Western Councils has the Minister been invited to?
- (a) How many meetings of the Alliance of Western Councils has the Minister attended?

Qantas Chairman's Club

- (89) Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairman's Club?
- (a) If no, have you ever previously been a member?
 - (b) If yes, when did you cease to be a member?
 - (c) If yes, when did you initially become a member?

- (d) If yes, when did you make a declaration to The Cabinet Office?
- (e) If yes, how many times since 28 March 2023 have you used the Qantas Chairman's Club?

Union membership

- (90) Are you a member of a union?
 - (a) If yes, what union?

Union membership fees

- (91) What was the expenditure for you to join a union in:
 - (a) 2022-23?
 - (b) 2023-24?
 - (c) 2024-25?

CFMEU membership

- (92) Have you ever been a member of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU)?
 - (a) If yes, when?

CFMEU meetings

- (93) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the CFMEU?

ETU membership

- (94) Have you ever been a member of the Electrical Trades Union (ETU)?
 - (a) If yes, when?

ETU meetings

- (95) Given ministerial diary disclosures do not include all meetings and provide exceptions to disclosures, since 28 March 2023, have you met with the ETU?

Paper shredder

- (96) Does your ministerial office have a paper shredder?

Ministerial disclosures to The Cabinet Office

(97) On what date did you last update/make a ministerial disclosure to The Cabinet Office?

Department(s)/Agency(s) in Portfolio

(98) What department(s)/agency(s) are included in your portfolio?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Employees

(99) How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

- (a) 28 March 2023?
- (b) 1 July 2023?
- (c) 1 January 2024?
- (d) 1 July 2024?

(100) How many public servants within your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) were paid more than the Premier in 2023-24?

(101) How many redundancies were processed by each Department(s)/agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

- (a) Of these redundancies, how many were:
 - i. Voluntary?
 - ii. Forced?
- (b) What was the total cost of all redundancies in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Former Ministerial Employees

(102) Are there any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

- (a) If yes, how many?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports

(103) In what month will the 2023-24 annual reports for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

(104) Will the 2023-24 annual reports for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25?

State Records Act

(105) Have you and your ministerial office had training and/or a briefing about the State Records Act from State Records NSW and/or The Cabinet Office and/or Premier's Department?

(a) If yes, when?

Consultants

(106) Since 28 March 2023, how many consultancy contracts have been signed in your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) What was the individual amount of each contract?

(b) What is the purpose of each contract?

(c) Who was the contract with?

(d) Did the contract go through a competitive tender?

Legal Costs

(107) How much did the Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spend in legal costs since 28 March 2023?

(a) For what specific purposes or matters was legal advice sought?

Advertising

(108) How much has each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities spent on advertising or sponsored posts since 28 March 2023 on the following social media platforms:

(a) Facebook

(b) Instagram

(c) LinkedIn

(d) TikTok

(e) YouTube

(f) X (formerly known as Twitter)

Catering

(109) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on catering in 2023-24?

(110) Was catering used for external stakeholders?

(a) If yes, who were these external stakeholders?

(111) Did any catering costs in 2023-24 include expenditure on alcohol?

Gin

(112) Since 28 March 2023, have you or your ministerial office purchased 'gin' using your ministerial budget?

Stationery

(113) How much of your ministerial budget was spent on stationery in 2023-24?

(114) Did your stationery expenditure include gifts for external stakeholders?

(a) If yes, what was the gift(s)?

(b) If yes, who received the gift(s)?

Ministerial Vehicles and Driving Offences

(115) Since 28 March 2023, have you personally driven your ministerial vehicle?

(116) As a driver since 28 March 2023:

(a) Have you been pulled over by the NSW Police Force?

(b) Have you been fined for speeding?

(c) Have you been fined for school zone related offence?

(d) Have you been fined for red light related offence?

(e) Have you been involved in an accident that included the NSW Police attending the scene?

i. If yes to a) to e), did this include whilst driving your ministerial vehicle?

Speeches

(117) Does your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) draft and write speeches for you?

(118) How many public servants have undertaken writing speeches in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

Ministerial Staff – Local Government Councillors

(119) As at 30 June 2024, how many of your ministerial staff were local government councillors?

(120) What local government(s) did they serve?

Ministerial Advisers

(121) How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

(122) What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office in 2023-24 FY?

Police Commissioner Gin

(123) Have you received gin from the Police Commissioner?

Cabinet Sub Committees

(124) What cabinet sub committees are you a member of?

E-Toll

(125) Does your ministerial vehicle have an E-Toll?

(a) If yes, is expenditure paid by your by your ministerial budget?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Gifts and Hospitality Register

(126) Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) have a gifts and/or hospitality register?

(a) If yes, is it available online?

i. If yes, what is the URL?

Workplace complaints

(127) Have you been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

(128) Has any member of your ministerial staff been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial staff disclosure of gifts and/or hospitality

- (129) Does your ministerial office keep a register of gifts and/or hospitality for staff to make disclosures?
- (130) Have any staff members in your office been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
 - (b) Are these gifts of hospitality declared?

Ministerial Code of Conduct

- (131) Since 28 March 2023, have you breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct?
- (a) If yes, what was the breach?

Credit Cards

- (132) Have you ever been issued with a credit card by a NSW Government department(s) and/or agency(s) since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If yes, under what circumstance?
 - (b) If yes, what items and expenditure was undertaken?
- (133) For each department, agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
- (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff? (Please provide a break-down of this information by grade)
 - (b) What was the value of the largest reported purchase on a credit card for the last year?
 - (c) What was each largest reported purchase for?
 - (d) What was the largest amount outstanding on a single card at the end of a payment period?
 - (e) And what was the card holder's employment grade?
 - (f) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - (g) What was the cost to replace them?
 - (h) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?

- i. How many purchases were asked to be repaid on the basis that they were illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and what was the total value thereof?
 - ii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - i. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
 - ii. Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Department(s)/agency(s) desk or office

(134) Do you have a desk or office in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) building(s)?

Senior Executive Drivers

(135) How many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

Mobile phones

(136) How many mobile phones has your ministerial office been allocated as at 1 July 2024?

(137) How many mobile phones in your ministerial office have been lost or stolen since 28 March 2023?

Efficiency dividends

(138) Was an efficiency dividend applied to your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) within your portfolio responsibilities in:

- (a) 2023-24?
- (b) 2024-25?
 - i. If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each department/agency?
 - ii. What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications / Standing Order 52 – Ministerial Office

(139) Does your ministerial office have staff member(s) to undertake Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s) and/or Standing Order 52 requests?

- (a) If yes, has that ministerial staffer(s) received formal training about their legal obligations?

(140) How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Land audit – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(141) Has your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) undertaken a land audit of surplus government property in any of the following postcodes:

(a) 2077?

(b) 2079?

(c) 2080?

(d) 2081?

(e) 2082?

(f) 2083?

(g) 2117?

(h) 2118?

(i) 2119?

(j) 2120?

(k) 2121?

(l) 2125?

(m) 2126?

(n) 2151?

(o) 2154?

(p) 2156?

(q) 2157?

(r) 2158?

(s) 2159?

(t) 2756?

(u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u), how many properties have been identified?

GIPA Applications – Department(s)/Agency(s)

(142) Since 28 March 2023, have you and/or your ministerial office given instructions to your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) in relation to Government Information (Public Access) Act application(s)?

Department(s)/Agency(s) Travel

(143) As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants in your portfolio department(s) / Agency(s)?

(a) If yes, how many overseas trips have you approved since 28 March 2023?

(144) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(145) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on domestic flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

(146) Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on international flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?

(a) Of these, how many flights were taken in business class?

(b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?

(147) What was the total expenditure since 28 March 2023 by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:

(a) Taxi hire?

(b) Ridesharing services?

(c) Limousine/private car hire?

(d) Hire car rental?

TikTok

(148) Are you on TikTok?

(a) If yes, do you access TikTok from a NSW Government device?

Signal

(149) Are you on Signal?

- (a) If yes, do you access Signal from a NSW Government device?

Training

(150) Since 28 March 2023, have you had training from an external stakeholder that included an invoice and payment paid for using your ministerial budget?

- (a) If yes, what is the description of training?
- (b) If yes, how much?

Cabinet documents

(151) Since 28 March 2023, have you shared Cabinet documents with your Parliamentary Secretary?

Parliamentary Secretary

(152) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

(153) Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

Website usage

(154) What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

(155) What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial visits

(156) Since 28 March 2023, have you visited any of these postcodes:

- (a) 2077?
- (b) 2079?
- (c) 2080?
- (d) 2081?
- (e) 2082?

- (f) 2083?
- (g) 2117?
- (h) 2118?
- (i) 2119?
- (j) 2120?
- (k) 2121?
- (l) 2125?
- (m) 2126?
- (n) 2151?
- (o) 2154?
- (p) 2156?
- (q) 2157?
- (r) 2158?
- (s) 2159?
- (t) 2756?
- (u) 2775?

i. If yes to (a) to (u):

1. *What was the purpose of the visit(s)?*
2. *Did you make a funding announcement(s)?*

Hard hats and/or vests

(157) Do you have a hard hat and/or vest for visiting infrastructure sites?

- (a) If yes, was it paid from your ministerial budget?

Camera, video recorder and microphones

(158) Does your ministerial office have the following paid by your ministerial budget:

- (a) Handheld camera?
- (b) Handheld video recorder?

(c) Microphone?

i. If yes to (a) to (c), how much is each worth when purchased?

Media releases and statements

(159) Are all the ministerial media releases and statements issued by you publicly available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases>?

(a) If no, why?