

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Primary Industries

Answers to be returned by: Wednesday 10 September 2014
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Questions from Mr David Shoebridge MLC

Game and Feral Animal Control

Ducks

1. What is the estimates number of ducks killed each year as part of the Game Bird Mitigation program?
2. What data is collected by the Department about this killing?
3. How many staff are allocated to enforcement operations to ensure that this program is carried out humanely?
4. What is the justification for the continued inclusion of the pink-eared duck in this program, particularly considering this native bird does not target any relevant crops?

Forestry

IFOAs

5. What is the current status of the Coastal IFOA remake?
6. Regarding Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals what are the projected cost savings anticipated to be brought about as a result of the newly relaxed prescriptions?
7. What are the anticipated job losses that will come as a result of the absence of pre harvest assessments under the IFOAs?

Mapping

8. Given the acknowledged shortcomings of FRAMES, what steps are being taken to update mapping and spatial data to provide an accurate desktop of forestry operations in NSW?

SEFE

9. Given the collapse of the agreements between Victoria and South East Fibre Exports, what consideration is being given to the relationship between NSW and SEFE?

Wood supply agreements

10. How many compensation claims are currently lodged with the State of NSW and/or Forestry corporations as a result of wood supply breaches?
11. What consideration has been given to buying out or renegotiating existing wood supply agreements in order to ensure realistic and sustainable yields?

Glenbog wombats

12. What action will be taken against the contractor for damage to wombat burrow?
13. What steps have been taken to ensure this does not happen again?
14. Given the existence of voluntary measures and a claimed 2,000 prescriptions were not sufficient to protect these burrows, what changes is the Minister proposing to make to the regulations?
15. Will any action be action against the contractor for damage to wombat burrow?
16. Regarding the logging of Glenbog State Forest Compartments 2301,11 and 21:
 - (a) What factors were responsible for the suspension of logging in the vicinity of Log Dump F in the week ending 15 August 2014?
 - (b) When did the Forestry Corporation become aware of these factors?
 - (c) Why were these factors not known or acted upon before the logging commenced?
 - (d) Which contractor was engaged to undertake the logging of Glenbog Cpts 2301,11 and 21?
17. Will the principle of avoiding logging in the vicinity of wombat burrows be applied in future logging operations?
 - (a) If so, will this be done on a case by case basis or will a requirement be incorporated into the IFOAs.
 - (b) If not, why not?

Winter logging

18. Does the Government support the principle that logging should not occur during winter months because of harm done to native wildlife which hibernate or rest in torpor during the winter?
19. Will the Government consider applying the principle of avoiding winter logging under the authority of the Forestry Corporation?

Steep slope logging trial

20. Who will pay for the purchase or hire, transport of equipment required to undertake the trial of Steep Slope logging to be conducted as part of the coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOA) Remake?
21. Will a financial cost benefit analysis be conducted?
22. How will soil erosion and water pollution issues be evaluated?
23. Over what period will erosion and pollution issues be evaluated?

Crown Lands

24. What overall records are kept detailing Crown Lands across the State?
25. Is there a State level map that details the location and status of Crown Lands?
 - (a) If not, why not?
26. In the absence of state-wide comprehensive records and mapping, how are Statewide impacts on Crown Land assessed?

Land tax

27. What consideration has been given to extending the Land Tax exemption that applies to primary industry to land that is used to grow native trees or allowed to return to its natural state?

Questions from Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC

Regarding animal welfare:

28. “Animal welfare”, “animal protection” or the prevention and prosecution of “animal cruelty” are not once referred to in the NSW Budget,
 - (a) How does this budget seek to protect animals from cruelty and ensure their welfare?
 - (b) How will this Budget focus on improving animal husbandry practices and implementing more sustainable and higher welfare alternatives to intensive animal production systems – such as organic or free range systems?
 - (c) Is the NSW Government seeking to improve the education and awareness of both primary industries and the broader community on animal welfare / animal protection issues? If not, why not?
 - (d) In the wake of the Federal Government stepping away from its commitments under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) and dissolving the Primary Industries Ministerial Council and Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee,

what steps is the NSW Government taking in regards to updating the Model Codes Of Practice for Animal Welfare into Standards and Guidelines?

- (e) How has this budget supported the enforcement capabilities of the RSPCA and the Animal Welfare league, or provided for the support of animal protection law enforcement generally, particularly in the case of agricultural animals?
- (f) Is the DPI or local police prepared to enhance its enforcement capabilities to tackle animal cruelty, particularly in the case of agricultural animals?

Regarding factory farming:

- 29. The ACT Government recently introduced a prohibition on cruel, inhumane production practices – like sow stalls, farrowing crates, battery cages and the practice of “de-beaking” laying fowl . The Tasmanian Government also introduced a partial ban on the use of sow stalls, and Australian Pork Limited – the industry representative for the Australian pork industry – has announced a voluntary (albeit partial) phase out of sow stalls by 2017.
 - (a) Will the NSW Government also consider phasing out these cruel husbandry practices? If not, why not?
- 30. Recent statistics including the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation’s statistic show that livestock production is responsible for approximately 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, and the CSIRO’s statistic that over 30% of greenhouse gas emissions produced in Australia can be attributed to animal industries.
 - (a) In light of the above statistics, are there any plans to research the effects of animal agriculture on climate change?
 - (b) To what extent will the industries be required to mitigate their contribution to climate change, and by what policy mechanism will this be achieved, in light of the omission of agriculture from present Federal carbon emissions reduction schemes?

Regarding kangaroos:

- 31. How much funding does the NSW Government provide or plan to provide for the marketing, promotion, maintenance and development of NSW’s kangaroo industry in Australia and overseas?
- 32. The ACT Government is presently considering trials for the non-lethal management of kangaroo populations. Given the cruelty inherent in the commercial kangaroo industry, will the NSW government invest in research into non-lethal means of ‘pest’ control and management?
- 33. The method of calculating kangaroo numbers has been highly criticised for being out-dated and inaccurate. It is also argued that ecological incentives for the harvesting of kangaroos should not be conflated with the commercial trading of kangaroo products, leading the ACT to prohibit the commercial slaughter of kangaroos.
 - (a) Will the NSW government consider a NSW parliamentary inquiry into the methodology of calculating for the purpose of commercial harvesting, and on the

continued practice of permitting kangaroos to be slaughtered on commercial grounds?

34. Kangaroo meat has been found to contain high levels of e-coli and pathogenic organisms, such as salmonella. Improper handling of kangaroo meat is linked to a heightened risk for toxoplasmosis and salmonellosis.
- (a) Since this issue came to light, what processes has the government put in place to monitor the toxicity and pathogen levels in kangaroo meat to adequately protect consumers?

Regarding the Marine Estate Management Authority:

35. What baseline and control site data was used for the assessment of the impact of line fishing on ocean beaches and headlands for mainland marine park sanctuary zones to enable an effective comparison before and after fishing was allowed in these areas?
- (a) Did the assessment undertake to evaluate the negative impacts of an amnesty on line fishing on non-extractive industries such as SCUBA diving, snorkelling, swimming and boating?
 - (b) The assessment was to be conducted within six-months of the amnesty being announced. It is now well over 15months. What is the reason for the delay, and when will a decision be made?
 - (c) If the evidence provided in the assessment to the Department for Primary Industries indicates that the amnesty was not fulfilling the objectives of the Marine Parks Act 1997 to conserve marine biological diversity and maintain ecological processes, will the marine sanctuaries be restored immediately?

Regarding Biosecurity:

36. The 2014/15 budget allocated substantial resources to NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021, including \$10 million to a biosecurity information system upgrade and \$4.8 million as part of inter-jurisdictional biosecurity arrangements. As part of these efforts the NSW Government has announced its intentions to introduce legislation to target animal activists trespassing onto farms to film on-farm practices.
- (a) What details can the government provide as to the specifics of these laws that propose to target animal activists?
 - (b) Will the proposed anti-activist laws prohibit audio/video surveillance, as well as the dissemination of such surveillance footage to the public?
 - (c) Will the proposed anti-activist laws require activists to hand over surveillance footage immediately to authorities?

Regarding transparency within the agriculture industry:

37. Animal cruelty in animal management facilities, such as in factory farms, processing facilities and slaughterhouses, is a significant concern and one which the NSW government must address. One of the most significant obstacles to effectively combating animal cruelty

is detection – particular in the case of agricultural animals, many of which suffer behind closed sheds away from public scrutiny.

- (a) Will this government legislate for mandatory CCTV in NSW abattoirs, factory farms and meat processing facilities? If not, why not?

Regarding the use of antibiotics in agriculture:

- 38. The prevalence of the use /misuse of antimicrobials in Australian agriculture is difficult to assess, given Australian regulations do not require the reporting, monitoring, or auditing of the use of antimicrobials by agribusiness.
 - (a) What is the NSW government doing to prevent the rise of antimicrobial resistant bacteria (or superbugs) from developing as a result of their use or misuse by agribusiness industries in NSW?

Regarding the NSW Shark Meshing Program:

- 39. When is the 5 year review of the program expected to get underway given the current program was approved in August 2009?
- 40. In May 2012 the scalloped hammerhead and great hammerhead shark were listed under the Fisheries Management Act. What action has the NSW government taken to ensure these species are not further impacted by the Shark Meshing Program?
- 41. Are the contractor's obligations linked in any way to the 5 year review?
- 42. What action has the NSW government taken in light of the fact that six critically endangered grey nurse sharks were killed during the 2012-13 meshing period?
- 43. Has the Government considered shortening the length of time nets are in the water to minimise by catch of non-target animals, or removing nets from beaches with no history of shark bite incidents?

Questions from Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

Local Lands Services

- 44. How much funding is there currently in the Pest Insect fund and who holds it?
- 45. What consideration did you give to gender balance in your appointments to the LLS? Was there any policy applied to the selection process for representation of women, indigenous people or people from geographically diverse locations?
- 46. What is the total number of extension officers now employed by the Department and the Local Land Services? What was the number prior to the Government's reforms?

47. How many extension officers or agronomists are employed within the following Local Land Services regions:
- (a) Murray,
 - (b) Riverina,
 - (c) Western,
 - (d) North West
 - (e) Northern Tablelands
 - (f) North Coast
 - (g) Hunter
 - (h) Greater Sydney
 - (i) Central Tablelands
 - (j) Central West
 - (k) South East
48. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 July 2014 what was the total revenue raised from rate payers in each LLS?
49. Does each LLS board member have a set salary, remuneration or allowance for their role on the LLS board?
- (a) If so what is their total annual amount of salary, remuneration and/or allowance?
50. What is the annual salary, remuneration or allowance of the Chair of each LLS board?
51. What is the annual salary, remuneration and/or allowance of the LLS Chair of Chairs?
52. How many staff work centrally with the LLS?
- (a) How many of these are administrative staff?
 - (b) How many of these staff are responsible for media and communications?
 - (c) How many of these staff have management roles?
53. How many staff work in each LLS region?
- (a) How many of these are administrative staff?
 - (b) How many are front line staff?
 - (c) How many of these staff are responsible for media and communications?
 - (d) How many of these staff have management roles?
54. What is the total amount of ongoing costs (utility, and rent expenses) for LLS offices and accommodation for each LLS local office in each region?
- (a) How many of these offices are owned by DPI/LLS?
 - (b) How many of these office spaces are rented?
55. What was the communications budget for each LLS for the 2014-15 financial year?
56. What was the employment budget for each LLS for the 2014-15 financial year?

57. How many ballot papers were distributed to rate payers in each LLS region for the first LLS election?
58. How many informal votes were counted in each LLS region?
59. What were the total funds allocated to DPI and LLS to promote and advertise the LLS election between 1 November 2013 – 30 April 2014?
60. What were the total funds allocated to print advertising for the LLS elections?
61. What was the total amount of funds allocated to radio advertising for the LLS elections?
62. What was the total amount of funds allocated to digital and online advertising?
63. Was there a tender process for the LLS website development?
 - (a) Was the website developed within LLS/DPI?
 - (b) What was the total amount of funds allocated to the website development?
 - (c) Which IT development company was the successful tender?
 - (d) What was the final cost of the website development?
 - (e) Have there been any ongoing costs to the LLS website?
64. What was the total amount of funds allocated the LLS website development?
65. What was the total cost of the development of the website development?

Drought support

66. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 July 2014 how many applicants applied for water infrastructure grants?
 - (a) How many grants are approved?
67. What was the total amount of funding allocated in the 2013/14 budget for the water infrastructure grants?
68. What is the total amount of funds allocated in the 2014/15 budget for the water infrastructure grants?
69. What was the total amount of funds allocated for stock and fodder subsidies for the 2013/14 budget?
70. Have funds been set aside for stock and fodder subsidies for 2014/15 financial year?
71. What was the total amount of funding allocated for the financial period 2013/14 for drought support?

72. How many applicants were there for drought support in the 2013/14 financial period?
- (a) Of the 27 Local Government Area's identified as suffering from drought how many applicants were there in each LGA?

Fisheries

73. What involvement will the Department have in assessing the impact on native fish populations of the proposed Needles Gap Dam?
74. What is the current status of Murray Cod in NSW? Is the Department considering seasonal fishing closures for Murray Cod?

Marine Science

75. How many marine scientists are currently working on marine research in NSW within Fisheries?
- (a) Where are they located?
76. What are the current research projects into specific fish species? Please list
- (a) How many research officers are working on each of these projects?
77. How much was allocated in the 2013/14 financial period to these research projects?
78. How much has been allocated in 2014/15 budget for each of these research projects?
79. Has Fisheries taken on any new research staff as either full time/part time or contracted staff? And if so how many?
80. How many DPI staff are currently employed to manage and maintain each of the States Marine Parks?

Noxious Weeds

81. How much has been allocated to fund noxious weed control through the Department of Primary Industries in the 2014/15 budget?
82. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding to each LGA in NSW?
83. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding by State Electorate?
84. What is the allocation of noxious weeds funding by LLS?

Consultancy Work

85. Has the consultancy company Crosby Textor done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Crosby Textor consulted on?
 - (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
86. Does Crosby Textor currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
87. Has the consultancy company Premier State done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Premier State consulted on?
 - (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
88. Does Premier State currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?
89. Has the Government Contracting company Serco or its affiliates done any consultancy work for the Dept of Primary Industries? If so what projects was Serco or its affiliates assisted with?
 - (a) What was the cost of the consultancy work for each project?
 - (b) Was there a tender process for these projects?
90. Does Serco or any of its affiliates currently have any contract work with the Department, if so, what is their role in the project?

Forestry Advisory Group

91. What is the role of the Forestry Advisory Group? And what role does it have within DPI?
92. Who does the Forestry Advisory Group appoint to?
93. How many times has the Advisory Group met?
94. Who has been appointed to the Advisory Group?
95. What is the salary/remuneration of the group's appointed members?
96. Does this group work with Forest Corp and the Office of Environment & Heritage?
97. How many times have you (minister) met with the Advisory Group?

Sydney Basin

98. What involvement has the Department of Primary Industries had in planning for the future of agricultural production in the Sydney basin? Has the Department had input into

planning for Sydney and have you raised consideration of the impacts of urban sprawl on local horticultural production?

Donations

99. Given evidence at ICAC that Hunter Liberal Members of Parliament received cash from prohibited donors, can you guarantee that you did not receive an illegal donation at the last election?

100. Last week the Premier put out a statement that said:

"I have always absolutely complied with the electoral funding laws and the records are there for all to see. Yes, I can guarantee that I have never accepted an illegal donation."

Will you make that same statement?

101. Do you think the people of NSW have a right to know who is making donations to candidates during election campaigns?

102. Given that the Liberals channel all donations through a centralised accounting system which means most individual MPs do not disclose the people and organisations that personally donate to their campaigns, will you fully disclose the source of all donations you received at the 2011 election campaign?

103. Will you release the full list of donors who donated to your 2011 election campaign?

104. In the interest of transparency and accountability, will you commit to publicly release the source of donations for the 2015 election?

Lobbyists

105. On how many occasions have you met with a lobbyist, and what were the dates of these meetings?

106. Which lobbyists have you met with, and what was discussed?

107. The Minister for Finance has banned lobbyists from meeting him and his office; will you make the same commitment?

(a) If not, why not?

Cross Border Commissioner

108. How many times have you met with the Cross Border Commissioner:

(a) In the last twelve months

(b) Since the creation of the position.

109. What issues or topics have you referred to the Cross Border Commissioner:
- (a) In the last twelve months
 - (b) Since the creation of the position.

Labour Hire Firms

110. Do any Departments/Agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilise the services of Labour Hire Firms?

If yes, please advise in table form:

- (a) The names of the firms utilised
- (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged
- (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company
- (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company
- (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company

Phones/iPads

111. How many blackberries/smart phones are assigned to your staff?
112. For each phone, how much was each bill in the 2013/14 financial year?
113. How many have phones have been lost in your office?
114. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
115. How many iPads does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
116. How many iPads have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
117. How many iPhones does DPC assign to your Ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
118. How many iPhones have you purchased for your office and to whom have they been issued?
119. How many iPhones have been lost in your office?
120. How many iPads have been lost in your office?
121. What is the cost of replacing those phones or iPads?

Media/public relations

122. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies?
123. What is the forecast for 2014/15 for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed and their total cost?

Overseas trips

124. Have any of your overseas trips in the past year been paid for in part or in full by using public money?
 - (a) If so, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?

Office costs

125. What is the annual remuneration package for your chief of staff?
126. What is the annual remuneration package for your head media advisor?
127. What is the annual remuneration package for each of your staff?
128. What is the estimated expenditure for your office budget in 2014/15?
129. Have any office renovations or fit outs been undertaken in your ministerial office since April, 2011?
 - (a) If so, could you give details of contracted costs?
130. What is your Ministerial office budget for 2014/15?
131. How many political advisors are in your office?
132. How many administration staff?
133. How many Department Liaison Officers are assigned to your office?
134. How many staff in the Department are assigned to Ministerial support duties?
135. Are any contractors or consultants working in your ministerial office?
 - (a) If so, in what capacities?
136. How much did your Ministerial office spend on contractors or consultants?

Cabcharge

137. How much did your Ministerial office spend on taxi fares, including Cabcharge in the 2013/14 financial year?

Restructure

138. Are any of your portfolio agencies undergoing a restructure?
139. How many jobs are expected to be cut as a result of that restructure?
140. How many people are expected to have their wages cut as a result of that restructure?
141. How many voluntary redundancies were offered in your Departments since April 2011?
142. What has been the total cost of redundancies since April 2011?
143. How many voluntary redundancies were accepted from employees in your Departments since April 2011?
144. How many voluntary redundancies are expected to be offered in 2014/15?

Agency costs

145. How much did your Department(s) spend on catering in 2013/14?
146. How much did your Department(s) spend on stationary in 2013/14?
147. What is your Department's catering budget?
148. What is your Department's stationary budget?
149. Since April 2011 have any of the agencies in your Department(s) changed their branding?
(a) If so, how much was spent on rebranding the agency?

Correspondence

150. How long is the average turnaround for responding to correspondence in your Department(s)?
151. How many pieces of correspondence have been outstanding for more than 60 days?

Paying bills on time

152. In 2013/14 how many invoices has your Department(s) failed to pay a supplier or contractor for more than 30 days?

153. As a result of late payment, how much penalty interest has been paid to contractors since 1 January 2011?
154. How many invoices have been outstanding for longer than 60 days?

Grants to non-government organisations

155. Does your department provide recurrent grant funds to non-government organisations?
If yes,
- (a) What are the names of all organisations in receipt of funding?
 - (b) What is the total amount of funding received by each organisation including goods and services tax?
 - (c) On what date was the funding advanced?
 - (d) What was the purpose for each grant or funding advance?
 - (e) Was any funding withheld or returned?
 - (f) If so, what were the reasons for withholding or requiring the funding to be returned?
 - (g) What is the indexation rate applied to non- recurrent grant funds in 2013/14?
 - (h) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Contractors

156. How many contractors has your Department(s) retained since 1 July 2014 and at what cost?

Aboriginal employment

157. What is the current level of Aboriginal employment within your Department(s)?
158. How has that changed since 1 July 2013?

Charter air flights

159. Since 1 July 2011, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your Department(s)?

Reviews and studies

In relation to feasibility studies, audits, taskforces and reviews:

160. Is your department currently undertaking any feasibility studies, audits, taskforces or reviews? If so; then;
- (a) What are the terms of reference or details of each study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - (b) Who is conducting the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - (c) Was each study, audit, taskforce or review was publically advertised seeking expression of interest or competitive tenders?
 - (d) Is there a contract in place detailing terms of engagement for the study, audit, taskforce or review?
 - (e) What is the timeline of each study, audit, taskforce or review?

- (f) What are the details of any costs involved in each study, audit, taskforce or review?

Media training

161. Has the Minister been provided with Speech, Voice or Media Training since becoming Minister? If so, then;
- (a) Who conducted the training?
 - (b) When was it conducted?
 - (c) Where was it conducted what were the costs of the training?
 - (d) Who paid for the training?