



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2023-24-25-26

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 691

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 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. 676 (Including Question Nos 4986 to 4986)	4 March 2026
Q & A No. 677 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 678 (Including Question Nos 4987 to 5013)	6 March 2026
Q & A No. 679 (Including Question Nos 5014 to 5023)	9 March 2026
Q & A No. 680 (Including Question Nos 5024 to 5025)	10 March 2026
Q & A No. 681 (Including Question Nos 5026 to 5026)	11 March 2026
Q & A No. 682 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 683 (Including Question Nos 5027 to 5027)	13 March 2026
Q & A No. 684 (Including Question Nos 5028 to 5033)	16 March 2026
Q & A No. 685 (Including Question Nos 5034 to 5038)	17 March 2026
Q & A No. 686 (Including Question Nos 5039 to 5051)	18 March 2026
Q & A No. 687 (Including Question Nos 5052 to 5060)	19 March 2026
Q & A No. 688 (Including Question Nos 5061 to 5062)	20 March 2026
Q & A No. 689 (Including Question Nos 5063 to 5066)	23 March 2026
Q & A No. 690 (Including Question Nos 5067 to 5069)	24 March 2026
Q & A No. 691 (Including Question Nos 5070 to 5071)	25 March 2026

11 FEBRUARY 2026

(Paper No. 676)

* 4986 YOUTH—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO INQUIRY INTO PREVALENCE, CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF LONELINESS IN NSW—Dr Amanda Cohn to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth—

(1) In response to recommendation 2 of the inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness in New South Wales, the Government advised that NSW Health has provided one-off funding to University of New South Wales (UNSW) to undertake the Youth Mental Health Social Connectedness Project. What is the timeline of this project?

(a) What funding will be made available for research in other age groups?

(b) What funding will be made available to support further research to better understand the underlying cognitive mechanisms that cause and maintain loneliness per recommendation 2?

Answer—

I'm advised:

The Youth Mental Health Social Connectedness Project is an evidence-informed initiative commissioned by NSW Health to better understand and respond to the impacts of social disconnection and loneliness among young people accessing mental health services.

The project commenced in June 2024 with the final report due in June 2026. It includes a comprehensive scoping review and stakeholder engagement to inform future policy directions and service design.

4 MARCH 2026

(Paper No. 691)

5070 TRANSPORT—LIFT AT BROOKVALE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE—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) Since installation, on how many occasions has Lift 1 on the eastern side of the Brookvale Pedestrian Bridge been out of service, broken down, or otherwise closed to the public, listed by month and year?

(a) For each occasion listed above, how many hours, days, weeks, or months was the lift out of service, broken down, or closed to the public?

(2) What has been the total cost to date incurred by the Government for the maintenance and repair of Lift 1, including but not limited to:

(a) routine maintenance?

(b) unplanned repairs?

(c) the cost of acquiring and replacing parts?

(3) Has the Government, Transport for NSW, or Connect Sydney identified the underlying issues that are causing Lift 1 to repeatedly break down or be closed to the public?

(a) If so, what are those issues?

(i) What measures have been, or will be undertaken to address them?

5071 AGRICULTURE—NSW FOOD AUTHORITY—Ms Abigail Boyd to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

(1) In the NSW Food Authority annual report for Financial Year 2024-2025, can you please explain the 64 per cent increase in audit failure rate over three years?

- (a) Are failures concentrated in particular sectors, for example, meat, plant products, dairy, or imports?
 - (i) If so, can you please explain and break down by year as well as by sector?
- (b) How many businesses are repeat offenders?
- (2) Does a failed audit automatically trigger a follow-up inspection, or is it discretionary?
- (3) How many days following a failed audit does re-inspection occur?
- (4) What proportion were administrative versus critical food safety breaches?
- (5) How many of the 196 audit failures in Financial Year 2022-2023 required follow-up inspections?
 - (a) How many were escalated to penalty notices?
 - (b) How many were escalated to prosecution?
- (6) How many of the 210 audit failures in Financial Year 2023-2024 required follow-up inspections?
 - (a) How many were escalated to penalty notices?
 - (b) How many were escalated to prosecution?
- (7) How many of the 233 audit failures in Financial Year 2024-2025 required follow-up inspections?
 - (a) How many were escalated to penalty notices?
 - (b) How many were escalated to prosecution?
- (8) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, how many businesses failed an audit more than once in the same year?
- (9) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, of all businesses that failed an audit, how many:
 - (a) had failed in a previous year?
 - (b) received multiple improvement notices?
 - (c) escalated to prosecution?
 - (d) had their licence suspended or cancelled?
- (10) Compliance and enforcement statistics (enforcement actions) on page 43 of the NSW Food Authority annual report for Financial Year 2024-2025 indicates a 53 per cent rise in foodborne illness investigations in two years. Are these outbreaks linked to specific industries?
 - (a) If so, which industries are they linked to?
 - (b) How many of the foodborne illness investigations were traced to repeat operators?
 - (c) What proportion of the foodborne illness involved imported food versus domestic production?
 - (d) How many of the 439 labelling investigations were proactive versus complaint-driven?
- (11) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, how many complaints:
 - (a) resulted in a site inspection?
 - (b) resulted in a formal investigation?
 - (c) resulted in enforcement action?
 - (d) were closed with no further action?
 - (e) were referred to local councils?
 - (f) related to repeat operators?
- (12) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, and currently, what is the average time taken to respond to complaints?

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- (13) There were zero prosecutions finalised in Financial Year 2022-2023, 46 in Financial Year 2023-2024 and four in Financial Year 2024-2025. What accounts for the fluctuation in the number of prosecutions finalised across the three years?
- (a) In each financial year, how many matters were referred for prosecution but not pursued?
 - (b) During the three financial years, has there been any change in enforcement policy or legal resourcing?
 - (c) Can you please explain why there were zero licence cancellations and zero emergency orders across all three financial years?
- (14) There were three product seizures in Financial Year 2022-2023, ten in Financial Year 2023-2024 and eight in Financial Year 2024-2025. For each seizure event across the three financial years, can you please answer the following questions?
- (a) What was the nature of the offence?
 - (b) Was the business licensed at the time?
 - (c) Was the business a repeat offender?
- (15) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, how many seizures involved:
- (a) unlicensed activity?
 - (b) non-compliant meat stamps?
 - (c) unidentified or unbranded meat?
 - (d) raw milk breaches?
 - (e) unstamped eggs?
- (16) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, can you please answer the following questions?
- (a) Did any seized product enter the retail, wholesale or food service supply chain before detection?
 - (i) If so, can you please provide details for each instance?
 - (b) Were species identification tests conducted where unidentified meat was seized?
 - (c) Did any seizure event lead to prosecution or licence cancellation?
 - (d) How many total product seizures were conducted across all commodities?
 - (e) Of the seizures listed such as meat products, dairy, eggs, how many involved:
 - (i) repeat offenders?
 - (ii) businesses previously subject to enforcement action?
 - (iii) businesses with prior improvement notices or warning letters?
 - (f) How many of the identified meat processors and abattoirs had previously been found non-compliant with:
 - (i) standard 3.2.1 (Food Safety Programs)?
 - (ii) the Food Regulation 2015?
 - (iii) licensing requirements?
 - (g) For each seizure listed, what was the date of the last regulatory inspection prior to the seizure?
 - (h) Were any of the seized businesses operating under a current food safety program approval at the time of the offence?
 - (i) Following the seizures listed, can you please answer the following questions?

- (i) How many prosecutions have been commenced?
- (ii) How many penalty infringement notices have been issued?
- (iii) What is the total value of fines imposed to date?
- (j) For each case involving "unlicensed activity", how long had the businesses been operating before detection?
- (k) Were any licences suspended or cancelled as a result of these breaches?
- (17) In relation to the seizure of 1.5 pallets of unbranded carcass and unidentified meat outlined on page 44 of the annual report for 2024-25, can you please answer the following questions?
 - (a) Was the source of the meat traced?
 - (b) Were consumers exposed to risk?
 - (c) Were recalls required?
 - (d) What happened to the operator?
- (18) Does the NSW Food Authority publish the names of all offending operators, for example, unlicensed abattoirs, meat processors, knackerries, animal food processing plants and other businesses?
 - (a) If so, where is this recorded?
 - (b) If not, why?
- (19) In each financial year between 2014-2015 and 2024-2025, how many unlicensed operators did the NSW Food Authority become aware of?
 - (a) Can you please break this down by the different types of businesses?

Steven Reynolds
Clerk of the Parliaments