



2023-24-25-26

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 675

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that day. Consequently, the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 660 (Including Question Nos 4919 to 4926)	10 February 2026
Q & A No. 661 (Including Question Nos 4927 to 4934)	11 February 2026
Q & A No. 662 (Including Question Nos 4935 to 4936)	12 February 2026
Q & A No. 663 (Including Question Nos 4937 to 4940)	13 February 2026
Q & A No. 664 (Including Question Nos 4941 to 4941)	16 February 2026
Q & A No. 665 (Including Question Nos 4942 to 4943)	17 February 2026
Q & A No. 666 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 667 (Including Question Nos 4944 to 4947)	19 February 2026
Q & A No. 668 (Including Question Nos 4948 to 4948)	20 February 2026
Q & A No. 669 (Including Question Nos 4949 to 4957)	23 February 2026
Q & A No. 670 (Including Question Nos 4958 to 4958)	24 February 2026
Q & A No. 671 (Including Question Nos 4959 to 4962)	25 February 2026
Q & A No. 672 (Including Question Nos 4963 to 4969)	26 February 2026
Q & A No. 673 (Including Question Nos 4970 to 4974)	27 February 2026
Q & A No. 674 (Including Question Nos 4975 to 4977)	2 March 2026
Q & A No. 675 (Including Question Nos 4978 to 4985)	3 March 2026

19 JANUARY 2026

(Paper No. 660)

* 4919 MULTICULTURALISM—PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER AND GRANTS—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) For each Premier's Harmony Dinner held in 2023, 2024 and 2025, can you provide a list of all organisations, associations, charities or community bodies that:
 - (a) received funding from Multicultural NSW or any other NSW Government entity in the same or previous financial year, and
 - (b) were represented by one or more attendees at the Dinner?
- (2) For each organisation, can you state:
 - (a) the amount of funding received,
 - (b) the purpose of the grant,
 - (c) the number of representatives who attended, and
 - (d) whether their tickets were paid, discounted or complimentary?

Answer—

I am advised:

Information about organisations that received funding from Multicultural NSW is available in Multicultural NSW's Annual Reports.

The Premier's Harmony Dinner is a ticketed event with tiered pricing for standard and community tickets. Community tickets are available to registered charities and peak multicultural bodies at a discounted rate.

* 4920 SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE—PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE REFERRAL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy—

- (1) Has the head of ICAC, John Hatzistergos, recused himself from consideration of the PAWC referral of material concerning the illegal straw donor scheme In Kogarah 2015 as one of the central participants, Kenrick Cheah, worked for Mr Hatzistergos?

Answer—

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is an independent statutory office which reports directly to the Parliament.

Information on investigations conducted by the ICAC is available on the ICAC's website (<https://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/>). Any questions concerning the exercise of the ICAC's functions should be directed to the ICAC.

* 4921 MULTICULTURALISM—PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER REVENUE—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) For each Premier's Harmony Dinner in 2023, 2024 and 2025, what was the total gross revenue received, broken down by:
 - (a) ticket sales,
 - (b) table sales,
 - (c) sponsorships,
 - (d) donations, and

(e) any other revenue sources?

(2) Can you provide the amount for each category?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Premier's Harmony Dinner is an annual event funded through a combination of ticket sales and sponsorship contributions, which vary each year.

Detailed revenue breakdowns by category are managed through established financial governance and acquittal processes. Event-specific financial details, including sponsorship arrangements, are considered commercially sensitive and are not publicly disclosed.

Overall financial reporting is undertaken in accordance with NSW Government requirements and reflected, where appropriate, in Multicultural NSW's annual reporting and audited financial statements.

* 4922 MULTICULTURALISM—PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER TICKET SALES—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

(1) For each Premier's Harmony Dinner held in 2023, 2024 and 2025, what was the:

- (a) Standard ticket and table price?
- (b) Community or subsidised ticket and table price?
- (c) Corporate ticket or table price?

(2) For each of the above:

- (a) How many tickets or tables were offered at each price point?
- (b) How many tickets or tables were sold?
- (c) How many tickets or tables were distributed as complimentary?

Answer—

I am advised:

Ticket type	2023 ticket price	2024 ticket price	2025 ticket price
Standard ticket	\$200.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
Community ticket	\$125.00	\$135.00	\$135.00
Corporate table	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

Between 1,500 and 1,600 people attend the Premier's Harmony Dinner each year. Event-specific financial details are considered commercially sensitive and are not publicly disclosed. Overall financial reporting is undertaken in accordance with NSW Government requirements and reflected, where appropriate, in Multicultural NSW's annual reporting and audited financial statements.

* 4923 MULTICULTURALISM—PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER COSTS—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

(1) For each Premier's Harmony Dinner held in 2023, 2024 and 2025, what was the total cost to the NSW Government, including but not limited to:

- (a) venue hire,
- (b) catering and beverages,
- (c) event management,
- (d) security,
- (e) staging, audiovisual and production,

- (f) entertainment,
 - (g) marketing, invitations and printing,
 - (h) staffing,
 - (i) travel and accommodation, and
 - (j) any other costs?
- (2) Can you provide a full breakdown by cost category for each year?

Answer—

I am advised:

Event-specific financial details are considered commercially sensitive and are not publicly disclosed. Overall financial reporting is undertaken in accordance with NSW Government requirements and reflected, where appropriate, in Multicultural NSW's annual reporting and audited financial statements.

* 4924 SPORT—VENUES NSW TURF TENDER—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) With regards to the Venues NSW tender for turf products and services, and given that Evergreen (one of just two tenderers) has now admitted to the Upper House Select Committee on the Allianz surface that it lodged an erroneous tender, having failed to gain consent from its listed referees,
- (a) what action is the Government taking against Evergreen for this fraudulent tender document,
 - (b) has the tender process now been abandoned, and
 - (c) how will Venues NSW competitively procure turf in future?

Answer—

I am advised that:

Both tenderers for the current Contingent Turf Supply (VNSW2024-128) tender supplied appropriate non-Venues NSW referees, as required.

Neither tenderer sought permission to list Venues NSW or Venues NSW staff as referees in the generic capability statements that accompanied their tender applications. Neither generic capability statements have been deemed fraudulent, and the tender process will continue.

* 4925 SPORT—OFFICE OF SPORT COST SAVINGS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Treasurer representing the Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Jobs and Tourism—

- (1) In making cost savings in the Office of Sport after the last election, what were programs EC-91 and EC-157 and how much in savings were realised from them?

Answer—

I am advised that:

- (1) The programs EC-91 and EC-157 relate to the Football in Schools programs. The responsibility and budget were transferred to the Department of Education, who are managing delivery of the project. Any questions relating to the programs should be directed to the Minister for Education and Early Learning.

Savings of \$14.5 million were identified from unallocated and uncommitted grant programs which was used to fund the Election Commitment for the Football in Schools program.

* 4926 TRANSPORT—TRANSPORT FOR NSW STAFF—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy—

- (1) How many total employees are in the Active Transport and Vibrancy branch inside Transport for NSW?
- (2) How many TSSE Band 2 staff are inside the Active Transport and Vibrancy branch?
- (3) How many TSSE Band 1 staff are inside the Active Transport and Vibrancy branch?
- (4) How many employees inside the Active Transport and Vibrancy branch inside Transport for NSW earn over \$150 thousand dollars per year?

Answer—

I am advised:

The Active Transport and Vibrancy Branch at Transport for NSW works to integrate all modes of transport into NSW's cities and neighbourhoods, creating streets and public spaces that are functional, attractive, inclusive and safe. The Branch leads active transport, e-micromobility and vibrancy outcomes through place-based activation, urban design and policy reform, and supports councils and stakeholders with practical guidance and resources. It also plays a key role in improving safety and accessibility—particularly women's safety—by promoting inclusive, well-designed streets and public spaces that support safer walking, cycling and e-micromobility use.

- (1) 123.
- (2) 1.
- (3) 7.
- (4) 72.

10 FEBRUARY 2026

(Paper No. 675)

4978 GAMING AND RACING—GWIC'S COMPLIANCE WITH NSW SEX DISCRIMINATION LAW—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast—

- (1) Are you aware of the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC) action against the Gunning dog trainer Ms Chloe Bilal, punishing her for the alleged sins of her husband?
- (2) Is GWIC covered by the sex discrimination provisions of the New South Wales law?
 - (a) If so, how can it be persecuting an independent woman for the alleged offences of her husband?
- (3) Are you aware of the Gai Waterhouse precedent by which, again under the sex discrimination law, there is a clear legal precedent by which a woman in racing or training should not be disadvantaged by the alleged offences of her partner?
- (4) What action will you now take to ensure GWIC complies with the sex discrimination law of New South Wales?

4979 CLIMATE CHANGE—BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY WEATHER STATIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) In the Budget Statement on 2025-26 Performance and Wellbeing page 9-1, what allowance has been made in the comparisons with the "1961 to 1990 climatology" and average temperature for the opening of 22 new Bureau of Meteorology weather stations in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory post 1990 in urban heat areas, also known as urban heat islands, that are in:

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- (a) Albion Park?
 - (b) Badgerys Creek?
 - (c) Bankstown Airport?
 - (d) Bellambi?
 - (e) Mount Annan?
 - (f) Canberra?
 - (g) Canterbury?
 - (h) Lake Macquarie?
 - (i) Gosford?
 - (j) Holsworthy Aerodrome?
 - (k) Holsworthy Defence?
 - (l) Horsley Park?
 - (m) Maitland?
 - (n) Marsfield (Macquarie University)?
 - (o) Norah Head?
 - (p) Penrith Lakes?
 - (q) Richmond?
 - (r) Springwood?
 - (s) Sydney Harbour?
 - (t) Sydney Olympic Park?
 - (u) Sydney Olympic Archery Centre?
 - (v) Terry Hills?
- (2) Once the heat impact of these 22 new measuring stations is factored out of the post-1990 data, what are the revised climatology and temperature comparisons?

4980 TREASURER—BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY WEATHER STATIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Treasurer—

- (1) In the Budget Statement on 2025-26 Performance and Wellbeing page 9-1, what allowance has been made in the comparisons with the "1961 to 1990 climatology" and average temperature for the opening of 22 new Bureau of Meteorology weather stations in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory post 1990 in urban heat areas, also known as urban heat islands, that are in:
- (a) Albion Park?
 - (b) Badgerys Creek?
 - (c) Bankstown Airport?
 - (d) Bellambi?
 - (e) Mount Annan?
 - (f) Canberra?
 - (g) Canterbury?
 - (h) Lake Macquarie?
 - (i) Gosford?
 - (j) Holsworthy Aerodrome?

- (k) Holsworthy Defence?
 - (l) Horsley Park?
 - (m) Maitland?
 - (n) Marsfield (Macquarie University)?
 - (o) Norah Head?
 - (p) Penrith Lakes?
 - (q) Richmond?
 - (r) Springwood?
 - (s) Sydney Harbour?
 - (t) Sydney Olympic Park?
 - (u) Sydney Olympic Archery Centre?
 - (v) Terry Hills?
- (2) Once the heat impact of these 22 new measuring stations is factored out of the post-1990 data, what are the revised climatology and temperature comparisons?

4981 FINANCE—BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY WEATHER STATIONS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) In the Budget Statement on 2025-26 Performance and Wellbeing page 9-1, what allowance has been made in the comparisons with the "1961 to 1990 climatology" and average temperature for the opening of 22 new Bureau of Meteorology weather stations in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory post 1990 in urban heat areas, also known as urban heat islands, that are in:
- (a) Albion Park?
 - (b) Badgerys Creek?
 - (c) Bankstown Airport?
 - (d) Bellambi?
 - (e) Mount Annan?
 - (f) Canberra?
 - (g) Canterbury?
 - (h) Lake Macquarie?
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 - (j) Holsworthy Aerodrome?
 - (k) Holsworthy Defence?
 - (l) Horsley Park?
 - (m) Maitland?
 - (n) Marsfield (Macquarie University)?
 - (o) Norah Head?
 - (p) Penrith Lakes?
 - (q) Richmond?
 - (r) Springwood?
 - (s) Sydney Harbour?
 - (t) Sydney Olympic Park?

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- (u) Sydney Olympic Archery Centre?
 - (v) Terry Hills?
 - (2) Once the heat impact of these 22 new measuring stations is factored out of the post-1990 data, what are the revised climatology and temperature comparisons?
- 4982 ROADS AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT—MEDICAL DEFENCE FOR DRIVERS GROUP—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the —
- (1) With regards to the expert working group advising on a medical defence for drivers prescribed cannabis, as mentioned by the Health Minister in his response to the Drug Summit on Tuesday 28 October 2025, who is on the group?
 - (a) Can you please provide their names, positions and organisations?
 - (b) How many times has it met to date?
 - (c) How frequently will it meet before the end of the year?
 - (d) Is the working group going to provide any written advice to the government, including how the scheme would work?
 - (e) Will the group's advice be made public?
- 4983 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—EARLY DRUG DIVERSION INITIATIVE DATA—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—
- (1) As part of the Early Drug Diversion Initiative (EDDI), how many people have been diverted into the program by the NSW Police Force since:
 - (a) the commencement of the program on 29 February 2024?
 - (i) Could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?
 - (ii) Could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?
 - (b) 11 July 2025?
 - (i) Could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?
 - (ii) Could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?
 - (2) How many people in New South Wales have been charged with low-level drug possession since:
 - (a) the commencement of the program on 29 February 2024?
 - (i) Could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?
 - (ii) Could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?
 - (b) 11 July 2025?
 - (i) Could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?
 - (ii) Could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?
 - (3) Since the EDDI began on 29 February 2024, how many people in New South Wales have been charged with low-level drug possession in total?
 - (a) Since the commencement of the program on 29 February 2024:
 - (i) could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?
 - (ii) could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?
 - (b) Since 11 July 2025:
 - (i) could you please provide a breakdown of drug type, quantity and Indigenous status?

(ii) could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?

(4) Since the EDDI came into effect on 29 February 2024, how many people have been diverted into the program by the NSW Police Force in total?

(a) Could you please provide a breakdown by local area command?

4984 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—POLICE DRUG ENFORCEMENT—Ms Cate Faehrmann to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales representing the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter—

(1) What was the total number of strip searches undertaken in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(2) What was the total number of strip searches where an illicit substance was found in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(3) Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(4) Of the individuals charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(5) Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search, how many individuals were charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(6) Of the individuals charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 as a result of a strip search, how many were convicted in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(7) What was the total number of strip searches undertaken as a result of a drug dog indication in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(8) What was the total number of strip searches as a result of a drug dog indication where an illicit substance was found in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

(9) Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search from a drug dog indication, how many individuals were charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 in:

(a) 2024?

(b) 2025?

- (10) Of the individuals charged with possession of a prohibited drug under section 10(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 as a result of a strip search from a drug dog indication, how many were convicted in:
- (a) 2024?
 - (b) 2025?
- (11) Where an illicit substance was found as a result of a strip search from a drug dog indication, how many individuals were charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 in:
- (a) 2024?
 - (b) 2025?
- (12) Of the individuals charged with supply of a prohibited drug under section 25(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 as a result of a strip search from a drug dog indication, how many were convicted in:
- (a) 2024?
 - (b) 2025?
- (13) For each music festival in New South Wales for which police with drug detection dogs were in attendance, broken down from 1 January 2023, what was the:
- (a) number of police officers in attendance?
 - (b) number of drug dog handlers in attendance?
 - (c) cost of User Pays Policing Services?
 - (d) number of general searches undertaken?
 - (e) number of strip searches undertaken?
 - (f) number of people found with an illicit substance?
 - (g) number of cannabis cautions given?
 - (h) number of criminal infringement notices given?
 - (i) number of attendees charged with possession of an illicit substance under section 10(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985?
 - (j) number of attendees charged with supply of an illicit substance under section 25(1) of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985?

4985 ROADS—VIDEO MATCHING FEES—The Hon. Natalie Ward to ask the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy representing the Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport—

- (1) For each of the financial years listed, how much revenue did the Government generate from video matching fees (VMFs) in dollar amounts:
- (a) 2024-2025?
 - (b) 2023-2024?
 - (c) 2022-2023?
 - (d) 2021-2022?

Steven Reynolds
Clerk of the Parliaments