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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 723

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 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. 708 (Including Question Nos 5182 to 5192)	21 April 2026
Q & A No. 709 (Including Question Nos 5193 to 5193)	22 April 2026
Q & A No. 710 (Including Question Nos 5194 to 5194)	23 April 2026
Q & A No. 711 (Including Question Nos 5195 to 5195)	24 April 2026
Q & A No. 712 (Including Question Nos 5196 to 5233)	28 April 2026
Q & A No. 713 (Including Question Nos 5234 to 5237)	29 April 2026
Q & A No. 714 (Including Question Nos 5238 to 5244)	30 April 2026
Q & A No. 715 (Including Question Nos 5245 to 5249)	1 May 2026
Q & A No. 716 (Including Question Nos 5250 to 5263)	4 May 2026
Q & A No. 717 (Including Question Nos 5264 to 5276)	5 May 2026
Q & A No. 718 (Including Question Nos 5277 to 5288)	6 May 2026
Q & A No. 719 (Including Question Nos 5289 to 5290)	8 May 2026
Q & A No. 720 (Including Question Nos 5291 to 5297)	11 May 2026
Q & A No. 721 (Including Question Nos 5298 to 5300)	12 May 2026
Q & A No. 722 (Including Question Nos 5302 to 5306)	13 May 2026
Q & A No. 723 (Including Question Nos 5307 to 5315)	14 May 2026

27 MARCH 2026

(Paper No. 708)

* 5182 PLANNING AND PUBLIC SPACES—HOUSING SUPPLY CRISIS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces—

- (1) Given construction costs have surged by up to 36 per cent since 2018, are you satisfied that the approximate 377,000 new homes under the National Housing Accord, which are scheduled to be constructed by mid-2029, will in fact be delivered on target?
- (2) Does the Government plan to mitigate rising housing costs which are caused by the regulatory framework?
 - (a) Will you subject two to three storey developments to the same insurance requirements as four-storey-plus developments, so that the 11 per cent impost on total construction cost on two to three storey developments, caused by the mandatory Home Building Compensation Fund insurance, paid through icare, is mitigated by being exempt from the Home Building Compensation Fund (HBCF) entirely?
 - (b) How do you propose to address HBCF's monopoly structure, which has produced high premiums with limited competition in the housing market?
 - (c) Do you accept that subjecting two to three storey developments to the scheme under the Strata Building Bond and Inspections Scheme would mitigate the costs passed onto first home buyers?
 - (i) If not, can you explain why not?
- (3) Can you explain why two to three storey developments, which have materially lower structural risk than four-storey-plus developments, are subject to more onerous, even punitive insurance requirements, thus forcing developers to pursue over-scaled towers or stalled medium-density projects?
- (4) Will you conduct a technical review of the height threshold under clause 56 of the Home Building Regulation 2014, mindful of the issues raised above?
 - (a) If not, what is the policy justification for maintaining the separate treatment of two to three storey and four-storey-plus developments in a housing supply crisis?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) The NSW Government acknowledges the construction cost pressures across Australia arising from the disruption to global supply by several economic shocks in recent years. Despite this the New South Wales housing pipeline is strengthening following a suite of reforms introduced by the NSW Government. Recent ABS data shows new homes commencing and completing construction is moving faster, including:
 - 13,358 homes were completed in the December 2025 quarter alone, which is the highest quarter in six years and represents a 7.2 per cent increase on the same quarter last year.
 - Dwellings under construction have reached the highest levels in 7 years with more than 79,300 homes currently under construction in NSW, the most in any jurisdiction.
 - 16,604 homes commenced construction in the December 2025 quarter, making it the highest single quarter for commencements since September 2021.
 - Data also shows that more projects are converting from approvals into construction with the number of projects which are approved but not commenced having decreased by 18.2 per cent compared to the previous quarter.
- (2) This is a matter for the NSW Treasurer.
- (3) This is a matter for the NSW Treasurer.

(4) This a matter for the Minister for Building.

* 5183 INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—TECHSTARS SYDNEY—The Hon. Jacqui Munro to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage representing the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections—

- (1) Across the three cohorts of Techstars Sydney, how many startups were funded?
 - (a) How much capital was deployed into participating companies?
 - (b) How much follow-on funding has been raised by alumni to date?
- (2) What were the specific performance and budgetary considerations that led the Government to discontinue funding for Techstars Sydney?
 - (a) What date was this decision formally made?
- (3) What economic impact assessment or cost-benefit analysis was undertaken prior to the decision?
 - (a) Will the Government release the findings including any advice received from external consultants?
- (4) What consultation process was undertaken with founders, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders before the funding purge was finalised?
 - (a) How was stakeholder feedback considered into the Government's decisions?
- (5) Given Techstars Sydney's support for female founders and diverse teams, what measures will the Government implement to ensure progress on diversity and inclusion outcomes within New South Wales's startup ecosystem?

Answer—

I am advised:

The NSW Government provided three years of funding to Techstars to support the delivery of its mentorship driven accelerator program in Sydney. That funding has now concluded as scheduled.

Techstars was originally funded by the former Government without a diversity focus; under this Government, later rounds supported more female founders.

Over the life of the program, Techstars supported 36 startups. The Government will continue to advance diversity in the startup space through the \$4 million Diversity Pre Accelerator Program, delivering on the Innovation Blueprint.

* 5185 ENVIRONMENT—SOMERSBY SITE—The Hon. Jacqui Munro to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) With regard to Environment Protection Licence EPL 21779 issued to Reinforced Concrete Pipes Australia Pty Ltd at Somersby, what conditions apply to noise mitigation for the site?
 - (a) Does the licence require the construction of acoustic barriers or other noise attenuation measures?
 - (b) Has the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) verified that all required mitigation measures have been completed?
- (2) With regard to the Development Application for the Somersby site DA 62839/2021, was an acoustic wall recommended along the northern boundary in the acoustic assessment prepared for the application?
 - (a) If so, was this requirement included in the final consent conditions?
 - (b) If the wall has not been constructed, why was extended or 24-hour operation permitted to commence?

- (3) With regard to the current 24-hour operational trial at the Somersby facility, what monitoring has been undertaken by the EPA to assess noise impacts on neighbouring residents?
 - (a) How many complaints relating to noise have been received since April 2025?
 - (b) Has the EPA conducted any after-hours inspections of the site?
- (4) With regard to compliance with licence conditions at the Somersby facility, has the EPA identified any breaches of noise limits or licence conditions since the commencement of extended hours operation?
 - (a) If so, what enforcement action has been taken?
 - (b) Has the EPA considered suspending or modifying the trial period due to community complaints?
- (5) With regard to operational management requirements for the site, was an Operational Management Plan required as part of the development consent or licence conditions?
 - (a) Has this plan been submitted and approved?
 - (b) Has the EPA reviewed whether the plan is being followed in practice?
- (6) With regard to community consultation and environmental oversight, what process exists for residents to request a review of licence conditions where noise impacts are alleged to be greater than predicted?
 - (b) Will you direct the EPA to review the adequacy of current noise mitigation measures at the Somersby site?

Answer—

- (1) All Environment Protection Licences are publicly available online. The Licence outlines the operating conditions and noise mitigation measures that must be met
 - (b) Yes. The publicly available EPL outlines this.
 - (c) Yes.
- (2) Yes. This is known as acoustic wall 4.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) All conditions were approved under Central Coast Council's development consent, as the consent authority. The extended 24-hour operations were able to commence once certain criteria were satisfied. The EPA permitted the extended hours at the Premises as the proponent satisfied the requirements of the development consent and applied to vary the licence. However, the licence does not permit operations on the northern expansion area for extended or 24-hours until acoustic wall 4 has been constructed and supported by a report prepared by a suitably qualified acoustic consultant verifying that the barrier meets the requirements of Council's development consent.
- (3) A period of 24 months was granted for extended operating hours from March 2025. Upon completion of the 24 months, RCPA must apply for a new development consent with Central Coast Council to make the extended hours permanent.
 On 4 September 2025 EPA Officers conducted an offsite noise survey during the evening and night-time periods to observe noise impacts to the north of the RCPA Somersby premises.
 - (a) The EPA has received 27 community noise complaints since April 2025.
 - (b) No.
- (4) No.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) The EPA has considered a range of factors, including community reports, operational information provided by the licensee, observations from the EPA's offsite and premises inspections, as well as the acoustic report created from the noise audit in determining

progress of the trial. Any permanent extended hours of operation will need to be considered as part of a new development application process. Central Coast Council is the planning consent authority, not the EPA.

- (5) The requirements for an Operational Management Plan as part of the development consent are best addressed by Central Coast Council, as the planning consent authority.
 - (a) See the response to question 5.
 - (b) See the response to question 5.
- (6) The EPA considers reports and information from community, as well as monitoring data and compliance with licence conditions, in determining whether licence conditions are achieving appropriate outcomes.
 - (a) No. The conditions in the licence are being satisfied. If there are complaints around consent conditions these should be directed to Central Coast Council.

* 5186 ENVIRONMENT—PESTICIDE CONTROL (1080 BAIT PRODUCTS) ORDER 2020—The Hon. Jacqui Munro to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Does the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) record of the formal investigations it initiates in relation to 1080 breaches?
 - (a) If not, will you request that the EPA record this information?
- (2) With regard to the enforcement of the Pesticide Control (1080 Bait Products) Order 2020, how many breaches of the Order have been reported to the EPA in each year since 2020?
 - (a) Of those breaches, how many involved harm to non-target animals, including domestic animals?
 - (b) How many penalty notices have been issued in relation to breaches of the Order since 2020?
 - (c) How many prosecutions have been commenced in relation to breaches of the Order since 2020?
 - (d) In how many cases was no further action taken following investigation?
- (3) With regard to compliance and enforcement activities relating to the use of 1080 bait products, how many formal investigations has the EPA commenced into alleged breaches of the 1080 Pesticide Control Order since 2020?
 - (a) Does the EPA maintain specific records of investigations relating to 1080 baiting activities?
 - (b) Has the EPA undertaken any targeted compliance audits or inspection programs relating to 1080 baiting since 2020?
 - (i) If so, how many audits or inspections have been conducted each year?
- (4) With regard to investigation timeframes for alleged breaches of the 1080 Pesticide Control Order, what is the average time taken by the EPA to finalise an investigation into an alleged breach?
 - (a) What processes are in place to ensure that investigations are conducted within a timeframe that allows evidence to be properly assessed?
 - (b) Has the EPA reviewed whether current investigation timeframes are adequate to enforce signage and notification requirements?
- (5) With regard to Authorised Control Officers (ACOs) and other authorised users of 1080 bait products, how many alleged breaches since 2020 involved Authorised Control Officers?
 - (a) In how many of those cases was enforcement action taken?
 - (b) Are different compliance or enforcement procedures applied to Authorised Control Officers compared with private users or landholders?
- (6) With regard to EPA resourcing and staffing, how many EPA staff are currently assigned to pesticide compliance and enforcement functions?

- (a) Have there been any reductions in staff numbers in areas responsible for pesticide regulation since 2023?
- (b) Will any proposed staffing changes affect the EPA's capacity to investigate breaches relating to the use of 1080 bait products, particularly in regional areas?
- (7) With regard to oversight of the regulatory framework governing 1080 baiting, has the Government undertaken any review of the enforcement of the Pesticide Control (1080 Bait Products) Order 2020 since it commenced?
 - (a) If so, what were the findings?
 - (b) Is the review public?
 - (i) Where can it be found?
 - (c) If not, will the Government conduct a review of enforcement practices and compliance outcomes?
 - (d) What measures are in place to ensure public confidence in the regulation of high risk pesticides?

Answer—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 2020 - 22
2021 - 22
2022 - 17
2023 - 26
2024 - 19
2025 - 17
2026 - 5
 - (a) All.
 - (b) Nil.
 - (c) Nil.
 - (d) 41.
- (3) All matters reported are investigated.
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
- (4) 106 days.
 - (a) Staff and management follow established policy and procedure, including the Prosecution Guidelines (2025) and Regulatory Policy (2024). There are strict rules in place for matters relating to regulatory action, particularly statute of limitations.
 - (b) No.
- (5) The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) does not hold this information.
 - (a) The EPA does not hold this information.
 - (b) Any investigation would take into account the specific responsibilities of the person/s involved and the level to which they were responsible for any breach.
- (6) As at 31 December 2025, there were 374 Authorised Officers in the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Investigations are assigned based on geographic location.
 - (a) No.

(b) No.

(7) The EPA has commenced a review of the 1080 Pesticide Control Orders (including the Pesticide Control (1080 Bait Products) Order 2020).

(a) The review is not yet complete.

(b) The review is not yet complete.

(c) A review is currently in progress.

(d) Public confidence is supported by a robust, multi-layered framework combining national and state-based oversight.

High risk pesticides must first be assessed and approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), including restrictions on use, mandatory label instructions and public consultation for higher-risk chemicals, before they can be supplied in Australia.

In NSW, the EPA regulates high risk pesticide use under the Pesticides Act 1999 through compulsory licensing and training requirements, strict compliance with approved labels and permits, mandatory record-keeping to ensure traceability and enforceable public notification requirements for pesticide use by public authorities. These controls are backed by active compliance monitoring, strong enforcement powers, and the ability to suspend licences, issue clean-up or prevention notices and prosecute misuse, ensuring transparency, accountability and community trust in the management of high-risk pesticides.

* 5187 ENVIRONMENT—KUMA NATURE RESERVE AND MONARO REGION—The Hon. Jacqui Munro to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

(1) In relation to weed infestation within Kuma Nature Reserve near Cooma, are you aware of reports of significant infestation of African Lovegrass and St John's Wort within Kuma Nature Reserve?

(a) What weed management works have been undertaken in the reserve since 2020?

(b) What funding has been allocated for weed control in Kuma Nature Reserve over the past five years?

(c) What methods are currently being used to control invasive species in the reserve?

(2) In relation to threatened species and ecological communities within Kuma Nature Reserve, does the reserve contain threatened grassland ecological communities or threatened reptile species?

(a) What measures are in place to protect threatened species from the impacts of invasive weeds?

(b) Has any recent ecological assessment been undertaken to determine the current condition of the reserve?

(3) In relation to fire risk associated with invasive grasses on the Monaro, has the Department assessed the fire risk associated with African Lovegrass infestations within national parks and reserves in the Monaro region?

(a) What mitigation strategies are in place to reduce fire risk caused by invasive grass species?

(b) Has the Government developed any regional strategy to address the spread of African Lovegrass on public land?

(4) In relation to impacts on neighbouring landholders, what steps are taken to prevent the spread of invasive weeds from national parks onto adjoining private land?

(a) Are neighbouring landholders consulted when significant weed infestations occur in reserves?

(b) What obligations apply to public land managers to control declared weeds?

(5) In relation to broader weed management policy, is African Lovegrass currently listed as a priority weed species in New South Wales?

- (a) Has the Government considered increasing the priority status of African Lovegrass due to its impact on biodiversity, agriculture and fire risk?
- (b) What current programs exist to control invasive grass species across the Monaro region?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

- (a) NPWS has treated African lovegrass, Serrated Tussock and St John's Wort using registered foliar herbicides, as well as conducting an annual vegetation monitoring program. NPWS staff and contractors have treated a total of 465 hectares in Kuma Nature Reserve.
- (b) NPWS has spent approximately \$270,000 on weed management in Kuma Nature Reserve.
- (c) NPWS uses registered herbicides to manage invasive weeds in the reserve, with flupropanate predominantly used for invasive grasses, including African lovegrass.

(2) Yes.

- (a) NPWS undertakes annual weed control programs in the reserve to reduce infestations, manage incursions from the surrounding landscape and improve habitat for threatened species. Monitoring of threatened species and vegetation is also undertaken. As weeds are widespread across the Monaro region, seed continues to enter the reserve from neighbouring lands and roadsides. Boundary fencing and compliance actions have been upgraded to prevent livestock entering the reserve, as livestock can further spread weeds.
- (b) Yes. Information and annual report cards for the grassland earless dragon are available at: threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=20380.

(3) Yes.

- (a) NPWS is restoring the native ecological community to manage the fire risk posed by African lovegrass. A cultural burn in the reserve is also being planned in consultation with the Southern Snowy Mountains Aboriginal Community Memorandum of Understanding group.
- (b) Yes

(4) NPWS manages park and reserve boundaries by having biosecurity protocols in place to prevent the spread of weeds by vehicles and machinery.

(a) Yes.

(b) The NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 imposes a General Biosecurity Duty on public land managers to control declared weeds.

(5) This question should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture.

* 5189 ENVIRONMENT—ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN SNOWY MONARO REGION—
The Hon. Jacqui Munro to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Will you advise whether the Government or any of its agencies has received complaints or correspondence regarding alleged environmental compliance issues associated with a development in the Snowy Monaro Region where concerns have been raised about potential environmental harm, noise impacts, or activities inconsistent with an approved development consent?
- (2) Has your office, or any agency within your portfolio, received representations regarding alleged regulatory inaction by Snowy Monaro Regional Council in relation to environmental compliance matters?
- (3) What role, if any, does the Government have in reviewing or overseeing local council enforcement of environmental obligations where concerns are raised that a council has not undertaken investigation or enforcement action?

- (4) Under what circumstances can State agencies intervene or provide oversight where a local council is alleged to have failed to adequately enforce environmental or planning conditions associated with a development consent?
- (5) Which Government agencies are responsible for monitoring or responding to environmental harm complaints where the alleged activity occurs within a development regulated by a local council?
- (6) What mechanisms exist for members of the public to escalate environmental compliance concerns where they believe a local council has not adequately addressed the issue?
- (7) Have you sought advice from any relevant agency regarding environmental compliance or regulatory oversight in the Snowy Monaro region in the past two years?
 - (a) If so, what was the nature of that advice?
- (8) Does the Government maintain data on complaints relating to alleged environmental harm or non-compliant land use that have been referred to local councils? If so:
 - (a) How many complaints have been recorded in the Snowy Monaro region in the past five years?
 - (b) How many resulted in investigation or enforcement action?

Answer—

- (1) The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has received complaints alleging environmental compliance issues associated with a development in the Snowy Monaro Region.
- (2) Yes, the EPA has received representations regarding alleged environmental regulatory inaction by Snowy Monaro Regional Council.
- (3) The EPA does not have a role in reviewing or overseeing local council enforcement of environmental obligations. The Office of Local Government and NSW Ombudsman are the appropriate oversight bodies.
- (4) This question should be referred to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
- (5) The EPA is responsible for regulating environmental compliance where the activity exceeds the thresholds in Schedule 1 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, or where the activity is undertaken by, or on behalf of a Public Authority.
- (6) Concerns regarding regulatory inaction by a local council can be raised with the Office of Local Government and NSW Ombudsman.
- (7) No.
- (8) The EPA does not hold data on complaints made directly to Council. The EPA has referred nine cases to Snowy Monaro Regional Council as the Appropriate Regulatory Authority in the past five years..

30 MARCH 2026

(Paper No. 709)

* 5193 FINANCE—BUSINESSES IN PAYROLL TAX THRESHOLDS—The Hon. Scott Farlow to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources—

- (1) In Financial Year 2022-2023, Financial Year 2023-2024 and Financial Year 2024-2025, how many businesses paid payroll tax between the following thresholds:
 - (a) \$1.2 million – \$1.3 million?
 - (b) \$1.300001 million – \$1.4 million?
 - (c) \$1.400001 million – \$1.5 million?
 - (d) \$1.500001 million – \$1.6 million?

- (e) \$1.600001 million – \$1.7 million?
- (f) \$1.700001 million – \$1.8 million?
- (g) \$1.800001 million – \$1.9 million?
- (h) \$1.900001 million – \$2 million?
- (i) \$2.000001 million – \$5 million?
- (j) \$5.000001 million – \$10 million?
- (k) \$10.000001 million – \$50 million?
- (l) \$50.000001 million – \$100 million?
- (m) \$100.000001 million+?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (a) For \$1.2m - \$1.29m:
2022/23, 1732 customers
2023/24, 1,654 customers
2024/25, 1,511 customers
- (b) For \$1.3m to \$1.39m
2022/23, 1,584 customers
2023/24, 1,584 customers
2024/25, 1,469 customers
- (c) For \$1.4m to \$1.49m
2022/23, 1,536 customers
2023/24, 1,504 customers
2024/25, 1,490 customers
- (d) For \$1.5m to \$1.59m
2022/23, 1,461 customers
2023/24, 1,434 customers
2024/25, 1,346 customers
- (e) For \$1.6m to \$1.69m
2022/23, 1,162 customers
2023/24, 1,316 customers
2024/25, 1,342 customers
- (f) For \$1.7m to \$1.79m
2022/23, 1,175 customers
2023/24, 1,191 customers
2024/25, 1,171 customers
- (g) For \$1.8m to \$1.89m
2022/23, 1,099 customers
2023/24, 1,060 customers

- 2024/25, 1,084 customers
- (h) For \$1.9m to \$1.99m
2022/23, 1,087 customers
2023/24, 1,025 customers
2024/25, 1,015 customers
- (i) For \$2.0m to \$4.9m
2022/23, 12,711 customers
2023/24, 13,536 customers
2024/25, 13,727 customers
- (j) For \$5.0m to \$9.9m
2022/23, 5,401 customers
2023/24, 5,679 customers
2024/25, 5,875 customers
- (k) For \$10.0m to \$49.9m
2022/23, 5,394 customers
2023/24, 5,701 customers
2024/25, 5,944 customers
- (l) For \$50.0m to \$99.9m
2022/23, 851 customers
2023/24, 897 customers
2024/25, 959 customers
- (m) For over \$100m
2022/23, 862 customers
2023/24, 924 customers
2024/25, 969 customers

Notes:

- (1) Data as at 02-Apr-2026
- (2) Data includes all PRT annual returns between 01-Jul-2019 and 30-Jun-2025
- (3) Wages are as declared on their annual return
- (4) Bands are based on the declared Australian wages. Australian wages are used to calculate the annual threshold entitlement.
- (5) Total include grouped and non grouped customers

31 MARCH 2026

(Paper No. 710)

* 5194 ENVIRONMENT—BINGO EASTERN CREEK LANDFILL—Dr Amanda Cohn to ask the Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for Heritage—

- (1) Has the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) completed any inspections of Bingo Eastern Creek Landfill in 2026?
- (a) What were the outcomes of these inspections?

- (b) Were there any breaches?
 - (i) If so, when will these breaches be publicly reported?
- (c) Has the landfill been inspected for dust control water misters or dust suppression measures compliance?
 - (i) If so, what were the results?
- (d) Has the landfill been tested for silica and asbestos levels?
 - (i) If so, what were the results?

Answer—

- (1) Yes, three.
 - (a) The EPA observed dust emissions from the site during its inspection on 11 March 2026. In response, a clean-up notice was issued requiring mitigation measures to be implemented. The EPA also issued a \$30,000 penalty notice for an alleged breach of Bingo's environment protection licence condition on 7 April 2026.

The EPA did not identify any environmental issues or non-compliances during the other 2 inspections.
 - (b) Yes, see response to 1a.
 - (i) The penalty notice summary, including the offence, will be made available on the EPA's Public Register within a week of its issue.
 - (c) Yes, see response to 1a.
 - (d) No.
 - (i) N/A

1 APRIL 2026

(Paper No. 711)

* 5195 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 LC Question on Notice 5071, I asked a number of targeted questions asking for specific data in relation to specific matters and cases. The answer provided did not sufficiently respond to each of the questions asked, but rather provided vague answers in the form of dot points. Given this, can you please provide proper answers to each of the following questions, so that I do not need to escalate this matter through other means?
- (2) 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, 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?
- (3) Does a failed audit automatically trigger a follow-up inspection, or is it discretionary?
- (4) How many days following a failed audit does re-inspection occur?
- (5) What proportion were administrative versus critical food safety breaches?
- (6) 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?

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- (7) 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?
- (8) 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?
- (9) 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?
- (10) 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?
- (11) 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?
- (12) 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) relate to repeat operators?
- (13) In each financial year for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, and currently, what is the average time taken to respond to complaints?
- (14) 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?
- (15) 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, what was the nature of the offence?
- (a) Was the business licensed at the time?

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- (b) Was the business a repeat offender?
- (16) 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?
- (17) 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 and 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, how many prosecutions have been commenced?
 - (i) How many penalty infringement notices have been issued?
 - (ii) 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?
- (18) In relation to the seizure of 1.5 pallets of unbranded carcass and unidentified meat outlined on page 44 of the annual report for 2024-2025, was the source of the meat traced?
- (a) Were consumers exposed to risk?
 - (b) Were recalls required?
 - (c) What happened to the operator?
- (19) 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?
- (20) In each financial year between 2014-2015 and 2024-25, 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?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) to (20) See answer to LC QON 5071

22 APRIL 2026

(Paper No. 723)

5307 ROADS—TOW TRUCK SERVICES AT SCENIC HILL—The Hon. Scott Barrett 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) How much has the Government spent providing tow-truck services at Scenic Hill since the Mitchell's Causeway was closed to traffic?
- (a) How many trucks or heavy vehicles have utilised this service since it has been offered?
- (b) What is the cost-per-day to provide tow-truck services at Scenic Hill?
- (c) Is a tow-truck at Scenic Hill the long-term plan for heavy vehicle passage while the Mitchell's Causeway is closed?

5308 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—SUPPRESSOR PERMITS—The Hon. Scott Barrett 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) How many people are permitted to possess a suppressor in New South Wales?
- (a) What is the distribution of these permits by Police Area Command?
- (2) What is and is not considered a genuine reason for possessing a suppressor in New South Wales?
- (a) Does the genuine reason change depending on where the permit applicant is located?
- (3) Since December 14, 2026:
- (a) how many new suppressor permits have been requested?
- (i) What is the breakdown by Police Area Command?
- (b) how many permits have lapsed with no request for renewal?
- (c) how many applications for renewal have been lodged?
- (i) What is the status of these applications?
- (d) what changes have been made and enacted to the process or approach to permits to possess suppressors?

5309 POLICE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM—EMPOWER YOU APP—The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones 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 development and implementation cost of the Empower You app, broken down by year (if possible)?
- (a) What ongoing annual costs are associated with its maintenance and support?

- (2) What services and features are available on the Empower You app, including:
 - (a) methods for obtaining contact details of support services?
 - (b) options for sending messages with location to trusted contacts?
 - (c) tools for gathering and securely storing information about a person's experiences?
- (3) For each financial year since the app's launch, how often have its features and services been used by victims of domestic and family violence?
 - (a) If this data is not available, why?
- (4) Can you provide the number of downloads of the Empower You app for the following financial years:
 - (a) 2023-2024?
 - (b) 2024-2025?
- (5) How is the Empower You app currently integrated with state funded domestic and family violence support services, including domestic violence-specific advocacy, legal aid and housing services, to ensure victims who use the app can access those services promptly?
- (6) Can you outline how information gathered through the Empower You diary and evidence documentation features is being treated in practice by police and the courts, and whether there are any formal guidelines for victims or frontline workers on using this material for safety planning or court related purposes?
- (7) What initiatives have been implemented to raise awareness of the Empower You app among people experiencing domestic and family violence, including women, children, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities?
- (8) Is the Government intending to undertake an evaluation of the Empower You app?
 - (a) If so:
 - (i) when will this evaluation take place?
 - (ii) what criteria will be used to assess its effectiveness, safety, and accessibility?

5310 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT INVOLVING TEACHERS, SCHOOL EXECUTIVES AND PRINCIPALS—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Of the 3394 reports of alleged employee misconduct involving teachers, school executives and principals between 1 April 2025 and 17 March 2025, how many of these reports are finalised?
 - (a) How many of these reports have an investigation ongoing?
 - (b) How many of these reports have not commenced an investigation?

5311 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—SCHOOL INCIDENT REPORT AND SUPPORT HOTLINE—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Finance, Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, and Minister for Natural Resources representing the Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) Will the NSW Government introduce a dedicated category of 'antisemitism' into its School Incident Report and Support Hotline?
 - (a) If not, then why not

5312 SKILLS, TAFE AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—TAFE ID CARDS IN 2025—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth representing the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—

(1) How many TAFE ID cards were issued for Bankstown TAFE in 2025?

5313 SKILLS, TAFE AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—RELOCATION OF BANKSTOWN TAFE—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth representing the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—

(1) Since August 2025, which organisations, businesses or individuals have been consulted with regarding a business case for the relocation of Bankstown TAFE to a permanent location?

5314 SKILLS, TAFE AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—SMART AND SKILLED FUNDING—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth representing the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—

(1) Can you please advise the name and operator of each property services course which has received Smart and Skilled funding and has been monitored in relation to property services qualifications since 2015?

5315 SKILLS, TAFE AND TERTIARY EDUCATION—TAFE ID CARDS IN 2024—The Hon. Tania Mihailuk to ask the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth representing the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education—

(1) How many TAFE ID cards were issued for Bankstown TAFE in 2024?

Steven Reynolds
Clerk of the Parliaments